

Connecticut WIC/Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)

PLEASE NOTE: Any farmer that produces fruit, vegetables, fresh cut herbs, or honey who wishes to participate in a WIC/Senior FMNP Authorized Farmers' Market should contact the CT Department of Agriculture. All producers bringing the products mentioned above must be certified to participate in a FMNP authorized farmers' market.

Fruit & vegetable growers must go through a short certification meeting followed by a production area verification. Please call Rick Macsuga at (860)713-2544 or Mark Zotti at (860) 713-2538 for more information.

The Connecticut Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is a Congressionally authorized program administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and jointly funded by the State of Connecticut and the United States Department of Agriculture – Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS). This program is designed to provide a supplemental source of fresh fruits and/or vegetables for the clients of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program who are judged to be, “nutritionally at risk,” and to promote agricultural diversification by stimulating the demand for CT Grown fresh, unprocessed fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets. Connecticut farmers are reimbursed for the face value of the vouchers, which are distributed, to WIC recipients, thereby enhancing the farmers' earnings and supporting their participation in farmers' markets. In 2007, each participating WIC client (about 49,076 statewide) will receive \$15 worth of vouchers that can only be used at designated farmers' markets and for authorized purchases from state certified vendor/farmers. To be eligible to accept these vouchers, a farmer must have signed a Letter of Agreement and Crop Plan with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. In 2007, 17 local WIC agencies statewide will receive FMNP vouchers from the Department of Agriculture and will distribute FMNP vouchers to all eligible WIC recipients during the months of July, August and September. Each eligible recipient will receive five (5) three-dollar (\$3) vouchers (\$15 per recipient, per market season). The certified farmers (240 farmers) may deposit all FMNP vouchers at any Connecticut financial institution (bank, savings and loan, credit union, etc.) by appropriately endorsing each voucher.

The Connecticut Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is administered by the Department of Agriculture. This program is similar in most respects to the WIC FMNP. Seniors from selected towns and cities who live in subsidized, low-income housing, are enrolled in renter-rebate programs, and/or subscribe to congregate meal programs are eligible to participate. Each eligible recipient will receive five (5) three-dollar (\$3) vouchers (\$15 per recipient, per market season), which can be redeemed at certified Farmers' Markets. The vouchers are issued to elderly housing sites and/or

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town social service offices by the Department of Agriculture. The vouchers are distributed to seniors by staff and volunteers of the elderly site.

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