

# Senior/Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (S/FMNP)

## FAQs



### What is the S/FMNP?

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) was established in 1992 and the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) was established in 2001. The purpose of both of these programs (referred to as S/FMNP) is to:

- Provide resources in the form of fresh, nutritious, unprepared foods (fruits, vegetables and herbs) from authorized farmers to low-income seniors, and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- Expand the awareness, use of and sales at farmers' market. In addition, the program is intended to increase the demand for locally grown produce, and to boost the income of the farmers who sell locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs to individuals participating in the S/FMNP

Farmers market vendors include a traditional farmer (or Farmer), growers, and farmers markets. Some market vendors accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in addition to WIC benefits.

## What is a Traditional Farmer (or Farmer)?



- A Traditional farmer is defined as:
  - An individual authorized to sell produce at authorized farmers' markets and/or roadside stands.
  - Has five acres of land or more that grows food for human consumption.
    - The NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife, Taxation and Motor Vehicles all define a farmer as having 5 or more acres of land as does DOH
  - Grows 35% of all they sell

Individuals who exclusively sell produce grown by someone else, such as

wholesale distributors, cannot be authorized to participate in the S/FMNP.

## What is a Grower?

A Grower is an entity (non-profit, for profit, greenhouse, community farm, urban farm, etc.) with less than 5 acres who can accept S/FMNP Vouchers through an authorized Farmers' Market.

### A Grower must:

- Ensure that of all the total produce available for sale, 75% of it must be grown by the grower.
- Have at least three self-grown items for sale at all times
- Be associated with a Farmers' Market

## How do I apply to be a vendor for the S/FMNP?

- 1) Those that meet the Traditional Farmer criteria (see above) can contact NJ Department of Health, WIC Services to apply at (609) 292-9560.

**If you have 5 or more acres you can:**

- **Apply to WIC as a traditional farmer**  
Or
  - **Establish a Market and apply to WIC**  
Or
  - **Participate in a WIC authorized Market**
- 2) Those that meet the Grower criteria (see above) can contact NJ Department of Health, WIC Services for a list of Markets they can apply to.

- **If you have SNAP and have less than five acres: Contact the WIC Program to apply at (609) 292-9560.**
  - **If you have less than 5 acres but do not have SNAP; you can either become a Farmers' Market and apply as a Farmers' Market or participate in an existing WIC authorized market.**
- 3) Those that wish to become a WIC authorized Market can contact NJ Department of Health, WIC Services to apply at (609) 292-9560.



### **How many farmers' markets can a traditional farmer attend?**

An authorized traditional farmer can attend as many farmers' markets as they chose.

### **How many farmers' markets can a grower attend?**

A grower may apply to as many markets as they chose but must have an agreement with each market. A grower can only accept S/FMNP vouchers at a market with whom they have an agreement with.

### **What is a Farmers' Market Manager?**

A Farmers' Market Manager assumes all responsibility for the markets' operations. This person in most cases signs agreements between the market and the State.

### **What is the responsibility of a Farmers' Market Manager?**

Oversees the operations of the market and ensures that each participating farmer/grower adheres to Federal State Rules and Regulations:



- Ensure each grower complete an application
- Ensure that each grower completes annual training
- Ensure that each grower grows 75% of what they sell
- Ensure that each grower signs an agreement
- Monitor growers annually on S/FMNP Rules and Regulations
- Provide space for at least one Traditional Farmer
- Ensure that each grower sell only locally grown produce

**For more information about Senior/Farmers' Market Nutrition Program call 609-292-9560 and ask to speak with a Farmers' Market Representative.**