

2017 MARKET & FARMER TRAINING

A. GENERAL REMINDERS.

The mission of the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is **twofold**:

- To provide **fresh, unprepared, locally grown** fruits, vegetables and herbs directly to WIC Participants, and
- To expand the awareness and use of local farmers' markets.

Each WIC participant who receives a booklet of FMNP coupons will have a total of \$16 to spend at an approved farmers' market during May through September.

WIC Participants may only purchase the following locally grown fresh, unprocessed fruits, vegetables and herbs with Arkansas WIC FMNP coupons. The Program defines locally grown as – grown in Arkansas or in a county in the bordering state - as long as that county actually touches the county where your market is located.

Apples	Potatoes
Asparagus	Pumpkins
Beans	Onions
Berries	Okra
Beets	Radishes
Broccoli	Rutabagas
Brussels sprouts	Squash
Cabbage /Bok Choy	Sweet Potatoes/Yams
Carrots	Tomatoes/tomatillos
Cauliflower	Turnips
Cherries	
Corn	
Cucumbers	
Eggplant	
Figs	
Garlic	
Grapes	
Greens	
Herbs	
Kohlrabi	
Lettuce	
Melons	
Muscadines	
Mushrooms	
Nectarines	
Peaches	
Pears	
Peas	
Persimmons	
Peppers	
Plums	

B. IMPORTANT STEPS TO REMEMBER when accepting the coupons.

- You must post the current WIC FMNP Poster in a visible place. It's bright green again this year and says "Arkansas 2017-2019 WIC Farmers' Market Coupons Accepted Here." **Fill in the blanks with your market number and your farmer number on the WIC Poster.** These numbers will be listed on the Approval Letter you receive in the mail.
- Accept FMNP coupons only within valid dates. (May1-September 30). The FMNP coupons will say "**2017 Arkansas WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program**" at the top of the coupon. There are Fruit and Vegetable Cash Value Benefits (CVBs) WIC Participants spend at the grocery store, but if you accept those, you will not be paid for them under any circumstances – so please make sure the top of the coupon says "**2017 Arkansas WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program**"!
- Charge WIC participants the same price as other customers.
- No sales tax may be charged and no change may be returned on any FMNP coupon purchase.
- Try to help the participant purchase as close to the value of the FMNP coupon(s) as possible.
- If the purchase is more than the value of the FMNP coupon(s), the WIC participant may pay the difference with their own money.
- Allow WIC participants to select their food the same way as other customers and treat WIC participants with the same courtesies as other customers.

Discrimination against WIC participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA is prohibited.

C. IMPORTANT STEPS TO REMEMBER when depositing coupons.

- Stamp each FMNP coupon with your WIC FMNP rubber stamp. It will have an apple around the numbers.
- You must use your own stamp and sign the back of the coupon (like you would a coupon). If you don't do both of these, you risk not being paid.
- Please store your FMNP coupons in a safe place and deposit them in your bank account **WEEKLY** if at all possible. This is to give us time to resolve any payment issues early on. Some farmers have not been paid because they saved

all their coupons until October and forgot to deposit them before the deadline. Please take responsibility for depositing your coupons in a timely manner. This is money you have earned. Please don't miss the deadline for payment or you will not get your money!!!!

The last day you can accept FMNP coupons is September 30. **The last day to deposit coupons during 2017 is October 6.** This is the first Friday in October.

Payment for coupons will be denied for the following:

- Failing to stamp FMNP coupons with the farmers' approved FMNP stamp;
- Depositing FMNP coupons for unauthorized farmers or other vendors;
- Failing to deposit FMNP coupons before the first Friday in October;
- Altering FMNP coupons in any way; and
- Depositing FMNP coupons from a previous year.

D. IMPORTANT! The following violations will result in sanctions:

- Treating WIC participants differently from other customers or selecting foods for WIC participants in a different manner from other customers.
- Providing WIC participants food valued substantially below the value of coupons received.
- Charging WIC Participants sales tax or returning change on food purchased with FMNP coupons.
- Failing to visibly post the current WIC FMNP poster (including their Farmer Number and Market Number) at their farmers' market booth.
- Providing unauthorized food or other items in exchange for FMNP coupons.
- Accepting FMNP coupons at locations other than the farmers' market(s) listed on the approval letter for the current year.
- Failing to abide by any other requirement listed in this Agreement and the current Farmer Handbook.

E. SANCTIONS. Farmers will receive a written warning for each observed violation. Markets will receive a written warning if 35% or more of their WIC approved farmers receive violations during a monitoring visit. Two warnings in the same year will result in termination from the program for the remainder of the current year. Three or more warnings in the same or consecutive years will result in termination for the remainder of the current year, and the farmer or market will be ineligible to apply the following year.

F. FRAUD. Any farmer or farmers' market that commits fraud or abuse is liable for

prosecution under applicable Federal, State or local laws. A farmer may be terminated from the WIC FMNP and assessed claims for fraud. Examples of fraud include, but are not limited to the following:

- Submitting FMNP coupons for payment for an unauthorized farmer or vendor.
- Purchasing FMNP coupons for cash.
- Providing drugs, alcohol or other illegal substance in exchange for FMNP coupons.

Notice: Any farmer or market may appeal any action by the FMNP, which denied the farmer or market participation in the FMNP, any sanctions imposed by the FMNP or termination of the farmer or market from the Program. Appeals must be made in writing and submitted to: FMNP, 5800 W. 10th Street, Suite, 810, Little Rock, AR 72204 within 15 days of the adverse action.