

Farmers' Market Incentive Programs: SNAP and KSFMNP



Food Assistance in Kansas

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP formerly known as Food Stamps.
 - USDA federally funded
 - One of the largest safety net programs for those who need help to put food on the table
 - Reduces hunger and strengthens families
 - Boost to the economy by bringing Federal dollars into communities at local stores and Farmer's Markets

Who can Qualify for Food Assistance?

- Low income households – 130% of poverty level, Must meet resource and income guidelines

INCOME ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Household Size	Gross monthly income (130 percent of poverty)	Net monthly income (100 percent of poverty)
1	\$1,265	\$973
2	\$1,705	\$1,311
3	\$2,144	\$1,650
4	\$2,584	\$1,988
5	\$3,024	\$2,326
6	\$3,464	\$2,665
7	\$3,904	\$3,003
8	\$4,344	\$3,341
<i>Each additional member</i>	<i>+\$440</i>	<i>+\$339</i>

Who is on Food Assistance in Kansas?

- 279,302 recipients in November 2014
- 133,939 or 47% of recipients are children
- 45% are 18-59
- 7.5% are age 60 or older

How many farmers Markets accept EBT in Kansas?

- 23 Farmers Markets accept the Food Assistance Kansas Benefit Card or Vision Card (EBT)
- 22 Direct Marketing Farmers are also approved by USDA to accept EBT cards.

Why Accept EBT at Farmers Markets?

- Cash sales are estimated to drop to less than 23% in the next 4 years.
- An average of \$34 million a month was spent in Food assistance Benefits in Kansas during 2014.
- New customers = more sales!
- Help low income families increase access to healthy foods.

How Do Farmers and Markets get approved to Accept SNAP?

- USDA approves all EBT retailers to accept SNAP
- You can apply at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ebt/learn-about-snap-benefits-farmers-markets>



Getting Set-Up

- You may be eligible for free Mobile EBT equipment, find out more @ Marketlink.org

Why *MarketLink*TM?

- Expanded customer base
- Less than 40% overlap of FMNP and SNAP clients; so **60%** of SNAP participants are *new customers!*
- Increased sales
 - Largest reason why purchases are limited at markets is people run out of cash.
- Best rates for processing electronic payments
 - 48 hour payment settlement for all transactions
- Nationally negotiated rate on behalf of farmers and markets



More about Market Link

*Market Link*TM Signup

- First, you must have a working email address and a bank account.
 - Email is the primary method for communication.
 - Your bank account is how you receive payments.
- Complete the on-line NAFMNP Eligibility Questionnaire:
 - Your answers will determine your eligibility to qualify for the free terminal program.
- Submit your USDA application to become SNAP-authorized.
 - Submit copies of photo ID and Social Security card.
- Complete the payment processing application.
 - Submit a cancelled check from the account where you will accept payments.
- Setup terminal once it arrives.

Our expedited process through USDA means that you have the best opportunity to be up and running in a month or less!

Farmers Market Coalition

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) partnership provides free EBT equipment to process SNAP
- Application open 9:00 a.m. EST February 17th, 2015
- First-come, first-served opportunity
- Visit FMCToolbox.org to apply

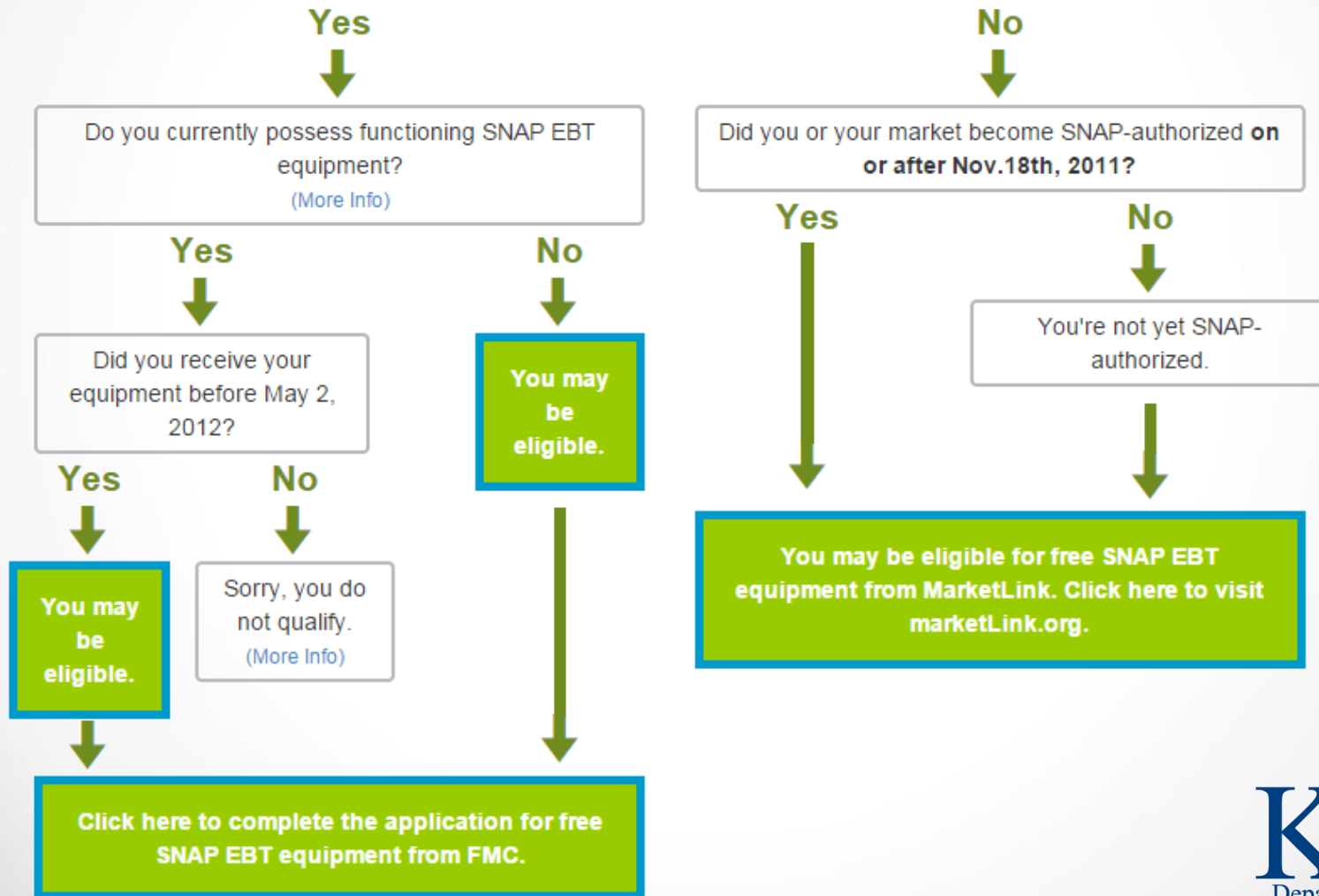


FMC Eligibility Requirements

Start Here

Are you a **SNAP-authorized** farmers market or **direct marketing farmer** that became authorized **before** Nov.18th, 2011?

[\(More Info\)](#)



Questions ?

Contact Chris Tomlinson

785-296-5416

chris.tomlinson@dcf.ks.gov

Kansas Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program



Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment

Goals

- The Kansas Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (KSFMNP) is a USDA funded initiative
- The three main goals of the KSFMNP, are:
 - to provide resources in the form of fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs from farmers' markets, roadside stands, and CSA programs to low income seniors;
 - to increase the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities
 - to develop or aid in the development of new and additional farmers' markets, roadside stands, and CSA programs.

2014 Stats

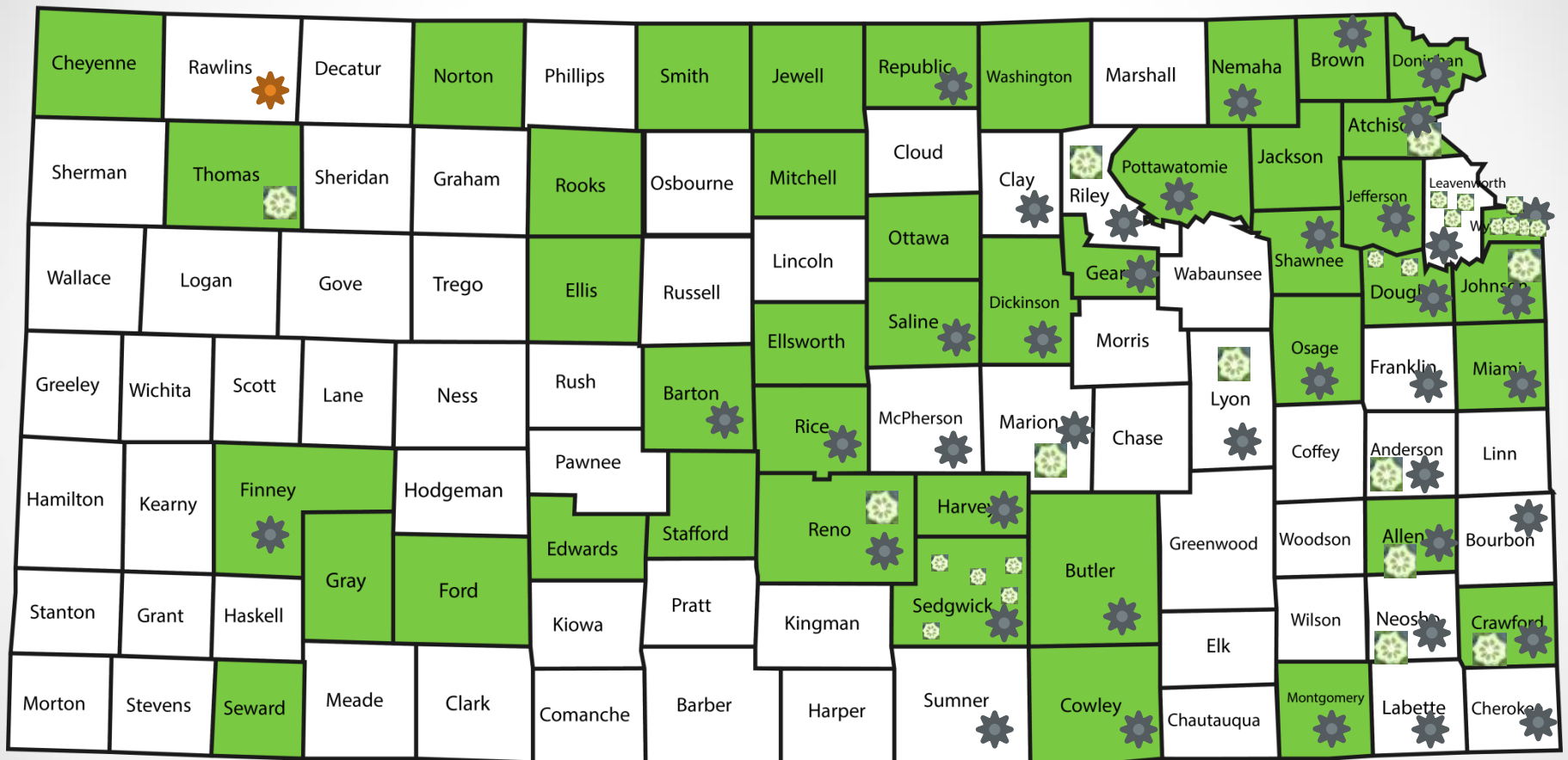
- \$154,000 food dollars available to go directly to check for Seniors
- Over 5,000 Seniors received checks
- Over 450 Farmers authorized to accept checks
- Senior centers covering 29 counties distributed checks to low-income Seniors

Eligible Counties

- Allen, Anderson, Atchison,
- Bourbon, Butler,
- Cowley, Cherokee, Crawford,
- Dickinson, Douglas,
- Finney, Franklin,
- Harvey, Jefferson, Johnson,
- Labette, Leavenworth, Lyon,
- Marion, Montgomery,
- Neosho, Osage,
- Reno, Republic, Riley,
- Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, and
- Wyandotte



KSFMNP and SNAP-FM



✿ KSFMNP Participating Counties

🌱 Counties with SNAP eligible Farmers' Markets



Eligibility and Benefits

- Kansas Seniors at 185% of the poverty level or below will receive the benefit.
- Current benefit is \$30/senior in the form of 6 - \$5 checks.
- Checks to be redeemed by certified farmers between May 1 and November 15, 2015
- Income guidelines by individual:
 - \$1,800 per month or less
 - More than one individual per household can receive the benefit

Farmer Requirements

- Participate in a KDHE or Extension hosted training
 - Must sell in a county where Seniors receive checks
- Agreement between the Farmer and the Kansas Department of Health & Environment must be renewed every year.
- Farmer Agreement is required to accept KSFMNP Check (submitted on-line, fax or mailed).
- Only one agreement per operation is required.

Eligible Food Choices

- Only fresh, nutritious unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, cut herbs, and local honey for human consumption
- Eligible foods may not be prepared beyond their natural states except for their usual harvesting and cleaning processes
- Locally grown = Grown in Kansas or in a county adjacent to Kansas' state lines if you are near the Kansas state border

Ineligible Food Choices

- Grocery store purchases
- Non-locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey
- Creamed, whipped, flavored, or herbally-infused honey
- Processed fruits or vegetable products (i.e. baked goods, jams, jellies, popcorn, juices, etc.)

Ineligible Food Choices

- Dried fruits or vegetables, prunes (dried plums), raisins (dried grapes), sun-dried tomatoes, and dried chili peppers; potted fruit or vegetable plants; potted or dried herbs; wild rice; nuts; maple syrup; cider; seeds; eggs; meat; cheese; and seafood

Vendor Number/Stamp

Kansas 2010 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Account # 802636

Pay to the order of authorized
Kansas Farmers Market Vendor

Deposit no later than November 15, 2010
NOT VALID AT GROCERY STORES

Good for the purchase of fresh, locally grown
vegetables, fruits, cut flowers, and honey from
KSNP Vendor. Any other use constitutes fraud.

VALID DATES
June 1, 2010 – October 1, 2010
SOME MARKETS MAY CLOSE EARLIER

NOT \$ 1.00
NO CHANGE GIVEN

VENDOR NUMBER HERE

PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE

SOLUTRA Security Bank
SECURITY BANK
HOWARD LAWRENCE MN 55349
75-1248/919

KSNP

@091912482@ 802636@

Participant or Proxy Signature

KSFMNP Authorized Farmer Poster

SFMNP Cert. ID #: 0000

KANSAS SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

Checks Accepted Here



Checks can buy:
Locally grown, fresh
fruits, vegetables, herbs
Locally produced honey



USDA is an equal opportunity employer

For more information about the program please visit <http://www.kdheks.gov/sfmnp/> or call 785-296-8060

Revised February 3, 2015



Check Use

- Store checks with all your other checks in a safe place
- Payment
 - May be deposited at any financial institution
 - \$5 denominations

Check Use

- All checks can be accepted from seniors May 1 to Nov. 1
- November 15th is the deadline to redeem checks
- Checks voided if:
 - Number is missing or unreadable
 - Signature of senior or vendor missing
 - Deposited after Nov. 15th

Check Use

- Farmers cannot:
 - Collect sales tax on KSFMNP check purchases
 - Seek restitution from KSFMNP participants for checks not paid
- Checks may be resubmitted for payment in the event that the farmer signature or authorization number can be properly and legally corrected
- KDHE may deny payment for improperly redeemed checks and may require refunds

Cash, Change, Credits, or Refunds

- Checks cannot be exchanged for cash
- Change, credit and/or refunds not be issued on items purchased with KSFMNP checks
- Certified farmers are prohibited from cashing checks accepted by a non-certified farmer

USDA-FNS Nondiscrimination Statement

Slide 1 of 3

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

USDA-FNS Nondiscrimination Statement

Slide 2 of 3

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.htm or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA-FNS Nondiscrimination Statement

Slide 3 of 3

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

Class I Violations

- Negotiating SFMNP checks without a valid vendor identification number stamped in the appropriate box on the check;
- Failure to display “Farmers Market Checks Welcome Here” sign.
- Sanction: A Class I violation will result in a “warning” letter from the Program Manager to the farmer/vendor.

Class II Violation

- Accepting SFMNP checks for ineligible items.
- 2 Accepting SFMNP checks at an unauthorized market.
- Discriminating against a SFMNP customer.
- Two (2) Class I violations within a season, approximately May through October.
- Sanction: A Class II violation will result in a “non-compliance” letter from the Program Manager to the farmer/vendor. In addition, technical assistance will be provided by telephone with a verbal test of information provided.

Class III Violation

- Providing drugs, alcohol or cash to a customer for SFMNP checks.
- Charging SFMNP customers more than the current price charged other customers.
- Attempting to collect sales tax from a SFMNP customer.
- Providing money (i.e., change) back to customers for purchases where the amount of the purchase is less than the value of the check(s).
- Two Class II violations within a season, approximately May through October.

Class III Violation

- Sanction: A Class III violation would result in the farmer's/vendor's suspension from the SFMNP.
- SUSPENSION:
 - The length of suspension for a first time offense is the growing season.
 - The length of suspension for a second time offense is the present growing season, and the next ensuing growing season.
 - A grower who is suspended must reapply to participate in the SFMNP.

Appeals

- If making an appeal which resulted in a suspension or disqualification:
 - Written request for administrative appeal to KDHE
 - May appeal the denial to participate in KSFMNP and an action imposing a sanction
 - Appeal must be within 30 days of date of receipt of certified mail notification
- KDHE will set a date and location for the hearing 15 days after the appeal
 - Farmer will receive written notice of the time and place at least 30 days prior to the date of the hearing
 - Farmer has one opportunity to reschedule the hearing date
 - Farmer can examine, prior to and during the decision, the document and records that support the decision under appeal

Appeals

- At a minimum, the farmer or their representative will have the opportunity to:
 - Present their case
 - Question or disprove any testimony or evidence, including an opportunity to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses
 - Be represented by counsel
 - Bring witnesses
 - Review the case record prior to the hearing
- Submit evidence to establish all pertinent facts and circumstances in the case
- Advance arguments without undue interference
 - An adverse action, at KDHE's option, may be postponed until a decision in the appeal is rendered
 - A postponement is appropriate where KDHE finds that participants could be unduly inconvenienced by the adverse action

Appeals

- KDHE may determine other relevant criteria to be considered in deciding whether or not to postpone an adverse action
- KDHE will provide the farmer with written notification of the adverse action, the cause(s) for the action, and effective date of the action and an opportunity for a fair hearing
- Notification will be provided 15 days before the effective date of the action
- The hearing official will be an impartial decision maker
- The decision of the official is given to the farmer 15 days of the date of the hearing or within 60 days from the date of receipt of the request for a hearing by KDHE

Appeals

- All records of the hearing and decision are available for public inspection for 3 years
- If dissatisfied with the hearing decision, farmer may appeal to KDHE for further state level review of the decisions and a possible rehearing
- This appeal must be made within 15 days of the contested decision of the previous hearing
- The same procedures outlined above are followed
- If a farmer appeals an adverse action (and is permitted to continue in the KSFMNP while the appeal is pending) he / she will continue to be responsible for compliance with the terms of the written Agreement

Due Process

- State of Kansas will follow Administrative Procedure act to allow for due process to KSFMNP local agencies, KSFMNP authorized farmers, and KSFMNP participants
- Expiration of the Agreement with the farmer and claims actions under the KSFMNP rules and regulations are not appealable
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Conclusion

- Things to remember:
 - Only sell eligible foods
 - Only sell during dates indicated on the checks (May 1-Nov 1)
 - Stamp every check with your vendor ID
 - Make sure every check is signed by the senior
 - Don't forget to endorse and deposit the check to your bank
- Complete the Agreement every year
- Indicate how many ID stall signs you would like on the agreement

Farmer Agreement can be
found at :

www.kdheks.gov/sfmnp

KSFMNP 2015 Training

- Monday March 2, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. CST
- Wednesday March 11 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. CST
- Thursday March 26 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CST

Visit www.kdheks.gov/sfmnp to join a training

Contact Information:

kuhde@kdheks.gov

785-296-8060

1000 SW Jackson, Suite 230

Topeka, KS 66612

www.kdheks.gov/sfmnp

