

FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM WPPM #800-20

Subject: Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Item: Instruction on Using FMNP Benefits

PURPOSE:

To establish procedures for instruction on the proper use of Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) benefits.

POLICY:

- I. Local agency (LA) staff must ensure that the family representative/caretaker receiving FMNP benefits receive instruction on their proper use.

PROCEDURES:

- I. LA staff must inform the family representative/caretaker receiving FMNP benefits of the following:
 - A. FMNP benefits can be used between May 1 and November 30 each year.
 - B. The names and locations of WIC-authorized farmers' markets in the local area that accept FMNP benefits.
 - C. Only WIC-authorized farmers who sell fresh, locally grown produce at WIC-authorized farmers' markets and WIC-authorized farm stands can accept benefits. FMNP benefits cannot be accepted at farm stores, grocery stores, or used to buy produce from non-authorized farmers.
 - D. Only farmers displaying the *WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Checks Welcome* authorization sign can accept FMNP benefits.
 - E. FMNP benefits can be used to purchase eligible produce only.
 1. Eligible foods include fresh, unprepared locally grown fruits, vegetables, and fresh cut herbs for human consumption.
 2. Ineligible foods include, but are not limited to, honey, maple syrup, cider, nuts and seeds, eggs, cheese, meat and seafood, foods processed or prepared beyond their natural state, flowers, baked goods, dried fruit, decorative fruits and vegetables, plants, or non-food items.
 - F. FMNP benefits cannot be transferred to another person.
 - G. WIC-authorized farmers cannot give change as part of a FMNP benefit transaction. Additional eligible produce can be added to maximize the use of the FMNP benefits when the purchase amount is less than the full value.
 - H. When the purchase amount of the eligible produce exceeds the full value of the FMNP benefits, the family representative/caretaker may pay cash (or use CalFresh benefits if available) for any overage.

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- I. FMNP benefits cannot be exchanged for cash.
 - J. FMNP benefits must be handled like cash.
 - 1. Lost or stolen FMNP benefits cannot be replaced. Family representatives/ caretakers must report lost or stolen FMNP benefits to their LA.
 - 2. Damaged or altered FMNP benefits cannot be used.
 - K. When using FMNP benefits:
 - 1. Farmers cannot charge sales tax for FMNP benefits purchases.
 - 2. Farmers cannot charge those using FMNP benefits more than other customers for the same produce.
 - L. The family representative/caretaker has the right to file a FMNP-related complaint. Refer to WPPM 800-50.
- II. LA staff must document the completion of FMNP usage education in WIC Web Information System Exchange (WIC WISE) for the FMNP benefit recipient. LA staff have the discretion to document for all eligible family members.

AUTHORITY:

[7 CFR §248.10](#)

[7 CFR §248.7](#)

CROSS REFERENCE:

WPPM 800-50 FMNP Program Complaints

RESOURCE:

[WIC authorized farmers' market list: wicfarmers.ca.gov](http://wicfarmers.ca.gov)

WIC & Senior Farmers' Market Checks Welcome authorization sign