

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The purpose of the Kentucky Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is to gain market access for farmers as well as improving nutrition of low income families by providing them better access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Funding for Kentucky's program comes from federal and state resources. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) serves as the lead agency for Sr FMNP. The low-income seniors are provided with \$28 in checks to purchase fresh, unprocessed, locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs at State-approved farmers' markets.

Eligibility for Senior Participants

Age:

- 60 + at day of issuance
- Must provide proof of age

Income:

- Provide proof of income and meet the income criteria which is less than or equal to 185% of the poverty level

Income Guidelines

60 Years of Age and Older Based on 185 % Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

Household Size	Annual Income	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$22,311	\$1,860	\$430
2	\$30,044	\$2,504	\$578
3	\$37,777	\$3,149	\$727
4	\$45,510	\$3,793	\$876
5	\$53,243	\$4,437	\$1,024
6	\$60,976	\$5,082	\$1,173
7	\$68,709	\$5,762	\$1,322
8	\$76,442	\$6,371	\$1,471
For Each Additional Family Member Add	\$7,733	\$645	\$149

Eligible Foods List

The Kentucky-grown foods listed here are eligible for purchase with SFMNP coupons. Fruits and vegetables must be fresh and in their raw form.

Fresh cut cooking herbs: Basil, Borage, Chives, Cilantro, Dill, Epazote, Fennel, Garlic, Marjoram, Mint, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, Savory, Shiso, Sorrel, Tarragon, and Thyme.

Now Eligible: Honey

Apples

Asparagus

Beans

Beets

Blackberries

Blueberries

Broccoli

Brussels Sprouts

Cabbage

Carrots

Cauliflower

Cherries

Cucumbers

Edamame Soybeans

Eggplant

Grapes

Greens

Green Onions

Honey

Kohlrabi

Lettuce

Melons

Mushrooms

Okra

Onions

Parsnips
Pawpaws
Peaches
Pears
Peas
Peppers
Plums
Potatoes
Pumpkins
Radishes
Raspberries
Rhubarb
Strawberries
Sweet Corn
Summer Squash
Sweet Potatoes
Tomatoes
Turnips
Watermelons
Winter
Squash

Eligible foods means fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs for human consumption. Eligible foods may not be processed or prepared beyond their natural state except for usual harvesting and cleaning processes. Only fresh, unprocessed fruits, vegetables, and fresh-cut herbs may be provided under this program.

Foods not eligible:

Non-local, non-Kentucky-grown products are not eligible for purchase with FMNP coupons. Examples include citrus products such as oranges, mangoes, lemons, and limes; bananas, and pineapples. Medicinal Herbs and others such as aloe, lamb's ear, catnip, rue, white sage, lavender, echinacea, bee balm, chamomile, St Johnswort are not eligible for purchase with coupons. Meats, eggs, cheese, and home-processed goods are not allowed. Dried fruits or vegetables, such as prunes (dried plums), raisins (dried grapes), sun-dried tomatoes or dried chili peppers are not considered eligible foods. Potted fruit or vegetable plants, potted or dried herbs, wild rice, nuts of any kind (even raw), maple syrup, cider, and molasses are also not allowed.

Market Requirements for Approval for Seniors

Market Requirements

Only authorized farmers' markets may redeem Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) checks. For a market to be an SFMNP market it must meet the following criteria:

Criteria for a Market to Accept Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Vouchers

- The market must be an organized market. To be considered "organized" the market must have an established contact person/decisionmaker and meet at a named location on specified days and times.
- The market must be registered with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and approved as a Kentucky Proud? member.
- The market must have fresh Kentucky-grown produce.
- The market must be an established market with at least one year of experience in operation.

If a market meets the criteria above, then markets will be rated according to the following items:

- What is the poverty level in the county? (A higher poverty level will be weighted positively.)
- What is the history of the market season? (A longer season is weighted positively.)
- Is the number of participating farmers sufficient to provide an ample variety of eligible produce? (A higher number of farmers per capita is weighted positively.)

Criteria used to authorize farmers

Participating farmers in the program must:

- Be member of an approved farmers' market;
- Be a Kentucky grower
- Attend a training session each year;
- Accept checks for only for fruits and vegetables the farmers has produced in Kentucky; and
- Sign an agreement that they understand and agree to follow all the rules for participation in the FMNP program

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating

based on 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.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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USDA Nondiscrimination Statement 2015 *(Spanish)*

For all other FNS nutrition assistance programs, State or local agencies, and their subrecipients, must post the following Nondiscrimination Statement:

Los demás programas de asistencia nutricional del FNS, las agencias estatales y locales, y sus beneficiarios secundarios, deben publicar el siguiente Aviso de No Discriminación:

De conformidad con la Ley Federal de Derechos Civiles y los reglamentos y políticas de derechos civiles del Departamento de Agricultura de los EE. UU. (USDA, por sus siglas en inglés), se prohíbe que el USDA, sus agencias, oficinas, empleados e instituciones que participan o administran programas del USDA discriminen sobre la base de raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo, discapacidad, edad, o en represalia o venganza por actividades previas de derechos civiles en algún programa o actividad realizados o financiados por el USDA.

Las personas con discapacidades que necesiten medios alternativos para la comunicación de la información del programa (por ejemplo, sistema Braille, letras grandes, cintas de audio, lenguaje de señas americano, etc.), deben ponerse en contacto con la agencia (estatal o local) en la que solicitaron los beneficios. Las personas sordas, con dificultades de audición o discapacidades del habla pueden comunicarse con el USDA por medio del Federal Relay Service [Servicio Federal de Retransmisión] al (800) 877-8339. Además, la información del programa se puede proporcionar en otros idiomas.

Para presentar una denuncia de discriminación, complete el Formulario de Denuncia de Discriminación del Programa del USDA, (AD-3027) que está disponible en línea en: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html y en cualquier oficina del USDA, o bien escriba una carta dirigida al USDA e incluya en la carta toda la información solicitada en el formulario. Para solicitar una copia del formulario de denuncia, llame al (866) 632-9992.

Haga llegar su formulario lleno o carta al USDA por:

(1) correo: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; o

(3) correo electrónico: program.intake@usda.gov.

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