

**Aging and People with Disabilities**

Sarah D Hout

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**Number: APD-IM-15-036**

**Issue date: 5/5/2015**

**Topic:** Food Benefits

**Subject:** Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                             | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging             | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services(ODDS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>please specify</i> ):                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs                        |  |

**Message:**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) mailed yellow notification letters April 22<sup>nd</sup> to 80,000 seniors that DHS-APD office identified as eligible for participation in the Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program this year:

- Be 60 years old as of April 1, 2015
- Be receiving Medicaid and/or SNAP benefits on April 1, 2015
- Have income less than \$1,325 for an individual or \$1,793 for a couple and
- Be living in a situation where food is not provided for them

Given limited federal funds for this program, Oregon will not be able to serve all eligible seniors, so please encourage clients who receive the notification to complete and return the bottom "Response Card" by May 15 to increase their chances of participation. Current funding allows OHA to serve 43,000 seniors, although this number may increase if additional funding becomes available through the Legislature. OHA will randomly select from among seniors who return their signed Response Cards by May 15, to determine who will receive \$24 worth of FDNP checks this year. Seniors who return their "Response Card" and are not selected in the drawing will receive a postcard in the mail letting them know they were not selected.

Seniors may also choose to hand-deliver Response Cards to their local senior office. Response Cards turned into local offices must be received in Salem by May 19, 2015

in order to be part of the drawing. Please send any cards that are returned to local offices to:

Lori Watt  
DHS-APD  
500 Summer St, NE E-12  
Salem, OR 97301

OHA plans for Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program checks to be mailed to seniors starting June 1. In addition to the checks, seniors will receive a list of some of the local farmers' markets and authorized farm stands where they may spend their checks. A complete list will be available at <http://www.sfdnp.dhs.oregon.gov/>. Please direct consumer questions to the Senior Farm Direct number - 1-866-299-3562 - or the website if they have questions.

Please see the attached fact sheet for additional details about Oregon's Farm Direct Nutrition Program. This fact sheet has been shared with partners such as 211Info and Oregon Food Bank. People who are not eligible for SFDNP and who contact the program's toll-free information line will be referred back to their local Area Agency on Aging office so they can be linked to senior meal programs or other available local resources.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

<b>Contact(s):</b>	Lori Watt ** Please refer consumers/seniors with questions about the program to the Senior Farm Direct number: toll-free number: 866-299-3562		
<b>Phone:</b>	Lori Watt - 503-945-6237	<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	lori.c.watt@state.or.us		

# 2015 Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition Program

## What is the Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition Program?

Families in the Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) and limited-income seniors receive checks to spend directly with local farmers who grow fruits and vegetables.

The Farm Direct Nutrition Program (“Farm Direct”) provides families and seniors an additional source of nutritious food and education on selecting and preparing fresh produce. Farm Direct also supports local farmers’ markets and farmers.



## How do WIC Families receive their checks?

WIC participants receive \$20 worth of green Farm Direct checks at their local clinic via a class or during an individual appointment, or sometimes at a farmers’ market.

The Farm Direct Nutrition Program is just one of the diverse ways that WIC provides nutrition and nutrition education to participating families. WIC serves lower-income pregnant, post-partum and breastfeeding women, infants and children under age 5 who have a health or nutrition risk. Women, children and infants over 4 months of age are eligible to receive Farm Direct checks.



## How do seniors receive their checks?

Eligible seniors will receive a **yellow letter** from the state in late April that will announce their eligibility to receive the checks. **Interested seniors must sign and return the “Response Card” portion of their letter to the state by the indicated date.** There is not enough funding to serve every senior who wants Farm Direct checks this year. Seniors who return their Response Card will be randomly selected to receive green Farm Direct checks worth \$24.

Seniors must be at least 60 years old and receiving Medicaid or Food Stamps on April 1, 2015, to be eligible for the Farm Direct Nutrition Program. Additionally, seniors cannot be living in a facility where meals are provided. To qualify, seniors must have a monthly income below \$1,325 for a single person and \$1,793 for a couple.



## How do Farm Direct checks benefit local farmers?

Participating farmers are paid the face value of Farm Direct checks; this increases their earnings and helps them to keep farming. In turn, farmers spend those dollars in their local communities, which promotes local economic development. Farm Direct brought over \$1.13 million into the hands of local farmers in 2014. Keeping local farmers in business is important to our communities as well as our health.



## Where can Farm Direct checks be used?

At participating farm stands and farmers' markets displaying a green program sign. Farm Direct recipients get a list of these along with the checks.

## What foods can be purchased with Farm Direct checks?

The checks can ONLY be used for fresh locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs. Items that can NOT be purchased include hot foods, dried foods, jams, nuts, honey, eggs, cider, meat, cheese, seafood, baked goods, plants, cut flowers, or fruits/vegetables not grown in Oregon (such as bananas, oranges, lemons, pineapples).



## Why are these checks only good with LOCAL farmers?

The program helps Oregon families support local farmers and rural communities. Produce at the supermarket may not come from a local farmer. Buying directly from the farmer means they get 100% of every Farm Direct dollar.

## When can Farm Direct checks be used?

Between June 1 and October 31. After this date, the farmer will not be reimbursed for these checks.



## Other questions?

- WIC participation – Call **your local WIC clinic** or dial 211, toll free, to locate the nearest WIC clinic.
- Senior participation – Call **Senior Farm Direct** toll-free at 1-866-299-3562.
- Participating farmers' markets and farm stands – Call **Department of Agriculture** at 503-872-6600.



Oregon  
Department  
of Agriculture

## Buy local...eat fresh!

USDA is an equal opportunity program and employer.  
If you need this material in an alternate format,  
please call 971-673-0040.

Oregon  
Health  
Authority

1050-15 Revised 1/2015