



May 13, 2012

Invitation to Participate in the 2013 Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Spring is here, and it's time to prepare for the upcoming Farmers' Market season. Last year, farmers' markets and farmstands provided WIC participants with benefits that purchased \$163,742 in fresh, Alaska-grown fruits and vegetables, and another \$71,275 were purchased with the Senior FMNP coupons. In 2012, for the first time, farmers markets, farmers, and farmstands were authorized for two seasons; all participating vendors will need to be reauthorized in 2014.

Important dates for the FMNP and SFMNP:

April 15, 2012 – August 31, 2012: The application period for the 2012/1013 two-year farmers' markets, farmers, and farmstands period began.

April 15, 2013 and ending August 31, 2013. New applicants may apply for the second year of the two year cycle.

June 1, 2013 – October 31, 2013: Authorized farmers may accept WIC Farmers' Market Coupons, WIC Fruit & Vegetable Vouchers (FVVs), and Senior Farmers' Market Coupons (where distributed).

November 30, 2013: The last date that an authorized farmer may deposit an FMNP Coupon in the bank. Coupons deposited after that date will not be redeemed. This is also the last date that a SFMNP coupon may be received by the Assigned Payment Agency for redemption.

FMNP / SFMNP Application Process:

- 1) Complete and sign the enclosed application, banking form, and vendor agreement.
- 2) On your application, list the number of "WIC Accepted Here" posters and FMNP / SFMNP Vendor Manuals you will need.
- 3) If you are selling from your farm or farmstand, provide any details of location or driving directions that will help participants find your sales location(s). We will provide location and contact information to participants, and will post the information on the AK WIC Program

- website. In order to be included in the WIC-authorized farmer's list for participants, your information must be received by June 1, 2013.
- 4) Send the completed application packet to the WIC Program Office at the address listed above. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your use.
 - 5) The WIC Program will review your application and within five days of receipt, will contact you if additional information is required. You will receive notice of your authorization by mail, along with a signed copy of your vendor agreement.
 - 6) If you are a new vendor, a vendor number will be assigned to you, and you will receive a vendor number stamp that must be used on all FMNP and SFMNP Coupons and FVVs before redeeming them. You may not accept the coupons or vouchers from participants until you have received your authorization and vendor stamp.
 - 7) If you are a returning vendor, your vendor number will not change, and you will use the stamp that was already issued to you. If you need a new stamp, we will order a new one for you.
 - 8) We will also mail you WIC posters, the Alaska WIC Program Handbook for the FMNP and SFMNP Program along with information on upcoming trainings.
 - 9) Participation in at least one teleconference training each year is a program requirement for authorized Farmers' Market managers and FMNP / SFMNP vendors.

Please review the enclosed materials and contact us with any questions. You can expect authorization to take up to two weeks after we receive your application. For more information, contact:

- Alice Albrecht, WIC FMNP Assistant Coordinator at (907)465-8630 or email: Alice.Albrecht@alaska.gov.
- Elaine Nisonger, Senior FMNP Program Coordinator at (907) 269-8446 or email: Elaine.Nisonger@alaska.gov

We appreciate your commitment to providing fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs to WIC participants in your community.

Sincerely



Alice Albrecht
WIC Farmers Market Assistant Coordinator

Sincerely,



Elaine Nisonger
Sr. FMNP Program Coordinator

Enclosures: 2012-2013 WIC FMNP/Sr.FMNP Application Packet