

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck ND 58505**

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**Wahpeton's Twin Town Gardeners Market is the latest farmers market to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits**

*Ten farmers markets in twelve North Dakota locations accept SNAP benefits*

BISMARCK, N.D. – Eating fresh, local foods is about to get easier for some low-income households in the Wahpeton area. Starting July 6, the Twin Town Gardeners Market in Wahpeton will begin to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits via electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards. SNAP helps qualifying low-income households buy food.

The market has about 20 local vendors offering a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, breads, eggs, jams and jellies, and meat and cheese items that can be purchased with SNAP benefits. The Twin Town Gardeners Market is open Thursdays from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Family Dollar Store parking lot, 824 Dakota Ave.

The Wahpeton farmers market joins nine other participating North Dakota farmers markets who accept SNAP benefits. These include BisMarket Farmers Market in **Bismarck**; Aspen Hills Produce in **Bottineau** and **Lake Metigoshe**; Reemtsma Produce and Handcrafts in **Cando**; William Erbe's Farmers Market and Red River Market in **Fargo**; Grafton Farmers Market, **Grafton**; Town Square Market in **Grand Forks**; Hildebrant's Farmers Market in **West Fargo**; and Skyline Ranch Produce with farmers markets in **Bismarck**, **Beulah**, **Hazen**, and **Washburn**. Visit [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/foodstamps.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/foodstamps.html) for locations and hours of operation.

“Every year, there are more farmers markets accepting SNAP benefits, which means more low-income households have access to fresh, home-grown fruits and vegetables. This is a good thing,” said Arlene Dura, SNAP program director for the Department of Human Services.

Dura said the department has funds available to reimburse markets for costs up to \$1,200 for the purchase of point-of-sale machines including wireless devices that scan EBT cards. Other funding opportunities are available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help more farmers markets cover startup costs.

The SNAP EBT Farmers Market program is open to any food producer in North Dakota. Interested farmers markets need to apply to USDA and follow federal SNAP rules and policies.

The federally-funded program provides about 25,200 North Dakota low-income households with benefits to purchase food at approved grocers. Almost half of the program participants are children; many others are elderly or have disabilities.

For more information on the SNAP EBT Farmers Market program, or to become an authorized market, contact the department at 701-328-2328, toll-free 800-755-2716, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or [dhsea@nd.gov](mailto:dhsea@nd.gov).

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