

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bottineau Farmers Market Accepting SNAP Benefits

BISMARCK, N.D. – Aspen Hills Produce in Bottineau is now accepting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits via electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps low-income families buy food.

The market features a wide variety of fresh vegetables and fruit that can be purchased with SNAP benefits. Aspen Hills Produce is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to Noon at the Central School, 700 Main St. in Bottineau.

“Even with the start of fall, fresh produce is still abundant,” said Arlene Dura, SNAP program director for the N.D. Department of Human Services. “With the addition of Aspen Hills Produce accepting SNAP benefits, more people have access to fresh home-grown fruits and vegetables in the north-central part of the state.”

The department has funds available to reimburse markets for costs up to \$1,300 for the purchase of point-of-sale machines including wireless that scan EBT cards. Other grant funding opportunities are available through 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.

Dura said the department collaborates with the N.D. Department of Agriculture on outreach efforts to encourage individual and cooperative farmers markets to become authorized and certified by the USDA Food and Nutrition Services to accept SNAP EBT benefits.

The Bottineau market joins other farmers markets in Bismarck, Beulah, Fargo, Hazen, Minot, Washburn, and West Fargo that accept SNAP benefits. For market hours and locations, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/foodstamps.html.

In August 2014, the federally-funded program provided 239 Bottineau County households with about \$51,300 in benefits that were used to purchase food at local grocers. Almost half of the program participants statewide are children; many others are elderly or have disabilities.

For more information on the N.D. Department of Human Services’ SNAP EBT Farmers Market program, or to become an authorized market, contact the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program at 701-328-2328, toll free 800-755-2716, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or dhsea@nd.gov.

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