

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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Two Additional Farmers Markets Now Accepting SNAP Benefits

Nine farmers markets in 11 North Dakota cities participating in program

BISMARCK, N.D. – Reemtsma Produce and Handcrafts in **Cando** and Grafton Farmers Market in **Grafton** are the latest farmers markets in North Dakota to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits via electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps low-income families buy food.

Reemtsma Produce and Handcrafts will feature garden vegetables, jams and jellies, and whole wheat bread that can be purchased with SNAP benefits. The market is open Thursdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m. inside the Cando Farmers Market, Cando City Park.

The Grafton Farmers Market has about 5 to 7 individual vendors offering a wide variety of items including fresh vegetables, eggs, breads and baked goods, jams and jellies, pickles, and salsas. The market is open Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at Heritage Village, 695 W. 12th St. in Grafton.

The two new markets join these other participating markets who accept SNAP benefits: BisMarket Farmers Market in **Bismarck**; Aspen Hills Produce in **Bottineau**; William Erbe's Farmers Market in **Fargo**; Town Square Market in **Grand Forks**; North Prairie Farmers Market in **Minot**; Hildebrant's Farmers Market in **West Fargo**; and Skyline Ranch Produce with farmers markets in **Bismarck**, **Beulah**, **Hazen**, and **Washburn**. For market hours and locations, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/foodstamps.html.

"The number of farmers markets who accept SNAP benefits continues to grow each year allowing more low-income families access to home-grown fruits and vegetables," said Arlene Dura, SNAP program director for the North Dakota Department of Human Services. "This is exciting because fresh produce is nutritious and provides families more options when purchasing and preparing meals."

The North Dakota Department of Human Services 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 North Dakota 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.

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Page 2

Each month, SNAP helps about 53,290 qualifying low-income North Dakotans by providing about \$6.5 million in benefits that help individuals and families purchase food at over 450 participating grocers or participating farmers markets. Almost half of the program participants are children; many others are elderly or have disabilities.

For more information on the North Dakota 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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