2020 Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition Program

FACT SHEET

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 $28 worth of green Farm Direct checks through their local clinic during a class, 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?

Seniors must be at least 62 years old and receiving Medicaid or SNAP (food stamps) on April 1, 2020 to be eligible for the Farm Direct Nutrition Program.

Additionally, seniors must have a monthly income below $1,467 for a single person and $1,983 for a couple, and cannot be living in a facility where meals are provided.

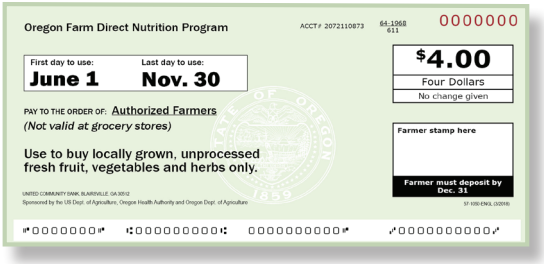
Each year eligible seniors receive a yellow letter from the State in late April that will invite them to participate in the program. Interested seniors must respond to the State by the indicated date in order to receive $24 in Farm Direct checks. If there is not enough funding to serve every eligible senior who would like to receive checks, participants will be selected randomly from the responses received.

Where can Farm Direct checks be used?

With more than 700 participating farmers statewide, there are multiple locations to spend Farm Direct checks in each Oregon county. Visit myoregonfarm.org for a list of participating farmers markets and farm stands near you.

What foods can be purchased with Farm Direct checks?

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


Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition Program
ACCT# 2072110873
64-1968
611
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First day to use: June 1
Last day to use: Nov. 30
$4.00
Four Dollars
No change given
PAY TO THE ORDER OF: Authorized Farmers
(Not valid at grocery stores)
Use to buy locally grown, unprocessed fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs only.
Farmer stamp here
Farmer must deposit by Dec. 31
UNITED COMMUNITY BANK, BLAIRSVILLE, GA 30512
Sponsored by the US Dept. of Agriculture, Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
SF-1090-ENGL (02018)

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 November 30. After this date, the farmer will not be reimbursed for these checks.

How do Farm Direct checks benefit local farmers?

Participating farmers gain new customers and 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 communities, which promotes local economic development. Farm Direct brings over $1.5 million into the hands of Oregon farmers each year. Keeping local farms in business is important to our communities as well as our health.

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
- **Farmers, farmers markets, and general inquiries:** Call 877-807-0889, option 2, or email oregon.fdnp@state.or.us

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Oregon Health Authority

WIC OREGON

DHS Oregon Department of Human Services

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