

Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition Program (FDNP)

Questions Frequently Asked by Shoppers

-A guide for information booth staff and volunteers-

Introduction: Each year eligible Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program families and seniors receive FDNP checks to spend directly with farmers who grow fruits, vegetables, and culinary cut herbs in Oregon and adjacent counties in California, Idaho, Nevada, and Washington.

Although FDNP shoppers do not *need* to stop by the info booth, they often do to ask some of these common questions. Welcome them to your market and refer to this information when needed.



1. How do I use my Farm Direct Checks?

FDNP checks are spent directly with authorized farmers to purchase fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables and culinary cut herbs.

2. Do I turn my checks in for tokens?

No. Farm Direct checks are spent directly with farmers, like cash, except no change is given.

3. What can I buy with my Farm Direct Checks? or Can I buy _____ with my checks?

FDNP checks are good for fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables and cut herbs only. This includes mushrooms and cut, edible flowers.

Items that are **not** eligible include processed foods (such as jam, salsa, honey, dried fruit, dairy products or nuts), live plants or starts, meat, fish, eggs, hot foods, and non-food items.

4. Do I need to show my WIC/EBT card or sign the checks to redeem them?

No. No identification or signature is needed to spend the checks.

5. Can I get change if I don't spend all \$4 with one vendor?

Change cannot be given for Farm Direct checks. Separate checks may be used with different farmers, but one check cannot be split. If the desired purchase is less than \$4, shoppers can work with the farmer to add more produce to bring the total to \$4. Different types of payment can also be combined for a purchase. For example, if the total for eligible produce is \$5, the shopper can use one \$4 Farm Direct check and \$1 cash as payment.

6. Which farmers at the market take these checks?

If you know which farmers do or do not accept them, you can just let them know. Otherwise, instruct the shopper to look for this sign at produce farmers' booths. Let them know the sign may not be posted, so they can always ask the vendor.



7. Do Farm Direct checks expire?

Yes. Refer the customer to the November 30 expiration date printed on the check.

8. What happens if I don't spend them all?

Checks that are not spent today can be brought back and redeemed on another day before the expiration. If the customer does not think they will come back again, encourage them to spend the full amount and consider freezing or preserving additional items. Shoppers are not permitted to give away unused checks.

9. How do I sign up to get Farm Direct checks?

The checks are for eligible WIC participants and seniors. Let the shopper know the farmers market is not involved with issuance or eligibility. If the shopper thinks they may be eligible, refer them to their local WIC office or 2-1-1 (toll-free) to learn more.

