

2008 KANSAS SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM  
Frequently Asked Questions



**1) What is the Kansas Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program?**

ANSWER: It is a joint-initiative of many public and private partners. Under this program, low-income seniors in 18 counties are provided checks to exchange for eligible foods at farmers' markets and authorized roadside stands. Low-income seniors are also provided one bundle of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables during the market season as prepared by community supported agriculture (CSA) farms.

**2) Who are partners in this initiative?**

ANSWER: Partners include: Kansas Departments on Aging (the lead agency), Agriculture, Commerce, Social and Rehabilitation Services, Health and Environment, and Transportation; Kansas Coordinated Transit District Council; Kansas Fruit Growers Association; Kansas Rural Center; Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service; and Kansas Vegetable Growers Association.

**3) Where is the program being implemented in Kansas?**

ANSWER: It is being implemented in the following service area: Atchison, Bourbon, Cowley, Dickinson, Douglas, Finney, Harvey, Johnson, Leavenworth, Lyon, McPherson, Reno, Republic, Riley, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte Counties. The service area is the same as in 2007.

**4) When is it being implemented?**

ANSWER: It is being implemented from May 3 through September 30, 2008.

**5) How is the program funded?**

ANSWER: The program is primarily funded under a \$174,073 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) pursuant to the extended Farm Bill of 2002 (P.L. 107-171). This is a base award, announced March 25, 2008. Of this amount, \$156,666 is designated for food and \$17,407 is designated for program administration. In addition, \$33,157 state general funds are appropriated by the Kansas Legislature annually.

Federal regulations for the operation and administration of the program were published on December 12, 2006, making this a permanent program rather than a competitive grant program. Kansas was grandfathered into the permanent program in 2007.

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**6) Will this amount change again in 2008?**

ANSWER: The state's grant award is expected to change when USDA awards unspent FY 2007 funds. USDA will allocate unspent 2007 funds proportionately until the 2007 final grant levels have been met, then funds will be disbursed per federal regulations.

**7) Will the service area change again in 2008?**

ANSWER: The service area is not expected to change during the market season.

**8) What is the purpose of Kansas' program?**

ANSWER: The purpose is two-fold: to promote better nutrition among low-income seniors and to expand the revenue base for farmers marketing fresh, locally grown produce at eligible outlets (see below) in select communities

**9) What is the 2008 benefit level for eligible seniors?**

ANSWER: Participants receive fifteen checks, each in \$2 denominations, a total benefit of \$30, and a bundle of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables (value currently undetermined) during the market season.

**10) Who is eligible to receive the checks and the bundles?**

ANSWER: Only people who are participating or are eligible to participate (and not receiving a food package) in two food-assistance programs are eligible for and will be certified to receive the checks and bundles: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). All check and bundle participants must be at least 60 years old and have a household income below 130% of the federal poverty level, which is the maximum income eligibility standard in use by the state. NOTE: A demonstration program is planned mid-Summer which will test expansion of the program to people who are participating in the food stamp program in two areas (Johnson and Sedgwick Counties). These people must be at least 60 years old and have a household income below 130% of the federal poverty level,

**11) Why are these food assistance program customers the only seniors eligible for and certified to receive the checks and bundles in Kansas?**

ANSWER: The state's eligibility criteria are based on the new federal regulations and limited to people who are both:

- o *Categorically eligible*, meaning at least 60 years old, and
- o *Automatically income eligible*, based on current participation/eligibility to receive benefits in another means-tested assistance program, as designated by the state.

It is noted that the 2008 criteria exclude one food assistance program (the Older Americans Act [OAA] nutrition program) that was targeted between 2003 and 2006 under the competitive grant program because it is not a means-tested program. Although the

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state will use ten (10) percent of the total federal grant award (the maximum administrative allowance) and other funding sources as allowed to cover administrative costs of the 2008 program, it is necessary to minimize the state's investment in the program. Therefore, an eligibility determination process exclusively for the Kansas Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program has not been created and potential "applicants" (including OAA nutrition program customers) will only be certified to receive the checks once eligibility for CSFP or TEFAP is established.

#### **12) Who will distribute the checks to eligible seniors?**

ANSWER: The chart identifies the local organizations that are distributing checks and bundles\* to its program's eligible customers and the type of food-assistance program it is.

County	Organization	Type
Atchison	Atchison Salvation Army	TEFAP
Bourbon	Bourbon County Senior Citizens	TEFAP
Cowley	United Methodist Open Door	CSFP
Dickinson	Dickinson County Task Force on Aging	TEFAP
Douglas	Let's Help, Inc.	CSFP
Finney	Senior Center of Finney County	TEFAP
	The Salvation Army	TEFAP
Harvey	United Methodist Open Door	CSFP
Johnson	Olathe Salvation Army	TEFAP
Leavenworth	Salvation Army	TEFAP
Lyon	Emporia Salvation Army	TEFAP
McPherson	McPherson County Council on Aging	TEFAP
Reno	United Methodist Open Door	CSFP
Republic	Republic County Ministerial Association	TEFAP
Riley	Flint Hills Bread Basket	TEFAP
Saline	North Central Chapter of the American Red Cross	TEFAP
Sedgwick	United Methodist Open Door	CSFP
Shawnee	Let's Help, Inc.	CSFP
Wyandotte	Harvesters – The Community Food Network	TEFAP

#### **13) Who will distribute the bundles to eligible seniors?**

ANSWER: It is still too early to know which of these agencies will distribute bundles during the market season.

#### **14) Where can seniors use the checks?**

ANSWER: The senior, or an authorized representative (proxy), can only use the checks at the farmers market (see listing in item 18) and/or roadside stands (see item 21).

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**15) Who can sign the checks?**

ANSWER: The senior or his/her authorized representative (proxy) can sign the checks. Neither is required to show identification when using the checks at the market and/or roadside stand.

**16) Where are farmers authorized to accept checks?**

ANSWER: In 2008, farmers are authorized to accept checks at eligible outlets which include farmers' markets and/or roadside stands, depending on the type of agreement the farmer enters into with the Kansas Department on Aging.

**17) How are farmers and roadside stands authorized to accept checks for eligible fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs?**

ANSWER: Individual farmers are authorized through an agreement with the Kansas Department on Aging to accept the checks for eligible foods at farmers' markets. Individual farmers with roadside stands are authorized to accept the checks for eligible foods through a separate agreement. Both agreements prohibit the farmer from issuing cash change or collecting state or local taxes on purchases made with the checks.

**18) Where can farmers negotiate the checks for cash or deposit?**

ANSWER: Authorized farmers are instructed how to negotiate the checks for cash or deposit at their local banks.

**19) Which farmers' markets are eligible outlets in 2008?**

ANSWER: Twenty-three organized farmers' markets are eligible outlets in 2008. Farmers are authorized to accept checks at the following farmers' market locations during advertised market hours:

	<b>KSFMNP Farmers' Market Locations</b>	<b>City</b>
1	1 <sup>st</sup> Street & Buckeye	Abilene
2	200 Block S. Summit	Arkansas City
3	Main Street, Between 4 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	Atchison
4	Courthouse Square, 1815 "M" Street	Belleville
5	7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue & Merchant Street	Emporia
6	4 <sup>th</sup> & Judson Street	Fort Scott
7	Westlake Hardware / Aaron's Parking Log (1210 Fleming)	Garden City
8	2 <sup>nd</sup> & Washington	Hutchinson
9	(Saturday/Wednesday & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month) 6 <sup>th</sup> & Tauomee, Downtown	Kansas City, KS
10a	(Saturday) 824 New Hampshire	Lawrence
10b	(Tuesday/Thursday) 1020 Vermont	Lawrence
11a	(Saturday) 100 Block of Delaware	Leavenworth

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11b	(Wednesday) 7 <sup>th</sup> Street & Cherokee, at Haymarket Square	Leavenworth
12a	(Saturday) 400 Block of Humbolt	Manhattan
12b	(Wednesday) Cico Park Parking Lot	Manhattan
13	4-H Grounds, 600 Block of W. Woodside	McPherson
14	5740 Merriam Drive	Merriam
15	300 Block of N. Main	Newton
16	200 W. Santa Fe	Olathe
17	Downtown between 79 <sup>th</sup> and 80 <sup>th</sup> at Marty	Overland Park
18	Waters True Value Hardware and Earthcare Services Parking Log (460 S. Ohio)	Salina
19	11110 Johnson Drive	Shawnee
20	10 <sup>th</sup> and Topeka Blvd.	Topeka
21	10 <sup>th</sup> Street & Jackson	Topeka
22a	(Saturday/Wednesday) 21 <sup>st</sup> & Ridge	Wichita
22b	(Tuesday) 8141 E. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Wichita
22c	(Saturday) 800 N. Baltimore	Derby
23	(Saturday) 835 East 1 <sup>st</sup> Street	Wichita

#### **20) Can the checks be used at the farmer's usual place of business?**

ANSWER: Yes, if the farmer's usual place of business is a roadside stand and it meets certain criteria.

#### **21) What is Kansas' criteria for authorizing roadside stands as eligible outlets?**

ANSWER: The criteria for authorizing a roadside stand is that: (a) it is a location at which a single, individual farmer sells his/her produce directly to consumers AND (b) it is located in one of the 18 counties listed above AND (c) the individual Kansas farmer grows and sells his/her produce directly to consumers at this location in a permanent on-site structure. Farmers are authorized to accept checks at an authorized roadside stand during advertised business hours.

#### **22) Which roadside stands are eligible outlets in 2008?**

ANSWER: It is still too early to know which roadside stands are eligible outlets.

#### **23) Can the checks be used at the grocery store or any other business that includes the term(s) "market" or "farmer's market" in its legal name?**

ANSWER: No.

#### **24) How does the program work (checks)?**

ANSWER: Seniors exchange checks for eligible foods sold by authorized farmers at any of the twenty-three farmers' markets or any of the authorized roadside stands in the 18 counties. The checks are easy for farmers to negotiate at his/her local bank. The seniors are being encouraged to improve their diets by adding fresh fruits and vegetables, and

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being taught to select, store and prepare the fresh produce they buy with their checks -- local K-State Cooperative Extension staff provide nutrition education during check distribution, at the farmers markets, at roadside stands or in other locations throughout the summer.

### 25) How does the program work (bundles)?

ANSWER: Seniors will receive the bundles of eligible foods at the same time the local agency distributes commodity food boxes, tentatively in June. The seniors are being encouraged to improve their diets by adding fresh fruits and vegetables, and being taught to select, store and prepare the fresh produce -- local K-State Cooperative Extension staff provide nutrition information with the bundles.

### 26) Will the bundles be distributed after June?

ANSWER: In past years, seniors in four counties whose monthly commodity food boxes were delivered by local agencies (including homebound, high-rise and out of town participants) or who received home delivered meals were eligible to receive bundles of eligible foods during the market season instead of the checks. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm(s) were authorized through a separate agreement with the Kansas Department on Aging to prepare a prescribed number of bundles of eligible fresh produce that meet established specifications and deliver them to the local agency (above) on pre-arranged dates in July, August, September and/or October. Due to administrative funding constraints, the state will not be able to implement its CSA / bulk purchase between July and October 2008. However, KDOA will implement a CSA / bulk purchase in November in order to use 100% of the federal grant. Eligible seniors targeted through a year-end CSA / bulk purchase will not receive a combined total benefit (checks and bundles) of more than \$50 per year.

### 27) What are Eligible Foods?

ANSWER: The chart below identifies the locally grown, fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs that can be purchased with the checks.

Fruits
Including: apples, apricots, blueberries, strawberries, cherries (tart and sweet), crabapples, blackberries, dewberries, hardy kiwi, peaches, nectarines, persimmon, plums/prunes (not dried), grapes, pears, Asian pears, date pears, mulberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants, paw-paw.
Vegetables
Including: asparagus, snap or pole beans, lima beans, edible soybeans, broccoli, beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, garlic, Jerusalem artichoke, kale, kohlrabi, leek, leaf lettuce, Bibb lettuce, romaine/cos lettuce, head lettuce, mustard greens, greens mixes or mesculun, oriental greens crops, mushrooms, muskmelon or cantaloupe, honeydew melons, winter melons, New Zealand spinach, okra, onions, parsnip, peas, peppers, Irish potatoes, pumpkins (edible), radishes, rhubarb, rutabaga, salsify, spinach, summer squash, winter squash, sweet potatoes, Swiss chard, tomatoes, turnip, watermelon, sprouts used as vegetables.

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#### Herbs

Including: basil, chervil, coriander/cilantro, parsley, tarragon, thyme, oregano, sweet marjoram, anise, borage, dill, chives, rosemary, fennel, sage, mints, spearmints, bay leaf, lemon balm (herbs must be sold for fresh use- not as potted plants or as dried herbs).

#### **28)What does locally grown mean?**

ANSWER: For 2008, it means grown either within the Kansas border or in a county adjacent to the Kansas border in a neighboring state. The term is defined the same since 2004.

#### **29)What locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs ARE NOT eligible under this program?**

ANSWER: Locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs that ARE NOT eligible under this program include those processed or prepared beyond their natural state except for usual harvesting and cleaning processes. Eligible Foods also DO NOT include: dried fruits or vegetables [such as prunes (dried plums), raisins (dried grapes), sun-dried tomatoes, dried chili peppers], potted fruit or vegetable plants, potted or dried herbs, wild rice, nuts of any kind (even raw), honey, maple syrup, cider, seeds, eggs, meat, cheese, and seafood. Eligible Foods also DO NOT include baked goods or other foods commonly sold at eligible outlets.

#### **30)What happens when the eligible foods selected by the senior cost more or less than the value of the check(s) being exchanged?**

ANSWER: The farmer can not issue cash change or collect state or local taxes on purchases *made with checks*. This means a \$1.80 purchase of fresh apples made with one (\$2.00) check is exempt from state and local taxes and the farmer keeps the difference. On the other hand, the farmer must issue cash change and collect state or local taxes on that portion of a purchase *not covered by the checks*. This means a \$7.25 purchase of fresh apples, potatoes, tomatoes, strawberries and corn made with three checks (\$6.00 value) and \$2.00 cash (non check portion) is handled as follows. The \$6.00 (check portion) is non-taxable sales; the \$1.25 difference (non-check portion) is the net taxable sales. Using a 7.45% tax rate (or the rate for Topeka), the farmer collects \$0.09 tax on the non-check portion and issues \$0.66 change to the senior. The non-check amount will be subject to the appropriate state and local sales taxes.

#### **31)Will the program be available during 2009?**

ANSWER: Congress authorized \$15 million a year, through FY 2007, for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) in the 2002 Farm Bill. The extended Farm Bill of 2002 (P.L. 107-171) provides \$15 million for the FY 2008 program, allowing Congress more time to reach an agreement on new farm policy. Federal regulations for the operation and administration of the program were published on December 12, 2006, making this a permanent program rather than a competitive grant program. The regulations are at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/regspublished/SFMNPfinalrule.htm>. It is

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too soon to know the spending level Congress will authorize for the permanent program beyond FY 2008.

**32) How can farmers or anyone else helping with the program learn about changes (i.e., additional farmers markets, etc.)?**

ANSWER: Options available for accessing information about the program include:

- (a) KDOA's Program Help Desk. Call 785-368-6686
- (b) KDOA's Program Manager: Tamara Tiemann at 785-296-6445 or [tamara.tiemann@aging.ks.gov](mailto:tamara.tiemann@aging.ks.gov)
- (c) KDOA's Toll Free Line. Call 1-800-432-3535
- (d) KDOA's website. Go to [www.agingkansas.org](http://www.agingkansas.org)

**33) How can information about the value of this program (to the farmer and seniors) be shared with the program partners and others?**

ANSWER: We want to hear from farmers and any others with stories that demonstrate the value of this program. So, tell us your stories so we can tell others who will want to know too— such as the media, legislators, partnering agencies, current or future funders, etc. Please send anecdotal information by electronic mail to:

- (a) KDOA's Program Manager: Tamara Tiemann at [tamara.tiemann@aging.ks.gov](mailto:tamara.tiemann@aging.ks.gov)
- (b) KDOA's Webmaster at [wwwmail@aging.ks.gov](mailto:wwwmail@aging.ks.gov)

**34) Where can I get more information?**

ANSWER: For more public relations information about the Kansas Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, contact Barbara Schoof Conant, KDOA Director of Public Affairs, at (785) 296-4986. Farmers wanting information about how to become authorized to accept the checks should contact Tamara Tiemann at 785-296-6445 or 800-432-3535.

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