

# FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

## GROWERS' MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** *Is it true that starting in the 2009 market season seniors can buy honey with their checks?*

**A:** Yes, this is new for seniors. However WIC FMNP checks cannot be used to purchase honey.

**Q:** *Why can't customers buy eggs, nuts, and cider with their Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks?*

**A:** The goal of the Farmers Market Nutrition Program is to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to improve health and to support direct marketing for growers through the use of farmers markets. Federal regulations allow only fresh, unprocessed (except for washing) fruits and vegetables, to be purchased with farmers market checks.

**Q:** *Why were my Farmers Market Nutrition Program checks returned to my bank?*

**A:** Checks will be returned to the bank if a valid or readable identification number is not stamped on the check in the white box. To have a valid number, you must:

1. Have a current grower agreement on file with the state.
2. Have the check stamped with an 8 digit number (the first 4 numbers represents the market number, the last 4 digits represent your grower ID).

It is not acceptable to hand write the number on the check. Please be sure that the stamped number is legible before depositing or cashing your checks.

**Q:** *Why did my bank require me to sign and list all of my Farmers Market Nutrition Program checks before I could cash or deposit them in my bank account?*

**A:** This is a bank policy for all checks. This is not a policy developed by Washington State Farmers Market Nutrition Program. Purchasing an inexpensive signature stamp may save you time endorsing all of your items for deposit.

**Q:** *What brings WIC clients and seniors back to shop at a Farmers Market?*

**A:** Clients and seniors enjoy learning more about selection and preparation of fruits and vegetables they may not have used before. Friendly growers bring them back for more!

**Q:** *Why should I display the "WIC & SENIOR FARMERS MARKET CHECKS WELCOME HERE" sign?*

**A:** Displaying your sign can increase business. Clients are told to look for the sign at the market. Also, federal law requires growers to display a sign indicating their participation in the program.

**Q:** *If I have other questions or concerns, who should I contact?*

**A:** You may contact Pat Jordan, WIC FMNP at 1-800-841-1410, [Patricia.Jordan@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Patricia.Jordan@doh.wa.gov). For Senior FMNP you may contact Rosemary Biggins at 1-800-422-3263.