

# GEORGIA FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM



GEORGIA  
**WIC**  
Farmers Market Nutrition Program

GEORGIA  
**SENIOR**  
Farmers Market Nutrition Program

## What are the Georgia WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Programs?

The Georgia WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) are federally funded programs.

Funding for these Farmers Markets are provided by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The GFMNP is associated with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Both programs make fresh, unprepared, locally-grown fruits, vegetables and herbs available

to WIC recipients and eligible senior participants. The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is the agency that administers the programs statewide. DPH partners with local public health districts and Area Agencies on Aging to administer these programs locally to WIC recipients and senior participants, respectively.

### How do the programs operate in Georgia?

The programs operate annually from June 1 through September 30. Farmers bring their produce to sell at a designated WIC or Senior farmers market site. Checks are issued to WIC recipients (\$30 per person), and senior participants (\$20 per person). The checks can only be redeemed with

authorized farmers.

### How do farmers qualify for the programs?

To qualify for the programs, farmers must meet the following selection criteria at the time of authorization:

- Owns his/her farm operation/business\*
- Grows produce in the state of Georgia or on land 25 miles outside the Georgia border
- Grows a minimum of four (4) different types of fruits and vegetables.

\* Farmers who sell produce exclusively grown by someone else, are not eligible to participate in the programs.



### How do I become authorized to accept program checks?

Each year, DPH conducts a farmers training before the beginning of the farmers market season. All current farmers and new applicants are required to attend the training. The one-day training provides farmers with program policies and procedures. During the training, all new farmers will have the opportunity to complete an application package. In addition to completing the application package, a new farmer must also submit the following documents:

- A notarized deed or lease agreement for the land where the farmer's produce is grown; and
- A letter from a local Cooperative Extension documenting the farmer's status as a Georgia Grower by listing the specific types of crops the farmer produces.
- If a farm is "Certified Organic" and the farmer submits copies of such certification, the proof of land ownership or lease agreement and the local Cooperative Extension letter are not required.

**NOTE:** If a letter from the property owner is used to document the lease agreement, the document must have owners signature.

### What is next after I attend the training and submit an application package?

Application packages are carefully reviewed by DPH for completeness

### What types of produce can I sell at designated FMNP market sites?

Only fresh, Georgia-grown fruits, vegetables and/or herbs may be sold at designated market sites. Eligible foods include but are not limited to:

Apples	Cucumbers	Peaches	Pumpkin
Beans, Lima	Eggplants	Pears	Spinach
Beans, Snap	Fresh herbs	Peas	Squash
Beets	Grapes	Peppers, Bell	Strawberries
Blueberries	Muscadines	Peppers, Hot	Tomatoes
Cantaloupe	Mushrooms	Peppers, Sweet	Turnip Greens
Cabbage	Mustard Greens	Plums	Watermelon
Carrots	Nectarines	Potatoes, Sweet	OTHER GEORGIA-GROWN PRODUCE
Collards	Okra	Potatoes, White	
Corn	Onions		



and accuracy. Incomplete packages are not considered for authorization. Once the application has been reviewed, DPH will schedule an on-site farm inspection at the applicant's farm. If the applicant passes the farm inspection, the application will then be processed for authorization. Farmers are officially authorized to accept checks for both programs when they receive a fully executed farmer agreement and state-issued farmer stamp via mail.

### How do I locate designated GFMNP market sites to sell my produce?

A list of participating public health districts and Area Agencies on Aging is distributed during the annual farmer training. It is the responsibility of the farmer to contact these local agencies to inquire about program participation and schedule market dates. It is at the local agency's discretion to choose which authorized farmers can participate in their scheduled markets.

**APPLICATION PACKAGES ARE ACCEPTED FEBRUARY 1 – MAY 31 EACH YEAR.**

## How do I register for farmer training or get additional information?

Farmers may direct their questions about the **Georgia WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Programs** by contacting the **customer service hotline 866-814-5468**. The hotline is available Monday through Friday, except state holidays, from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. (EST). After 5 p.m. and during periods of high volume calling, please leave a voicemail.

### Contact us at:

Georgia Department of Public Health  
Georgia WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program  
2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 10th Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

#### CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE:

**866-814-5468 (toll free in Georgia)**

**PHONE: (404) 657-2900**

**EMAIL: [Farmers.Market@dph.ga.gov](mailto:Farmers.Market@dph.ga.gov)**



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To file a program complaint of discrimination: Complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, \(AD-3027\)](#) found online at: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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