

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Senior Citizens Encouraged to Apply to Receive Coupons to Buy Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs and Honey at Farmers Markets in Reno County.**

Hutchinson, Kansas--Low-income Kansas seniors may be eligible for a program that provides coupons to purchase fresh, unprocessed fruits and vegetables and honey at farmers markets in selected counties throughout the state.

The Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (KSFMNP) is providing seniors who meet age and income requirements with \$50 in coupons to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey from authorized farmers at local participating farmers markets, June 15 through September 15, 2023. Coupons are available in \$5 increments.

To be eligible to receive KSFMNP coupons, the following criteria must be met:

1. **Age:** A senior must be 60 years old or older, or at least 55 years old and a member of an Indian Tribal Organization, on the day the money is issued.
2. **Income level:** A senior's annual gross household income (before taxes are withheld) must be at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. For example, a household of one must have an annual gross income at or below \$26,973, or a monthly gross income at or below \$2,248

The Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program application process in Reno County will again be conducted by telephone only – no walk-ins. The application period begins June 14, 2023.

To apply, Seniors may call 620-694-2911 beginning **June 14, 2023**, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. M – F. No early calls will be accepted. Please leave a voice mail message if necessary due to high call volume.

Funds are limited and benefits will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about the Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, call the Reno County Department of Aging at 620-694-2911.

Eligible foods to purchase with the KSFMNP coupons from authorized farmers at participating farmers markets are defined as “fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, locally produced honey and herbs for human consumption that are produced in Kansas under normal growing conditions.”

The Senior Farmers' Market Program is a project of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The program is coordinated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), which is collaborating with local partners to identify and distribute coupons to eligible seniors.

The program is currently available in the following counties: Allen, Anderson, Atchison, Barton, Bourbon, Brown, Butler, Clay, Cloud, Chase, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Coffey, Cowley Crawford, Decatur, Dickinson, Doniphan, Douglas, Ellis, Ellsworth, Finney, Franklin, Geary, Harvey, Hodgeman, Jackson, Jefferson, Jewell, Johnson, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, Labette, Leavenworth, Linn, Lincoln, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, McPherson, Miami, Mitchell, Morris, Nemaha, Neosho, Norton, Osage, Osborne, Ottawa, Pawnee, Pottawatomie, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Rawlins, Reno, Republic, Rice, Riley, Russell, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Sheridan, Sherman, Stafford, Smith, Sumner, Thomas, Wabaunsee, Washington, Wilson, Wyandotte

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