

# WIC Food Packages

## Fact Sheet for Farmers and Farmers' Markets



Final modifications have been made to the interim regulations governing the WIC food packages. The modifications in the final rule reflect the experiences of State agencies in implementing the interim rule, while continuing to fulfill the intent of the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies that serve as the basis for the WIC food package changes.

### **What's new for farmers and farmers' markets?**

- In addition to individual farmers at farmers' markets, WIC State agencies now have the option to authorize farmers' markets to accept WIC cash-value vouchers (CVV) for fruits and vegetables.
- The value of the CVV for children is increased from \$6 to \$8 per month, the level recommended by the IOM.
- All WIC participants will now be allowed to pay the difference if the fruit and vegetable purchase exceeds the value of the CVV. This transaction, known as "split tender," ensures that participants are able to maximize use of their CVV.

## **Eligible WIC Foods at Farmers' Markets Include:**

- Any variety of fresh whole or cut fruits without added sugar.
- Any variety of fresh whole or cut vegetables without added sugars, fats or oils. (Orange yams and sweet potatoes are allowed.)

Fruits and vegetables do not have to be locally grown.

## **Unallowable WIC Foods at Farmers' Markets Include:**

- Decorative blossoms or flowers
- Pickled vegetables and olives
- Herbs and spices
- Fruit-nut mixtures
- Ornamental and decorative fruits and vegetables such as chili peppers on a string, garlic on a string, gourds, and painted pumpkins
- Home-canned and home-preserved fruits and vegetables

### ***How does the WIC food package rule affect farmers and farmers' markets? \****

Farmers and farmers' markets must be authorized by the WIC State agency to accept the CVV. Farmers and farmers' markets should contact their WIC State agency to obtain information about the application and authorization process.

### ***Will there still be WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) coupons?***

Yes. The WIC fruit and vegetable CVV does not replace coupons received through the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). Therefore, in some States, farmers and farmers' markets may be authorized to accept both WIC fruit and vegetable cash-value vouchers and FMNP coupons.

***\* Refer to the full regulation at [www.fns.usda.gov/wic](http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic) for the complete provisions and requirements for the WIC food packages.***