

The Office of Governor M. Jodi Rell



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Governor Rell Announces 18 Connecticut Farmers' Markets Now Accepting Food Stamps

*With More Markets Accepting Food Stamp Benefit Cards,
State's Fresh Produce Finds Another Way to the Table*

Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced that Connecticut residents enrolled in the Food Stamp program can now use their benefit cards to buy fresh fruits, vegetables and other locally produced foods at 18 farmers' markets across the state. Farmers' markets accepting Food Stamps are located in Hartford, New Haven, West Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, New London, Norwalk, Stratford, Scotland, Willimantic, Coventry and Newtown.

"Farmers' markets are a great way for all families to get tasty, nutritious regional produce and other food items," Governor Rell said. "Eighteen of our farmers' markets are now accepting Food Stamp benefit cards, meaning that it is more convenient than ever for Food Stamp recipients to shop for fresh, locally grown food."

From July through October, local farmers pile tables with newly picked fruits and vegetables as well as other foods such as meat, cheese and dairy products. Some markets have continued their seasons throughout the winter, operating once a month or so to offer cellared vegetables such as carrots, turnips, and parsnips.

Governor Rell proclaimed August 5-11 as National Farmers' Market Week in Connecticut in recognition of the markets' role in "providing a source of fresh, nutritious food for our citizens while supporting our local farms and preserving our beautiful landscape."

The federally funded Food Stamp program serves about 104,400 low-income Connecticut households with monthly benefits up to \$518 for a family of four. Paper stamps are a thing of the past: Payments are now made to accounts accessed by electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards. Most beneficiaries are elderly, people with disabilities or children and their families.

The participating farmers' markets make it easy to use an EBT card to shop. EBT cardholders simply swipe their cards at a central terminal and receive tokens to spend at any stall at that market. The process works a lot like using an ATM card.

While the number of participating farmers' markets has grown from a half-dozen to 18 in the last several years, Governor Rell pointed out that most still do not accept Food Stamps. "There are a total of 90 farmers' markets in Connecticut, and we need to encourage more to join those realizing the advantages of accepting Food Stamp cards. It is good for business and good for the public."

For a complete listing of farmers' markets in the state, organized by county, visit the state Department of Agriculture's website at www.CTGrown.gov and click on "Publications" at the top of the page.

Farmers' market representatives seeking information on accepting EBT/Food Stamps may call the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Hartford office toll-free at (877) 823-4369 for an application to become a Food Stamp-participating retailer. The application can also be downloaded from www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/.

The Food Stamp program is administered in Connecticut by the Department of Social Services.

A list of Connecticut Farmers' Markets accepting Food Stamps is attached.

Farmers' Markets in Connecticut Accepting Food Stamps/EBT Cards

Market	Town	Times
Bridgeport Farmers' Market I McLevy Green Intersection of Bank Street & Main Street	Bridgeport	Fridays, 9am- 2pm July 20 through October 26
Bridgeport Farmers' Market II United Congregational Church 877 Park Avenue	Bridgeport	Thursdays, 2pm - 6pm July 19 through October 25
Bridgeport Farmers' Market III Shell Service Station 4402 Main Street	Bridgeport	Saturdays & Sundays 12pm-6pm June 23 through December 24
Coventry Farmers' Market Connecticut Glass Museum Corner of North River Road and Route 44	Coventry	Sundays, 11am-2pm June 3 through October 28
Hartford Downtown Farmers' Market Old State House 800 Main Street	Hartford	Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9am - 2pm June 1 through Thanksgiving
Hartford West End Farmers' Market United Methodist Church - Back Parking Lot - 571 Farmington Avenue	Hartford	Tuesdays & Fridays, 4pm - 7pm June 26 through September 26
New Haven Downtown Farmers' Market On the Green Near corner of Church and Chapel Streets	New Haven	Wednesdays, 11am - 4pm July 11 through October 31
New Haven Edgewood Park Farmers' Market Edgewood Park Corner of West Rock & Whalley Avenues.	New Haven	Sundays, 10am - 2pm July 15 through October 28
Fair Haven Farmers' Market Quinnipiac River Park Near corner of Grand Avenue and Front Street	New Haven	Thursdays, 3pm - 7pm July 12 through October 25
Wooster Square Farmers' Market Corner of DePalma Court and Chapel Street	New Haven	Saturdays, 9am - 1pm May 19 through December 15
Fresh Farmers' Market Municipal Parking Lot Corner of Eugene O'Neil Drive and Pearl Street	New London	Tuesdays & Fridays, 10am - 2pm July 6 through October 30
Norwalk Farmers' Market Maritime Center North Water Street Parking Lot	Norwalk	Wednesdays, 12pm - 6pm July 18 through October 24

Sandy Hook Organic Farmers' Market St. John's Episcopal Church 5 Washington Avenue	Newtown (Sandy Hook)	Tuesdays, 2pm - 6pm June 19 through October 9
Scotland Farmers' Market Scotland Green Junction Routes 14 & 97	Scotland	Wednesdays, 3pm - 6pm June 13 through October 31
Stratford Farmers' Market Deluca Field Main Street	Stratford	Mondays, 1pm - 5pm July 16 through October 29
Waterbury Farmers' Market on the Green Downtown Green West Main Street	Waterbury	Thursdays, 11am – 3pm July 12 through October 25
West Haven Farmers' Market West Haven Green Corner of Campbell and Main Street	West Haven	Thursdays 12pm to 6pm Saturdays, 10am – 2pm July 5 through October 27
Willimantic Farmers' Market Corner Jackson & Union Streets Near Frog Bridge	Willimantic	Tuesdays, 12:30pm - 3pm Saturdays, 8am - 11:30am June 3 through October 31