Farmers’ Markets and Farm Stands — 2019
and the Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program

Iowa farmers’ markets and farm stands are licensed by the Department of Inspections and Appeals.

- License fees are required for farmers’ market vendors selling prepared foods that require temperature control for food safety. All ingredients (including eggs) used in food preparation must come from a licensed and approved source, with the exception of honey and whole uncut fruits and vegetables.
- The current license fee is $150 annually, and a separate license must be obtained for each county the vendor operates in.

Iowa Farmers’ Markets and Farm Stands — 2019

For an interactive version of the map, click here.

The Iowa Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) was established in Iowa Code chapter 175B and is administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS). The FMNP is associated with the Federal Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as WIC; FMNP also assists eligible seniors. The FMNP was established by Congress in July 1992 to provide fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs through farmers’ markets and roadside stands. Federal funding for FMNP comes through the Farm Bill.

- Women, infants over 4 months old, and children who are certified to receive WIC Program benefits or who are on a waiting list for WIC certification are eligible to participate in the FMNP.
- Eligible seniors must be 60 years of age or older and have a yearly household income at or below 185% of the poverty level.
- WIC participants are issued FMNP coupons in addition to their regular WIC benefits, which can be used to buy eligible foods from approved farmers’ markets or roadside stands. FMNP checks and WIC cash value vouchers can only be accepted at authorized farmers’ markets, during authorized days and times.
- The federal FMNP benefit level, whether for a household or individual, is $10 to $30 per year. Federal benefits paid to Iowa have been stable since FY 2015 at $468,191 for WIC participants and $530,686 for Seniors.

Iowa FMNP Recipients and Farmers (Vendors)

In FY 2018:

$866,206 Total Federal FMNP Grant Dollars to Iowa

17,695 Senior FMNP Recipients

23,957 WIC FMNP Recipients

681 FMNP Authorized/Vendors/Farmers

Source: Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS); U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals; LSA calculations
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