The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), previously referred to as food stamps, offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. Farmers markets, farm stands and community supported agriculture programs can become approved to accept food stamps as a form of payment for eligible items. Becoming a food stamp friendly vendor can mean increasing your customer access and revenue. The Idaho Farmers Market Association works to ensure that Idahoans of all income levels have access to local, healthy food!

Do you sell eligible items?

Food stamps can be used to purchase fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs, baked goods, and more. Food stamps cannot be used to purchased alcohol, pet food, tobacco products, household supplies, vitamins, or foods that will be eaten on the same premise they’re being sold (ex. prepared food).
How do I become a food stamp friendly farmers market, farm stand or CSA?

1. Contact the Idaho Farmers Market Association (IFMA)
2. Complete the USDA application with 1-on-1 assistance from IFMA (http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailers-0)
3. Decide upon which payment equipment is right for you
4. Decide upon the need for additional script or tokens (multivendor operations only)
5. Receive training from the Idaho Farmers Market Association for you, your staff, and/or vendors
6. Learn about best practices for advertising your new program

Additional Resources

Approximately 1 in 8 people in Idaho utilize the food stamp program which translates to almost a quarter million residents. To learn more about the food stamp program in Idaho please review this fact sheet from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:


Food Stamp Friendly Farmers Market Video from Connecticut:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJe1DCGocpA&feature=youtu.be

Farmers markets throughout the nation and Idaho run matching programs that help make healthy food more accessible to those utilizing food stamp benefits. This means more money for your vendors and more customers for your market! If you’re interested in getting involved with this program visit our webpage:

http://www.idahofma.org/doublebucks

Idaho’s Electronic Benefit Card (EBT) that is where food stamp benefits are deposited.