

## USING YOUR SNAP BENEFITS AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

Many [farmers' markets](#) across the Commonwealth are able to accept EBT/ SNAP. It is easy to use your benefits at any of these markets: here is some guidance on how it works.



1. When you arrive at the market find the Manager's or Information Booth. Typically it will have a large sign. If you have trouble locating the booth, just ask a vendor to point you in the right direction.

2. Tell the person at the Information Booth you would like to use your EBT card at the market and let them know how much you want to spend. They'll swipe your card through an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) machine – just like the one you use at the supermarket – and then ask you to enter your pin number.

3. Finally, the market manager will hand you paper coupons (Scrip) or tokens for the amount that you have specified. You will also receive a receipt, which will tell you how much has been deducted from your account and your account balance.

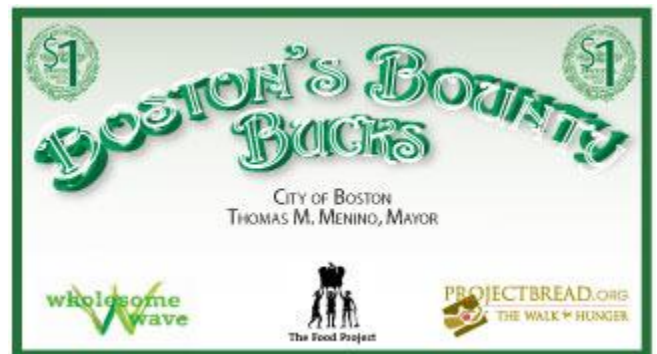
4. You are free to shop the market. Simply pay each vendor with the paper coupons or tokens.

Some markets use an **alternative receipt system**, which allows you to shop first. Visit each vendor as you normally would and select your produce. Each vendor will hand you a receipt and hold on to your bag. When you finish shopping bring all your receipts to the Information Booth. There they will deduct the exact amount that you have spent from your SNAP account and hand you a final receipt as proof that you have paid. You may then go back to each vendor, show them your receipt and big up your bag.

### FARMERS' MARKET DOUBLE VALUE PROGRAM

The double value program allows SNAP participants to receive a one for one match for every dollar that they spend at a farmers' market, (limits may apply). This means that if you decide to spend \$10 at a participating farmers' market you will receive a bonus \$10. This program has been designed to help encourage SNAP participants to shop at farmers' markets and to increase the amount of produce that can be purchased.

Stop by your local market to find out if they participate.



## SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** How do I know if I qualify for SNAP benefits?

**A:** Check [HERE](#) to find out if you qualify for SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) and to sign up for benefits.

**Q:** Can I get change for the coupons or tokens from the vendors?

**A:** No. They will be in whole dollar amounts and the vendors do not provide change. Typically a vendor will round down to the nearest dollar or give you a little extra produce.

**Q:** What if I don't end up spending as much as I thought I would?

**A:** The paper coupons and tokens are good for the entire market season. If you don't use them all on one day you can return to the market and use them at another time.

**Q:** Can I spend the coupons or tokens at another market?

**A:** No. Coupons and tokens are market specific and cannot be used at any other market.

**Q:** What can I buy with my tokens or coupons?

**A:** The same rules apply to using SNAP at a farmers' market as at any other store. You can purchase just about anything **EXCEPT** beer, wine, and liquor; tobacco products; non-food items; food meant to be eaten on site; hot foods; and vitamins or medicine.

