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- **Apply by August 1 to Receive a Wireless Point of Sale Terminal to Process SNAP (Food Stamps)**
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Apply by August 1 to Receive a Wireless Point of Sale Terminal to Process SNAP (Food Stamps)

Application Deadline Extended: Available to Farmers' Markets and Growers Selling at Farmers' Markets Not Currently Authorized for SNAP

MDAR still has funding available to provide farmers' markets and farmers selling at farmers' markets not currently authorized for SNAP with wireless point-of-sale (POS) equipment. Last year, The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 provided funding to increase the number of farmers' markets around the country participating in SNAP (formerly Food Stamps). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided funding to the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), who in turn contracted with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) to implement the program.

Farmers' Markets authorized for SNAP after November 18, 2011 are eligible and USDA recently announced a new allowable use for the funding to support individual direct marketing farmers who are participating in farmers' markets that have not yet committed to SNAP participation. Per USDA guidelines, farmers who sell at farmers' markets not currently authorized for SNAP, and where there are no other SNAP authorized vendors currently, can also apply to MDAR to receive one free wireless terminal capable of processing SNAP payments.

If you are a market manager or farmer who sells at farmers' markets and are interested, you can find the full details, including a FAQ and MDAR's application on our website. Information for markets managers can be found [here](#). Information for farmers is [here](#).

For more information, contact David Webber, 617-626-1754 or David.Webber@state.ma.us.

Upcoming Food Day Meetings



[Food Day](#) is a national campaign for healthy, affordable, and fairly produced food, and it's back and stronger than ever!

This is one of the fastest growing national food movements and our kick-off meetings across Massachusetts have been bringing together folks from many sectors-because like you-they care about our food system. This is **round 3** for community meetings and the excitement and participation level is exceeding last year, great collaborations and lots of networking! (*new dates and locations below*)

The 3rd annual Food Day will take place on **October 24, 2013** and the **Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources** will spearhead statewide organizing and we're beginning our organizing with you!

What happened on Food Day 2012?

Last year, **Massachusetts led the country with the number of events** (over 500). We were blown away by the level of engagement and diversity of varied activities throughout Massachusetts, including community potlucks, food drives, compelling food discussions and forums held at universities, as well as activities held at over 200 schools, and participation as well as official proclamations **by Governor Patrick and Mayor Menino**.

Check out our newly released [Food Day 2012 Report](#) for highlights of what was accomplished here in Massachusetts and around the country. The report has many ideas to share and/or borrow! And for those who “do this every day”, Food Day is a **great opportunity** to build on the current work you and local organizations do—just on a bigger “stage”, as part of a growing network, to reach more Massachusetts residents!

Why Food Day?

Food Day aims to transform the “American Diet”. It's Time for America to Eat Real! All Americans—regardless of their age, race, income or geographic location—should be able to select healthy diets and avoid obesity, heart disease, and other diet related conditions.

Food Day Priorities:

- [Promote safer, healthier diets](#)
- [Support sustainable and local farms](#)
- [Reduce hunger and increase access to healthy food](#)
- [Support fair working conditions for food and farm workers](#)

Food Day 2013 planning meetings are bringing together last year's participants, as well as new partners, to brainstorm and share ideas for you or your group's participation on October 24 (or the days around it). Your participation at these planning meetings will help us shape the Food Day 2013 campaign.

The kick-off meetings will address how you want Food Day to take place locally; ways to build off last year's activities, identify key groups and priorities to target, and how your organization can use Food Day to promote your current work for a sustainable food system in Massachusetts. Get involved and make a difference!

Next Meetings:

Cambridge: July 16, 6:00-7:30 pm, 45 Mt. Auburn St, Cambridge (The Democracy Center)

Transportation: Harvard Sq. MBTA or on street parking available

Dorchester : July 18- 11:00am-12:30pm, 25 Leonard St. Dorchester, MA 02122 (St. Ambrose Family Inn)

Transportation: Fields Corner MBTA or Parking off of Dickens St., behind St Ambrose Church)

Upcoming: *Springfield/Holyoke, New Bedford/Fall River, Lynn/Lawrence (let me know if you want to help plan one of these).*

Community engagement throughout the state is crucial to truly have a grassroots impact, so we hope you will join us to learn, network, share your thoughts, and join in the coalition that is leading the charge for healthy, sustainable, and affordable food in your state. Please RSVP Rose.Arruda@state.ma.us if you plan to attend a meeting for Food Day 2013!

Upcoming Events

July 10 - Fruit Growers Annual Mtg - 10:00am - 2:30pm, Honey Pot Hill Orchards, 138 Sudbury Road, Stow, MA. MA Fruit Growers' Association, Inc. in cooperation with the UMass Fruit Program. Includes Orchard Tour, Annual Summer Meeting, Presentation of the Annual Dr. Ronald J. Prokopy Award in Recognition of Outstanding Support of Massachusetts Agriculture, and Educational Program. One hour of pesticide-license-recertification credit will be offered for the day. Cost of registration for the meeting is \$20 per MFGA Member and \$25 for non-members, which includes lunch. Please register by filling out registration form, along with the appropriate payment by July 5 to assure the availability of the lunch. You can alternatively register online with a credit card at: www.massfruitgrowers.org.

July 20 - Can You Make Money by Raising Fish in NE? The Western MA Center for Sustainable Aquaculture is hosting a free workshop to address this question. UMass Amherst, 10:00am - 3:00pm. Pre-registration is required. The Business of Aquaculture: Looking at the Bottom Line. Presented by Dr. Andy Danylchuk and Dr. David Damery, Department of Environmental Conservation, UMass Amherst. Workshop will provide an overview of the business of aquaculture, including mission statement (why are you growing fish?), capital investment, supply chain, operating costs, and marketing and sales. Will use New England as a case study and review choices that potential aquaculture entrepreneurs will need to make when attempting to meet the triple bottom line of environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Pre-registration is required. To register, send an email to chollingsworth@umass.edu by July 8.

July 25 - Summer Field Day: Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston. Sponsored by: The MA Nursery Landscape Association (MNLA), MA Flower Growers Association (MFGA) and University of Massachusetts Extension. Join Massachusetts' largest green industry associations - MFGA and MNLA - for their annual collaborative event, the 2013 Summer Field Day and Trade Show. Take advantage of the newest ideas and cutting edge information, tours of the Tower Hill Botanic Garden, trade show, networking and great food! Featuring Keynote speaker: Dr. Bethany Bradley, UMass Amherst for an eye opening look at climate change and implications for Massachusetts horticulture. Details on Conference: www.mnla.com/

July 27 - Certified Organic Poultry, Pigs, Steer, and Worms: 10:00am to 3:00pm, Many Hands Organic Farm, Barre, MA. \$30 NOFA members; \$38 non-members. In this workshop, Julie will discuss and participants will see two sizes of meat birds, layers, brand new turkeys, pigs, cows, and worms. Participants will learn about the management of all these species and their relationships to each other on this tightly organized and rotated farm system, which includes 2 ½ acres of vegetables and 1 acre of orchard.
<http://www.nofamass.org/events/type/animal-husbandry>

More at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/events/>



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at mass.gov/agr, and/or follow at twitter.com/MDARCommish.