

Fact Sheet

How to apply with less than 5-acres for WIC FMNP and Senior FMNP Food Programs

Updated: 3/14/24

A Grower is defined as an individual or entity (non-profit, for profit, greenhouse, community farm, urban farm, etc.) with less than 5 acres of land either owned or leased. If you are a grower and want to apply to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (S/FMNP) food programs to accept these benefits (on your own or through an authorized Farmers' Market), see below.

- The NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) alone manages these programs.
- The NJ Department of Agriculture (NJDA) and NJDOH have a Letter of Understanding.
- If you meet all the requirements to be approved, your authorization period is valid up to 3 years depending on the date of application. After this period, you will need to resubmit the required documents (application, agreement, and proof of acreage).

Requirements:

- *No minimum acreage requirement*
- At least 75% of the produce sold by the grower must be self-grown
- A minimum of 3 self-grown items must be available at all times
- The remaining produce must be locally grown (within bordering states)
- Provide proof of soil and/or water testing
 - *Please submit samples to a testing facility, and then submit results of soil and water testing to NJDOH*
 - Please visit Rutgers' NJ Agriculture Experiment Station page for more information
 - <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/how-to.php>
 - <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/>
 - Technical Assistance Fact-Sheet
 - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/Technical%20Assistance%20for%20Community%20Gardens.pdf>

Ways to Apply:

Option 1: Link to application: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/pdf/WIC-1.pdf>

- For the question: "Do you have a minimum of 5 acres in production of fruits and vegetables for human consumption?" **Check the box: "No (Complete Section B)"**

Option 2: Associate your agricultural operation with a NJDOH approved farmers' market

- <https://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic/farmers-markets/index.shtml>

Option 3: Reach out to a New Jersey Farmers' Market Program representative via email requesting application: njsfmnp@doh.nj.gov

The Application Process:

- *All of the following documents must be submitted to njsfmnp@doh.nj.gov to be considered:*
 - Initial Application: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/pdf/WIC-1.pdf>
 - Vendor Agreement: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/pdf/WIC-3.pdf>
 - Proof of soil or water testing
- *Post NJDOH approval, must complete required training to be officially authorized:*
 - Links to training are provided once approved
 - Annual program training and QR code usage training

Additional information provided by NJDA:

- WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Info: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/wic.html>
- Farmers' Market Info: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/communityfarmers.html>

FAQ from DOH:

- <https://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic/documents/sfmnpfaq.pdf>

DOH Program Contacts:

- Becoming a authorized vendor or for more WIC & Senior FMNP information: NJFSFMNP@doh.nj.gov or 609-292-9560