

2007 Winooski Farmers' Market Vendor Agreement for EBT & Debit Card Service Program

Program: The Winooski Farmers' Market is implementing a new EBT and Debit Card Service Program. Its goal, with market vendors as partners, is to provide a value-added revenue source for the vendors and make local products more accessible to low income Vermonters. EBT (electronic benefit transfer) cards are debit cards bearing the value of food or cash federal program benefits. This program is organized by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) and your market manager, along with the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, Vermont Department for Children and Families, and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. This team will promote EBT and other debit card acceptance at the market, and will assess the program's value to the market, to farmers and to the community. For consistency in the program and clarity for market customers, the Winooski Farmers' Market requires all of its vendors to participate in this program.

Process: The market will have one stall where market customers may exchange amounts in their EBT or bank debit card accounts for \$1 or \$5 wooden tokens redeemable the market. Market customers may use these tokens to buy your products, as specified below. At the end of each market day, vendors will count their tokens and submit them to the market manager in a program envelope provided by the market. The manager will give the vendor a receipt for those tokens if requested by the vendor. At the start of the next market day, the market manager will return the envelope with payment for the tokens. Vendors will benefit as if they each had wireless machines, without the additional bookkeeping and expenses.

Products Eligible for Purchase with Tokens: The tokens may only be accepted for products purchased at the Winooski Farmer' Market. Vendors may not set a minimum purchase requirement.

- The \$5 tokens may be used to purchase any food or non-food product sold at the market. Vendors may give customers cash change for a \$5 token.
- The \$1 tokens are funded by the federal Food Stamp Program. Vendors may give a customer up to 99 cents in cash change for a food purchase made with one or more \$1 tokens. The \$1 tokens may buy food intended for home consumption and not served hot, including: fruits, vegetables or herbs; meat, fish or poultry; baked goods; dairy, honey or maple products; processed foods like pickles, jam or salad dressings; cider or other non-alcoholic beverages; and seeds or plants for the household to grow its own food. The \$1 tokens may NOT buy any food that is served hot, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, pet foods, vitamins, medicines, or non-food items such as soaps, decorated pumpkins, gourds, cut flowers, crafts or clothing.

Term: This agreement applies only to the 2007 market season. Vendors must submit all tokens accepted to the market manager by _____, and will receive final payment for tokens by _____.

Agreement: We, the undersigned vendor and market, agree to abide by the rules described herein as they relate to EBT and debit transactions. We understand that the Market Board has the right to remove any vendor from the market who does not comply with the program criteria described above.

Vendor: _____
Printed Name and Signature of Vendor _____ Date _____

DBA/Business Name, if any: _____

Market: _____
Signature of Market Manager _____ Date _____

