



The Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (KSFMNP) is a USDA funded initiative managed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Here is link to the KDHE web site: <http://www.kdheks.gov/sfmnp/index.htm> which has some useful information. It does list the counties that are participating in the KSFMNP program-currently 39 counties and mostly Eastern Kansas. Vendors (farmers) must attend a training and must sign a contract with KDHE each year. Farmers must grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables in Kansas (or a bordering county only) and sell them in a participating county farmers market. Processed foods (home canned) are not allowed-produce must be in its natural state. The farmers sell their fresh produce at local farmers markets and display a sign telling seniors they accept the KSFMNP checks.

The checks are scheduled to be mailed the week of May 4. Application is made at the check distribution agencies. In Johnson County, the Area Agency on Aging Nutrition Program *doesn't* distribute KSFMNP checks. However, *the Olathe Salvation Army does* and the contact information is in the email below from the Kansas Farmers Market Coordinator. At this time, there are no other entities that distribute the checks in Johnson County.

Here is the contact information for the Olathe Salvation Army:

Olathe Salvation Army	420 E Santa Fe Olathe, KS 66061	Rebecca McKinley	913-782-3640	Rebecca_McKinley@usc.salvationarmy.org
-----------------------	---------------------------------	------------------	--------------	--

They do a 1 day mass session where they process applications and distribute checks.

Other information:

Kansas Seniors at 185% of the poverty level or below will receive the benefit.

- Current benefit is \$30/senior in the form of 6 - \$5 checks.
- Checks to be redeemed by certified farmers between May 1 and November 15, 2015
- Income guidelines by individual: \$1,800 per month or less

Checks are issued on a first come, first served basis and when they run out, the funds are gone.

More than one individual per household can receive the benefit. If the senior cannot make it to the Farmers Market, they can have a proxy sign the check, but both signatures must be there.

You may find the Power Point in the vendor's portion of the KDHE web site useful.

Katie Uhde is the Farmers Market Coordinator, Community Health Promotion with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 230 Topeka, KS 66612 785-296-8060; kuhde@kdheks.gov