

Maine Harvest Bucks basic overview for market vendors

Maine Harvest Bucks are fruit and vegetable vouchers for SNAP customers. For every \$1 of SNAP (food supplement benefits, or “food stamps”) spent via the market info booth terminal, the customer receives \$1* in Maine Harvest Bucks vouchers to be redeemed with produce vendors at market. (*This match level may vary depending on budget.)



Maine Harvest Bucks eligible foods = fruits and vegetables, fresh or processed with no sugar, fat, or salt added (cut culinary herbs and apple cider are eligible), and food-producing seedlings



SNAP-eligible foods = baked goods, breads and cereals; jams, jellies, pickles, honey, maple syrup; fruits and vegetables; meats, fish and poultry; cheeses, eggs, dairy products; seeds and vegetable plants which will produce food to eat; edible pumpkins, cider

SNAP non-eligible goods = Pet foods; soaps, cosmetics, paper products; animal fleece, yarns; crafts; prepared hot foods; vitamins and medicines; live animals; inedible gourds or pumpkins used for decorations; any food

that is “individually” packaged; flowers; inedible plants

4 Steps for Vendors:

- **Step 1)** Total the purchase and write it in the appropriate column (food or other) on the customer’s shopping sheet. (Only food purchases allowed with SNAP.)
- **Step 2)** If a customer’s shopping sheet has EBT circled and they are buying fruits and vegetables, ask, **“Do you want to pay for these fruits/vegetables with Maine Harvest Bucks?”**
- **Step 3) a)** If yes, they will give you their Maine Harvest Bucks vouchers for the amount of purchase for fruits and vegetables. (No cash change can be made for Maine Harvest Bucks, so it is at the vendor’s discretion to round up/down or add/subtract a bit from the produce purchase in order to reach a whole dollar increment for the fruits and vegetables.) The customer then returns to the info booth to pay for the other food items listed on their shopping sheet with their SNAP benefits via EBT card. At this point, they will receive more Maine Harvest Bucks to match their SNAP purchase.
- **Step 3) b)** If they do not have Maine Harvest Bucks on hand, let them know that, if they want, you can set the produce aside for them to return after getting Maine Harvest Bucks from the info booth for their SNAP purchase. It is up to them whether they buy fruits and vegetables with their SNAP dollars or reserve those purchases for Maine Harvest Bucks, but it’s good to remind customers, especially those new to the market, that the vouchers are available.
- **Step 4)** At the end of each market day, you will count the Maine Harvest Bucks redeemed at your stand and turn them into the info booth staffer. He/she will recount to confirm the total and record this total under your farm name. You will be reimbursed for that total dollar amount. Using the shopping sheets, the info booth will track all credit/debit/EBT sales by vendor. These funds will also be reimbursed to you.