

## Market bucks, EBT purchases make Farmers Markets accessible

Written by

Wednesday, 04 September 2013 12:21

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*Minneapolis Farmers Markets accept EBT purchases and participate in the Market Bucks (matching) program; leaders in a growing trend seen across Minnesota*

As we experience the abundance of the harvest in Minnesota, farmers markets are at their most lively. In Minneapolis, nine farmers markets have purposefully worked to ensure all community members have access to their dizzying variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, local breads, honey and more. Thanks to a collaborative effort between these markets, the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross), low-income Minnesotans who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) can use their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards to purchase affordable and healthy food at farmers markets in every corner of the city, from West Broadway to Fulton.

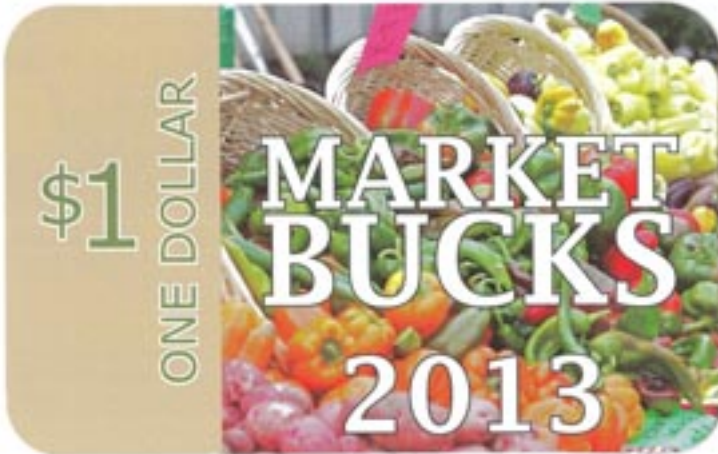
SNAP participants can also stretch their dollars further with a special incentive funded by Blue Cross that matches EBT card purchases with up to an additional \$5 in "Market Bucks" each market day. Market Bucks can be used during the same trip or anytime during the 2013 market season, on SNAP-eligible purchases.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF FARMERS MARKET OF THE TRI-COUNTY AREA



MARKET BUCKS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL FARMERS MARKETS IN THE TRI-COUNTY AREA. MARKET BUCKS ARE VALID FROM Friday-Friday 9am-12pm, Saturday-Sunday 7am-1pm