

Credit, Debit and Food Stamp Service Program Vendor Agreement

(All vendors must sign this form for acceptance to the LCFM)

The Larimer County Farmers' Market ("the Market") will continue with Credit, Debit and Food Stamp Service Programs, supported by the Colorado Farmers' Market Association (CFMA). The program provides a wireless point-of-sale machine to our market, which will enable us to accept Food Stamp, debit and credit card transactions. The Market's goal, with our vendors as partners, is to provide an additional revenue source for vendors and to offer fresh, local food to community members who use Food Stamps. In addition, because we are offering debit and credit card services, we are confident that the Market can increase its overall vendor sales through this program. The CFMA will promote the Farmers' Market Food Stamp Service Program through state agencies, and will also help the Market with materials for local promotion.

The Market will process Food Stamp, debit and credit card transactions using the wireless machine and give customers coupons in return. Food Stamp Coupons are \$1 denominations and can only be used to purchase Food Stamp-eligible items; debit and credit card coupons, called "Market Bucks", are \$5 denominations and can be used to purchase any items at the Market. Customers will use these coupons to purchase vendors' products. At the end of each market day, vendors will count the coupons they have received, and return them to the market manager for redemption. Market Bucks will be reimbursed at each market. A check from Larimer County for collected Food Stamp coupons will be issued for redemption twice per market season (at the ends of August and October). Vendors will benefit from the program as if they had individual wireless machines, but without the expense and additional bookkeeping tasks that would be required.

For consistency in the program and clarity for market customers, **all vendors will be required to accept Market Bucks; and all vendors selling eligible Food Stamp items will be required to accept Food Stamp Coupons.** Please read the USDA Food Stamp rules outlined below. Due to Federal Regulations of the Food Stamp Program, we are asking **all vendors** to sign this agreement, certifying that they are aware of the rules of the program. All information regarding individual vendor participation will be held confidential by the Market management.

I, _____, on behalf of my business, _____, agree to accept Larimer County Farmers' Market Food Stamp Coupons for eligible items, and to abide by the rules described herein, regarding the acceptance of Food Stamp Coupons and Market Bucks issued to customers by the Market for the purchase of my/our products. I/we agree to follow all USDA Food Stamp Program rules, outlined at the bottom of this agreement. I/we understand that this benefit offered by the Market to its vendors is a responsibility, as well as a privilege, which can be terminated immediately if any of the conditions stated herein are violated. Any one member of a business who signs this agreement agrees to hold all representatives of the business responsible to this agreement.

(Vendor Signature)

(Date)

(Business Name)

USDA FOOD STAMP PROGRAM RULES

Food Stamp Benefits can be used to buy:

- Fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, bakery items, seeds and plants intended for growing food

Food Stamp Benefits CANNOT be used to buy:

- Non-food items; foods intended to be eaten on site (ready-to-eat) and hot foods; alcohol or tobacco products

You may NOT set a minimum purchase requirement for Food Stamp items, and NO cash can be given as change for the \$1 Food Stamp Coupons. (Change can be given for \$5 Market Bucks.)

Vendors must *only* accept coupons stamped with "Larimer County Farmers' Market." Coupons stamped with another market's name will be returned to the vendor. If, at any time you suspect fraud or counterfeit coupons, report this to the Market Manager immediately.