

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



September 24, 1991

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: I-75-91

TO: All County Welfare Directors

SUBJECT: Use of Food Stamp Coupons at Farmers' Markets

This All-County Information Notice is being provided to (1) inform County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of an effort initiated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to increase the number of farmers' markets authorized to accept food stamps; and (2) assist CWDs in responding to inquiries which you may receive concerning this matter.

The objective of this effort is to improve the nutrition of Food Stamp recipients by increasing the availability of fresh agricultural products through local farmers' markets. To accomplish this goal, the USDA and the California State Department of Food and Agriculture are working together to inform farmers' markets of the value of accepting food stamps at their markets and the procedure necessary to become authorized by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in order to accept food stamps.

The information available to us at this time indicates, however, that there are very few farmers' markets in the State currently authorized by FNS to accept food stamps. When more farmers' markets become authorized to accept food stamps, we will provide CWDs with informational material such as posters to let recipients know that they can use their coupons at farmers' markets.

Information about which farmers' markets in your County are already participating or questions from these markets should be directed to either Terri Cronin or Greg Lawley of the Direct Marketing Program, California Department of Food and Agriculture, 1220 N Street, P.O. Box 942871, Sacramento, CA 94271-0001; (916) 654-0824 or ATSS 464-0824. All other questions should be directed to Michael Jones, Welfare Policy Implementation Bureau, at (916) 657-3350 or ATSS 437-3350.

Sincerely,



ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA
California Department of Food and Agriculture