

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Food Trust Celebrates National Farmers Market Week's 26th year in the Philadelphia Region Amid Impending Cuts to SNAP and SNAP-Ed

PHILADELPHIA, PA – National Farmers Market Week (NFMW) is celebrating its 26th year from **August 3 - 9**. A week dedicated to spotlighting local farmers markets in community neighborhoods, the annual celebration brings attention to the importance of supporting fresh, local produce and its providers. As NFMW draws near, it is crucial to show support to local farmers and nutrition education programs that connect residents to these providers.

Of the 30+ participating farmers markets in the Philadelphia region, the following multi-vendor year-round farmers markets and seasonal farm stands are operated directly by The Food Trust:

- Clark Park Farmers Market (4300 Baltimore Ave, open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
- <u>Castor & Hellerman Farmers Market</u> (Castor Avenue & Hellerman Street, open Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.)
- 4th & Lehigh Farmers Market (North 4th Street & West Lehigh Avenue, open Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.)
- <u>52nd and Haverford</u> (outside Spectrum Health Haverford Ave. & N. Winton St. open Wednesdays, 11a.m.-3 p.m.)
- Headhouse Farmers Market (2nd & Lombard Streets, open Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
- Fairmount (22nd & Fairmount Ave, open Thursdays from 3-7 p.m.)

To discover more farmers market locations in the region, click here.

The Food Trust supports nutrition security via its farmers markets in several ways:

- To increase **affordability** of healthy food: The Food Trust supports coupons and vouchers that help eligible SNAP users save money on fruits and vegetables when purchasing produce from participating farmers markets and stands. Participants can receive \$2 in Food Bucks for every \$5 spent with SNAP at participating farmers markets. Learn more and find participating markets <u>here</u>.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Farmers Market Nutrition Programs (FMNP) also provides vouchers to WIC recipients and income-eligible seniors to spend on local produce. The Food Trust supports WIC and senior participants in accessing and spending FMNP checks by providing up-to-date

- <u>resources</u>, maps and a bilingual hotline as well as hosting numerous pop-up events to support redemption at senior centers and other community partner sites.
- To provide **education** about healthy food: At all of our seasonal farm stands, The Food Trust provides weekly interactive nutrition education lessons to customers. These lessons, primarily funded through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed), can include cooking demonstrations, food preparation tips, taste tests, recipe handouts, giveaways and more.

SNAP-Ed has recently received devastating funding cuts on the federal level, putting programs like The Food Trust's farmers market-based nutrition education at risk. In 2024, SNAP-Ed's learning program reached over 750,000 individuals with 52,000 sessions in Pennsylvania alone. Two-thirds of the program's participants are children, who get the opportunity to try fresh fruits and vegetables in K-12 schools and Early Childhood Education centers through providers like The Food Trust.

This year, show support for Philadelphia's many vibrant farmers markets and farm stands in celebration of National Farmers Market Week.

Find a farmers market near you: phillyfarmersmarkets.org.

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