

Double Up Food Bucks

Frequently Asked Questions: Customers

Q: What is Double Up Food Bucks?

A: Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB) is a program that “matches” Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) card benefits spent at farmers markets. Whatever is spent on a SNAP EBT card will result in a matching dollar of up to \$20 in DUFB that can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables grown in New York. So, if you spend \$20 on your SNAP EBT card, you’ll get an extra \$20 – free- that you can use to buy more fresh, locally grown produce.

Q: How do I use my SNAP EBT Card at a farmers market?

A: Most markets have a central location where a staff person can swipe your SNAP EBT card. Inform the staff person how much you want to spend on your SNAP EBT card, and you’ll get that amount of market currency, which you spend like cash with the vendors that sell eligible food items. Each farmers market issues its own unique SNAP EBT card currency – these are usually wooden, usually worth \$1 apiece, and are only usable at the market where you received them.

Money is deducted from your SNAP EBT card account the day you receive the tokens, whether or not you spend the market currency that day. If you don’t spend all your market currency, you have two options: Have the funds put back on your SNAP EBT card on the same day, OR save the market currency and use it later. SNAP EBT card currency can be spent any time during the entire market season. Vendors are not allowed to give change for SNAP EBT card currency.

Q: How do I get Double Up Food Bucks tokens?

A: When a SNAP EBT card is used at a participating market, an individual will automatically get an equal value of DUFB, up to \$20.

Make sure to ask for an *even* number of SNAP EBT card benefits so that you’ll receive the full match, given that DUFB tokens are worth \$2 each. For example, if you request \$15 from your SNAP EBT card, you’ll receive only \$14 in DUFB tokens. However, if you ask for \$16 from your SNAP EBT card, you’ll receive an equal \$16 in DUFB tokens.

Q: What can I buy with my DUFB tokens and my SNAP EBT card benefits?

A: You can spend your DUFB on fresh fruit and vegetables grown in New York. Find vendors displaying a “Double Up Food Bucks Accepted Here” sign. DUFB can also be used to buy plants to grow food in your own garden. SNAP EBT card benefits can be spent on almost anything edible at the market, except for ready-to-eat, prepared foods.

Q: Why can I only buy NY-grown fruit and vegetables with DUFB?

A: DUFB is a program that has two goals: to help low-income families access fresher, healthy foods, AND to support local farmers. Spending DUFB on NY-grown products helps local farmers boost their incomes and in turn improves the WNY economy. SNAP EBT card benefits can still be used for other food items- such as meats, cheeses and fresh breads- from the other market vendors.

Q: Do I need to sign up for something?

A: No, just come to the market and use your SNAP EBT card. Go to the market office to swipe your SNAP EBT card. A staff member will assist in recording the last few digits of your SNAP EBT card account number. The reason for this process is to track how many new customers utilize DUFB at the market and how frequently they come back.

Q: What if I don't want to spend all my DUFB today?

A: Keep them and use them next week. DUFB are not refundable because they are free. Some people like to save their DUFB to use when their favorite fruits and vegetables are in season, and then buy large quantities to can or freeze. ***The last day to use DUFB tokens is October 31, 2014 or the closing day of the market, whichever comes first.***

Q: Why can I only receive \$20 per market day?

A: DUFB has a limited budget. The initiative's aim is to attract as many people as possible to utilize the benefit of doubling their fruit and vegetable purchasing power. The best way to do that is to limit the amount of tokens received by a person per market visit. Individuals are welcome to return each week to this market, and they can visit any other participating market. Up to \$20 will be matched at every visit through the end of October.

Q: Can DUFB be used anywhere else?

A: No, currently DUFB tokens are only accepted at select farmers markets in WNY. Visit www.fieldandforknetwork.com for a complete list.

Q: Is the program actually free? Where does the money come from?

A: Yes, the program really is free. DUFB is a project of Field & Fork Network, a nonprofit organization based in Buffalo. The goal is to get more healthy food to WNY families while supporting New York farmers. Funding comes from different private community foundations in WNY.

Q: What is a SNAP EBT card and how can I get one?

A: A SNAP EBT card is the common name for the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card used by recipients of federal food assistance benefits in New York. SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is the new name for the federal food assistance program formerly called Food Stamps.

In order to qualify for a SNAP EBT card, you must meet certain requirements for income and expenses determined by New York State. To see if you qualify and can apply for benefits, visit www.mybenefits.ny.gov or call 1-800-342-3009 and press "1" for SNAP. You can also contact your local food bank for information on where to go in your community to apply for benefits, or call the United Way's 2-1-1 service line (dial 2-1-1 on any telephone).

Participating Farmers Markets in WNY – Accepting SNAP EBT Cards

Erie County

Clinton-Bailey Farmers Market - 1443-1517 Clinton Street

(Open Year-Round)

Summer: May 1- November 1

Sundays through Fridays: 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturdays: 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.

ECMC Farmers Market at Grider Street - Across the street from Erie County Medical Center

June 6 – October 31

Fridays: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Elmwood-Bidwell Farmers Market – At the corner of Elmwood Ave. and Bidwell Pkwy.

May 10 – November 29

Saturdays: 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Niagara County

Lockport Community Market – Historic Canal Street

July 5 – September 27

Saturdays: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

North Tonawanda Farmers Market – Robinson Street near Payne Avenue

(Open Year-Round)

Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays: 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Chautauqua County

Downtown Jamestown Farmers Market – Cherry Street between 3rd and 2nd Streets

June 5 – October 30

Thursdays: Noon – 6 p.m.

Fredonia Farmers Market – Church Street, downtown Fredonia

May – October

Saturdays: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

More Information:

If you have related questions, call (716) 465-5704 or visit www.fieldandforknetwork.com.

For food help, contact the toll-free NYS Food Assistance Program Hotline at (877) 472-8411.



STRETCH YOUR

FOOD DOLLARS

Get more fruits & vegetables when you use your
NYS SNAP EBT CARD at farmers markets

JULY 1 -
 OCT. 31

It's easy with DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS!

