

## How Do I Use My Quest Card At A Farmers' Market?

Many Farmers' Markets in the Madison area happily accept Quest/FoodShare/SNAP benefit cards at their markets. Each market operates a little differently, but here is an idea of how it works:

- Go to the Information Booth or other designated area at the market and present your Quest/EBT card and let them know that you would like to use your card.
- Tell the person at the booth how much you would like to withdraw from your account. Most markets have a machine where you swipe your card and enter your PIN. If they don't have a machine, there will be a form that you will sign to authorize the withdrawal.
- Farmers' Markets use different currency to act as SNAP funds. Some markets use wooden tokens in \$1 or \$2 denominations or "paper dollars" in \$1 denominations. These will be given to you in equal exchange for the amount of funds you withdraw from your EBT card.
- The tokens or paper dollars can be used at the market the same way you use your Quest card at the grocery store. The same rules that apply for what you can use your benefits to purchase at the grocery store, also apply across all markets. **Market currency is only good for edible food items such as:** meat, cheese, honey, fruits, vegetables, packaged items for at-home consumption, food producing plants or seeds, bread, cereals or other edible items. **Market currency CANNOT be used for:** hot food, decorative or craft items, flowers, soap or anything else that is not meant for human consumption.
- ***Under no circumstances can change be given for the market currency.*** So plan to either supplement with change to make a whole dollar purchase or add additional product to get to a whole dollar sale. Some vendors may work with you on this, or may even offer a discount if you're using FoodShare currency.
- Most market currency does not have an expiration date so you can keep unused tokens or dollars for the next time you shop at the market, or you can return the unspent benefits to your account. Check with the market about their specific rules regarding this.
- The currency used at a market is specific to that market only. For example: \$1 tokens received at the Eastside Farmers' Market **cannot** be used at the Northside Farmers' Market, even though both markets use tokens.
- Some markets have vendors that may also accept WIC and SFMNP vouchers; look for their signs at the market if you are using these programs as well.

The most important thing to remember about using your FoodShare benefits is that the cost of produce at the market is generally the same as at the grocery store. And when you use your benefits to purchase food at the market, you are getting the freshest possible product (other than growing it yourself of course!) as well as supporting your local farmers.

If you have questions about using your SNAP benefits at a specific farmers' market, refer to the listing of markets for contact information.



## **Glossary**

*SNAP:* Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as Food Stamps) which is the federal assistance program to provide qualified individuals with assistance to purchase food.

*FoodShare:* The name of Wisconsin's SNAP program.

*Quest:* The name of the card that Wisconsin FoodShare benefits are put on for users.

*EBT:* Electronic Bank Transfer or Electronic Benefit Transfer. This is a somewhat universal way to signify that Quest or SNAP is accepted at a retail or market location.

**If you are not sure if you qualify for FoodShare and would like to find out, please contact Second Harvest Food Bank for assistance in determining eligibility and applying for benefits.**

**Call 877-366-3635 or visit [GetAQuestCard.org](http://GetAQuestCard.org).**

# SHOP OFTEN AND EAT WELL!

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