You've Grown It, Now, what do you do with it?

Steve Martin

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

- Senior Program and WIC Program

- Coupons are distributed to eligible low income people (seniors citizens and some WIC recipients).
- Coupons are treated like checks.
- Farmers must be certified to cash the coupon. If not, coupon will "bounce".

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

- Training is one hour, every third year, on-line.
- Training held every spring, usually in April.

- Contact:

Casey Foster

casey.foster@nebraska.gov

800-422-6692

www.ourbesttoyou.nebraska.gov

Nebraska Our Best to You

- NDA website with lots of information for growers and consumers.

- FMNP Program Guide can be found on the Nebraska Our Best to You website.

www.ourbesttoyou.nebraska.gov

Electronic Business Transaction – EBT Machines

- USDA has grant funds available for markets to purchase EBT machines.
- Can be used with WIC debit cards only. Won't work for bank debit or credit cards.
- Only for markets that don't currently have EBTs.
- Contact: Tom Ryan - 402-471-8043

Weights and Measures

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
  - Weights and Measures Division regulates how items are sold so that consumers can compare quality and quantity.
  - Some items are sold by weight, some by measure and some by count.
    - Scales must be certified.

Weights and Measures

- Contact:
  - »866-471-4292
  - »http://www.agr.ne.gov/wam/index.html
- UNL Extension Neb Guide
  - –http://extension.unl.edu/publications
    - »Then search for weights and measures

Food Safety

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
  - Food Safety and Consumer Protection Division regulates foods that are prepared for public consumption.
  - Some things to be aware of for farmers markets: http://www.agr.ne.gov/publications/foods/food_safety_farmers_markets.pdf

Specialty Crop Block Grant

- Grant funds available for the sole purpose of enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, nuts, honey, some field crops).
- Examples:
  - UNL research on dry beans
  - UNL greenhouse strawberries
  - Season extension practices
  - FFA garden market projects
  - Promotion of woody florals

Specialty Crop Block Grant

- Farm Bill program.
- Requests for applications in the spring.
- Projects must solely enhance specialty crops.
- Projects can be from 1 to 3 years in length.
- Can not be proprietary knowledge.
- Panel scored in a competitive process.

- Contact Casey Foster for more information.

Organic Cost-Share Program

- Farm Bill Program.
- Pays 75% of NOP certification expenses; up to $750 per certificate.
- Applications available in August.
- Must be certified (not in transition).
  - Organic Directory – helps consumers find organic products.
- Contact Steve Martin

Drift Watch

- Program to help protect pesticide sensitive crops.
- Register on-line. www.driftwatch.org
- Pesticide applicators are encourage to check listings before spraying.

- **NRCS – EQIP**

- Cost-Share funds for conservation practices.
- Contact your local USDA Service Center.
- Rich Torpin – 402-437-4061

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Thank You!

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800-422-6692