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### **Farmers' Market Voucher Programs**

Lackawanna County seniors will soon be able to participate in a popular program that has grown over the years in conjunction with the local farmers market.

According to the Lackawanna County Commissioners, the Area Agency on Aging, in cooperation with the State Department of Agriculture, will distribute Farmers Market Nutritional Program vouchers at 10 area senior community centers, beginning Thursday, June 21.

Under the program, each eligible senior can receive up to four \$5 vouchers that can be redeemed at participating farmers markets and farm stands for fresh fruit and produce.

The county has 19,000 vouchers available for distribution this year, the same as in 2011, stated Mary Gaffney, director of clinical services for the Area Agency on Aging. The program is beneficial to both seniors and farmers.

"It provides eligible senior consumers with fresh, nutritious, locally grown produce from farmers in Pennsylvania," she said. "For the farmers, it expands the awareness of the valuable nutritional products available at the markets and also increases their sales."

To qualify, individuals must be Lackawanna County residents who will be 60 or older by December 31 and whose annual income does not exceed \$20,665 for a single person, \$27,991 for a couple, or \$35,317 for a three person household. Proof of age such as a driver's license or birth certificate must be provided along with proof of Lackawanna County residency, such as a utility bill or driver's license.

Vouchers will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis, beginning at 9 a.m. at each center. Seniors unable to visit a site may appoint a proxy to pick up a voucher for them. Proxy forms can be obtained at the Area Agency on Aging, local senior centers, or online at [www.lackawannacounty.org](http://www.lackawannacounty.org).

Distribution dates and sites include:

Thursday, June 21: Abington Senior Center, 1151 Winola Road, Clarks Summit

Friday, June 22: North Pocono Senior Center, Route 435, Daleville

Monday, June 25: Dunmore Senior Center, 1414 Monroe Avenue, Dunmore

Wednesday, June 27: Jewish Community Center, 601 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton

Friday, June 29: Taylor Community Center, 700 South Main Street, Taylor

Monday, July 2: Carbondale Senior Center, 66 North Church Street, Carbondale

Friday, July 6: South Side Senior Center, 425 Alder Street, Scranton

Monday, July 9: Downtown Senior Center, 305 Penn Avenue, Scranton

Tuesday, July 10: West Side Senior Center, 1004 Jackson Street, Scranton

Friday, July 13: Mid-Valley Senior Center, Green Wave Heritage Apts., 310 Church St. Jessup

Any questions on the program should be directed to the Area Agency on Aging at  
(570) 963-6740.