



Community Farmers Market at Chehalis

~supporting local growers, their products, & our agriculture community~

351 NW North Street

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<http://communityfarmersmarket.net>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chehalis, WA – May 1, 2009 Community Farmers Market organizers announced that beginning this season, market vendors will have the technology to accept credit, debit, and EBT (food stamp) forms of payment. The Chehalis market is one of the first markets in Washington State to be awarded a grant to increase access for food stamp and debit/credit customers at farmers market. Funding for this new project was made available through the State Legislature's Local Farms and Healthy Kids Act and Washington State Farmers Market Association. The program offers assistance for eligible farmers markets, including providing the wireless machines needed for street markets to process alternative forms of payment.

In 2007, Washington residents received more than \$588.6 million in food stamp benefits. The Community Farmers Market is currently the only farmers market in Lewis County that has received authorization by USDA to accept food stamp payments. By combining the technology necessary to accept food stamp benefits (EBT) with credit and debit capacity, the market's goal is to provide alternate payment methods for customers, provide an additional revenue source for Lewis County businesses, and to offer fresh, local food to low-income families who receive food stamps. Customers will purchase EBT, credit, or debit tokens at the Market Information Booth and can use the tokens to purchase products directly from vendors.

Mike Peroni, owner of Boistfort Valley Farm and Board President, commented "I am so proud of the Market and its staff and vendors. Receiving this grant is a great way to increase access of nutritious local produce to area residents and the realization of a long standing goal of the Market, not to mention a tangible vote of confidence in our Market's performance by the State Association of Farmers Markets. I look forward to our continued prosperity and our increasing ability to provide a dynamic afternoon event in downtown Chehalis."

Since 2006, the Community Farmers Market has been the only farmers market in Lewis County authorized to redeem vouchers from low income Women, Infant, Children (WIC) and Seniors in exchange for fresh produce through the state's Farmers Market Nutrition Program. <http://nutrition.wsu.edu/markets/index.html>

The 2009 market season will run June 16th – October 27th. To learn more about the Community Farmers Market projects and vendors, visit the website at <http://communityfarmersmarket.net> or contact Brenda Book at 360-880-9546.

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