

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

WIC Nutrition Program

Effective: October 1, 2011

Policy No. FMNP-3

Revised: December 1, 2017

High-Risk Farmer Identification Systems

Authority

7 CFR §248.4(a)(10)(iv) and §248.10(e);

22 MRSA §255 and §1951

Policy

1. Maine CDC attempts to identify farmers who are at a higher risk for non-compliance with the terms of their Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) Authorization Agreement and FMNP Policies. Farmers in the first year of FMNP operation are automatically considered high-risk. Other indicators of high-risk include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1.1. Participant or State or Local Agency staff complaints or observations;
 - 1.2. Suspicious patterns or volume of redemption;
 - 1.3. A history of program violations/non-compliance;
 - 1.4. Previous WIC, SNAP, or FMNP suspension; or
 - 1.5. SNAP determination of high risk.

Procedures

1. Maine CDC maintains a formal system for receiving complaints about farmers through the following:
 - 1.1 A toll-free number handled by Maine CDC staff;
 - 1.2 A standard complaint form that the complainant sends to Maine CDC; and
 - 1.3 E-mail.
2. In its high-risk vendor analysis, Maine CDC shall use:
 - 2.1 Participant complaints; and
 - 2.2 A three-month aggregate of the vendor's redemptions.
3. Farmer redemption patterns are compared to patterns of other farmers.
4. The Maine CDC shall identify high-risk farmers and generate high-risk farmer reports at least once per year.