

NEBRASKA

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is pleased to announce the rollout of the 2017 Senior and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Programs (SFMNP and WIC FMNP).

In 2015, NDA released the Nebraska Farmers Market Online Database. This new system is designed to make it easier for consumers to find local produce vendors and farmers markets, help produce growers establish a larger customer base, serve as a catalyst for attracting patrons to local markets, increase the purchases of specialty crops, and streamline the vendor certification process for growers enrolled in our Senior and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Programs (SFMNP and WIC FMNP).

Through the use of this database, growers will have full control of their profile information and are responsible for updating their profile on an annual basis or more frequently if they desire. Consumers will be accessing this site to find local growers, nearby markets, produce availability, and hours of operation. Consumers can access this site at www.ne.gov/go/neproduce.

For growers wishing to become certified or for those who were last certified in 2014 (or before), they need to log into the vendor side of this database. They can do so by going to www.ne.gov/go/producevendor. Growers need a vendor ID and password. If they do not have either, they need to contact NDA as soon as possible. Once logged in, they need to click on the "View Certification Requirements" tab and follow the onscreen instructions.

The new database lists the webinar dates, times, and URL locations. Growers are to select the webinar they would like to attend and enter the corresponding URL into their web browser to pre-register. When logging on to attend the desired webinar session, the same computer must be accessed when they completed their pre-registration process. If growers are certifying for the first time, they will be assigned a new vendor number once they have successfully completed the certification process. Trainings will be conducted via a webinar, which requires high speed Internet access. If growers do not have access to a computer, we ask that they contact their local library or talk to a friend or relative who may have a computer with high speed Internet access. If their computer does not have sound, they will have to dial the phone number and enter the access code corresponding to each training session. This information will be provided when they pre-register. The pre-registration deadline is April 14, 2017. For questions regarding both programs, please contact Casey Foster at casey.foster@nebraska.gov or (800) 422-6692.