



INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

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TO: Subrecipients of the State Unit on Aging

FROM: Cynthia Brammeier, Administrator, State Unit on Aging

BY: Erik White, Program Coordinator, State Unit on Aging
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SUBJECT: Use of Locally Grown Produce for Title III-C(1) and C(2) Programs

CONTENT: The Older Americans Act, Section 339, Nutrition (2)(L) encourages the use of locally grown foods in meal programs, and identifies potential partnerships and contracts with local producers and providers. The Administration for Community Living document "Did You Know" encourages the use of fresh fruits and vegetables from local producers.

This applies to whole, uncut, safe, unadulterated, and honestly presented fruits and vegetables. Both the FDA and Nebraska Food Code define "Honestly Presented" in section 3-601.12: food shall be offered for human consumption in a way that does not mislead or misinform the consumer.

Whole, raw, uncut, safe, unadulterated, and honestly presented fruits and vegetables must be washed prior to consumption or cooking according to the Nebraska Food Code, section 3-302.15. Fruits and vegetables of this specification may come from local producers, gardens, and community members. These foods may be used at senior centers as a part of the congregate or home-delivered meal. Donated or surplus foods from the USDA (i.e. school lunch surplus, etc.) cannot be accepted in places that ask for a suggested contribution.

The use of locally grown produce can enhance seasonal meals, provide better quality, more nutrition, and attract more clients who prefer the use and support of local ingredients. Local nutrition contracts or nutrition policies at the AAA level may include amended language that encourages the use of these practices in using local produce, as long as it follows the measures set forth by the Nebraska Food Code.

This Memorandum does not apply to prepared homemade foods or minimally processed fruits and vegetables from a local source.

If you have questions, please contact Erik White at 402-471-4732 or Doug Bauch at (402) 471-4797 or at DHHS.aging@nebraska.gov.

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