Press Release

To Area Media

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For Immediate Release

Farmers Market vouchers will again be available for seniors beginning in June. Each senior meeting eligibility guidelines will receive 10 vouchers for a total value of $30 to be used to purchase fresh, Iowa-grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey. There is a limited supply of vouchers, available on a first come-first serve basis. Connections Area Agency on Aging will distribute the Farmer’s Market vouchers, which is a program of the United States Department of Agriculture that sets the guidelines.

To be eligible for the checks, seniors must be:

* Age 60 or older on the day they pick up vouchers.
* Have a gross yearly household income of no more than $22,311 ($1,859.25/month) for an individual or $30,044 ($2,503.66/month) for a married couple.
* Live in one of the 20 counties served by Connections Area Agency on Aging.
* Applications are limited to one per person or married couple. No copies of applications will be accepted. Each person, whether an individual or couple, will receive a set of vouchers.

In Council Bluffs, applications will be available May 30th and distribution from The Center will be June 12th from 9am to noon.

In Sioux City, vouchers will then be distributed at the Siouxland Center for Active Generations, 313 Cook Street, on June 7th,8th, and 9th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Applications can be completed on-site that day.

Distribution will also take place at selected Farmer’s Markets

* Creston Farmer’s Market – Monday, June 5th 4-6:30
* Corning Farmer’s Market – Thursday, June 8th 5-7:00
* Lamoni Farmer’s Market – Wednesday, June 7th 4-7:00
* Leon Community Center – Wednesday, June 7th 11:30-1:00
* Osceola Farmer’s Market – Tuesday, June 6th 3-6:00

At rural congregate meal sites/senior centers, applications and vouchers will be available from site managers at times determined by each site manager. Distribution dates will vary by county. Check with your local congregate meal site/senior center for specific details.

Vouchers can be redeemed at local Farmer’s Markets with vendors who accept these checks. Checks cannot be pre-signed, as seniors must sign checks when the purchase is made.

If a senior is physically unable to pick up or use Farmer’s Market checks, proxy rules must be followed. For details or more information, contact Connections Area Agency on Aging, 2301 Pierce Street, Sioux City, 800-432-9209.