January 15, 2019

Alabama Financial Institutions

Dear Bank Officials:

The Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is a nutrition education and supplemental food program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in cooperation with the State of Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI), Farmers Market Authority Section. Farmers participating in this program may accept FMNP checks only for fresh produce. **FMNP checks are negotiable financial instruments and should be accepted for deposit like any other valid negotiable instrument.** Please see reverse side for a photocopy of a FMNP check. The copy is black-and-white but the actual checks are printed on colored security paper. Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) checks have a preprinted value of $6.00 and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (WFMNP) checks have a preprinted value of $4.00.

As required by federal guidelines, the farmer must use the individually numbered stamp provided by the State of Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Farmers Market Authority Section to endorse each instrument in the designated space on the face of the check. The FMNP bank will return all checks that are not properly endorsed to the farmer’s bank. The last day farmers can deposit/cash FMNP checks is printed on the check.

Should you have any questions regarding these checks, please feel free to contact me at 334-240-7247 or 1-877-774-9519.

This letter is valid for subsequent years.

Sincerely,

**Don Wambles, Director**
Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries
Ag Promotions/ Farmers Market Authority
Farmers Market Nutrition Program

DW/rb/gmh
This is an illustration of the FMNP checks.