

Amber Lambke
Skowhegan
LD 568

Dear Legislators,

I urge you to support nutrition incentive programs, like Maine Harvest Bucks, that boost small business viability and rural economies.

Please vote for funding that is continuous (ongoing) at the \$600,000 per year allocation.

The Skowhegan Farmer's Market was among the first in the state to democratize the currency accepted at farmer's markets by buying our very own EBT processing machine and accepting SNAP benefits for fresh food.

We committed early on to the notion that fresh local food is not just for people who can pay with cash or credit, it is for everyone. We have worked hard to make the farmer's market a welcoming place for all, and EBT purchases now comprise 30% of all Skowhegan market sales. Nutrition incentives like Maine Harvest Bucks have helped to incentivize EBT spending at farmers markets in a win-win-win scenario that puts SNAP dollars into farmer's pockets helping the Maine economy and improving the health and well being of families.

Over 200 Maine farmers and food producers benefit

Every \$1 of state support yields \$2 from the federal government

In 2021 there were over \$1.2 million in EBT sales to Maine producers

Nutrition incentive programs benefit Mainers in all 16 counties

Over 10,000 Maine households benefit each year

Thank you for your support,

Amber Lambke
founder and CEO
Maine Grains, Inc.
Volunteer Treasurer, Skowhegan Farmer's Market