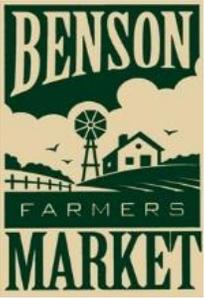


Benson Farmers Market



Benson Farmers Market, located in the historic Benson business district of Omaha, Nebraska, features fresh, locally-grown produce, honey, artisanal foods, art, craftworks, and live music. It opened May 5th and will run every Saturday through September 29 from 8:00am to 1:00pm.

The Benson Farmers Market was founded in 2008 and became a Nebraska nonprofit corporation in 2010. Located on Military Avenue at Maple Street in the historic Benson business district, its 22-week season begins every year on the first Saturday in May and concludes on the last Saturday in September. Hours of operation are 8:00am to 1:00pm every Saturday, rain or shine. The Market averages 17-22 vendors weekly and offers a wide range of family-friendly activities during the season, opening with a pancake breakfast and concluding with a chili contest.

Benson Farmers' Market thinks local food/products are important because:

Our Market is a "neighborhood" entity, providing direct producer-to-consumer food paths to residents of our local community who are either unable or unlikely to travel to larger markets in the east and west parts of the metropolitan area.

Benson Farmers' Market has been a member of Buy Fresh Buy Local Nebraska since 2009.

Benson Farmers' Market has exciting news for the 2012 season:

The Market now accepts credit and debit cards on behalf of its vendors for all purchases. For shopping, denominated tokens called "market bucks" may be purchased at the Market booth and will be accepted by any Market vendor. Large purchases from a single vendor can also be paid at the Market booth. There is no charge to either vendors or customers for this service. The Market honors EBT cards for qualified purchases under the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). EBT cards may be used at the Market booth to purchase specially-denominated tokens that can be used to purchase foods and food plants. The Market will also redeem Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (WIC FMNP) vouchers.

Special events this season:

- *Live music every Saturday!*
- *"Flea Market Saturdays" are the last Saturday of every month. For the remainder of the 2012 season, the dates are June 30, July 28, August 25, and September 29.*
- *Benson 125th Anniversary (July 27-29). On Saturday, July 28, the Market will be serving specialty coffees and a wide array of pastries provided by some of its vendors.*
- *On the Saturday of Labor Day weekend (September 1), the Market sponsors "The Good, the BIG, and the Ugly", an annual tomato contest now in its third year.*
- *September 22 is the second annual "Big Red" Apple Festival.*
- *September 29 is the annual "When It's Hot, You're Hot!" chili cook-off contest as well as the vendor appreciation luncheon.*



For more information visit their website at www.bensonfarmersmarket.org

-Information provided by Russ Martin

