These programs provide bonus dollars for shoppers using SNAP/EBT to buy locally-grown fruits and vegetables. They increase SNAP shoppers’ purchasing power while making healthy food more affordable.

“The Maine Harvest Bucks program helps me stretch my SNAP benefits by supporting local farmers. If I run out of SNAP, I can still use farmers’ market dollars to provide a healthy dinner for my son and I.”
—Mary Robinson, Lewiston, ME

**The Need:**
With a 30% obesity rate and a high prevalence of diet-related illness, Maine needs affordable access to healthy food now more than ever. Today, 1 in 7 Mainers rely on SNAP, also known as food stamps, and 83% say the monthly benefits last two weeks or less. The state ranks third in the nation for households experiencing “very low food security.” With only $4 a day on average to buy food, most healthy options are off the table—literally.

**2017 PROGRAM IMPACTS:**
**A Win-Win-Win**

**SHoppers**
Nearly 6,000 SNAP households participated in these programs, purchasing fruits and vegetables at 68 locations.

**Farmers**
Over 1,000 farmers together took in an extra $430,000 in sales generated from SNAP, Maine Harvest Bucks, and Farm Fresh Rewards.

**Economy**
USDA estimates that every $1 in SNAP spending creates $1.80 in economic activity. Dollars spent at farm businesses and local grocers lead to more jobs and infrastructure investments.

**SPOTLIGHT**
In 2018, coastal residents of Damariscotta, ME who shop with SNAP will have their pick of healthy, local options. Rising Tide Co-op will enter its third year offering produce incentives year-round while the popular Damariscotta Farmers Market will begin offering Maine Harvest Bucks in the spring. Jess Bourne, the manager at Rising Tide Co-op said: “We believe in what we’re doing. For me personally, there isn’t anything to consider, I just want to do it. I want to be able to improve food access for people that need it.”
Reaching More Mainers With Healthy Food

The Maine Local Foods Access Network coordinates with the Maine Harvest Bucks and Farm Fresh Rewards programs in addition to other efforts to improve local food access throughout the state. The Network’s vision is that everyone in Maine eats the abundance of food from thriving Maine producers and marketplaces.

Members include:
- Cultivating Community
- Good Shepherd Food Bank
- Healthy Acadia
- Let’s Go!
- Maine Farmland Trust
- Maine Federation of Farmers’ Markets
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA)
- Maine SNAP-Ed
- St. Mary’s Nutrition Center

Get Engaged!
Visit www.MaineHarvestBucks.org for more information on participating sites, how to become a program partner, or how to support us in expanding healthy food access for all Mainers.

Thank you to Our Supporters

“The program helps many families who otherwise would not be able to afford the CSA. We hear so much appreciation and see very concrete results—children eating more vegetables—because of this program.”
—Maine Farmer