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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARROYO GRANDE WEDNESDAY FARMERS MARKET TO LAUNCH CALFRESH PROGRAM 3-16-22

The Wednesday morning farmers market will be the only market in the county south of the city of San Luis Obispo to accept CalFresh/EBT

Starting March 16, south county customers will have a new place to shop with their CalFresh (known nationally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP) benefits: the Arroyo Grande Farmers Market. The market is open 8:30am-11am every Wednesday in the Smart & Final parking lot at 1464 E Grand Ave and hosts about 35 growers.

CalFresh customers can bring their EBT (electronic benefits transfer) card to the market manager booth and receive tokens to spend on CalFresh eligible foods like fruits and vegetables, bread, meat and many other cold foods for home consumption. The CalFresh program helps low income individuals and households put food on the table and SNAP is the nations largest and most effective tool to fight hunger.

The CalFresh at Farmers Markets program has been growing in popularity across the county and the country over the last five years. Since 2017, CalFresh customers have spent over \$380,000 at San Luis Obispo county farmers markets from Paso Robles to San Luis Obispo, a number that continues to grow each year as individuals become more aware of the program. Arroyo Grande will be the only market in south San Luis Obispo County that accepts CalFresh.

“We want to make sure that people in the county with limited and low-incomes have access to fresh, healthy, high-quality and culturally appropriate foods. It is great that the Arroyo Grande Wednesday market has decided to accept CalFresh. It is a great service to the community and

can have real economic impact for the farmers and vendors.” – Shannon Klisch, Chair of the SLO County Food System Coalition CalFresh at Farmers Market work group

The following farmers markets across SLO and northern SB counties also accept CalFresh/EBT:

Monday: Baywood on Santa Maria Ave from 2-4:30pm

Tuesday: Paso Robles 11th & Spring St 9:30am – 12pm

Wednesday: Atascadero Sunken Gardens from 3-6 pm

Thursday: Morro Bay Spencer’s Market Parking Lot from 2-4:30pm

Thursday: SLO Downtown on Higuera St 6:00pm -9:00pm

Friday: Cambria 1000 Main St 2:30pm-5:30pm

Saturday: Templeton on 6th St at the Templeton park from 9am-12:30pm

Saturday: Paso Robles 11th & Spring St 9:00am-1:00pm

Sunday: Lompoc on Route 1 and Constellation Road, Vandenberg Village from 10am-2pm

Visit <https://ecologycenter.org/fmfinder/> to find a market near you that accepts CalFresh, WIC, and offers market nutrition incentives.

“We are excited to be able to offer this program to the community and hope people will come out to the Wednesday market.” Esther Rigoni, Market Manager.

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