



Building resilient & equitable  
food systems in West Virginia

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[wvfoodandfarm.org](http://wvfoodandfarm.org)

## News Release

### For Immediate Release

#### **SNAP Stretch Program on Temporary Pause**

**Charleston, West Virginia - August 12, 2024** - The SNAP Stretch Program, which enhances SNAP/EBT benefits by doubling or tripling their value at local farmers' markets, has been temporarily paused due to funding depletion amid its growing popularity.

The program pause affects 26 participating SNAP Stretch markets operating in 21 counties including The Wild Ramp in Cabell County, The Putnam Farmers Market in Putnam County, and Legacy Foods in Clay County.

SNAP Stretch has significantly impacted nutrition, with participants reporting increased fruit and vegetable intake. It has generated a \$4.7 million economic impact, returning \$3 million to the local agricultural sector, supporting over 79,279 families, and involving more than 45 markets and retailers.

SNAP Stretch allows participants to double or triple their SNAP benefits when buying fresh produce at participating markets. For example, a single adult can spend \$10 using their SNAP/EBT card at participating farmers markets and receive an additional \$10 in SNAP Stretch

benefits, which can be used to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. Seniors, and families with children, would receive \$20, and grandfamilies would receive \$30, in SNAP Stretch benefits for the same \$10 SNAP/EBT purchase.

Charleston City Council member and farmer Becky Ceperley notes the impactful role SNAP Stretch plays in West Virginia and how effective it is at getting more people to eat healthy and increasing the customers for our hard working farmers as well. “SNAP Stretch is an absolute win for families, farmers, and food businesses alike. Ensuring a program like this is funded is imperative for local agriculture in our state” said Council member Ceperley

The West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition (WVFFC) is seeking additional funding partners and hopes a portion of the state's \$800 million budget surplus can support the program.

For more information on the SNAP Stretch program and how you can help, please visit [www.snapstretch.com](http://www.snapstretch.com) or call the West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition at (304) 926-0567.

For media contact information contact Cordel Bostic at West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition at (304) 926-0567 or [cbostic@wvfoodandfarm.org](mailto:cbostic@wvfoodandfarm.org)

The West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition focuses on relationship-building and provides leadership to the local food and farm sector across the state of West Virginia by building a strong network equipped to grow food and farm business, promote access to local foods, share resources, as well as to map and connect the local food sector, change agricultural policy, and tell West Virginia’s food and farm story statewide.

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