



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
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OGS ANNOUNCES START OF EMPIRE STATE PLAZA WINTER FARMERS MARKET

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito today announced the 2013-14 winter farmers market season has begun with more than two dozen local growers and producers of food in New York State participating. The market is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Wednesday in the Empire State Plaza Concourse through April 30.

“Each fall we move our farmers market inside so the thousands of people who work, visit, and conduct business at the Empire State Plaza and in the surrounding community will have year-round access to the locally produced food our farmers and vendors sell,” Commissioner Destito said. “Our market’s participation in both Governor Cuomo’s FreshConnect and the SNAP programs ensures more New Yorkers have the ability to place healthy foods on their tables and benefits our local farmers by increasing their sales.”

The OGS Winter Farmers Market is home to growers and sellers of a wide variety of New York State products, including yogurt, honey, maple syrup, baked goods, produce, meat, wines, dried foods, sauces, spices, cheese, and many others. A representative from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County is also on site to provide healthy recipes and answer questions about nutrition.

The OGS winter farmers market is a participant in the New York State FreshConnect program, which is designed to meet the needs of communities by bringing fresh food to underserved areas, improving nutrition education, and helping create local jobs. It also is a SNAP market. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, helps low-income working people, seniors, the disabled, and others feed their families. Benefits are provided through an electronic benefit card, similar to a debit or credit card.

The OGS market is a grower- and producer-only market, meaning participants may only sell items they have grown or produced themselves. Reselling is not permitted. Additional information can be found at <http://ogs.ny.gov/ESP/CCE/FarmersMarket.asp> or by contacting the market manager by calling 518-408-1811 or e-mailing farmersmarket@ogs.ny.gov.

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