

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David Vaina, 352.377.6345  
Email: david@foginfo.org



### **Florida Organic Growers Partners with Department of Health to Accept SNAP at Farmers Market in Southeast Gainesville**

(Gainesville, Fla. – December 18, 2017) – In partnership with the Alachua County Department of Health and Florida’s Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program, Florida Organic Growers (FOG) will offer Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients a way to spend their benefits on fresh, locally-grown produce at the newly re-opened Alachua County Department of Health Farmers Market.

Vendors at the market offer a variety of fresh, local produce and will be able to accept cash, SNAP/EBT, credit/debit cards, and the seasonal Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) coupons available to seniors and WIC recipients in April of each year. SNAP recipients will come to the booth, swipe their benefits card, and receive tokens to spend on SNAP-eligible items from vendors. Other booths at the market will provide nutrition education, car-seat safety trainings, health and diabetes prevention tools, voter registration, and cooking demonstrations. Health fairs and other events will be posted on the Alachua County website: [www.alachuacounty.us](http://www.alachuacounty.us)

This will be the third community outlet in FOG's Local Food Security Project's network of SNAP-authorized Alachua County farmers markets, and offers heightened accessibility to nutritious food. The Gainesville Regional Transit System (RTS) offers two bus routes (7 and 11) which come to the Health Department, with one bus stop located directly in front of the market. Additionally, every vendor at the market will be able to accept both SNAP tokens (year-round) and FMNP coupons (seasonal).

Other markets in Local Food Security Project's network include the Union Street Farmers Market at Bo Diddley Plaza on Wednesdays from 4-7 pm and the Alachua County 441 Market at 5920 NW 13th Street on Saturdays from 8:30 am - 12 pm. Both markets accept SNAP benefits, and the Alachua County 441 Market participates in FOG's Fresh Access Bucks program, which allows SNAP dollars up to \$40 to be doubled and spent at the market. More information about these and other programs can be found at [www.foginfo.org](http://www.foginfo.org)

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**About Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc.**

Florida Organic Growers (FOG) is a non-profit organization founded in 1987. FOG is a nonprofit that supports and promotes organic and sustainable agriculture by coordinating programming and conducting educational outreach that benefits farmers, future farmers, consumers, businesses, policy makers, researchers, and students of all ages. For more information, please visit [www.foginfo.org](http://www.foginfo.org).