

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY

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Agriculture Department Sponsors Farmers Market Conference on March 10

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) will host a Farmers Market Conference on March 10 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Cole Community Center, 4400 NW Expressway, in Oklahoma City.

ODAFF, the Oklahoma Nutrition Information and Education (ONIE) Project, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and OSU-OKC are partnering for this conference geared toward market managers, board members, growers, vendors and individuals or city officials wanting to start a farmers market in their town or community. Breakout sessions will include nutrition education at the farmers market, a health regulations panel, Supplemental Nutrition and Seniors Nutrition Programs at the market, growing season planning, starting a farmers market, recruiting vendors and marketing to the public.

Registration for the workshop begins at 8:30 a.m. The general session begins at 9 a.m. The daylong workshop is scheduled to end at 3 p.m. There is no charge for the conference and lunch will be provided. Registration is due by March 3 using the site www.onieproject.org/FarmersMarket. For more information, contact Meredith Scott at (405) 271-2091.

“We hope managers and vendors are excited about the upcoming season and can quickly put to use any information they learn at the conference,” said Ashley Bender, ODAFF Farmers Market Coordinator for the statewide program.

Oklahoma has more than 75 farmers markets spread across the state from Guymon to Idabel. Several markets serve the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metropolitan areas. Markets generally are open from April – October. Details about the state’s farmers markets are available at <http://www.okgrown.com/markets/>.

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Photo caption: Oklahoma has more than 75 farmers markets spread across the state from Guymon to Idabel.