

The **NEAR Cash** (Nutrition Education Awareness Rewards) program is offered to consumers as an incentive to purchase fresh and local products. NEAR Cash is a grant funded program administered by The Cooperage Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and aims to support a robust local food system that fosters community connections and health for all. It was launched at The Main Street Farmers Market in 2021 and has expanded from there. NEAR Cash is distributed to community members at Cooperage Project programs like Senior Gathering and Romping Radishes, as well as through some partner programs.

Here's how it works:

1. Customers use NEAR Cash vouchers like cash to pay for eligible products.
2. The vouchers cannot be redeemed for actual cash, and you cannot give customers change from a purchase that was made using **only** NEAR Cash.
 - Example: A customer's purchase totals \$7.50. They can give you \$8 in vouchers and lose the 50 cents, or they can give you \$7 in vouchers and 50 cents in coins.
 - Example: A customer purchases a \$4 squash. They pay with two NEAR Cash and a \$5 bill (\$7 value in total). The vendor returns \$3 in change.
3. Submit used vouchers to The Cooperage Project and a reimbursement check will be issued to the Farmer/Producer by mail.
4. The Cooperage Project lists participating vendors and markets on our website.

The following products can be purchased with NEAR Cash:

ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS

- Fruit and vegetables
- Poultry and eggs
- Dairy products
- Baked goods
- Frozen meals
- Meat
- Nuts + seeds
- Packaged coffee and tea (but not a cup of tea or coffee)
- Pickles, jams, sauces, spreads

The following products can not be purchased with NEAR Cash:

INELIGIBLE PRODUCTS

- Beer, wine, liquor
- Tobacco, cigarettes
- Vitamins, medicine, supplements
- Nonfood items
- Plants
- Pet food
- Food and beverages that are hot at point of sale
- Cold prepared foods (ex: salads, sandwiches)

By agreeing to accept NEAR Cash, you agree to treat it as currency with one NEAR Cash voucher being the equivalent of \$1.



**The Cooperage Project's
NEAR Cash Program**
Farmers Market Vouchers | 2026
nearcash@thecooperageproject.org
1030 Main St. Honesdale, PA 18431



To join, please fill out the following form and return this page only to The Cooperage Project by mail or scanned into an email.

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Name(s): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Markets I attend: _____

Make checks payable to: _____

Eligible Product(s) for sale: _____

I agree to accept NEAR Cash vouchers as a form of payment and to treat each voucher as equivalent to \$1 in currency. I understand that NEAR Cash vouchers may not be exchanged for cash and that no change may be given for purchases made solely with vouchers.

I agree to follow all outlined redemption procedures, including returning collected vouchers, in person or by mail, to The Cooperage Project for reimbursement by check. I understand that vouchers are only valid for eligible products and may not be used for ineligible items as specified.

I consent to being listed as a participating vendor in NEAR Cash program materials, including The Cooperage Project website, and grant permission for photographs to be taken and used for program and promotional purposes. If I no longer wish to participate in the NEAR Cash program, I will notify nearcash@thecooperageproject.org in writing.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with all NEAR Cash program guidelines.

Signature: _____ Date: _____