

Farmer's Market Vouchers for Eligible Seniors

By Brittney Waylen

EASTON - County Executive Lamont G. McClure and Area Agency on Aging are pleased to announce the continuation of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Beginning June 1st, vouchers worth \$50 will be available to Northampton County residents age sixty and over who meet the income eligibility criteria. The vouchers are distributed by the Northampton County Area Agency on Aging Department.

Each eligible senior may receive five \$10 vouchers for a total of \$50 in SFMNP benefits during the program year. The vouchers can be used to purchase Pennsylvania-grown produce at farmer's markets. Any Northampton County resident age sixty or over who meets income eligibility (example: \$26,973/year for a single person and \$36,482/year for a couple) can obtain the vouchers. For married couples, both spouses may obtain vouchers. The SFMNP does not include seniors who live in nursing homes, convents, or residential care facilities.

There will be no in-person distribution of coupons in 2023. Seniors may only receive vouchers once during the program, which runs from June 1, 2023, until November 30, 2023.

Application forms are available on the AAA website:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Agriculture, Senior Farmers' Nutrition Program, 2023 Application Form (northamptoncounty.org)

A list of participating farmer's markets can be accessed at: www.PAFMNP.org.



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Lehigh Valley Zoo Welcomes Pair Of New Elands

By Matt Provence

(Schnecksville, Pa.) -- Lehigh Valley Zoo is excited to announce the arrival of two, two-year old female Common Elands, who joined the zoo today from The Wilds in Cumberland, Ohio. The pair will join Code, the current male Eland, in the Africa section of the zoo directly across from our Masai Giraffe and the Kiannala Feeding Deck.

Common Eland is the second-largest species of antelope after the Giant Eland, with males growing up to six feet tall at the shoulder and weighing anywhere from 1,200 to 2,000 pounds -- roughly the same weight as our resident giraffes, Tatu and Joshua. Females are slightly smaller, but still impressive animals. These athletic antelope can jump great heights and have sustained running speeds of 20 mph when escaping predators. Native to Africa, Elands are important members of their ecosystem, playing a crucial role in maintaining the balance of their habitat.

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums' cooperatively managed Species Survival Plan (SSP) is designed "to manage a genetically diverse, demographically varied, and biologically sound population" of certain animals. The SSP pairs members of the same species at accredited zoos based on their genetics. Based on the recommendation of the SSP, LV Zoo experts hope the arrival of two female Elands will lead to calves in the future.

Code has been a popular addition at LV Zoo since his arrival in August of 2022. His impressive size and stature have made him a favorite among guests. With the addition of these two, yet-to-be-named females, visitors will now be able to see the herds of Eland and the Scimitar Horned Oryx -- another of the zoo's African hoof stock -- living and interacting together as they would in the wild, providing a more authentic experience.

LV Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guests wishing to visit Code and the two new female Elands, as well as the other animals at the zoo, can purchase their tickets online at www.lvzoo.org.



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