

## 14.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Food Stamp Program is to provide an effective method of assuring that the food needs of low-income AG's are met. This is accomplished through the issuance of **Food Stamp** benefits to AG's who meet the eligibility criteria established by the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). **Benefits are issued to the AG's EBT account.**

These **Food Stamp benefits** may be used in grocery stores or other establishments that are authorized by USDA to accept Food Stamp benefits. The AG may purchase any food or food products for human consumption. Food Stamps may also be used to purchase Meals On Wheels meals, seeds and plants for food production in home gardens. In addition, homeless AG's may purchase meals from a public or private non-profit establishment approved feed homeless persons. Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and non-edible items, such as cleaning supplies and paper products, are specifically excluded.

This Chapter sets forth specific policy and procedures which apply only to the Food Stamp Program.