A woman leaves Rochester's farmer's market after a morning of bargain shopping for fresh produce.

Hunger on Their Minds

During January 1975, 12,000 people were listed with the Monroe County Department of Social Services as eligible for food stamps, according to Robert L. Meteyer, information officer. This figure included 10,000 basic assistance recipients and 2,000 others receiving only food stamp benefits.

According to New York State statistics, the number represents only 52 per cent of those eligible for food stamps in Monroe County. Shirley A. Harvey, Deputy Director of Medicaid and Food Stamps, reported that this is the best percentage of any county in the state.

Food stamps are intended to stop hunger, according to Mrs. Harvey, but considering the rate of inflation, she questioned their ability to accomplish the task. Eligibility standards are rigid and allowable income so low that many people who could benefit from the program do not qualify. People on unemployment insurance and elderly citizens receiving Supplemental Security Income do not qualify.

Another problem with food stamps is the "triple skip" rule. If a family does not use food stamps for three consecutive months, they become ineligible. Many times people are just trying to balance the rent and utility bills

Some people meet rising food prices by wise shopping . . .

A customer at the farmers' market purchases apples directly from the grower. The elimination of a middle man helps keep prices down.

Customers weigh out bananas before making a purchase.

Bill Dewey points out the price savings of buying food in quantities.