



Washington State Department of Agriculture

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Gov. Inslee proclaims Aug. 4-10 Washington Farmers Market Week

Washington's 150 farmers markets: Pasco to Poulsbo, Pend Oreille Valley to Port Angeles

OLYMPIA – If you're looking for summer attractions that promise delicious foods to satisfy your taste buds, you need look no further than the estimated 150 farmers markets open across the Evergreen State. The popularity of farmers markets continues to increase as consumers get passionate over nutritious foods, including fresh, locally grown produce, meats, cheeses and specialty food products.

To recognize strong consumer and farmer support for the markets, Gov. Jay Inslee, the [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#) (WSDA) and the [Washington State Farmers Market Association](#) (WSFMA) are celebrating [Farmers Market Week](#) in Washington from Aug. 4-10.

"Washington's vibrant farmers markets are great social and economic resources to so many communities across the state, providing access to quality foods and showcasing what makes local agriculture special," Gov. Inslee said. "I encourage all Washingtonians to take part in Farmers Market Week and enjoy our fine Washington grown products."

Statewide, farmers markets belonging to the WSFMA reported \$40.3 million in sales in 2012, up from \$39.6 million in 2011. Dozens of other farmers markets that are not members of the WSFMA also achieve substantial sales, with dollars going directly to family farmers, food and artisan small businesses.

"Agriculture is a primary cornerstone of our economy and farmers markets support local and regional food systems that sustain many family farms, strengthen communities and bring consumers and farmers together," WSDA Director Bud Hover said.

Contact your local farmers market website or market manager to learn about planned events. Among them are:

- Aug. 7, 4 p.m. at the Wallingford (Seattle) Farmers Market, presenting the 2013 "Farmers Market of the Year" award from the WSFMA.
- Aug. 8, 4:30 p.m. at the Bremerton Farmers Market, presenting the 2013 WSFMA "Manager of the Year" award to market manager, Julia Zander.

"If you haven't been to a farmers market lately, come see what they are all about," Karen Kinney, executive director of the WSFMA, said. "We continue to get national recognition for the quality of our state's farmers

MORE

markets. Right now the farm tables are overflowing with fresh food. It doesn't get better than this. Try making the Farmers Market Week [recipe](#) for your friends and family."

Go to www.wafarmersmarkets.com for a directory of farmers market locations and operating hours. You can also visit the [Washington State Farmers Market Manual](#) or WSDA's [Small Farm & Direct Marketing Handbook](#) for additional resources.

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