

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is a cornerstone of the Washington State economy; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers markets are where Washington growers gather to meet the public and sell what they have produced directly to consumers; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington has over 160 farmers markets providing fresh, nutritious, locally grown food to consumers of all ages and ethnic backgrounds in rural and urban communities around the state; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers markets support farm families, rural jobs, community food security, and preserve farmland and open space adding to our quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers markets also support artisans, prepared food, and other vendors, as well as helping nearby businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers markets are a key source of fresh, nutritious foods for people receiving public food assistance, and also provide donations to local food banks; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers markets contribute to the economic and social vitality of many communities, creating a positive social experience, and educating consumers about their food and where it comes from;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim August 4-10, 2013, as

### *Farmers Market Week*

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in recognizing the many benefits of our local farmers markets.



Signed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink.

Governor Jay Inslee