



Washington State Department of Agriculture

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Gov. Inslee proclaims Aug. 3-9 Washington Farmers Market Week

OLYMPIA – Gov. Jay Inslee has declared Aug. 3-9 “Washington Farmers Market Week,” a time for people to enjoy the Evergreen State’s fresh fruits and vegetables or even sample a craft beer or local wine made from state-grown hops or grapes.

To recognize strong consumer and farmer support for farmers markets, Gov. Inslee, the [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#) (WSDA) and the [Washington State Farmers Market Association](#) (WSFMA) are encouraging the public to renew and expand their support for farmers markets.

“Farmers markets across the state reported nearly \$42 million in sales in 2013, an increase of more than four percent from the year before,” WSDA Director Bud Hover said. “Farmers markets play an important role in our state’s economy, but they also help build a sense of community, can launch a farm business and connect consumers to the people growing their food.”

In his [proclamation](#), Gov. Inslee noted that:

- Farmers markets offer opportunities for an estimated 1,200 Washington farmers to sell products directly to consumers in rural and urban communities.
- Provide locally grown food to consumers of all ages and economic and ethnic backgrounds.
- Support farm families, rural jobs, community food security and increase sales at businesses located near the markets.
- Help preserve farmland and open space.

There are more than 150 farmers markets in 32 of Washington’s 39 counties, according to the state Farmers Market Association, and those figures do not include sales from farmers markets that are not members.

“Farmers Market Week is the perfect time to check out what’s happening at your local market or explore a new market during your summer travels,” WSFMA executive director Karen Kinney said.

To find a farmers market near year, visit www.wafarmersmarkets.com and view their [directory](#) of member markets.

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