



Washington State Department of Agriculture

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Gov. Inslee proclaims Aug. 2-8 Washington Farmers Market Week

Shoppers have some 160 markets across the state to visit; try new foods and recipes

OLYMPIA – Gov. Jay Inslee has declared Aug. 2-8 “[Washington Farmers Market Week](#),” a time for people to enjoy fresh selections of fruits and vegetables, as well as baked goods and artisan products, while strolling through small and large markets across the Evergreen State.

To recognize 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 support their local farmers markets, which can be found in 32 of Washington’s 39 counties.

“Whether you are a regular at your local farmers market, or haven’t been to one lately, Farmers Market Week is a great time to visit,” WSDA Director Derek Sandison said. “Many markets will host special events to highlight the role they play connecting cities with farmers and the fresh, healthy food Washington farmers produce.”

In his proclamation, Gov. Inslee noted that farmers markets:

- Offer small farms the chance to sell products directly to consumers.
- Support farm families, rural jobs, food security and increase sales for businesses near the markets.
- Provide fresh nutritious food for everyone. And, most markets accept federal nutrition assistance benefits such as WIC, Senior Farmers Market checks and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

There are about 160 farmers markets statewide. Market sales are estimated at nearly \$45 million in 2014, up from \$43 million the previous year, according to the Washington State Farmers Market Association.

“Farmers Market Week is the perfect time to taste fresh food from all over the state,” WSFMA executive director Karen Kinney said. “Tables are overflowing with corn, tomatoes, melons, peaches, greens and peppers. You can surprise your family and friends with what our farmers grow in Washington.”

To find a farmers market near you, visit www.wafarmersmarkets.com and view their [directory](#) of member markets. For managers of farmers markets, the WSFMA has [strategies and tools](#) to boost customers and attract new vendors.

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