

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington agriculture generates \$10.2 billion annually and is a cornerstone of the Washington State economy; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets offer an effective way for more than 1,200 Washington farmers to sell their products directly to consumers; and

WHEREAS, Washington has 160 farmers markets providing fresh, nutritious, locally grown food to consumers in rural and urban communities around the state; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets offer opportunities for new businesses and family farms with small budgets to hone their skills, develop their products, grow a loyal shopper base and build experience in order to be successful; 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 businesses and other vendors, as well as promoting increased sales at nearby businesses; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets are a key source of fresh, nutritious food for people receiving federal nutrition assistance benefits such as WIC and Senior Farmers Market checks, and SNAP benefits, and also provide donations to local food banks;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim August 2 - 8 2015 as

Farmers Market Week

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 14th day of July, 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee