

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington agriculture generates \$10 billion annually and is a cornerstone of the Washington State economy, and farmers markets offer an effective way for more than 1,200 Washington farmers to sell their products directly to consumers; and

WHEREAS, Washington has over 170 farmers markets providing fresh, nutritious, locally-grown food to consumers in rural and urban communities around the state; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets offer unique 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 increasing sales of nearby businesses; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets are a key source of fresh, nutritious food for people receiving federal nutrition assistance benefits such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Senior Farmers Market checks, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, 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 7-13, 2016 as

Farmers Market Week

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in shopping at and enjoying the many benefits of our state's farmers markets.



Signed this 21st day of July, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee