



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK

August 2–8, 2009

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS farmers markets are important nationwide outlets for agricultural producers, providing them with increased marketing opportunities; and

WHEREAS more than 4,800 farmers markets across the country offer consumers affordable, convenient, and healthful products sold directly from the farm in their freshest possible state; and

WHEREAS farmers markets can help promote child health and reduce childhood obesity by increasing children's access to fresh fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS farmers markets play a key role in developing regional foodsheds, thus benefiting consumers and the environment; and

WHEREAS farmers markets support the sustainability of small family farms and the revitalization of communities as well as offering farmers and consumers the opportunity to interact; and

WHEREAS farmers markets increasingly offer electronic benefits transfer technology for food stamp recipients and support local anti-hunger initiatives through donations of unsold food to feeding programs for those in need; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture strongly supports and promotes the development, operation, and expansion of farmers markets and other direct-to-consumer marketing activities for agricultural producers;

NOW, THEREFORE, to further awareness of farmers markets and of the contributions farmers make to daily life in America, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim the week of August 2–8, 2009, as National Farmers Market Week. I encourage the people of the United States to celebrate the benefits of farmers markets and the bountiful production of our Nation's farmers with appropriate observances and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 30th day of July 2009, the two-hundred thirty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America.


THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary