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

NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK  
August 7–13, 2016  

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America  

A PROCLAMATION  

WHEREAS farmers markets are important outlets for agricultural producers nationwide, providing them with increased opportunities to meet consumer demand for a variety of fresh, affordable, healthful, and locally sourced products; and  

WHEREAS farmers markets play a key role in developing local and regional food systems that support the sustainability of family farms, revitalize rural communities, and provide opportunities for farmers and consumers to interact; and  

WHEREAS farmers markets offer low-income women, infants, children, and seniors participating in the WIC and Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Programs, respectively, the opportunity to redeem their benefits and also increasingly offer electronic benefits transfer technology for use by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients in redeeming their benefits; and  

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes the myriad benefits of farmers markets for producers and consumers and is fully committed to supporting farmers markets’ continued success through grants, technical assistance, directories, and more;  

NOW, THEREFORE, to further awareness of farmers markets’ contributions to American life, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim the week of August 7–13, 2016, as National Farmers Market Week. I call upon the American people to celebrate farmers markets with appropriate observances and activities.  

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of June 2016, the two-hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America.  

[Signature]

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
Secretary