

National Farmers Market Week  
August 6-12, 2023

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** farmers markets continue to expand opportunities for producers to sell directly to consumers, perpetuating a network of small to mid-sized farm sales outlets that shorten the supply chain and provide fresh food access to diverse communities; and

**WHEREAS** farmers markets have become a nexus for community engagement, bridging an essential connection between urban and rural neighborhoods that facilitate the exchange of ideas, support-systems, and resources; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognizes the importance of growing such local and regional agricultural market opportunities that support the economic viability of farmers, improve access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and encourage distribution of healthy, locally-grown food in a manner that shortens the distance between producers and consumers; and

**WHEREAS** farmers markets contribute to the USDA's Food System Transformation Framework by supporting a fair food system that helps producers compete and consumers to have new, more, and better local market options.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, to further the awareness of farmers markets' essential contributions to American life, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim the week of August 6-12, 2023, 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, the two-hundred and forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

Sincerely,



THOMAS J. VILSACK  
*Secretary*