

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, farmers markets are essential businesses that are committed to providing safe shopping experiences so that families may access healthy, local foods, and agricultural products directly from Washington farmers and independent food businesses; and

WHEREAS, Washington has some 160 outdoor farmers markets in over 90 cities and towns around the state, that attract over 4.2 million shoppers annually, and each create a beloved place of community connection in a time of physical distancing; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets report over \$58.7 million in annual sales, transforming downtown streets, neighborhood parks, and parking lots into weekly retail marketplaces where farmers can sell their products directly to consumers; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets incubate new farm businesses and young farmers with small budgets to hone their entrepreneurial skills, develop their products, grow a loyal shopper base, and build experience in order to be successful; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets support farm families, small businesses, rural jobs, artisans, and prepared food businesses, and preserve farmland and open space thereby adding to our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets ensure healthy food is accessible to everyone, including people using the Farmers Market Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Seniors, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as well as offering SNAP Market Match to help low-income families buy more fresh fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets are managed by dedicated community leaders who are driven by shared values to support local farmers, feed their neighbors, and create a healthy Washington; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets contribute to the economic and social vitality of their communities, creating a positive social experience and educating shoppers about their food and where it comes from;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim August 2-8, 2020, as

Farmers Market Week

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

Signed this 29th day of July, 2020

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

Governor Jay Inslee

