

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Farmers Markets across the U.S. play a key role in developing local and regional food systems that support the sustainability of family farms and revitalize rural communities; and

WHEREAS: More than two-thirds of Arkansas counties have at least one Farmers Market; and

WHEREAS: More than 100 known Arkansas Farmers Markets are important outlets for agricultural producers, connecting them to consumers who are increasingly more interested in investing in locally sourced products; and

WHEREAS: The increased consumption of fresh, affordable products including vegetables, fruits, meats, cheeses, eggs, jams and jellies, and other farm products found at Farmers Markets improves the health and well-being of Arkansans; and

WHEREAS: Access to healthy foods is a priority of the Healthy Active Arkansas Initiative to reduce obesity rates in the State of Arkansas, and through efforts of initiatives like these, Arkansas Farmers Markets have nearly doubled in the last decade; and

WHEREAS: Direct-to-consumer sales in Arkansas from Farmers Markets and other direct marketing channels used by farmers is valued at more \$6.3 million; and

WHEREAS: The number and popularity of Farmers Markets in Arkansas continue to rise as more and more consumers discover the benefits of locally grown and made products and want to connect with Arkansas's rich farming tradition; and

WHEREAS: The United States Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the National Farmers Market Coalition, recognizes the first full week in August as National Farmers Market Week; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas recognizes the many benefits of Farmers Markets for agricultural producers and consumers and is committed to educating our State and this Nation about the important role of Arkansas agriculture in providing for our food supply and food security;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim August 5th through August 11th, 2018, as

FARMERS MARKET WEEK IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 28th day of June, in the year of our Lord 2018.



Attest:

Mark Martin
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State

Asa Hutchinson
Asa Hutchinson, Governor