

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Farmers markets across the US play a key role in developing local and regional food systems that support the sustainability of family farms and the revitalization of rural communities; and

WHEREAS: Ninety-eight percent of Arkansas counties have farmer direct-to-consumer sales; and

WHEREAS: More than 112 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 are used by over 1,500 Arkansas farmers and are valued at more \$9.2 million; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas recognizes the many benefits of farmers markets for agriculture 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 June 12<sup>th</sup> through June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, in the year of our Lord 2022.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attes  
  
John Thurston, Secretary of State