



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

**NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK**  
August 3–9, 2014

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By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

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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, convenient, and healthful products sold directly from the farm; 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 increasingly offer electronic benefits transfer technology for use by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients in redeeming their benefits and also offer opportunities for low-income women, infants, and children and seniors participating in the WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs, respectively, to redeem 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 3–9, 2014, as National Farmers Market Week. I encourage the American people to celebrate farmers markets with appropriate observances and activities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 24th day of June 2014, the two-hundred thirty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. Vilsack".

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
Secretary