



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

NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK

August 5–11, 2012

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS farmers markets are important outlets for agricultural producers nationwide, providing them with increased marketing opportunities; and

WHEREAS thousands of farmers markets across the country offer consumers 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 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, to further awareness of farmers markets and of the many important contributions farmers make to daily life in America, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim the week of August 5–11, 2012, as National Farmers Market Week. I encourage the people of the United States to celebrate the benefits of farmers markets and the bountiful production of our Nation's farmers with appropriate observances and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of July 2012, the two-hundred thirty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. Vilsack", is positioned above the printed name and title.

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary