

# 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee

