



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

NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK

August 6–12, 2017

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS farmers and ranchers provide Americans with access to healthful locally and regionally produced foods through farmers markets, which are expanding and evolving to accommodate the demand for a diverse array of agricultural products; and

WHEREAS farmers markets and other agricultural direct marketing outlets provide infrastructure to assist in the distribution of farm and value-added products, thereby contributing approximately \$9 billion each year to the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS farmers markets serve as significant outlets by which small-to-medium, new and beginning, and veteran agricultural producers market agricultural products, generating revenue that supports the sustainability of family farms and the revitalization of rural communities nationwide; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes the importance of expanding agricultural marketing opportunities that assist and encourage the next generation of farmers and ranchers; generate farm income to help stimulate business development and job creation; build community connections through rural and urban linkages; and more;

NOW, THEREFORE, to further awareness of farmers markets' contributions to American life, I, Sonny Perdue, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim the week of August 6–12, 2017, as National Farmers Market Week. I call upon the American people to celebrate farmers markets with appropriate observances and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of August 2017, the two-hundred forty-first year of the Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue".

SONNY PERDUE
Secretary