



ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

1 NATURAL RESOURCES DRIVE, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72205 | (501) 225-1598 | AAD.ARKANSAS.GOV



WES WARD
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 8/8/2018

Contact: Adriane Barnes, (501) 516-6255, adriane.barnes@agriculture.arkansas.gov

Governor Hutchinson Declares August 5-11 Arkansas Farmers Market Week

LITTLE ROCK, AR – Governor Hutchinson has proclaimed August 5-11 as Arkansas Farmers Market Week to highlight the important benefits that farmers markets provide to Arkansas’s agricultural producers, consumers, and communities. Farmers market managers, partners, leaders, and stakeholders will gather at the State Capitol on Thursday for an official presentation of the proclamation by Governor Hutchinson.

"More than 100 Arkansas farmers markets are important outlets for agricultural producers, connecting them to consumers who are increasingly more interested in investing in locally sourced products," says Governor Hutchinson, who has just wrapped up a second annual Agriculture Tour with agriculture operations and communities across southwest counties. "We proudly join in a week of celebrating the role agriculture and farmers markets play in strengthening our communities, and in keeping our residents healthy."

Farmers markets across the state play a key role in developing local and regional food systems that support the sustainability of Arkansas farms and help revitalize rural communities. More than 66% of Arkansas counties are home to farmers markets. Consumers can find a list of Arkansas Farmers Markets at the Arkansas Agriculture Department’s [Arkansas Grown](#) program database and at [Arkansas Farmers Market Association](#).

"Farmers markets allow customers to learn where their food is coming from and about the farmers who are growing it," says Arkansas Agriculture Secretary Wes Ward. "Family farming is a rich, historic tradition in Arkansas, and we appreciate the many benefits that farmers markets provide to Arkansas producers, consumers, and the economy of our rural communities".

The Arkansas Farmers Market Week proclamation is available [here](#), and states in part:

- 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;
- Access to healthy foods is a priority of the Healthy Active Arkansas Initiative to reduce obesity rates in the State of Arkansas;
- Direct-to-consumer sales in Arkansas from Farmers Markets and other direct marketing channels used by farmers is valued at more than \$6.3 million.

The United States Department of Agriculture declared August 5-11 as National Farmers Market Week. The official national proclamation can be found [here](#).

The AAD is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit www.agriculture.arkansas.gov

