

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME - GREETINGS:

**WHEREAS:** Farmers markets across the U.S. play a key role in developing local and regional food systems that support the sustainability of family farms and the revitalization of rural communities;

**WHEREAS:** Ninety-eight percent of Arkansas counties have farmer direct-to-consumer sales;

**WHEREAS:** Over 112 Arkansas farmers markets serve as important outlets for agricultural producers, connecting them to consumers who are increasingly interested in investing in locally sourced products;

**WHEREAS:** 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;

**WHEREAS:** Access to healthy foods is a priority of the Healthy Active Arkansas Initiative to reduce obesity rates in the State of Arkansas, and through efforts of initiatives like these, the number of Arkansas farmers markets has nearly doubled in the last decade;

**WHEREAS:** Direct-to-consumer sales in Arkansas from farmers markets and other direct marketing channels are used by over 1,500 Arkansas farmers and are valued at more than \$9.2 million; and

**WHEREAS:** The State of Arkansas recognizes the many benefits of farmers markets for farmers and consumers and is committed to educating our State and Nation about the important role of Arkansas agriculture in providing for our food supply and food security.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, Governor of the State Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim the week of June 11th through June 17th, 2023, as**

**"FARMERS MARKET WEEK"**

and urge the citizens of the state to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 25th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2023.**



Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Sanders".

Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Thurston".

John Thurston, Secretary of State