

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, agriculture is a cornerstone of the Washington State economy; and

WHEREAS, Washington's 140 farmers markets provide fresh, nutritious, locally grown food to consumers of all ages and ethnic backgrounds in rural and urban communities around the state; and

WHEREAS, Washington farmers markets generate more than \$55 million in sales that support farm families and local businesses and services; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets contribute to the economic and social vitality of many communities, creating a positive social experience, and educating consumers about their food and where it comes from; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets have provided economic and market support for farms in the wake of this winter's floods in southwest Washington; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature provided funding for a farmers market technology project to create new opportunities for low income and non-cash customers to purchase farm-fresh food;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim August 2-8, 2009, as

Farmers Market Week

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the many benefits of our local farmers markets.

Signed this 22nd day of July, 2009

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Gregoire".

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

