



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Agriculture Commissioner Hyde-Smith Announces National Farmers Market Week

Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith joined U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in proclaiming August 7-13, 2016, as National Farmers Market Week in order to celebrate and increase awareness of the more than 8,500 farmers markets nationwide and their role in local economies.

“Local farmers markets provide advantages for both farmers and consumers. Farmers markets create marketing opportunities and provide growers with a location to sell direct to the public while receiving retail prices for their products. At the same time, consumers benefit from the increased access to healthy fruit and vegetables and other agricultural products,” said Commissioner Hyde-Smith.

Over the past decade, Mississippi, like the nation, has seen a tremendous growth in the number of farmers markets. The number of markets in Mississippi has increased from 23 in 2006 to 84 this year. Local farmers markets play a key role in supporting the sustainability of family farms, revitalizing rural communities, and providing opportunities for farmers and consumers to interact. “Consumers want to know now, more than ever, who grew their food and the methods used for producing it. Farmers markets provide the opportunity for consumers to have a face-to-face interaction so they can truly get to know their farmer,” said Commissioner Hyde-Smith.

As a way to recognize the growing number of farmers markets across the state, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce administers the Mississippi Farmers Market Certification Program. This program is a marketing initiative designed to identify and promote markets where producers of Mississippi grown fruits, vegetables and plant materials gather to sell their goods direct to consumers.

The Jackson metro area is home to three certified farmers markets. The Mississippi Farmers Market, located at 929 High Street in Jackson, is open Saturdays 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. For additional information, call (601) 354-6573 or visit the Mississippi Farmers Market on Facebook.

The Downtown Madison Farmers Market, located at the Red Caboose on Main Street in Madison, is open on Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. For additional information, call (601) 856-7116 or visit the Downtown Madison Farmers Market on Facebook.

The Fresh at Five Farmers Market, located at 300 Jefferson Street in Olde Towne Clinton, is open Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. For additional information, call (601) 924-5472 or visit www.clintonms.org.

For more information about the Mississippi Certified Farmers Market Program or to find additional markets in the state, go to www.msfarmersmarket.com or download the Mississippi Farmers Market mobile app.

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