



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Commissioner Hyde-Smith Celebrates National Farmers Market Week

JACKSON, Miss. —Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith encourages farmers markets across the state to join her in celebrating National Farmers Market Week in an effort to increase awareness of the 8,690 farmers markets nationwide and their role in local economies. Hyde-Smith joins U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue in proclaiming August 6-12, 2017, as National Farmers Market Week.

“Both farmers and consumers benefit from local farmers markets,” Hyde-Smith said. “Farmers markets provide the perfect avenue for farmers to sell their products directly to the public while increasing consumers’ access to locally-grown fruits, vegetables and other agricultural products.”

Farmers markets in Mississippi and across the nation have grown exponentially over the last decade. Mississippi’s farmers market numbers have increased from 23 in 2006 to 96 in 2017. Farmers markets often serve as business incubators for small agribusinesses. For some entrepreneurs and producers, selling at farmers markets is the catalyst that jumpstarts their businesses and creates a customer base. “It is always exciting to hear of those who begin their business venture at a farmers market and are then able to grow and expand their operations, in some cases creating their own store fronts. These successes often result in job creation in their local communities.”

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce implements the Mississippi Farmers Market Certification Program in order to recognize the growing number of farmers markets in Mississippi. The program serves as a marketing initiative designed to identify and promote markets where producers of Mississippi grown fruits, vegetables and plant materials gather to sell their goods directly to consumers.

The Mississippi Farmers Market is a certified farmers market in Jackson. It is located at 929 High Street and is open on Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more information about the Mississippi Farmers Market, visit www.msfarmersmarket.com or call (601) 354-6573.

To find additional farmers markets in Mississippi, visit www.msfarmersmarket.com or download the Mississippi Farmers Market mobile app.

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