



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Commissioner Gipson Celebrates National Farmers Market Week

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson encourages farmers markets and the public across the state to join in celebrating National Farmers Market Week in an effort to increase awareness of the 8,719 farmers markets nationwide and their role in local economies. Gipson joins the United States Department of Agriculture and Commerce in proclaiming August 5-11, 2018 as National Farmers Market Week.

“Farmers markets are a great avenue for our state’s farmers to sell direct to consumers,” Gipson said. “Farmers markets in Mississippi have grown partly due to the interest from Mississippians wanting to know where their food comes from and who grew it.”

As consumers continue to pursue a healthier lifestyle, farmers markets in Mississippi and across the nation have grown exponentially over the last decade. There are currently 92 known farmers markets in Mississippi, compared to 23 in 2006.

“This growth has also been good for our farmers. Being the top industry in Mississippi, this continued support for farmers markets is a positive one not only for our farmers to grow and expand their products, but also for our entire state’s economy,” says Gipson.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce implements the Mississippi Farmers Market Certification Program each year 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.

To find a listing of certified and other additional markets in Mississippi, visit www.msfarmersmarket.com or download the Mississippi Farmers Market mobile app.

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