



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

WHEREAS: Farmers markets are part of the critical infrastructure connecting people in Minnesota and the Tribal Nations that share geography with Minnesota with access to locally grown food and locally made products. There are approximately 375 farmers markets and over 10,000 market vendors in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: Recognizing that the accessibility and affordability of fresh, locally grown food is important for the health and wellbeing of Minnesotans of all incomes, Minnesota offers programs that increase access to locally grown foods. These programs include SNAP-EBT payments at farmers markets, the Market Bucks incentive program, WIC's Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program; and

WHEREAS: With the adoption of produce prescription programs like Veggie Rx, health care providers collaborate with farms and farmers markets to provide more locally grown foods to people whose health could improve with access to a healthier diet; and

WHEREAS: Farmers markets provide economic opportunities for our region's agricultural producers – from small to large farms and ranches and emerging to generational farmers – to generate revenue that supports the sustainability of all Minnesotans agriculture and encourages the next generation of farmers and ranchers; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Grown directory lists over 1,000 farms and farmers markets around the state, making it easier for people in Minnesota to connect directly with locally grown food throughout the year; and

WHEREAS: Farmers markets nurture new business models like food hubs and other distribution channels to meet the needs of their communities, foster spaces for community gathering and celebration, and contribute to the vitality and environmental sustainability of urban, suburban, and rural communities across Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim August 4-10, 2024, as:

## MINNESOTA FARMERS MARKET WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE