

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Adiel McKnight, Executive Assistant
DATE: August 7, 2023
SUBJECT: **PROCLAMATION** re: Proclaiming August 6-12, 2023 as National Farmers Market Week

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Jefferson County Farmers Market has two vibrant markets in Jefferson County, Washington. The Port Townsend Farmers Market operates Saturdays from April to mid-December at the 600 Block of Tyler Street, and the Chimacum Farmers Market operates Sundays, June through October, at the Chimacum Corner Farm Stand.

Between the two markets, there are more than 100 vendors offering products like fresh produce, pasture-raised meat, eggs, fish, artisan prepared food and arts and crafts.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners support local farmers markets by proclaiming the week of August 6-12, 2023 as National Farmers Market Week.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

Date 7/27/23

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Farmers Market Week is an annual celebration of farmers markets coordinated by the Farmers Market Coalition, a membership-based nonprofit organization that supports farmers markets nationwide through training, technical assistance, and network-building; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets foster direct relationships between community members and farmers, which can work to create a more fair and sustainable food system. Farmers markets are a hub for connection and collective action around shared values; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Farmers Market (JCFM) joins markets across the country in celebrating National Farmers Market Week; and

WHEREAS, the Port Townsend Farmers Market (PTFM) began in 1992 and celebrates its 31st season this year. The Chimacum Farmers Market (CFM) was founded in 2008 by the Chimacum Grange and was adopted in 2010 by JCFM, the small nonprofit organization that hosts both Jefferson County farmers markets. Together, JCFM hosts over 100 farm, artisan food, arts, and nonprofit vendors between its two markets.

WHEREAS, vendors offer a diversity of products from seasonal fruits and veggies to pasture-raised meat, bread, bakery items, hard cider, wine, goat cheese, prepared food, as well as a wide variety of arts. Jefferson County Farmers Markets are unique in that they feature truly local food and arts arriving to market from producers located no more than 30 miles away. Most JCFM vendors are from Jefferson County with a handful of vendors from Clallam County; and

WHEREAS, local food production leads to greater resilience in food security and a reduction of the carbon footprint for our food supply. Farmers Markets are abundant sources of food, connection, and artistry in communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County, Washington strives to ensure all of our residents have access to healthy, local food regardless of income;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners Proclaim August 6-12, 2023;

NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Commissioners encourage all residents and visitors alike to join them in celebrating National Farmers Market Week.

PROCLAIMED this 7th day of August, 2023.

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SEAL:

Greg Brotherton, Chair

ATTEST:

Kate Dean, Member

Carolyn Gallaway, CMC Clerk of the Board

Heidi Eisenhour, Member