

## **USDA Pronounces Aug. 6-12 as National Farmers Markets Week**

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has proclaimed August 6-12 as “National Farmers Market Week.”

The number of farmers markets in the United States has grown dramatically in recent years, with Utah’s markets growing to approximately 21 currently in locations such as Murray park, the South Towne shopping center, Pioneer park in Provo and the downtown market in Salt Lake City.

The USDA reports that more than 3,800 farmers markets currently operate throughout the nation – a record number, up from the initial count of 1,775 in 1994.

“We’re really happy to be able to celebrate the tradition of the farmers markets with our urban cousins this week,” said Utah Farm Bureau President Leland Hogan. “It’s a great opportunity for those in the community to get fresh produce and taste what is being produced here by our local farmers.”

Sales generated by farmers markets have been estimated to exceed \$1 billion a year nationwide, with most of the money going directly to small family farmers.

Local shoppers can expect to find a wide arrange of products at the many farmers markets throughout the state, from peaches and apples to the many types of onions, peppers and corn. Buyers can even find an array of specialty products like pecans from St. George, watermelons from Green River and great varieties of breads.

For a complete listing of the many farmers markets throughout the state, visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site <http://www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/States/Utah.htm> or contact Aurline Boyack from the Utah Farm Bureau at 801-233-3010.

### **About the Utah Farm Bureau**

The Utah Farm Bureau is the largest general farm and ranch organization in the state with more than 19,000 member families. Its mission is to improve the net income of the state’s farmers and ranchers and the overall quality of life in the state and nation through political action, educational and informational means. The Farm Bureau is a non-partisan, voluntary organization, and its efforts are based on grassroots policies developed by members at the local, county, state and national levels. It is affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation, the world’s largest general farm organization, with more than 5 million family members in 50 states and Puerto Rico. For more information, go to the Utah Farm Bureau website at [utfb.fb.org](http://utfb.fb.org).