WHEREAS, farmers markets provide important statewide marketing opportunities for farmers and are a significant part of the rural economy; and

WHEREAS, across South Carolina, state farmers markets and community-based farmers markets offer consumers convenient access to fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables, flowers and plants, herbs, baked goods, and other products at affordable prices; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets serve as integral links between urban, suburban, and rural communities, affording farmers and consumers the chance to interact; and

WHEREAS, partnering with state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations, farmers markets in South Carolina help ensure that nutritionally at-risk residents have access to locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, many farmers markets in the Palmetto State will participate in The Certified SC Grown Bake Sale, South Carolina’s version of The Great American Bake Sale, to help fight poverty and hunger; and

WHEREAS, the popularity of farmers markets continues to rise as increasing numbers of consumers discover the joys and pleasures of shopping for unique products direct from the farm and buying familiar items in their freshest possible state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 5 - 11, 2007, as

FARMERS MARKET WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the importance of farmers markets and the bountiful production of the farmers who, while providing for our needs, are valuable assets to the economy of the Palmetto State.

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA