



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA FARMER'S MARKET WEEK

WHEREAS, the popularity of Virginia's farmers' markets continues to grow, from eighty-eight markets in 2004 to nearly 200 in 2011; and

WHEREAS, featuring fresh, delicious, local products, farmers' markets provide the public with ready access to high quality fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, organic items, cheeses, baked goods, meats, homemade preserves and more; and

WHEREAS, farmers' markets foster community engagement, support local farmers, promote health and wellness and provide access points for healthy food in neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, farmers' markets give consumers access to just-picked fruits and vegetables that contain optimum amounts of nutrients which can help lower the risk for certain cancers, heart disease and stroke; reduce high blood pressure; and help with weight management; and

WHEREAS, the economic impacts of farmers' markets include direct benefits to farmers and business owners, but also indirect benefits to the community in stimulating downtown revitalization, enhancing parks and waterfronts and preserving farmland through economic viability; and

WHEREAS, farmers' markets are good for the economy, good for consumers' health and good for the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize August 7-13, 2011 as **VIRGINIA FARMER'S MARKET WEEK** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention to all of our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth