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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Santa Fe – Bring home a cornucopia of the freshest, locally-grown fruits and vegetables when you visit your neighborhood farmers' market, this week and every week throughout the growing season.

Approaching peak season, August 6th-12th marks both National Farmers' Market Week *and* New Mexico Farmers' Market Week.

“We're pleased to officially recognize this special season in New Mexico because it is truly a celebration of traditional agriculture at its best,” said Secretary of Agriculture Dr. I. Miley Gonzalez.

With 45 fresh-air growers' markets around the state, local growers and consumers alike benefit from the bountiful production of the healthiest food available, all from our own backyard.

Consumers across New Mexico continue to discover the joys of shopping for the freshest ingredients picked hours before market, and the pleasure of purchasing directly from the people who grow the food.

Seasonal produce this time of year includes the absolute freshest greens, onions, garlic, tomatoes, eggplants, corn, cucumbers, potatoes, squash, beans, beets, peppers, peaches, nectarines, blackberries, grapes, apples, melons, and more.

Many markets across the state enjoy reaching a variety of households in their community through programs such as the federally-funded WIC FMNP (Women, Infant and Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program). Some, such as the Los Ranchos Market, will host special WIC events this week to celebrate both New Mexico Farmers' Market Week and World Breastfeeding Week.

Most farmers' markets across the state will be open through the end of October. Consumers can find the time and place of the market nearest them at www.farmersmarketsnm.org or by calling the New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association toll-free at 1-888-983-4400.

The New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association is committed to supporting our state's 45 farmers' markets. The markets are the most important survival line for small farmers, offering them direct access to consumers which enable them to make a profit and stay on their farms. The Association also works to ensure that those less fortunate, such as low-income women, infant and children, senior citizens and others have access to fresh, locally produced food.

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