

Mecklenburg County

North Carolina

Proclamation

WHEREAS, access to safe nutritious, affordable, and culturally appropriate food is fundamental to the health, well-being, and quality of life of all Mecklenburg County residents; and

WHEREAS, in Mecklenburg County nearly 12 percent of households are food insecure, and more than 18% of children live in food insecure households, underscoring the critical importance of expanding access to fresh, nutritious foods for all residents; and

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County is committed to advancing food security by strengthening local food systems, supporting North Carolina agriculture, reducing the distance food travels from farm to table, and fostering partnerships to improve community health and resilience; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets promote healthy communities by increasing access to nutrient-dense, locally grown foods, encouraging healthy eating habits, and serving as vibrant community gathering places; and

WHEREAS, approximately 75% of Mecklenburg County farmers markets participate in one or more nutrition access programs, including SNAP, SNAP Double Bucks, the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, helping make fresh locally grown foods more accessible; and

WHEREAS, more than 6,000 households have accessed fresh local foods through SNAP and SNAP Double Bucks at farmers markets, demonstrating the vital role markets play in supporting families and local growers; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, 668 Mecklenburg County Seniors received more than \$33,400 in Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers, helping older adults access fresh, nutritious foods while strengthening the local agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets and other agricultural direct marketing outlets provide infrastructure to assist in the distribution of farm and value-added products for agricultural entrepreneurs and small businesses, thereby contributing approximately \$9 billion each year to the U.S Economy; and

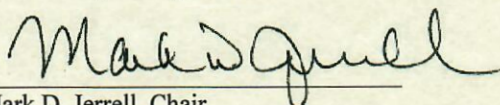
WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County is home to farmers markets that serve thousands of residents each year and represent the hard work of local growers, producers, and market organizers dedicated to providing fresh, healthy food and contributing to a healthy community;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, in observance of National Farmers Market Week, hereby proclaims August 2-8th 2026 as

“FARMERS MARKET WEEK”

in Mecklenburg County and encourage all citizens to join us in this special observance.

This 5th day of August 2026



Mark D. Jerrell, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

