

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

**WHEREAS,** across South Carolina, three state farmers markets and dozens of 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,** 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 2009 as

## **FARMERS MARKET MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to eat local produce as a salute to our farmers markets and to our farmers who supply them with their abundance of fresh food.