



NEWS

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THURSDAY KICKS OFF THE 12TH ANNUAL ILLINOIS FARMERS' MARKET

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Agriculture will once again host its weekly Illinois Products Farmers' Market. The first market of the season will be held on Thursday, May 9th from 4 – 7 pm at The Shed on the Illinois State Fairgrounds. It will then be held each Thursday through October 10th (excluding July 4th and August 8th and 15th during the Illinois State Fair).

Once again, there will be an opportunity to enjoy free live entertainment each week while you shop for local Illinois products, and enjoy Illinois wine from the wine garden. Market-goers will experience a family friendly atmosphere with an array of vendors and a different food truck each week. The Illinois State Fairgrounds also offers ample free parking.

“This market is a great opportunity to come out and support local business, enjoy some live music, and discover local food trucks,” says Erin Cleary, Bureau Chief of Marketing, Promotions, and Grants. “If each of the 4.7 million households in Illinois dedicate \$10 of their existing weekly budget to purchasing Illinois products, we could generate \$47 million one week for our state’s economy.”

The Illinois Products Farmers' Market accepts Link and has a Link Match program, which allows market-goers who use their Link card to receive a match up to \$25 in Market Coupons to spend on fruit and vegetables. These coupons can be used at any farmers market in Illinois that accepts Link.

All products sold at the Illinois Products Farmers' Market are produced, processed, and/or packaged by a vendor in the state of Illinois. Space is still available, if you are interested in participating as a vendor at the 2019 market. Applications can be found on our website, illinoisproductsfarmersmarket.com.

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