

Week Five Resource Sheet



Key Resources

- ✓ **USDA Agricultural Marketing Service – Farmers’ Market Data & Resources**
Provides information on the economic impact of farmers’ markets, local food systems, and direct-to-consumer sales. Highlights how markets support farmers and local economies.
Links —→ ams.usda.gov/
- ✓ **USDA Local Food Systems Toolkit**
Explains how local food systems work, including supply chains, community impact, and benefits of buying local.
Link —→ ms.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-sector/resources-toolkits
- ✓ **West Virginia Department of Agriculture – Local Food & Market Information**
Offers resources on WV Grown products, farmers’ markets, and initiatives supporting local agriculture and producers.
Link —→ agriculture.wv.gov
- ✓ **Farm Fresh WV – Local Food Directory**
Helps participants find farmers’ markets, CSAs, and local farms, strengthening access to fresh, locally grown foods.
Link —→ farmfreshwv.com
- ✓ **National Farmers Market Coalition – Community Impact Resources**
Provides research and infographics on how farmers’ markets improve food access, support small farms, and build community connections.
Link —→ farmersmarketcoalition.org

This week’s resources focus on helping participants understand the environmental, economic, and community benefits of local food systems and farmers’ markets. Materials from USDA, WV Department of Agriculture, and local food organizations highlight how purchasing specialty crops locally supports farmers, reduces food transportation impacts, and strengthens regional economies.

These resources support the Specialty Crop Giveaway activity by connecting participants to the value of locally grown foods and encouraging continued engagement with farmers’ markets and local producers. Through guides, infographics, and planning tools, participants can see how their food choices contribute to a more sustainable and connected community.