

City of Bristol Tennessee

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America's Favorite Farmers Market Contest Kickoff in June **State Street Farmers Market to Compete**

The State Street Farmers Market will be competing in the 2010 America's Favorite Farmers Market contest. This summer, farmers and market customers across the United States will cast their vote for their favorite market. Beginning today, June 1, 2010 any State Street Farmers Market supporter may go to www.farmland.org/vote or www.statestreetfarmersmarket.com and vote. Market shoppers will vote to support their favorite market until midnight on August 31, 2010. People can vote only once.

"The winning market will receive tote bags, along with other prizes including free printing of market materials and free graphic design services and most importantly the *"America's Favorite Farmers Market"* title," says Terrie Talbert, Community Relations Director for the city. There will be three categories, one small, medium and large market. "Farmers markets are one of the best ways for consumers to support local farms and farmers," continues Talbert. "Markets are a great place to purchase local fresh vegetables and fruits. We need to make the connection that there is no local food without local farmers," says Talbert.

The State Street Farmers Market is partnering with American Farmland Trust, a national organization that works to ensure that local farms remain economically viable and our nation's farmland productive and healthy. Protecting our nation's farms is more important than ever today and according to the American Farmland Trust we lost more than 4 million acres of agricultural land- an area the size of Massachusetts-to development between 2002-2007 alone. By shopping at the State Street Farmers Market, consumers are helping keep money in the local community, and help our local farms remain economically viable, a key step in helping protect our nation's farmland.