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Wal-Mart Commits to Arkansas' Farmers as Produce Aisles Go Local

Governor Beebe Joins Grocer to Announce Increase in Partnerships with Local Growers

North Little Rock, Ark., July 24, 2008 – The nation's largest grocer recently announced its commitment to source more local fruits and vegetables to keep produce prices down and provide affordable selections that are fresh and healthful. To kick off the Locally Grown program in Arkansas, Governor Mike Beebe and Tim Ellison, director of marketing for the Arkansas Agriculture Department will join Wal-Mart's Jack Sinclair, executive vice president of the grocery division and Wal-Mart regional leaders at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 24 at the North Little Rock Supercenter located at 12001 Maumelle Boulevard.

"Offering local produce has been a Wal-Mart priority for years, and we're taking it to a new level with a pledge to grow our partnerships with local Arkansas farmers. We're committed to purchasing locally grown produce whenever possible," said Jack Sinclair. "We are adding clear locally grown signage to further reflect our dedication to local growers."

Arkansas grower Bill Landreth, who owns and operates Berries By Bill in Newport, Arkansas, will be participating in the kick-off event. His farm has been in operation since 1998, and will be featured, along with other growers, on in-store signage throughout Arkansas. "We are proud to see our berries and other produce sold in Wal-Mart stores in Arkansas and so pleased about their commitment to support local growers," said Bill Landreth.

Wal-Mart recently reported that partnerships with local farmers have grown by 50 percent over the past two years – one example of the company's efforts to support local economies, cut shipping costs and provide fresh food offerings. Today, hundreds of growers across the United States provide produce sold in Wal-Mart Supercenters and Neighborhood Markets, making Wal-Mart the nation's largest purchaser of local produce.

"When Arkansas growers can establish partnerships with companies like Wal-Mart, it helps ensure that they will retain their reputation as a trusted provider of high-quality fruits, vegetables and other agricultural products to feed America's families," said Governor Beebe.

Highlights of Wal-Mart's locally grown produce available by state can be found at www.livebetterindex.com.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. operates Wal-Mart discount stores, supercenters, Neighborhood Markets and Sam's Club locations in the United States. The Company operates in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico and the United Kingdom and, through a joint venture, in India. The Company's securities are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol WMT. More information about Wal-Mart can be found by visiting www.walmartstores.com. Online merchandise sales are available at www.walmart.com and www.samsclub.com.