Iowa Farm Safety and Health Week Proclamation 2011

By the Governor of Iowa

WHEREAS, The State of Iowa is a leader in the agricultural world with a total of over 92,000 farms and over 30 million acres in farmland, and leads the United States in the agricultural production of hogs, corn, soybeans, and layer chickens and ranks second in the nation in the total value of commodities; and

WHEREAS, Farmers, their families, and agricultural workers face significant risks while producing food, fiber, biofuels, and other necessities that are important for sustaining the economy of Iowa and our great nation; and

WHEREAS, Often that production involves the work of all family members and may include hazardous exposures to machinery, chemicals, livestock, and workplace environments that can have significant impact on their health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Some family members are at higher risk levels than others. Youth may not have the maturity or experience to allow them to fully understand the risks or have the physical capability to perform tasks safely. Older farmers may have reduced physical ability and be at greater risk than when they were younger.

WHEREAS, Iowans must work together with agricultural safety and health professionals to control and mitigate the risks to those who live and work in rural environments; and

WHEREAS, We must also keep in focus the importance of national security, emphasize the critical nature of rural security, protect our vital natural resources, and safeguard production agriculture’s infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry E. Branstad, governor of the state of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the week of September 18-24, 2011, as:

IOWA FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK

and September 21, 2011, as

IOWA FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH DAY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

I URGE CITIZENS OF IOWA TO MAKE THE ENHANCEMENT OF FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH OF UTMOST PRIORITY AND CALL UPON THE AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND BUSINESSES THAT SERVE AGRICULTURE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR COMMITMENT TO AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAMS BY HELPING THE IOWA FARM SAFETY COUNCIL IN PROMOTING THE THEME "SAFETY COUNTS – YOUR COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON IT".