

# **Iowa Farm Safety and Health Week Proclamation 2015**

*By the Governor of Iowa*

- WHEREAS,** IOWA HAS SOME OF THE MOST PRODUCTIVE SOIL IN THE WORLD WITH OVER 90% OF ITS LAND BEING USED FOR AGRICULTURE; IT LEADS THE NATION IN CORN, HOG, AND EGG PRODUCTION AND RANKS SECOND IN SOYBEAN AND RED MEAT PRODUCTION; IOWA DISTRIBUTES MORE THAN \$10 BILLION WORTH OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS EACH YEAR AND PRODUCES NEARLY 25% OF THE NATION'S ETHANOL; THIS IS DUE TO ITS HIGH-QUALITY LAND AND THE DEDICATION OF ITS FARMERS; AND
- WHEREAS,** A LITTLE MORE THAN 10.5 MILLION TURKEYS WERE PRODUCED IN IOWA DURING 2014; IN A TIME OF CRISIS SUCH AS THE 2015 AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK, IOWA'S AGRICULTURAL LEADERS AND PRODUCERS ADDRESSED THE ISSUE WITH URGENCY AND DETERMINATION TO RECIFY A DANGEROUS SITUATION; AND
- WHEREAS,** IOWA FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE EXPOSED TO HAZARDS INHERENT TO FARMING SUCH AS TRACTORS, MACHINERY, LIVESTOCK, CHEMICALS; THESE HAZARDS CAN HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF FARM FAMILY MEMBERS; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE INCREASING AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS IS NOW 58 YEARS; OLDER FARMERS MAY BE AT GREATER RISK DUE TO REDUCED PHYSICAL ABILITY; CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY NOT HAVE THE MATURITY OR EXPERIENCE TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE RISKS OR HAVE THE PHYSICAL OR COGNITIVE CAPABILITY TO PERFORM TASKS SAFELY; AND
- WHEREAS,** CHANGING AGRICULTURE DEMOGRAPHICS, TECHNOLOGICAL MODIFICATIONS, TRANSFORMING COMMUNICATION MODES, EMERGING HEALTH CONCERNS, AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES INFLUENCE THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF IOWA'S FARMING POPULATION; AND
- WHEREAS,** ALL IOWANS ALONG WITH AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS AND PROFESSIONALS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO CONTROL AND MITIGATE THESE FARM RISKS:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 20-26, 2015, AS:

## **IOWA FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK**

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,** I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF JULY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN.