

State of Iowa

Executive Department

In The Name and By The Authority of The State of Iowa

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** Iowa has some of the most productive soil in the world with over 90% of its land 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,** Iowa farmers and their families are exposed to hazards inherent to farming such as tractors, machinery, livestock, chemicals, and workplace environments. 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 18-24, 2016, as:

IOWA FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK