

# **Iowa Farm Safety and Health Week Proclamation 2008**

*By the Governor of Iowa*

**WHEREAS,** THE STATE OF IOWA RANKS NUMBER ONE IN THE PRODUCTION OF HOGS, CORN, AND LAYER CHICKENS AND NUMBER TWO IN SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IT IS A LEADING AGRICULTURAL MAINSTAY FOR THE AMERICAN ECONOMY; AND

**WHEREAS,** IOWA FARMERS AND RANCHERS RAISE, PROCESS, AND DISTRIBUTE HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS THAT MEET THE NUTRITIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE NEEDS OF CONSUMERS WORLDWIDE. THESE COMMODITIES REQUIRE THAT AGRICULTURAL WORKERS DEDICATE LONG STRENUOUS HOURS AND EXPOSURE TO DANGERS THAT OTHER INDUSTRIES ARE NOT PRONE TO; AND

**WHEREAS,** IN A TIME OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY AND WHEN HIGH PRICES ARE ON THE MIND OF ALL AMERICANS, FARMERS FEEL THE SAME PRESSURES TO MAKE ENDS MEET. THIS STRESS CAN LEAD TO PERFORMING HAZARDOUS JOBS ON THE FARM IN LESS THAN IDEAL SITUATIONS LEADING TO INJURY OCCURANCE; AND

**WHEREAS,** RISKS INVOLVE THE OPERATION OF FARM MACHINERY, EXPOSURES RELATED TO THE APPLICATION OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, OPERATING FARM MACHINERY ON THE PUBLIC ROAD SYSTEM WITH OTHER VEHICLES, AND WORKING AROUND LARGE, UNPREDICTABLE LIVESTOCK; AND

WE MUST ALSO KEEP IN FOCUS THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL SECURITY, AND EMPHASIZE THE CRITICAL NATURE OF RURAL SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF OUR VITAL NATURAL RESOURCES AND PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21-27, 2008, AS

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

AND THE DAY OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2008, AS

## **IOWA FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH DAY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

AND 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 "FARM SAFELY – PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT".