

# **Iowa Farm Safety and Health Week Proclamation 2007**

*By the Governor of Iowa*

**WHEREAS,** THE PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS HAS BEEN THE MAINSTAY OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FOR DECADES. 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, OFTEN DURING WEATHER CONDITIONS THAT CREATE STRESS AND DANGER THAT OTHER INDUSTRIES ARE NOT PRONE TO.

**WHEREAS,** THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, INCLUDING FARM AND RANCH FAMILIES, HELPS MEET THE DEMAND FOR U.S. PRODUCTS IN EXPANDING GLOBAL MARKETS. THE WORK UNDERTAKEN BY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS OFTEN EXPOSES THEM TO MANY WORKPLACE HAZARDS. THEY ARE ALWAYS ON THE ALERT FOR RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OPERATION OF FARM MACHINERY; EXPOSURES RELATED TO THE APPLICATION OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS; OR WHEN WORKING AROUND LARGE, UNPREDICTABLE LIVESTOCK.

**WHEREAS,** SOME OF OUR STATE'S AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ARE AT A HIGHER LEVEL OF RISK THAN OTHERS. AMONG THEM ARE CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK AT FAMILY FARM OPERATIONS. THEY ARE OFTEN EXPOSED TO THE SAME HAZARDS AS ADULTS; HOWEVER THEIR LEVEL OF MATURITY AND EXPERIENCE DOES NOT ALLOW THEM TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE RISKS. SENIORS WHO ARE STILL ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN FARMING AND RANCHING ARE ALSO AT RISK. SOME ARE NOW SLOWED DOWN BY PREVIOUS INJURIES OR FROM THE ONSET OF WORK-RELATED ARTHRITIS OR OTHER AGE-RELATED DISEASES AND MANY NO LONGER HAVE THE QUICK REACTION TIME NECESSARY TO AVOID A SERIOUS INCIDENT.

AS WE REFLECT UPON THE HARD WORK OF OUR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, 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 16-22, 2007, AS:

**IOWA FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK**

AND THE DAY OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2007, AS

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

AND 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 "IT'S EASIER TO BURY A TRADITION THAN A CHILD."