

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK  
March 15–21, 2009  
AND  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY  
March 20, 2009

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** the Nation recognizes the outstanding contributions of the men and women of agriculture; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Department of Agriculture seeks to promote an understanding of America's agricultural industry; and

**WHEREAS** American agriculture helps feed the world, fuels our Nation's economy, and is the largest positive contributor to our Nation's net trade balance; and

**WHEREAS** the United States exports about one-fifth of its agricultural production, with agricultural exports reaching \$115.5 billion in 2008; and

**WHEREAS** agricultural exports injected nearly \$216 billion into the national economy in 2007, supporting jobs for 808,000 Americans, and each farming export dollar generates another \$1.40 in support activities; and

**WHEREAS** agriculture provides jobs throughout the farm and food industry, including employment for farmers, farm workers, scientists, processors, shippers, and retailers; and

**WHEREAS** the stewardship of America's farmers and ranchers ensures a sustainable resource base for future generations; and

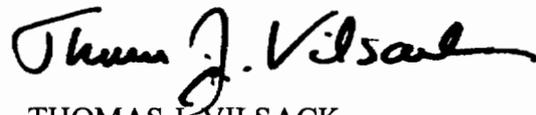
**WHEREAS** American farmers and ranchers uphold the rural character of the Nation as they provide the most abundant and most affordable food and fiber supply in the world; and

**WHEREAS** American agriculture builds on centuries of progress by constantly seeking advances in science, research, technology, production, and marketing to meet the demands of changing consumer needs and complex world markets; and

**WHEREAS** a broad approach to agricultural education is vital to ensure that American agriculture continues to flourish, and the agricultural community engages tens of thousands of volunteers and organizations to help educate students about the importance of agriculture in modern-day America through agricultural literacy efforts;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in recognition of the preeminent role that agriculture plays in the daily lives of every American, in acknowledgment of the future progress and prosperity of the Nation's economy, and in appreciation of farmers and ranchers across the Nation, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim the week of March 15–21, 2009, as National Agriculture Week and recognize March 20, 2009, as National Agriculture Day.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 5th day of March 2009, the two-hundred thirty-third year of the Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Vilsack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
Secretary