

United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

National Agriculture Week  
March 14-20, 2004

and

National Agriculture Day  
March 20, 2004

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

### **A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS** the Nation recognizes the contribution of the men and women of agriculture; and

**WHEREAS** we seek 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 \$56 billion in 2003 and rising to \$59 billion in 2004, and each farming export dollar generates another \$1.48 in support activities; and

**WHEREAS** agricultural exports inject nearly \$133 billion into the national economy and support jobs for three-quarters of a million Americans; and

**WHEREAS** agriculture provides 24 million jobs throughout the farm and food industry, including 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 American agriculture continues to flourish; and

**WHEREAS** the agricultural community engages tens of thousands of volunteers and organizations to help educate students about agriculture's preeminent role in modern-day America through agricultural literacy efforts;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, to recognize the importance that agriculture plays in the daily lives of every American and in acknowledgment of the future progress and prosperity of the Nation's economy and for the advancement of greater appreciation of farmers and ranchers across the Nation, I, Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of March 14-20, 2004, as National Agriculture Week and recognize March 20, 2004, as National Agriculture Day.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of March 2004, the two hundred twenty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

Ann M. Veneman  
Secretary