



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

NATIONAL GRAIN BIN SAFETY WEEK

February 16-22, 2020

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, safety of farm and agricultural workers is of utmost important to USDA; and

WHEREAS, grain production, handling and transportation is a significant industry in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it takes only seconds to be completely engulfed in flowing grain or overcome by oxygen-deficient atmospheres; and

WHEREAS, due to increased training and more public awareness, deaths from grain bin entrapments declined until 2014. That year saw 38 documented entrapments nationally, resulting in 17 deaths; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, there were 30 documented grain entrapment cases with half of those entrapped resulting in a fatality; and

WHEREAS, Grain Bin Safety Week is an annual observance that occurs the third full week of February to promote grain bin safety on farms and commercial grain-handling facilities; and

WHEREAS, grain operators, farmers and employees are encouraged to help reduce the number of preventable injuries and deaths associated with grain handling and storage, through education and awareness of hazards and safe work practices; and

WHEREAS, through education and awareness of hazards and safe work practices and procedures, USDA and its partners hope to reduce the number of preventable injuries and deaths associated with grain handling and storage.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Sonny Perdue, United States Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim February 16-22, 2020, to be **NATIONAL GRAIN BIN SAFETY WEEK**.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue".

SONNY PERDUE
Secretary