



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

HONORING ORION SAMUELSON

December 2020

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Orion "Big O" Samuelson will retire this month after a 60-year career in agriculture broadcasting; Samuelson began his career in the 1950s at radio stations in Sparta, Appleton, and Green Bay, Wisconsin, and;

WHEREAS, for 60 years at WGN radio in Chicago, Samuelson is known as the "American Farmer's Best Friend for Over Sixty Years," and reported on agriculture and food production, articulating the national importance of agriculture to rural and urban audiences alike, and;

WHEREAS, during Samuelson's half-century at WGN, he has interviewed and or met every U.S. President since Dwight D. Eisenhower, encountered world leaders, and traveled to 44 countries, and;

WHEREAS, Samuelson is a 2003 National Radio Hall of Fame inductee;

WHEREAS, Samuelson has championed farmer interests, including the use of ethanol fuel derived from corn to help U.S. farmers, and;

WHEREAS, Samuelson has served as a mentor, encouraging countless young people to pursue careers in agriculture.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Sonny Perdue, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, proudly honor and celebrate Orion Samuelson for his journalistic integrity, persistence, and support of American farmers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of December 2020, the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

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

SONNY PERDUE
Secretary