

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE
SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAIMING MARCH 17-23, 2024 AS NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK
IN SEMINOLE COUNTY, FL**

WHEREAS, this week-long celebration is organized each year in March by the Agriculture Council of America to increase the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to over 47,000 farms and ranches, with close to 400 of those operations located in Seminole County; and

WHEREAS, agriculture plays a vital role in Florida's economy, ranking as the second largest industry in the state, with more than 1.5 million jobs connected to agriculture, natural resources, and food industries; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is critical to producing the food needed to support a growing population; and

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers face challenges in production such as severe weather events, pests and pathogens, invasive species, supply chain disruptions, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, the average age of a farmer in the United States is 57.5 years old, and there is a strong need for more youth to pursue careers in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, farmers, ranchers, and others in the agriculture industry work together in an environmentally sustainable way to help feed, clothe, shelter, and fuel the world; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida, proclaim the week of March 17, 2024 as National Agriculture Week and encourage all to celebrate the importance of the agriculture industry in providing food, fiber, and fuel to our local communities.

ADOPTED this 27th day of February 2024



**Jay Zembower, Chairman
Seminole County Board of County Commissioners**