

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE
SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAIMING MARCH 19 - 26, 2023 AS NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK IN
SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, since our earliest days as a nation, farmers have tilled the soil of this great land, feeding their families, other citizens, and people around the world. Over the years, our economy has changed, but the American agricultural community remains a vital thread in the fabric of our lives and provides significant value to the economy of Seminole County; and

WHEREAS, our nation was founded on values of hard work, faith, family and community, and those values still hold true today for our agricultural community. By providing an abundant supply of safe, high quality food and fiber, as well as plants for our homes and landscapes, our agricultural community contributes to a quality of life in our country that is unmatched around the world; and

WHEREAS, people in the agricultural community do not work alone. Farm workers, processors, shippers, truck drivers, inspectors, retailers, and consumers all play an important role in the incredible productivity of our nation's farms and ranches; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to over 47,000 farms and ranches, with close to 400 of those operations being 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 most recent U.S. Census of Agriculture, the average age of a farmer in the United States is 57.5 years old (58.9 years old in FL) and there is a strong need for more youth to pursue careers in agriculture to support the industry in the future; 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

WHEREAS, National Agricultural Week is a week-long celebration held each year in March to increase the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society; and

WHEREAS, on the morning of Friday, March 24, 2023, Seminole County will embark on a journey through agriculture, by offering a guided bus tour to 5 local farms; and

WHEREAS, this full-day event is a wonderful opportunity to meet, support, and learn from Seminole County farmers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners do proclaim the week of March 19, 2023 as National Agriculture Week in Seminole County and encourage all of our citizens to celebrate the importance of the agriculture industry by participating in the Seminole County Farm Tour.

ADOPTED

this 28th day of February 2023



**Amy Lockhart, Chairman
Seminole County, Board of County Commissioners**