



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Agriculture is the backbone of Minnesota. 81,000 farms, comprised of 26.9 million acres of farm land, make up more than half of the state's land area; and
- WHEREAS: The American farmer, a national symbol of strength and character, has displayed ingenuity in times of prosperity and perseverance in the face of hardships, while consistently supplying our state, nation, and world with an abundance of high-quality agricultural goods and products; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota's farm families are stewards of the land, contributing to the health, beauty, productivity, and quality of our state's natural resources for the benefit of all Minnesotans; and
- WHEREAS: The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's mission is to enhance all Minnesotans' quality of life by ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength of our agricultural economy; and
- WHEREAS: Agriculture is essential to the state's health, recreation, and economy, generating more than \$15.1 billion in farm income and more than \$5 billion in agricultural exports annually; and
- WHEREAS: 2012 marks the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Agriculture Week, an effort to raise awareness of the crucial role of agriculture in providing the food and fiber necessary for everyday life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of March 4-10, 2012 as:

## MINNESOTA AGRICULTURE WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE