



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE WEEK

WHEREAS, for 400 years, agriculture has maintained its essential role for the people of Virginia, providing the elements necessary for their nourishment, protection, growth, health and vitality; and

WHEREAS, today agriculture is Virginia's largest industry by far, accounting for an economic impact of \$55 billion annually and providing more than 357,000 jobs in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's mild climate, rich soil and abundant waterways mean that agricultural production is one of the most diverse in the nation with products encompassing livestock, field crops, fruits, vegetables, poultry, dairy, greenhouse and nursery, aquaculture and vineyards; and

WHEREAS, many Virginia commodities and products rank in the top 10 among all U.S. states including leaf tobacco, 3rd in the nation; fresh market tomatoes, 4th; turkeys and wine, 5th; apples, summer potatoes and fresh market snap beans, 6th; grapes, 8th; peanuts and sweet potatoes, 9th; fresh market cucumbers, 10th; and

WHEREAS, Virginia ranks 13th among all states in terms of agricultural exports with more than \$1.7 billion sent to Canada, Egypt, Morocco, China, Ukraine, Germany, Russia, Colombia, Greece, Portugal, Italy, Algeria, Turkey, Hong Kong and Cuba; and

WHEREAS, Virginia agriculture continues to build a reputation for excellence in the Commonwealth, our nation and the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine do hereby recognize March 15 – 21, 2009 as **VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE WEEK** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.