



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, agriculture in the Commonwealth is the state's largest industry, with an economic impact of \$55 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, Virginia agriculture is a diversified industry with products encompassing livestock, field crops, fruits, vegetables, poultry, dairy, seafood, aquaculture, vineyards, horticulture, equines and more; and the mild climate and rich soil of Virginia provide an environment in which crops are harvested nearly year-round; and

WHEREAS, modern agriculture is so productive and efficient, 98 percent of the population in the United States is now two or three generations removed from agriculture, but the farmers in the remaining two percent now feed themselves plus 155 others at home and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Virginia is experiencing record export sales and is opening up new trade offices to meet global demands for food, beverages, fiber and wood products; and

WHEREAS, agricultural careers are on the up-swing, considered by many experts to be the "hot ticket" jobs of the future; and

WHEREAS, with all its technological, marketing and scientific innovations, modern-day agriculture is a mystery to many people; therefore the need for increased agricultural literacy is more crucial than ever for today's citizens and students;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize March 17-23, 2013 as **VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE WEEK** and **VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE LITERACY WEEK** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Handwritten signature of Robert F. McDonnell in black ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Janet Vestal Kelly in black ink.

Secretary of the Commonwealth