



# 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 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Virginia is known widely for the quality of agricultural products grown by its industrious farmers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Census of Agriculture has been conducted since 1840 in order to obtain consistent, reliable data regarding the agriculture industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2012 Census of Agriculture will ask farmers to report on the 2012 calendar year and to return the forms by February 4, 2013, making January 2013 a critical time to gather and supply the necessary information; and

**WHEREAS**, because the Census of Agriculture is the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation and because it is taken every five years, it is vital that all Virginia farmers complete and return it promptly no matter how large or small their operation or what products they produce; and

**WHEREAS**, by reporting on their land use and ownership, production practices, income and expenditures, and operator characteristics, Virginia farmers will help themselves and their communities by providing an accurate and complete picture of agriculture in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, farm organizations, businesses, government officials, schools, and the farmers themselves will use information from the 2012 Census of Agriculture to evaluate policies and programs, develop production and market strategies, and prepare for the future; and

**WHEREAS**, collecting and compiling information on a variety of farm-related topics is vital to the planning and decision making of farmers and other agricultural interests and to the continued prosperity of the agricultural industry;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize January 2013 as **VIRGINIA CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, call this observance to the attention of all our citizens and urge all farm households to give complete support for this important farm census.



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth