

PROCLAMATION

With the fall harvest underway, Californians are reminded of our deep debt of gratitude to the farmers and farmworkers working tirelessly through the pandemic and increasingly unhealthy air quality caused by wildfires and climate change to supply food to supermarket shelves, food banks and our tables. The hard work of these dedicated men and women who grow, produce, harvest and package our food ensures a stable and secure supply for our state and nation, sustaining us through these challenging times – and year-round.

As the largest agricultural state, farming in California supports more than 1.2 million jobs and provides \$263 billion in generated economic revenue. Agriculture is a critical economic driver for rural communities and regions throughout our state – from the great Central Valley to Siskiyou to Imperial County. California produces more than 400 different agricultural commodities, with California Grown (CA GROWN) recognized as an unsurpassed standard for quality, food safety and commitment to environmental stewardship.

Farming is a community that includes farmers, ranchers and the farmworkers who work and harvest the land. As front-line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, our farm working communities bear an increased risk of exposure to the virus, and we are committed to ensuring their safety. We have built a pipeline of personal protective equipment to help workers stay safe on the job and provided necessary COVID-19 testing and treatment at no cost for undocumented or uninsured Californians. We have taken action to expand paid sick leave to food sector workers, create temporary housing options for agricultural workers to safely isolate and quarantine and provide detailed workplace safety and health guidance. In honor of the landmark movement pioneered by César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong and other activists who fought tirelessly for the rights of workers and their families, we continue our efforts in partnership with the Legislature, community-based organizations and other stakeholders to further support our farmers and farmworkers.

Throughout the month of October, we celebrate the dedication and perseverance of California's farmers and farmworkers who work day in and day out to deliver the Golden State's bounty of fresh and nutritious products to our tables with care.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim October 2020, as "California Farmers and Farmworkers Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 8th day of October 2020.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State