

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services recognizes farmworkers as essential members of our communities worthy of dignity, respect, and care; and

WHEREAS, Florida's farmworkers are critical to a safe, healthy domestic food supply on which 150 million Americans rely to feed their families, yet are susceptible to unique health, safety, and environmental risks in the performance of their difficult work; and

WHEREAS, agricultural workers face a risk of heat illness-related death twenty times higher than the general U.S. workforce, necessitating proper safety protocols; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed farmworkers at elevated risk, with food and agricultural workers among those most at risk of death, particularly Hispanic/Latino workers facing a 59 percent higher risk; and

WHEREAS, farmworkers are especially susceptible to respiratory illnesses, yet less than half of farmworkers have access to adequate health coverage, including just one-quarter of undocumented farmworkers; and

WHEREAS, since 2019, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has prioritized the health, well-being, and rights of farmworkers; and

WHEREAS, the Department has worked with state and local partners to facilitate COVID-19 testing and vaccinations in key agricultural communities, has launched numerous multilingual farmworker awareness campaigns to encourage farmworker health and safety, and has urged in formal reports and industry communications that farmworkers have access to healthcare, protective equipment, and social distancing; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has not continuously had an executive-level advisory body advocating for the rights and needs of farmworkers since the administration of Governor Lawton Chiles; and

WHEREAS, the first statewide Farmworker Advisory Council within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is hereby established on this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nicole Fried, Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Florida, do hereby proclaim that June 29, 2021, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

FARMWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

in the State of Florida and encourage all Floridians to affirm that all farmworkers, both resident and migrant, are appreciated, respected, and indelible parts of our state's social, cultural, and economic fabric, and to recognize the many organizations advocating on behalf of farmworkers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the
State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the
Capital, this 29th day of June, in the year two
thousand twenty-one.



Nicole Fried
NICOLE FRIED
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

THE CAPITOL

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399

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