

**PROCLAMATION
TO COMMEMORATE
AGRICULTURE DAY/WEEK
IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

WHEREAS; National Agriculture Week is celebrated every year to honor agriculture for providing safe, abundant and affordable products, a strong economy, a source of renewable energy, and a world of job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County farmers and ranchers build on generations of success by remaining true to their history while also constantly seeking advances in production, technology, science, research and marketing to meet the demands of a growing world population and a complex global market; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County farmers, ranchers and agricultural support business owners uphold the rural character of the County and provide the safest, highest quality, most abundant and affordable food and fiber products in the world, fuel our local, state and national economies, are the largest contributors to our local economy, generating more than \$2.8 billion annually to the Santa Barbara County economy and export agricultural products, including strawberries, vegetables, wine, and cut flowers, all over the world; and

WHEREAS, the agriculture industry is the largest employer in Santa Barbara County, providing over 25,000 on-farm jobs, including administrative and professional staff, in addition to, employment for harvesters, irrigators, crew leaders, truck drivers, scientists, researchers, pest control and fertilizer advisors, processors, shippers, brokers and retailers; and

WHEREAS, the stewardship of agricultural lands conserves the culture and history of Santa Barbara County, preserves the natural beauty and open spaces, and ensures a sustainable resource base for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County has two chapters of California Women for Agriculture, whose members consist of individuals in production agriculture, agricultural support industries and consumers; have consistently supported the agriculture industry through education and community service and annually providing thousands of dollars in scholarships for school gardens, teachers who wish to attend Ag in the Classroom seminars, and local high school students pursuing a college education in a field of study related to agriculture; educate themselves, policy makers and consumers about the issues facing the agriculture industry; and represent the agriculture industry in a positive manner to all residents in Santa Barbara County;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED and hereby ordered, that March 15, 2016 be proclaimed National Agriculture Day and March 13-19, 2016 be declared National Agriculture Week in Santa Barbara County and encourages members of the public to participate in activities that acknowledge, support to celebrate the achievements of the men and women who work throughout the year in state's number-one industry.