

Proclamation 6423 of April 24, 1992**National Farm Safety Week, 1992**

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

The United States is no longer a primarily agrarian society, but we Americans still rely on our farmers and ranchers as heavily as we did more than 200 years ago. By helping to feed and to clothe millions of workers and their families, members of the agricultural industry have enabled this country to achieve the world's highest standards of health and productivity. In today's expanding global economy, which is creating opportunities to market an ever-wider array of agricultural products and by-products, our farmers and ranchers have an increasingly important role to play in promoting our Nation's competitiveness and strength. Because we depend on these enterprising individuals for our daily sustenance and for so much more, it is fitting that we set aside a special week to promote their health and safety.

Thanks in large part to public awareness campaigns such as National Farm Safety Week, we have made notable progress in our efforts to protect the lives and health of America's agricultural workers. According to the National Safety Council, a private, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to promoting public safety, the number of work-related deaths among agricultural workers has dropped over the past 10 years from an average of 54 per 100,000 to 42 per 100,000. The Council reports that nonoccupational accidents in rural areas have also decreased.

Despite such encouraging trends, however, far too many farmers and ranchers continue to suffer from injuries and illnesses that could be prevented. Improper and prolonged exposure to chemicals and environmental elements is having a harmful effect on the health of many agricultural workers and thus on their livelihood as well. Serious accidents are often the cruel price of carelessness and haste. The costs in human terms alone—which are far greater than the billions of dollars in lost productivity and medical expenses—warrant a strengthened commitment to improved safety measures and to healthier life-styles.

The solutions are relatively simple and inexpensive, and they begin with the whole family. For example, farmers and ranchers can reduce their risk of developing dermatitis, lung disease, hearing loss, and other common occupational illnesses by wearing protective gloves, respirators, and ear plugs when the job calls for it. Empty pesticide containers should be disposed of safely, and leftover chemicals should be stored out of the reach of children. In addition to being given clear and consistent examples of prudence and caution—be it at work, on the road, or at play—youngsters should be taught the dangers of playing on or near farm machinery. Children should also be encouraged to recognize health hazards such as dust, noise, toxic fumes, and extreme exposure to the sun, and every member of every farm family should know what to do in the event of an emergency. Only when injury and illness prevention becomes a daily priority for all those who live and work on our Nation's farms and ranches can we reap a full harvest of better health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week of September 20 through September 26, 1992, as National Farm Safety Week. I urge all those who live and work on our Nation's farms and ranches to make health and safety an integral part of their daily activities. I call on organizations that serve agricultural workers and their families to sponsor or to support rural health and safety programs, and I encourage all Americans to observe this week with appropriate activities as an expression of our gratitude for the many contributions that men and women in agriculture make to our individual and collective well-being.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6424 of April 28, 1992

Loyalty Day, 1992

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The United States has endured and prospered because it is founded on the ideals of freedom, equal opportunity, and justice—ideals worthy of the abiding faith and fidelity of our people. Unlike the May Day parades and marches that many totalitarian regimes once orchestrated among their citizens—hollow shows of unity and devotion that have died along with imperial communism—our observance of Loyalty Day has remained a cherished American tradition. On this occasion, we reaffirm our belief in the God-given dignity and worth of the individual and in each human being's equal and unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

This year's observance of Loyalty Day has added significance as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pledge of Allegiance. Its original author, Francis Bellamy of *The Youth's Companion* magazine, said that he strived to compose a salute to our flag that would "embody the fundamental idea of patriotic citizenship, comprehending in broadest lines the spirit of our history and the deepest aim of our National life." Clearly, he succeeded. When we recite the Pledge and promise our allegiance to this "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," we reaffirm the great spiritual and moral heritage of the United States, the importance of our Union, and the noble vision to which it is dedicated.

The Pledge of Allegiance expresses in words the loyalty and love of country that millions of Americans demonstrate, each day, through acts of patriotism and service. By honoring their vow to uphold our Constitution, elected officials, law enforcement officers, judges, and other public employees demonstrate their appreciation for the blessings of liberty and their determination to help preserve them. Parents, teachers, veterans, and civic association members show loyalty to our coun-