

WHEREAS, Maine's farmers are a cornerstone of our great state and we must all continue to support our agricultural producers to ensure a resilient rural economy; and

WHEREAS, Maine's farmers, agricultural organizations, and supporters have worked tirelessly to create a foundation for a vibrant local food system to make Maine farm products available and accessible year-round; and

WHEREAS, Maine farmers contribute to the quality of the state's soil and water resources through their use of healthy soil conservation practices; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the fragility of the nation's food system and underscored the need to strengthen our local and regional food systems with infrastructure, and economic and market development; and

**WHEREAS,** Maine farmers and food producers quickly embraced innovation and realigned their businesses to safely find new markets for their products during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the state has committed to ending hunger and increasing by thirty percent Maine people's consumption of locally and regionally produced food by 2030;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby recognize and proclaim March 22nd through 26th, 2021 as

## **Agriculture Week**

in Maine, and I encourage all citizens to celebrate and support our farmers so that we may ensure Maine's working landscapes thrive, agriculture remains a cornerstone of our state, and quality farm products are accessible and available for generations to come.

Shenna Bellows Secretary of State In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this nineteenth day of March Two Thousand Twenty One

> Janet T. Mills Governor