

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation

WHEREAS,

Nebraska's school nutrition professionals, farmers, and farm workers are recognized as heroes and celebrated for their leadership, ensuring Nebraska's students are fed, even in times of emergency; and

WHEREAS,

Nebraska Farm to School enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools, preschools, and childcare centers; and

WHEREAS,

Nebraska benefits when state agencies and community partners collaborate to achieve common goals and lift up children and families, equity and inclusion, and thriving communities; and

WHEREAS,

Nebraska Crunch Off, sponsored by Nebraska Department of Education in collaboration with the USDA Mountain Plains Region Crunch Off, will connect schools and early childhood institutions to local crunchable produce; and

WHEREAS,

Nebraska farm to school is a triple win, benefiting: children with early exposure to agriculture and healthy nutrition experiences; farmers with market diversification and opportunity to increase profits; and community, building positive relationships between farmers, children, parents, school staff, and others, helping to engrain the important role of agriculture in how our food gets to our tables; and

WHEREAS,

Nebraska farm to school is a pathway for advancing racial and social equity, with stakeholders tackling disparities of access to farm to school benefits to all sectors; and

WHEREAS,

Nebraska is the recipient of two 2020 USDA Farm to School grants: 1.) Burwell Public Schools to develop a plan to build new relationships with local agricultural producers for schools meals, gardens, and greenhouses; and 2.) Nebraska Department Education to collaborate with Nebraska Extension to increase capacity for Farm to School across the state and to deliver a Nebraska Farm to School Institute in 2021; and

WHEREAS,

Nebraska Thursdays celebrates Nebraska-sourced meals in school cafeterias at more than 60 districts in the state; and

WHEREAS,

Nebraska schools serve 243,570 students and 38,389 children and adults in early childhood and adult day centers daily through USDA Child Nutrition Programs, and resources invested in farm to school go directly into our local economy.

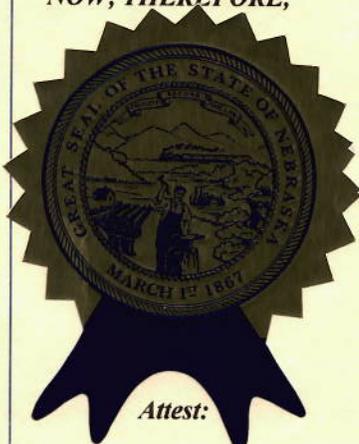
NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the month of October 2020 as

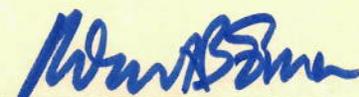
FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

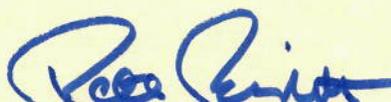
in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance and recognize the nutritional, academic, and economic opportunities local food and school partnerships provide for Nebraskans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Twenty-First day of September, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty.



Attest:


Secretary of State


Governor