


UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20250

**NATIONAL 4-H WEEK**  
October 1-7, 2023

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, this year’s National 4-H Week theme, “**I  4-H,**” reminds us that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us; and

**WHEREAS**, for 120 years, 4-H has served America’s young people to make the best better, and is now the Nation’s largest youth development organization; and

**WHEREAS**, 4-H programs are delivered by Cooperative Extension—a community of more than 100 public universities across the Nation—that provide experiences for young people to learn by doing; and

**WHEREAS**, 4-H connects young people and adults to their communities, preparing them for work and life through experiential and inquiry-based learning while providing emerging research for positive youth development; and

**WHEREAS**, expanding from its strong agricultural roots, 4-H helps young people explore the world around them and grow into productive adults;

**WHEREAS**, supporting future leaders in science, agriculture and community leadership is important for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture 4-H program; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, United States Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim October 1 through October 7, 2023, as **National 4-H Week**, and call upon all Americans to learn more about and celebrate the 4-H program with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of September 2023, the two-hundred forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
*Secretary*