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