

Proclamation

by the Mayors of the Cities of Urbana & Champaign, Illinois

WHEREAS, Champaign County comprises 1,008 square miles, the majority of which are involved in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Parkland College and AGCO Corporation, a global leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of agricultural machinery and precision ag technology, announced a new technical training program, leveraging AGCO technical experts to train technicians from existing dealerships to support the company's ag equipment, such as tractors and planters. AGCO will soon celebrate its expansion in University of Illinois Research Park and further engagement with the College of ACES; and

WHEREAS, Serra Ventures announced that its latest fund, the Serra Capital Ag Tech Fund, has closed over \$45 million in funding commitments; and

WHEREAS, The Early College and Career Academy (ECCA) announced a new Precision Agriculture Fundamentals certificate; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois AgTech Accelerator's portfolio companies are active in over 30 countries and have raised over \$20 million; and

WHEREAS, FrostDefense Envirotech Inc., an AgTech startup based at the EnterpriseWorks technology incubator in Research Park, was awarded a highly competitive SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research) Phase II grant by the National Science Foundation; and

WHEREAS, A \$45 million gift from the University of Illinois alumna Doris Kelley Christopher will support the creation of an engagement-rich center located in the Arboretum on the Urbana-Champaign campus; and

WHEREAS, The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research (Soybean Innovation Lab, "SIL") at the University of Illinois was awarded \$5 million by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to train and empower other Feed the Future Innovation Labs to achieve sustained impact from their innovations; and

WHEREAS, Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency (RIPE), which is led by the University of Illinois, is engineering crops to be more productive by improving photosynthesis, the natural process all plants use to convert sunlight into energy, and ultimately yield; and

WHEREAS, After nearly two years of construction, the new Feed Technology Center at the University of Illinois is complete and open for business; and

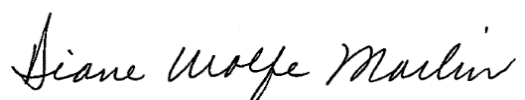
WHEREAS, Champaign-Urbana has long been a hub for technology as well as agriculture. In the past decade, those two paths have converged, paving the way for the community to become an "epicenter for AgTech."

NOW, THEREFORE, We Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor of the City of Urbana, and Deborah Frank Feinen, Mayor of the City of Champaign, do hereby proclaim March 7 – 11, 2022 as

Champaign-Urbana AgTech Week

in the Cities of Urbana and Champaign, Illinois

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seals of the City of Champaign and the City of Urbana to be affixed this 7th day of March in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty-two.



Deborah Frank Feinen
Mayor, City of Champaign

Diane Wolfe Marlin
Mayor, City of Urbana