



# NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

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*American Values. Hometown Roots.*

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March 19, 2021

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, Secretary  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Re. Farmers to Families Food Box Program

Dear Mr. Secretary:

During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Grange urged the Department to establish a food chain link directly between our food producers and our food consumers. The USDA responded by standing up the Farmers to Families Food Box Program which has become so necessary to help those in need obtain food this past year. The program fed families and individuals as it provided valuable markets for farmers and ranchers.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over and the nation is expected to experience a long economic recovery. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of the Farmers to Families Food Box Program or the creation of a similar initiative. The program's mission of delivering local farm products to local communities in need should definitely be carried forward.

We encourage the USDA to learn from those on the ground who have participated in the Farmers to Families program. Their experience, advice and ideas should definitely be taken into account when designing next steps. The National Grange encourages the Department to remove any barriers that might discourage participation by small producers, and to allow the content of boxes to reflect local preference and local availability of food.

Mr. Secretary, the National Grange encourages you to continue this program and concentrate on feeding citizens in need with local farm products. The decision should not be whether to continue the program but how best for farmers to feed families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Betsy E. Huber'.

Betsy Huber  
President