



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

NATIONAL CRANBERRY MONTH  
OCTOBER 2002

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By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

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A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** the cranberry has had a long tradition in North America, first used by Native Americans to make pemmican, a convenience food that kept for long periods of time, as an ingredient in medicine, as a natural dye of clothing, as a symbol of peace, and later as a source of sustenance for the Pilgrims;

**WHEREAS** during the early days of this country's history, when wooden ships sailed the seven seas, American vessels carried cranberries across the globe in wooden barrels knowing that eating this fruit helped prevent scurvy, long before medical science discovered cranberries are a valuable source of vitamin C;

**WHEREAS** cranberries are now one of three native fruits still commercially produced today;

**WHEREAS** cranberry growers have shown their commitment to environmental stewardship by using integrated pest management to reduce pesticide use, practicing water conservation and preserving, protecting, and creating wetlands and open space which provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife, including many threatened or endangered species;


**WHEREAS** the annual production of cranberries has increased from 300,000 pounds a century ago to over 600,000,000 pounds today as consumers worldwide discover the many uses of this healthy fruit;

**WHEREAS** multiple clinical trials and related scientific studies have conclusively documented the unique ability of the cranberry to help maintain urinary tract health, due to the variety and level of its natural components;

**WHEREAS** the cranberry has long played an important role in American food, culture, and tradition, including the celebration of our Thanksgiving;

**THEREFORE** in proclaiming October "National Cranberry Month" I urge all citizens of the United States of America to join with our cranberry farmers to recognize and celebrate the cranberry, a healthy, colorful, and truly American fruit;

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 5th day of July 2002, the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

  
ANN M. VENEMAN  
SECRETARY