

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Farm to School Programs connect Arkansas's K-12 schools and local farms with the goal of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias to improve student nutrition and provide educational opportunities related to agriculture, health, and nutrition; and

WHEREAS: Farm to School Programs purchase local food for school meals and provide a market for local agricultural producers, bringing economic development opportunities to regional food and agricultural economies; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's K-12 schools have been identified as a significant market for local and regional food products, purchasing over \$100,000,000 worth of food per year, and can provide a way for local agricultural producers to grow their businesses to meet the demands of larger markets; and

WHEREAS: Farm to School Programs are expanding across the United States, with more than 40,000 schools participating in all 50 states; and

WHEREAS: Farm to School Programs are expanding across Arkansas' rural and urban school districts, with the support of the Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention, Arkansas Department of Education, Child Nutrition Unit, Arkansas Agriculture Department, Arkansas MarketMaker Program, Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute, Childhood Obesity Prevention Research Program, University of Arkansas Extension SNAP Education; and

WHEREAS: Federal legislation designated October as national Farm to School Month for the purpose of promoting the importance of Farm to School activities among students, citizens, teachers and school administrators, state and federal agencies, and all concerned parties;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 2015 as

**FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord 2015.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

test:  
  
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State