

# STATE OF ARKANSAS

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

### PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Arkansas farmers and ranchers help provide food and fiber for the world, fuel our economy, and lead global markets in output and productivity. The efficiency of modern agriculture has provided this country with surpluses and opportunities beyond imagination; and

WHEREAS: Agricultural exports are Arkansas's largest export category with more than \$3.3 billion in exports including: soybeans and soybean products (\$1 billion), rice and processed foods (\$768 million), broilers (\$344 million) and forest and paper products (\$312 million); and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas is home to many businesses that have benefitted significantly from trade with Canada and Mexico, our state's #1 and #2 trading partners, seeing a 400% increase to overall exports to both Canada and Mexico; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas exports \$1.4 billion in goods to Canada annually, and trade with Canada supports nearly 67,000 Arkansas jobs; and

WHEREAS: Exports from Arkansas to Mexico are growing 3.6 times faster than exports to any other country, seeing an incredible 700 percent increase in our exports to Mexico since NAFTA began; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas is one of the few states in the nation that enjoys a net trade surplus with both countries. Furthermore, our state benefits from significant foreign direct investment from Mexico and Canada, employing nearly 50,000 Arkansans and strengthening our timber, paper, and processed food industries; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's thriving agriculture sector provides jobs across our state, not just for farmers and ranchers, but for scientists, processors, shippers, trucking and retailers;

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 December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as

#### AGRICULTURE TRADE AWARENESS DAY

across the State, and I encourage all Arkansans to observe this day by recognizing the role that agriculture and cross-border commerce play in our lives, as well as their value as our country considers international trade agreements.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the year of our Lord 2017.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Asa Hutchinson", written over a horizontal line.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State