

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Agriculture is Arkansas's largest industry and contributes over \$21 billion to our state's economy each year; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas harvested 25,000 acres and 120 million pounds of peanuts in 11 Arkansas counties in 2018; and

WHEREAS: The value of Arkansas's peanut crop is more than \$25 million, making it the fifth largest cash crop in the state and a significant contributor to our ag industry; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas was deemed a primary peanut-producing state by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2014 and granted a seat on the National Peanut Board; and

WHEREAS: Greg Gill, a peanut farmer from Walnut Ridge, was the first Arkansan to serve as the chairman of the National Peanut Board in 2018; and

WHEREAS: Peanuts are good for the environment in Arkansas and are a naturally sustainable rotation crop because they replenish essential nitrogen in the soil; and

WHEREAS: Peanuts provide a good source of protein, fiber, and good fats and serve as a nutritious and affordable plant-based food for all Arkansans; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas is home to two peanut buying points in Portia and Pocahontas, providing jobs to 125 residents; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas is home to a Skippy peanut butter facility, located in Little Rock; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's peanut industry and its leaders are dedicated to future growth as demonstrated by the recent announcement of two new farmer-owned facilities in the state: a \$50 million buying and shelling plant in Jonesboro and an \$8 million buying point in Marianna;

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 March 2019, as

ARKANSAS PEANUT MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 7th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2019.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary Of State