

**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 33,000 acres and 172 million pounds of peanuts in 11 Arkansas counties in 2019; and

WHEREAS: The value of Arkansas’s peanut crop is more than \$32 million, making it the sixth largest cash crop in the state, and a significant contributor to our ag industry; and

WHEREAS: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2014 formally recognized Arkansas as a primary peanut-producing state, granting Arkansas peanut producers 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 add diversity to Arkansas’s No.1 industry and provide opportunity for sustainable crop rotations; and

WHEREAS: Peanuts and peanut butter are naturally cholesterol-free and a protein powerhouse, containing more protein than any other nut; and

WHEREAS: Peanuts are an excellent source of niacin, magnesium, and contain vitamin E, biotin, and copper, along with a host of other nutrients; and

WHEREAS: Peanuts contain approximately 80% unsaturated fat, which is considered the “good” fat. This beneficial plant fat can help lower cholesterol and reduce inflammation; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas has peanut buying points at Portia, Pocahontas, Marianna, and Jonesboro, with a \$70 million shelling facility under construction in Jonesboro; and

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

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 2020, 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year of our Lord 2020.



*Asa Hutchinson*

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

est:  
*John Thurston*  
John Thurston, Secretary Of State