

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS: Agriculture is Arkansas's largest industry, contributing more than \$21 billion annually to our state's economy and providing the state with 269,556 jobs or one of every six jobs. Our diverse agricultural production includes livestock, poultry, aquaculture, row crop, specialty crop, and forestry; and
- WHEREAS: Arkansas's 42,500 farms and ranches operate on 13.0 million acres, with agricultural operations occurring in all 75 counties within the state; and
- WHEREAS: Arkansas is home to 12 billion trees on nearly 19 million acres of forestland, which is more than 56% of the state's entire land mass; and
- WHEREAS: Arkansas is nationally ranked No. 6 in forestry products, producing over 44 million tons of forestry and timber products valued at over \$6.4 billion; and
- WHEREAS: Arkansas consistently ranks in the top 25 nationally in the production of 17 different agricultural commodities and ranks 14th in the nation with \$9 billion in total cash receipts for all agricultural commodities; and
- WHEREAS: Arkansas ranks in the top ten nationally in the production of rice, broilers, catfish, cotton lint, cottonseed, turkey, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and chicken eggs; and
- WHEREAS: Our agricultural producers are creative, resilient, efficient, and hardworking individuals that represent some of the best and brightest in the world who work tirelessly to feed, clothe, and shelter those here at home and across the globe; and
- WHEREAS: Rice has been designated as the 2020 Arkansas Food of the Year by the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism; and
- WHEREAS: Our agricultural producers are creative, resilient, efficient, and hardworking individuals that represent some of the best and brightest in the world who work tirelessly to feed, clothe, and shelter those here at home and across the globe; and
- WHEREAS: Arkansas farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners play a vital leadership role in our communities and in the preservation and sustainability of our natural resources; and
- WHEREAS: Arkansas's strong agricultural heritage has given us the ability to overcome challenges and work together for the benefit of the industry at the state, national, and international level. Our agricultural producers are the backbone of our state's economy and are the foundation for our future;

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 22nd through March 28th, 2020, as

ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE WEEK

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 27th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston
John Thurston, Secretary Of State