

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 to the state's economy annually and providing more than 269,000 jobs, one of every six jobs, each year. 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 million acres, with agricultural operations occurring in all 75 counties within the state; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas has 222,286 military veterans living in our State, approximately nine and a half percent of Arkansas's adult population; and

WHEREAS: In the 2017 Census of Agriculture, 7,835 Arkansas farmers, consisting of 7,419 men and 416 women, identified as producers with military service; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas farmer veterans managed 1,771,216 acres of Arkansas farmland and produced crops with a market value of \$972,451,000 in 2017; and

WHEREAS: Across the nation, more than 370,600 military veterans also served as agricultural producers in 2017, producing nearly \$42 billion dollars in agricultural products; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas agriculture industry partners have developed programs to help Arkansas farmer veterans pursue careers in agriculture, participate in agriculture-related trainings and mentorship opportunities, brand and market their crops as veteran produced, and access other agricultural programs and opportunities; and

WHEREAS: 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 November 8th through November 14th, 2020, as

ARKANSAS FARMER VETERAN WEEK

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 30th day of October, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor