

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 has more than 15,736 acres of pecan trees, 4,145 acres more than in 2012; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's commercial pecan groves produced an average of 8.4 million pounds of nuts annually, more than any other nut variety grown in the state; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's commercial pecan production over the past five years has contributed an average of \$11 million to the state's economy annually; and

WHEREAS: Pecans are the official state nut; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas pecans are exported internationally and have been marketed in China, Europe, and Asia; and

WHEREAS: Pecans trees are good for the environment in Arkansas, naturally recycling carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS: Pecans 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: In addition to its nutmeats, the pecan tree's wood is prized for use in flooring, cabinetry, and smoking meats; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas is home to several large pecan operations and a multitude of smaller operations that grow and process pecans; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas pecan growers banded together in 1997 to form the Arkansas Pecan Growers Association to promote the pecan industry; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's pecan industry and its leaders are dedicated to future growth as demonstrated by additional acreage being planted in the last few years;

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 April 2021, as

ARKANSAS PECAN MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 23rd day of March, in the year of our Lord 2021.



John Thurston
John Thurston, Secretary of State

Asa Hutchinson
Asa Hutchinson, Governor