

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Rice is a primary staple for more than half the world's population and has been one of the most important foods throughout history; and

WHEREAS: Rice is one of America's oldest agribusinesses, dating back to 1685, and today, U.S.-grown rice makes an important contribution to our nation's diet and economy; and

WHEREAS: The United States produces approximately 20 billion pounds of rice annually, and the State of Arkansas is a key supplier of U.S. grown rice, producing nearly 10 billion pounds annually; and

WHEREAS: Rice production, processing, merchandizing and related industries are vital to economic activity in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: The United States is the fifth largest exporter of rice, supplying rice for world trade and feeding millions around the world; and

WHEREAS: Rice is a food enjoyed throughout life in many forms, as the foundation of main dishes and side dishes, and as cereals, flour, bran, cooking oil, rice cakes and other healthful snacks; and

WHEREAS: Rice is an important source of nutritional value, as it provides an excellent source of complex carbohydrates and is cholesterol-free, sodium-free, and trans-fat-free; and

WHEREAS: Rice farmers of this nation represent a key element in the provision and enhancement of habitat for wetlands-dependent wildlife species, such as ducks, geese, swans, cranes, and other animals; and

WHEREAS: The harvest of rice in this nation and in the state of Arkansas is celebrated each September;

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 September 2020, as

**ARKANSAS RICE MONTH**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor