



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, farm production is the foundation of Tennessee agriculture, and that production occurs on more than 66,000 farms and 10.8 million acres of farmland in the state; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's forests produce millions of board feet of hardwood and softwood timber from nearly 14 million acres primarily owned by more than 530,000 private woodland owners; and

WHEREAS, agriculture and forestry are essential to our state's health, recreation and economy, contributing nearly \$82 billion in economic activity annually and more than 173,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, the American farmer, a national symbol of strength and strong moral fiber, has displayed ingenuity in times of prosperity and perseverance in the face of hardships while continuously supplying our state, nation and the world with an abundance of high quality agricultural goods and products; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's farm and forest families are stewards of the land and our natural resources, contributing to the health, beauty, productivity and quality of our state's water, soil and forests for the benefit of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, our state's secondary and higher education agricultural institutions are preparing highly trained and skilled young men and women for competitive careers in agricultural production, innovation, processing, sales and other services; and

WHEREAS, our agricultural research institutions and extension programs contribute significantly to the betterment of all Tennesseans through the advancement of the science and art of agriculture and forestry; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's mission is to serve the citizens of Tennessee by promoting wise use of our agricultural and forest resources, developing rural economic opportunities, and ensuring safe and dependable food and fiber; and

WHEREAS, Ag Day on the Hill will be observed by the Tennessee General Assembly and House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on March 20 to celebrate the important contributions of agriculture and forestry to our state; and

WHEREAS, March 2018 marks the 45th observance of National Agriculture Day and Week, an effort to raise awareness of the positive contribution agriculture makes in providing the necessary food, fuel and fiber of everyday life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 20, 2018 as

Agriculture Day

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this first day of March, 2018.

Bill Haslam

Governor

LeRoy Gatt

Secretary of State

