



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, forage is defined as the grasses and legumes grown and managed for consumption by livestock; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee produces 4 million acres of quality forage annually for myriad purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, this forage provides the diet for 2.1 million cattle, sheep, goats, and horses, and supports \$1 billion in agricultural income for the state; and

**WHEREAS**, all Tennesseans enjoy the beautiful landscape and recreational foundation forage provides and want to appreciate it as such; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is a proud affiliate state of the American Forage and Grassland Council, which is celebrating the fourth year of National Forage Week; and

**WHEREAS**, National Forage Week serves to pay homage to the forages that not only provide quality food for livestock but also provide food, cover, and shelter for wildlife, provide diverse habitat for pollinator species, reduce soil erosion, improve soil health, and filter sediments to reduce water pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, National Forage Week connects consumers with the indispensable role forages contribute to everyday life, including meat products, dairy products, and ornamental grasses; and

**WHEREAS**, National Forage Week preserves the agrarian heritage and the rural lifestyle of both our country and Tennessee;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of June 17-23, 2018, as

*Forage Week*

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 seventh day of June, 2018.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Lee Hyatt*

Secretary of State