



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

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, agriculture and forestry are the number one industry in Tennessee, contributing more than \$81 billion in economic activity annually and more than 342,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's nearly 70,000 farms provide consumers with food and fiber on 10.8 million acres of farmland, and is the foundation of Tennessee agriculture and rural communities providing everything we eat and use each day; 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, there's an increased interest in locally produced food that supports family farmers, and the availability of those products are promoted by the state's Pick Tennessee Products branding; and

WHEREAS, members of Tennessee's food and agriculture sector - from farms, processing facilities, and grocery stores to those who inspect these facilities to ensure a safe and abundant food supply - have served as essential workers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, keeping us fed and healthy; and,

WHEREAS, our state's secondary, technical, and higher education institutions are preparing highly trained and skilled young men and women for competitive careers in agricultural production, innovation, technology, 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 responsible use of our agricultural and forest resources, developing rural economic opportunities, and ensuring safe and dependable food and fiber; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly will observe Ag Day on the Hill on March 22 to celebrate the important contributions of agriculture and forestry to our state; and raise awareness of the positive contribution agriculture makes in providing the necessary food, fuel and fiber of everyday life,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 22, 2022, 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 tenth day of February, 2022.

Governor

Secretary of State

