



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 is 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 are the foundation of our state's agriculture and rural communities, and Tennessee farm families are committed to feeding, clothing, and housing their fellow Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's forests produce millions of board feet of hardwood and softwood timber from nearly 14 million acres across our state; and

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2019, Executive Order 1 was signed to ensure each department under the executive branch in the State of Tennessee better serves rural communities across our state; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has devoted resources to Tennessee FFA and 4H youth programs and continues to prioritize opportunities to serve young Tennesseans through agricultural education; and

WHEREAS, since 2019, the State of Tennessee has prioritized career and technical education through the Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE) Initiative, expanding access to work-based learning, apprenticeship programs, and funding for dual enrollment credits for trade and technical programs, including programs focused on agriculture; 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 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 forestry resources, developing rural economic opportunities, and ensuring safe and dependable food and fiber; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 21, 2023, 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 nineteenth day of March 2023.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Hargett

Secretary of State