



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the state of Tennessee recognizes the invaluable contributions of its farm and forest families to the preservation and enhancement of our natural resources, including water, soil, and forests, for the benefit of all its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture and forestry stand as the cornerstone of Tennessee's economy, generating over \$89 billion in economic activity annually and providing employment opportunities for more than 342,000 individuals across various sectors such as farming, research, processing, and retail; and

**WHEREAS**, the state's farmland and forests, spanning over 10.7 million acres and nearly 14 million acres respectively, play a crucial role in supplying food, fiber, and timber to consumers, while also preserving the rich rural heritage and cultural essence of Tennessee's communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's commitment to innovation and education in the agricultural sector, along with the promotion of locally produced goods through initiatives like Pick Tennessee Products, reinforces the state's dedication to sustainable practices and supporting family farmers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, in alignment with its mission to foster the responsible use of agricultural resources, spur rural economic growth, and ensure the safety and reliability of food and fiber production, continues to uphold the highest standards of excellence; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 19, 2024, 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 sixth day of March, 2024.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Lee Hargett*

Secretary of State