



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 forage annually for a myriad of purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, this forage provides the diet for 2 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 foundations forage provides and want to appreciate it as such; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, forages also provide diverse habitat for pollinator species, reduce soil erosion, improve soil health, and filter sediments to reduce water pollution; and

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

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

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the Great State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 17-24, 2024 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 fifteenth day of June, 2024.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*John R. Hargett*

Secretary of State