



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the foundation of Tennessee agriculture, farm production, occurs on 67,300 farms and nine million acres of farmland in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is the core of our state's health, recreation and economy, generating nearly \$4.3 billion in farm income and nearly \$1 billion in agricultural exports annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the American farmer, a national symbol of strength and strong moral fiber, has displayed ingenuity in times of prosperity and perseverance in the face of hardships while supplying our state, nation and the world, year in and year out, with an abundance of high quality agricultural goods and products; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's farm families are stewards of the land contributing to the health, beauty, productivity and quality of our state's water, soil and forest resources for the benefit of all Tennesseans; and

**WHEREAS**, our state's secondary and higher education agricultural institutions are preparing highly trained and skilled young men and women for competitive careers in agricultural production, 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

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's mission is to serve the citizens of Tennessee by promoting wise use of our agricultural and forest resources, developing rural economic opportunities, and ensuring safe and dependable food and fiber; and

**WHEREAS**, Ag Day on the Hill will be observed by the Tennessee General Assembly and House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on March 22 to celebrate the important contributions of agriculture and forestry to our state; and

**WHEREAS**, March 2016 marks the 43<sup>rd</sup> observance of National Agriculture Day and Week, an effort to raise awareness of the positive contribution agriculture makes in providing the necessary food, fuel and fiber of everyday life;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 22, 2016, 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 twenty-third day of February, 2016.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Kingett*

Secretary of State