

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME - GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Agriculture is Arkansas' largest industry, contributing more than \$20.9 billion to the state's economy annually;

WHEREAS: Arkansas harvested 34,000 acres and produced 197 million pounds of peanuts in 12 Arkansas counties in 2023;

WHEREAS: Arkansas' 2023 yield led the nation with a 5,800-pound yield per acre, followed by Virginia with 4,830 pounds and North Carolina with 4,300 pounds;

WHEREAS: The value of Arkansas' peanut crop is more than \$42 million, making it the sixth largest cash crop in the state and a significant contributor to our agriculture industry;

WHEREAS: In 2014, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) formally recognized Arkansas as a primary peanut-producing state, granting Arkansas peanut producers a seat on the National Peanut Board;

WHEREAS: Greg Gill of Walnut Ridge was the first Arkansan to serve as chairman of the National Peanut Board in 2018, and Greg Baltz of Pocahontas currently serves as chairman of the National Peanut Board;

WHEREAS: Arkansas has a peanut shelling facility in Jonesboro and buying points at Portia, Pocahontas, Marianna, and Jonesboro;

WHEREAS: Arkansas is home to a Skippy peanut butter facility in Little Rock and a Planters products facility in Fort Smith;

WHEREAS: Peanuts are naturally cholesterol-free, a protein powerhouse, an excellent source of niacin, magnesium, and contain vitamin E, biotin, and copper; and

WHEREAS: Peanuts add diversity to Arkansas' largest industry and provide opportunity for sustainable crop rotations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim March 2024 as

"ARKANSAS PEANUT MONTH"

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 20th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2024.



Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Governor



Attest:



John Thurston, Secretary of State