

STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME - GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Rice is one of the United States' oldest crops, and today, rice grown in Arkansas makes an important contribution to our nation's diet and economy;

WHEREAS: Arkansas ranks first nationally in rice production with a value of over \$1.4 billion annually;

WHEREAS: Arkansas produces approximately 10.7 billion pounds of rice each year, which accounts for nearly half of the country's rice production;

WHEREAS: The U.S. is the fifth largest exporter of rice, supplying rice for world trade and feeding millions around the world;

WHEREAS: Rice is grown in 40 of Arkansas' 75 counties with production concentrated in the eastern half of the state;

WHEREAS: Rice production, processing, merchandising, and related industries are vital to economic activity in Arkansas contributing to almost 25,000 jobs;

WHEREAS: Arkansas' rice farmers represent a key element in the provision and enhancement of habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife species, such as ducks, geese, swans, cranes, and other animals; and

WHEREAS: The harvest of rice in this nation and in the State of Arkansas is celebrated each September.

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 September 2024 as

"RICE MONTH IN ARKANSAS"

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 22nd day of August, in the year of our Lord 2024.



Attest:

Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State