STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the foundation of Tennessee agriculture, farm production, occurs on 76,000 farms and 10.8 million acres of farmland in the state; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is the core of our state's health, recreation and economy, generating more than $3.8 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 people of Tennessee by promoting wise usage of our agricultural and forest resources, developing rural economic opportunities, and ensuring safe and dependable food and fiber; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's agricultural organizations and local media will gather on March 20 in Nashville for the annual Ag Day Omelet Cook-off to highlight National Agriculture Day and Week; and

WHEREAS, "Ag Day on the Hill" will be observed by the Tennessee General Assembly and House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on March 25 to celebrate the important contributions of agriculture and forestry to our state; and

WHEREAS, 2014 marks the 41st anniversary of National Agriculture Day observances, 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 25, 2014, 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-fifth day of February, 2014.

Governor

Secretary of State