

John Bel Edwards

GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a foundation of America's economy and social

structure for more than 200 years, and today's farmers continue to play a major role in the economic development of our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana depend on a strong agricultural economy in our state;

and

WHEREAS, agriculture provides jobs throughout the farm and food industry, including

employment for farmers, farm workers, scientists, processors, shippers and

retailers; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's farmers and processors provide locally-produced, safe, healthy,

high quality products; and

WHEREAS, about 60 percent of Louisiana's agricultural income is generated by crops

while the other 40 percent is produced by livestock and livestock products;

and

WHEREAS, in terms of income generated, the state's top five agricultural products are cane

for sugar, rice, cattle and calves, soybeans, and cotton; and

WHEREAS, Louisianans have come to love the products that our state is internationally

known for producing, from Ponchatoula strawberries to Ruston peaches, and from the crawfish raised in Acadiana to the cotton grown in our Northeastern

parishes; and

WHEREAS, with increased consumer interest in purchasing local foods, demand for local

products has multiplied and higher demand can spur expansion in production,

adding to Louisiana's economy and food security; and

WHEREAS, the historic floods of 2016 in March and August damaged many farms across

Louisiana both large and small, causing a challenging year of salvaging and

rebuilding for many agricultural workers impacted by the flood waters; and

WHEREAS, as agriculture provides many products we eat, use and wear on a daily basis,

Agriculture Day provides us with an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the important contributions of agricultural workers across our great state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim

March 21, 2017 as

AGRICULTURE DAY

in the State of Louisiana.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this <u>21st</u> day of <u>March</u>

 $\mathscr{A}.\mathscr{D}.$ 2017

Governor of Louisiana