

EMU WEEK

WHEREAS: A growing sector of Georgia's agricultural economy comes from the efforts and contributions of emu growers, most of whom are small farmers involved in raising, processing and marketing emu products through humane and environmentally positive practices that produce beneficial products for our society; and

WHEREAS: Emus are members of the ratite family, which includes ostrich, rhea, cassowary and kiwi. Originally from Australia, these birds are very useful for their meat, oil, hide, feathers and eggs; and

WHEREAS: Medical studies have shown that emu oil offers burn victims hope in the battle to promote new skin growth and can lessen the extent of prolonged and painful traditional treatments of skin scraping and skin grafting; and

WHEREAS: The emu is environmentally friendly to raise, and its unique low-fat meat is similar in taste and texture to lean beef. Recognized by the American heart Association as a healthy red meat, Emu meat is free from growth hormones and antibiotics; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 3-11, 2003, as EMU WEEK IN GEORGIA and call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this tenth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand three.