

# AGRICULTURE DAY

WHEREAS: Agriculture, Georgia's oldest and largest industry, remains a leading source of jobs and income for our citizens. Agricultural products from our state are a significant part of the food market worldwide; and

WHEREAS: Georgia has one of the nation's most vital and diversified farm economies, leading the nation in the production of poultry, pecans, peanuts, eggs and forestry products; consistently ranking as top producers of rye, peaches, sweet potatoes and cotton; and home to the world famous Vidalia onion; and

WHEREAS: Agriculture contributes over \$50 billion annually to Georgia's economy through the purchase of production inputs and through business taxes, interest payments, and wages and marketing and distribution expenses, representing over 15 percent of the gross state product and over 15 percent of the state's employment base; and

WHEREAS: Agriculture extends far beyond the production of crops and livestock, furnishing jobs for thousands of workers in processing, storage, manufacturing, transportation, marketing research, education and finance; and

WHEREAS: Georgia's citizens should be aware of the importance of agriculture in our state and join people across the nation in paying special tribute to those individuals involved in the production of agricultural commodities; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim the day of April 27, 2003, as AGRICULTURE DAY in Georgia and urge our citizens to recognize those individuals who supply us with food and fiber.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 27th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand three.