

GEORGIA PEANUT MONTH

WHEREAS: Peanuts and peanut products are recognized throughout our nation and the world as a highly appetizing and nutritious food, providing protein and other nutrients as part of a well-balanced diet; and

WHEREAS: Georgia leads the nation in peanut production, producing nearly 40 percent of the total supply in the United States; further, our state leads the country in peanut exports, supplying 30 percent of the United States' peanut exports and contributing over \$90 million toward our nation's balance of trade; and

WHEREAS: Peanut production is the largest single cash crop in Georgia, with gross farm receipts totaling hundreds of millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS: More than 250 Georgia companies engaged in warehousing, processing, manufacturing and marketing depend totally on the peanut industry, and hundreds of other Georgia companies that engage in financing, supplies, distributing, and transporting are dependent to some extent on the peanut industry; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia peanut industry has played a significant role in the economic growth and prosperity of our state, contributing an estimated \$1 billion to the state's economy and supporting the livelihood of more than 150,000 Georgians; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2003 as GEORGIA PEANUT MONTH throughout our state and encourage our citizens to try delicious Georgia peanuts raw, roasted, boiled and even dipped in chocolate.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 12th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand three.