

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

BLUEBERRY MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, blueberries are enjoyed by millions of consumers and have been an important source of nutrients in North Carolina since before the arrival of European settlers; and

WHEREAS, blueberries are a healthy source of anti-oxidant compounds that are proven to protect the body from stress and improve the immune system; and

WHEREAS, the blueberry industry generates an estimated \$77.9 million in farm income according to the 2015 Agricultural Statistics from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina ranks sixth in blueberry production in the nation, harvesting about 8,000 acres; and

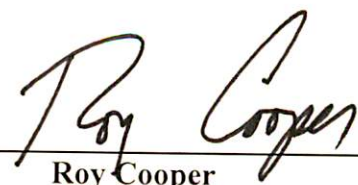
WHEREAS, the industry provides employment for many of our state's citizens, particularly in Eastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 100 blueberry operations in the state that produce 48.8 million pounds of blueberries annually; and

WHEREAS, blueberry production is yet another part of the total diversification of North Carolina's \$84 billion agriculture industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June, 2017, as "**BLUEBERRY MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this first day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.