

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 43

Reps. Alexander, VanWoerkom, Lightner, Kennedy, Frederick, Mueller, Elder, Marino, Green, Howell, Griffin, Wendzel, Slagh, Coleman, Kahle, Calley, Leutheuser, Clemente, Love, Hope, Jones, Sabo, Stone, Warren and Whitsett offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 13, 2019, as Agriculture Day in
2 the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Each year, states across the nation recognize March
4 as a time to celebrate the importance of food and agriculture as a
5 significant contributor to the national economy; and

6 Whereas, The Michigan food and agriculture industry
7 contributes more than \$104.7 billion annually to the state's
8 economy and is a major source of employment for the state's
9 workforce, supporting approximately 805,000 jobs, which is roughly
10 17.2 percent of the state's workforce; and



1 Whereas, Michigan's food and agriculture sector is the second
2 most diverse in the country with nearly 51,000 farms, 99 percent of
3 which are family-owned, farming nearly 10 million acres of farmland
4 and commercially producing more than 300 food and agricultural
5 commodities. The state is the largest producer of asparagus, tart
6 cherries, cucumbers, squash, Niagara grapes, and two varieties of
7 dry beans - black and cranberry; and ranks in the top ten for 29
8 additional commodities, including apples, sugar beets, potatoes,
9 blueberries and celery; and

10 Whereas, We are a major dairy state, ranking sixth nationally
11 in pounds of milk produced. Dairy is the leading segment of
12 Michigan's agriculture economy, with an economic impact of \$15.7
13 billion, contributing 27 percent of the total cash receipts and
14 generating nearly 40,000 jobs, directly and indirectly, both on and
15 off the farm; and

16 Whereas, The industry supports more than 300 farmers markets
17 in communities across the state, produces hops that have helped to
18 grow more than 300 breweries and has long supported the nearly 150
19 wineries that call the Great Lakes State home; and

20 Whereas, Michigan exports about one-third of its agricultural
21 commodities each year, generating nearly \$2.12 billion. Almost 52
22 percent of Michigan's agricultural exports go directly to Canada,
23 our number one export market, and rounding out the top countries
24 eager for Michigan-grown products are China, Mexico, Japan, and
25 Thailand; and

26 Whereas, Food processing is a large contributor to the state's
27 economy. Michigan is home to more than 3,283 licensed food
28 processing facilities and warehouses that employ more than 30,000
29 residents and generate more than \$30 billion in economic activity;

1 and

2 Whereas, Michigan is home to the nation's pioneer land-grant
3 university, Michigan State University, where the Colleges of
4 Agriculture and Natural Resources and Veterinary Medicine, in
5 partnership with the industry and the Michigan Department of
6 Agriculture & Rural Development, provide research, education, and
7 support for the growth of production agriculture and
8 agribusinesses; and

9 Whereas, Michigan's food and agricultural sector continues to
10 be a growing industry offering new business and career
11 opportunities for Michiganders, making food and agriculture a
12 cornerstone of Michigan's continued prosperity; and

13 Whereas, During the month of March we celebrate National
14 Agricultural Week and Michigan Food and Agriculture Month;
15 Agriculture Day at the Capitol is March 13; Michigan State
16 University hosts the State FFA Convention as well as Agriculture
17 and Natural Resources Week, now, therefore, be it

18 Resolved by the House of the Representatives, That the members
19 of this legislative body declare March 13, 2019, as Agriculture Day
20 in the state of Michigan. We encourage all citizens to recognize
21 and celebrate this momentous occasion.