

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 10

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Relative to National Agriculture Week and National Agriculture Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State April 5, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 26, Committee on Agriculture. National Agriculture Week and National Agriculture Day.

This measure would proclaim the week of March 20 to March 26, 2005, as National Agriculture Week and Sunday, March 20, 2005, as National Agriculture Day.

WHEREAS, March 20, 2005, is National Agriculture Day, a day set aside to honor the men and women of agriculture, and to promote an understanding of America's agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, March 15, 2005, is California Agriculture Day, a day of celebration to commemorate agriculture's vital role in keeping California bountiful and strong; and

WHEREAS, California's agricultural production fuels the state's economy and helps feed the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, California agriculture provides a vital infrastructure that aids in the exclusion and early detection of plant and animal pests and diseases that impact our human health, commerce, and environment; and

WHEREAS, For approximately 56 consecutive years, California has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing more than 350 crop and livestock products and accounting for 40 percent of the nation's supply of fruits, vegetables, and nuts; and

WHEREAS, The tireless efforts of approximately 800,000 farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, With less than 1 percent of California's 33 million people engaged in farming and ranching, each agricultural worker today provides for more than 100 other people, compared to just 13 in 1947; and

WHEREAS, Today's agricultural industry offers over 200 challenging and rewarding career opportunities, from on-farm cultivation, to food science and engineering; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 5 decades, advances in production agriculture have resulted in a drop of consumer spending on food products from 24 percent of disposable income in 1949 to approximately 9 percent today; and

WHEREAS, California is the nation's leader in agricultural exports, annually shipping more than 6.5 billion dollars worth of food and

agricultural commodities to regions ranging from Europe to Asia, and from Africa to Latin America; and

WHEREAS, California's agricultural industry constantly seeks to incorporate the latest scientific and technological production and marketing techniques to meet the demands of changing consumer needs and complex world markets; and

WHEREAS, Government-industry partnerships are continually being developed to improve quality and ensure safe handling practices on the farm, in transit, and during processing; and

WHEREAS, "California Grown" is a true public-private partnership campaign that was created to work with hundreds of stores throughout the state to promote California products. The campaign was also created to emphasize our strong ties to the land and to our neighbors; to restore pride in our homegrown products and our work; and to help our economy and our California way of life; and

WHEREAS, A broad approach to agricultural education is vital to ensure that California agriculture continues to flourish; and

WHEREAS, The California 5 A Day For Better Health Campaign, launched in 1988, was the precursor for the National 5 A Day Program, which spreads the message that healthy eating through the consumption of fruits and vegetables can reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer by as much as 30 percent; and

WHEREAS, As our national and global population grows, it is important to recognize the vital role that agriculture plays in our daily lives; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate for all Californians to recognize our farmers, farmworkers, and others involved in providing such a bounty to our nation and the entire world; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That it takes great pleasure in honoring the men and women of California agriculture for their dedication and productivity by observing the week of March 20 to March 26, 2005, as National Agriculture Week and Sunday, March 20, 2005, as National Agriculture Day; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.