

House Resolution

No. 4

**Introduced by Assembly Members Galgiani and Valadao
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Bill Berryhill, Hill, Ma,
Mendoza, Olsen, Perea, and Yamada)**

January 27, 2011

House Resolution No. 4—Relative to California Agriculture Day.

1 WHEREAS, March 22, 2011, is designated as California
2 Agriculture Day, a day of celebration to commemorate agriculture’s
3 vital role in keeping Californians nourished and the state’s
4 economy ranked as the eighth largest in the world; and

5 WHEREAS, California’s agricultural community provides a
6 vital infrastructure that aids in the exclusion and early detection
7 of plant and animal pests and diseases that impact public health,
8 the environment, and commerce; and

9 WHEREAS, For approximately 62 consecutive years, California
10 has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing
11 more than 350 crop and livestock products and accounting for
12 approximately 50 percent of the nation’s supply of fruits,
13 vegetables, and nuts; and

14 WHEREAS, The inexhaustible efforts of approximately 850,000
15 farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the industry;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, With less than 1 percent of California’s population
18 engaged in farming and agriculture, each agricultural worker today
19 provides for more than 100 other people, compared to just 13 in
20 1947; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, California is the nation’s leader in agricultural
9 exports, shipping more than 12 billion dollars worth of food and
10 agricultural commodities to continents ranging from Europe to
11 Asia, and from Africa to South America; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, “California Grown” is a public-private partnership
20 campaign that emphasizes our strong ties to the land and our
21 neighbors, and our desire to restore pride in our homegrown
22 products and our quality of work; and

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

25 WHEREAS, The California “5 A Day—For Better Health”
26 campaign, launched in 1988, was the precursor for the national “5
27 A Day” program, which spreads the message that healthy eating
28 through the consumption of fruits and vegetables can reduce the
29 risk of heart disease and cancer by as much as 30 percent; and

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

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That it takes
34 great pleasure in honoring the men and women of California
35 agriculture for their dedication and productivity by observing the
36 week of March 16 to March 22, 2011, inclusive, as National
37 Agriculture Week, and Tuesday, March 22, 2011, as California
38 Agriculture Day; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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