

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 120

Introduced by Assembly Member Nielsen
(Coauthor: Senator La Malfa)

March 1, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 120—Relative to California
Cattlemen’s Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 120, as introduced, Nielsen. California Cattlemen’s Day.

This measure would declare March 21, 2012, as California Cattlemen’s Day and would urge all residents of this state to acknowledge and pay respect to the men and women, all over the State of California, who work on the land to enhance and protect it, and who dedicate their lives to producing healthy food for millions throughout the world.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California has a long tradition of ranching dating
2 back to the establishment of the first Spanish mission in San Diego
3 in the early 1700s. By 1834, California’s mission operated a herd
4 of beef cattle estimated at 400,000 head. Under Mexican rule, large
5 “ranchos” were established, and cattle hides and tallow fueled the
6 state’s economy. The Gold Rush brought hundreds of thousands
7 of new citizens to the state, as well as a new demand for beef, and
8 many of today’s ranches were established prior to or shortly
9 following the discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill; and
10 WHEREAS, Today, California’s cattlemen and cattlegwomen
11 represent an industry as diverse as any in the world and the

1 traditions of land stewardship have been passed down through
2 generations. California's cattlemen and cattlemen own or
3 manage approximately 38 million of California's 100 million acres
4 of privately and publicly owned rangelands. California's working
5 rangelands provide public benefits such as open space, ground
6 water recharge, carbon sequestration, fuel load reductions and
7 habitat for wildlife. With more than 90 percent of California rainfall
8 flowing through rangeland on its way to other uses, the health and
9 maintenance of these rangelands is imperative; and

10 WHEREAS, California is home to nearly 12,000 family farms
11 and ranches raising livestock, many of which have been passed
12 down for multiple generations; and

13 WHEREAS, California remains the nation's largest agricultural
14 producing state and agriculture is California's top grossing
15 industry. Beef and cattle production plays no small part in
16 contributing to California's robust agricultural industry and
17 contributes \$1.75 billion to the California economy; and

18 WHEREAS, The long-term success of all segments of the beef
19 industry, from pasture to plate, require the careful stewardship of
20 our state's natural resources and the ongoing commitment to
21 ensuring top quality health and welfare for the animals in their
22 care. So well-managed is this land, that numerous studies have
23 found grazing to benefit habitat for multiple endangered and
24 threatened species; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
26 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature declares March 21, 2012,
27 as California Cattlemen's Day, and all residents of this state are
28 urged to acknowledge and pay respect to the men and women, all
29 over the State of California, who work on the land to enhance and
30 protect it, and who dedicate their lives to producing healthy food
31 for millions throughout the world; and be it further

32 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
33 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.