

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 29

Introduced by Assembly Members Eggman and Olsen
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Atkins, Dahle, Pan, Quirk, and Yamada)
(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Cannella, Galgiani, Lieu, and Wolk)

March 4, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 29—Relative to California Agriculture Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 29, as introduced, Eggman. California Agriculture Day.

This measure would recognize the week of March 17, 2013, to March 23, 2013, inclusive, as National Agriculture Week, and would designate March 20, 2013, as California Agriculture Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, March 20, 2013, is designated as California
2 Agriculture Day, a day of celebration to commemorate agriculture's
3 importance in our daily lives, its vital role in keeping Californians
4 nourished, and its role in keeping the state's economy ranked as
5 the ninth largest in the world; and
6 WHEREAS, The 2013 theme of California Agriculture Day is
7 "The California Advantage" to discover all of the advantages that
8 make California's agriculture the most productive in the nation;
9 and
10 WHEREAS, For more than 60 consecutive years, California
11 has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing
12 more than 400 crop and livestock products and accounting for

1 approximately 50 percent of the nation’s supply of fruits,
2 vegetables, and nuts; and

3 WHEREAS, The inexhaustible efforts of millions of
4 farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the
5 agricultural industry; and

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

10 WHEREAS, With less than 1 percent of California’s population
11 engaging in farming and agriculture, each agricultural worker
12 today provides for more than 100 other people, compared to just
13 13 in 1947; and

14 WHEREAS, Today’s agricultural industry offers over 300
15 challenging and rewarding career opportunities, from on-farm
16 cultivation to food science and engineering; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the past seven decades, advances in
18 agricultural production have resulted in a drop in consumer
19 spending on food products from 23 percent of disposable income
20 in 1947 to approximately 10 percent today; and

21 WHEREAS, California is the nation’s leader in agricultural
22 exports, shipping more than \$16 billion worth of food and
23 agricultural commodities around the world in 2011; and

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

28 WHEREAS, Public-private partnerships are continually being
29 developed to improve quality and ensure safe handling practices
30 on the farm, in transit, and during processing; and

31 WHEREAS, California consumers say that it is important to
32 them to purchase foods grown in California and that “California
33 Grown” is more important to them today than in previous years,
34 and in the last decade, California consumers have increased support
35 of farmers’ markets, community supported agricultural programs,
36 and farm-to-school programs; and

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

39 WHEREAS, California will lose an estimated 500,000 acres of
40 agricultural land by 2050, of which 300,000 acres is highly

1 productive irrigated cropland, and thus California should continue
2 to work to conserve and preserve California’s agricultural heritage;
3 and

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

7 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
8 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes and honors
9 the men and women of California agriculture for their dedication
10 and productivity by observing the week of March 17, 2013, to
11 March 23, 2013, inclusive, as National Agriculture Week, and
12 designating Wednesday, March 20, 2013, as California Agriculture
13 Day; and be it further

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

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