

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 29

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 34

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

[Filed with Secretary of State May 20, 2013.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 29, 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.

WHEREAS, March 20, 2013, is designated as California Agriculture Day, a day of celebration to commemorate agriculture's importance in our daily lives, its vital role in keeping Californians nourished, and its role in keeping the state's economy ranked as the ninth largest in the world; and

WHEREAS, The 2013 theme of California Agriculture Day is "The California Advantage" to discover all of the advantages that make California's agriculture the most productive in the nation; and

WHEREAS, For more than 60 consecutive years, California has been the number one agricultural producing state in the nation, encompassing more than 400 crop and livestock products and accounting for approximately 50 percent of the nation's supply of fruits, vegetables, and nuts; and

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

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

WHEREAS, With less than 1 percent of California's population engaging in farming and agriculture, 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 300 challenging and rewarding career opportunities, from on-farm cultivation to food science and engineering; and

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

WHEREAS, California is the nation's leader in agricultural exports, shipping more than \$16 billion worth of food and agricultural commodities around the world in 2011; 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, Public-private partnerships are continually being developed to improve quality and ensure safe handling practices on the farm, in transit, and during processing; and

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

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

WHEREAS, California will lose an estimated 500,000 acres of agricultural land by 2050, of which 300,000 acres is highly productive irrigated cropland, and thus California should continue to work to conserve and preserve California’s agricultural heritage; 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 Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes and honors the men and women of California agriculture for their dedication and productivity by observing the week of March 17, 2013, to March 23, 2013, inclusive, as National Agriculture Week, and designating Wednesday, March 20, 2013, as California Agriculture Day; and be it further

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