

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 147

Introduced by Assembly Members Dodd and Gallagher

(Principal coauthors: Senators Cannella and Galgiani)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Eggman, Gray, Grove, Irwin,
Jones-Sawyer, Mathis, Quirk, and Salas)**

(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Anderson, Bates, Beall, Berryhill, Block, Fuller, Gaines, Glazer, Hall, Hertzberg, Hill, Huff, Jackson, Lara, Leno, Leyva, Liu, McGuire, Mendoza, Mitchell, Monning, Moorlach, Morrell, Nguyen, Nielsen, Pan, Pavley, Roth, Runner, Stone, Vidak, Wieckowski, and Wolk)

February 29, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 147—Relative to California Agriculture Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 147, as introduced, Dodd. California Agriculture Day.

This measure would recognize and honor the men and women of California agriculture for their dedication and productivity by observing March 15, 2016, as National Agriculture Day, and designating March 16, 2016, as California Agriculture Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, March 16, 2016, 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 eighth largest in the world; and

1 WHEREAS, The 2016 theme of California Agriculture Day is
2 “Golden State on Your Plate” in recognition of the diversity and
3 significance of California agriculture; and

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

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, Over the past seven decades, advances in
24 production of agriculture have resulted in a drop in consumer
25 spending on food products from 22 percent of average household
26 disposable income in 1949 to 11 percent today; and

27 WHEREAS, California is the nation’s leader in agricultural
28 exports, shipping more than \$21 billion of food and agricultural
29 commodities around the world in 2014; and

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

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

37 WHEREAS, California consumers say that it is important to
38 them to purchase foods grown in California and California
39 consumers say that “California grown” is more important to them
40 today than it was in years past. In the last decade, California

1 consumers have increased support of certified farmers' markets,
2 community supported agricultural programs, and farm-to-school
3 programs; and

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

6 WHEREAS, California is estimated to lose 500,000 acres of
7 agricultural land by 2050, more than 300,000 acres of which will
8 have been highly productive irrigated cropland Thus, California
9 should continue to work for conservation to preserve California's
10 agricultural heritage; and

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

15 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
16 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes and honors
17 the men and women of California agriculture for their dedication
18 and productivity by observing March 15, 2016, as National
19 Agriculture Day, and designating Wednesday, March 16, 2016,
20 as California Agriculture Day; and be it further

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