

## Senate Resolution No. 24

Introduced by Senator Costa

Relative to National Agriculture Week.

WHEREAS, March 20, 2000, is National Agriculture Day, a day set aside to honor the men and women of agriculture, and to help promote an understanding of America's agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, California's agricultural production helps feed the nation and the rest of the world and fuels the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, For over 50 consecutive years, California has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, is currently the number one dairy state in the nation, and is the producer of 50 percent of the nation's supply of fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, With less than 1 percent of California's 30 million people engaged in farming and ranching, each agricultural worker today provides for more than 100 other people, compared to just 13 in 1947; and

WHEREAS, In just 5 decades, advances in production agriculture have resulted in a drop of spending on food consumption from 24 percent of disposable income in 1949 to only 10 percent today; and

WHEREAS, California's agriculture is considered one of the most diversified in the world, with no one crop dominating the state's farm economy; and

WHEREAS, California produces 350 different crops and commodities; and

WHEREAS, The gross sales of California's agricultural products exceeded \$25,900,000,000 in 1998; and

WHEREAS, For the second contiguous year, 10 California counties individually reached an annual production value in 1998 of at least \$1,000,000,000; and

WHEREAS, Over 12 percent of the national gross cash receipts for farming is produced in California on 89,000 farms; and

WHEREAS, California's top 20 crop and livestock commodities account for 77 percent of the state's gross farm income, of which a large number are specialty crops in which California accounts for most of United States production; and

WHEREAS, California is the nation's leader in agricultural exports, annually shipping nearly \$7,000,000,000 in both food and agricultural commodities around the world and it is estimated that nearly 20 percent of all of California's agricultural production is shipped to foreign markets; and



WHEREAS, Japan and Canada continue to be the state’s major agricultural export destinations; and

WHEREAS, Programs are continually being developed to support improved quality assurance and production or on-farm food safety management practices; and

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

WHEREAS, The Agricultural Literacy and Fairs Alliance is a program that provides teachers with curriculum and materials for agricultural projects to complement curriculum in the core subjects, and in exchange, the teachers help ensure that students’ projects are showcased at their local fair; and

WHEREAS, California’s 79 annual county and district fairs provide the public a first-hand look at agriculture and its importance within their community and to their way of life; and

WHEREAS, The California 5 A Day For Better Health! Campaign, first begun in 1988, was the progenitor for the National 5 A Day Program, which spread the message that healthy eating through the consumption of fruits, vegetables and other food products can reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer by as much as 30 percent; and

WHEREAS, During 1998, approximately 580,000 agricultural jobs were performed by farmworkers, who, through their tireless efforts, have contributed greatly to the success of the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, As the population grows in this country and foreign countries, it is important to recognize the vital role that agriculture plays in our daily lives; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate for all Californians to say “Thank You” to our farmers and farmworkers for providing such a bounty to our nation and the entire world; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California,* That it takes great pleasure in honoring the men and women of California agriculture for their dedication and productivity by observing the week of March 19 to March 25, 2000, as National Agriculture Week and Monday, March 20, 2000, as National Agriculture Day.

Senate Resolution No. 24 read and adopted by the Senate March 16, 2000.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

