

**First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R21-0941.01 Rebecca Hausmann x2172

HJR21-1005

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 21-1005

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 23, 2021, AS "COLORADO**
102 **AGRICULTURE DAY".**

1 WHEREAS, Americans enjoy the safest, most abundant, and most
2 affordable food supply in the world, thanks largely to the efficiency and
3 productivity of America's farm and ranch families; and

4 WHEREAS, Worldwide demand for food is expected to double by
5 2050 as the world's population expands from the current 7.5 billion to 9.5
6 billion, challenging farmers and ranchers to produce more food, feed,
7 fiber, and fuel; and

8 WHEREAS, Today, 90% of United States farms and ranches are
9 operated by families, and each feeds an estimated 155 people, a dramatic
10 increase from the 1960s, when each farmer could feed only 26 people;

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Americans spend less than 7% of their annual income
3 on food, less than any other developed nation, while American farmers
4 and ranchers receive on average only about 16 cents of every dollar spent
5 on food; and

6 WHEREAS, American farmers and ranchers are the most capable
7 and responsible providers for the safety, health, and well-being of their
8 livestock; and

9 WHEREAS, Agriculture ranks among the most important
10 economic sectors in Colorado, supporting more than 195,000 jobs and
11 generating an estimated \$47 billion of economic activity annually; and

12 WHEREAS, Exports of Colorado food and agricultural products
13 have more than tripled in the past 20 years and totaled \$2 billion in 2017;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Colorado agriculture contributes to national security
16 not only by providing food and fiber, but also by producing energy; and

17 WHEREAS, Colorado recognizes landowners whose livelihood
18 depends upon the property they reside on, operate on, and care for as they
19 work to provide basic necessities to all; and

20 WHEREAS, Leadership is vital to the viability of the agriculture
21 industry, and participants in programs like the National Future Farmers
22 of America Organization, 4-H, and the Colorado Agricultural Leadership
23 Program help develop those leadership skills necessary to promote
24 agriculture and educate their urban cousins on the importance of
25 agriculture to the world; and

26 WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculture industry requires an adequate,
27 reliable workforce in order to provide food from the field to the table; and

28 WHEREAS, Colorado's farms and ranches provide wildlife
29 habitat, open space, and a site for innovative and sustainable farming
30 practices that ensure the protection of state resources; and

31 WHEREAS, Colorado's agricultural and aquacultural producers
32 provide a diverse and valuable array of livestock and crops, including

1 cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, goats, bison, elk, poultry and eggs, dairy
2 products, millet, field corn, sweet corn, wheat, hay, chiles, potatoes,
3 barley, sorghum, sunflowers, dry beans, soybeans, onions, carrots, wine
4 grapes, apples, melons, peaches, numerous other fruits and vegetables,
5 honey, greenhouse and nursery products, and fish; and

6 WHEREAS, Beyond food, fiber, and fuel, farm products can be
7 found in everyday items from medications to school supplies to musical
8 instruments; and

9 WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculturists employ sound animal
10 husbandry practices, ensuring that livestock remain healthy, productive,
11 and content; and

12 WHEREAS, Colorado agriculture provides an estimated \$67.5
13 million annually to support the state's wildlife; and

14 WHEREAS, Colorado's farmers and ranchers are innovative
15 entrepreneurs and business leaders who remain resilient in their
16 dedication to the continued prosperity of the state's agricultural economy;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The protection of private property and the rights of
19 landowners who provide wholesome, safe food to Americans and others
20 worldwide is essential; and

21 WHEREAS, Farmers and ranchers are critical to Colorado
22 agritourism, welcoming tourists from around the world and showing them
23 all Colorado has to offer; and

24 WHEREAS, Losing agricultural land and water to other uses will
25 result in overall negative impacts to the state's economy and a loss of food
26 production vital to all Coloradans; and

27 WHEREAS, The United States' national security is stronger
28 because farmers and ranchers provide more than enough food to keep this
29 country from depending on other nations for sustenance; and

30 WHEREAS, March 23, 2021, is "National Agriculture Day"; now,
31 therefore,

32 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third*

1 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

2 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, proudly
3 recognize and designate "Colorado Agriculture Day" on March 23, 2021,
4 in celebration of the many men and women who strengthen the nation's
5 agriculture industry; promote a safe, high-quality, and sustainable food
6 supply; and protect consumers, the environment, and natural resources.

7 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
8 to the Honorable Governor Jared Polis, Colorado Commissioner of
9 Agriculture Kate Greenberg, and the members of the Colorado
10 congressional delegation.