

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R22-0992.01 Rebecca Hausmann x2172

SJR22-009

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Sonnenberg,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-009

101 CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 24, 2022, 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, The world must feed nearly 2 billion more people by
5 2050, challenging farmers and ranchers to increase production of food,
6 feed, fiber, and fuel by more than 50%; and

7 WHEREAS, Today, 98% of United States farms and ranches are
8 operated by families, and each feeds an estimated 165 people annually,
9 a dramatic increase from the 1960s, when each farmer could feed only 26
10 people; and

*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 WHEREAS, Americans spend less than 8.6% of their annual
2 income on food, less than any other developed nation, while American
3 farmers and ranchers receive on average only about 14.3 cents of every
4 dollar spent on food; and

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

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

11 WHEREAS, Exports of Colorado food and agricultural products
12 have increased fourfold since 2000 and reached an all-time high of \$2.36
13 billion in 2021; and

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, Colorado's farms and ranches provide wildlife
27 habitat, open space, and sites for innovative and sustainable farming
28 practices that ensure the protection of state resources; and

29 WHEREAS, Colorado's agricultural and aquacultural producers
30 provide a diverse and valuable array of livestock and crops, including
31 cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, goats, bison, elk, poultry and eggs, dairy
32 products, millet, field corn, sweet corn, hemp, quinoa, wheat, hay, chiles,

1 potatoes, barley, sorghum, sunflowers, dry beans, soybeans, onions,
2 carrots, wine grapes, apples, cantaloupe, watermelon, peaches, numerous
3 other fruits and vegetables, honey, greenhouse and nursery products, and
4 fish; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, March 22, 2022, is "National Agriculture Day" and
30 the Agriculture Council of America encourages everyone to celebrate
31 Agriculture Day for an entire week; now, therefore,

32 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-third General*

1 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring herein:*

3 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, proudly
4 recognize and designate March 24, 2022, to be "Colorado Agriculture
5 Day" in celebration of the many men and women who strengthen the
6 nation's agriculture industry; promote a safe, high-quality, and sustainable
7 food supply; and protect consumers, the environment, and natural
8 resources.

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