

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 241

Reps. Alexander and VanWoerkom offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 11, 2020, as Agriculture Day in
2 the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Each year, states across the nation recognize March
4 as a time to celebrate the importance of food and agriculture as a
5 significant contributor to the national economy; and

6 Whereas, The Michigan food and agriculture industry
7 contributes more than \$104.7 billion annually to the state's
8 economy. It is a major source of employment for the state's
9 workforce, supporting approximately 932,000 jobs and roughly 22
10 percent of the state's workforce; and

11 Whereas, Michigan's food and agriculture sector is the second
12 most diverse in the country with more than 47,000 farms, 99 percent
13 of which are family-owned, farming nearly 10 million acres of



1 farmland and commercially producing more than 300 food and
2 agricultural commodities. The state is the largest producer of
3 asparagus, tart cherries, cucumbers, squash, Niagara grapes, and
4 two varieties of dry beans - black and cranberry; and ranks in the
5 top ten for 29 additional commodities, including apples, sugar
6 beets, potatoes, blueberries, and celery; and

7 Whereas, We are a major dairy state, ranking 6th nationally in
8 pounds of milk produced. Dairy is the leading segment of Michigan's
9 agriculture economy. Livestock has the greatest economic impact at
10 \$5.13 billion, followed by field crops with an economic impact of
11 \$5.12 billion; and

12 Whereas, The industry supports more than 300 farmers markets
13 in communities across the state, produces hops that have helped to
14 grow more than 300 breweries, and has long supported the nearly 150
15 wineries that call the Great Lakes State home; and

16 Whereas, Michigan exports about one-third of its agricultural
17 commodities each year, generating nearly \$2.8 billion. Almost 40
18 percent of Michigan's agricultural exports go directly to Canada,
19 our number one export market, and rounding out the top countries
20 eager for Michigan-grown products are Mexico, Japan, China and
21 Thailand; and

22 Whereas, Food processing is a large contributor to the state's
23 economy. Michigan is home to more than 3,200 licensed food
24 processing facilities and warehouses that employ more than 30,000
25 residents and generate more than \$30 billion in economic activity;
26 and

27 Whereas, Michigan is home to the nation's pioneer land-grant
28 university, Michigan State University, where the Colleges of
29 Agriculture and Natural Resources and Veterinary Medicine, in

1 partnership with the industry and the Michigan Department of
2 Agriculture and Rural Development, provide research, education, and
3 support for the growth of production agriculture and
4 agribusinesses; and

5 Whereas, Michigan's food and agricultural sector continues to
6 be a growing industry offering new business and career
7 opportunities for Michiganders, making food and agriculture a
8 cornerstone of Michigan's continued prosperity; and

9 Whereas, During the month of March, we celebrate National
10 Agricultural Week and Michigan Food and Agriculture Month,
11 Agriculture Day at the Capitol is March 11, and Michigan State
12 University hosts the State FFA Convention as well as Agriculture
13 and Natural Resources Week; now, therefore, be it

14 Resolved by the House of the Representatives, That the members
15 of this legislative body declare March 11, 2020, as Agriculture Day
16 in the state of Michigan. We encourage all citizens to recognize
17 and celebrate this momentous occasion.