

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 21, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 41

Introduced by Assembly ~~Member Matthews~~ Members *Matthews and Maldonado*

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aanestad, Alquist, Aroner, Ashburn, Bates, Bogh, Briggs, Calderon, Bill Campbell, John Campbell, Canciamilla, Cardenas, Cardoza, Cedillo, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cogdill, Cohn, Corbett, Cox, Daucher, Diaz, Dutra, Firebaugh, Florez, Frommer, Harman, Havice, Hollingsworth, Horton, Jackson, Keeley, Kehoe, Kelley, Koretz, La Suer, Leach, Leonard, Leslie, Liu, Longville, Lowenthal, Maddox, Migden, Nakano, Nation, Negrete McLeod, Robert Pacheco, Papan, Pescetti, Reyes, Richman, Runner, Salinas, Shelley, Simitian, Steinberg, Strickland, Strom-Martin, Thomson, Vargas, Wayne, Wesson, Wiggins, Wright, and Zettel)

March 18, 2002

House Resolution No. 41—Relative to National Agriculture Week.

1 WHEREAS, March 20, 2002, is National Agriculture Day, a
2 day set aside to honor the men and women of agriculture, and to
3 help promote an understanding of America’s agricultural industry;
4 and

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

7 WHEREAS, For approximately 55 consecutive years,
8 California has been the number one agricultural state in the nation,
9 producing more than 350 crop and livestock products and

1 accounting for 50 percent of the nation’s supply of fruits,
2 vegetables, and nuts; and

3 WHEREAS, For almost 10 years, California has also been the
4 number one dairy producing state in the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, With less than 1 percent of California’s 33 million
6 people engaged in farming and ranching, each agricultural worker
7 today provides for more than 100 other people, compared to just
8 13 in 1947; and

9 WHEREAS, In just 5 decades, advances in production
10 agriculture have resulted in a drop of consumer spending on food
11 consumption from 24 percent of disposable income in 1949 to only
12 10 percent today; and

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

16 WHEREAS, The gross sales of California’s agricultural
17 products contributes 27.2 billion dollars annually to the state’s
18 economy; and

19 WHEREAS, For the second contiguous year, 10 California
20 counties reached an annual production value in 1999 of at least one
21 billion dollars each; and

22 WHEREAS, Over 13 percent of the national gross cash receipts
23 for farming is produced in California’s 89,000 farms; and

24 WHEREAS, California’s top 20 crop and livestock
25 commodities account for 72 percent of the state’s gross farm
26 income, of which a large number are specialty crops in which
27 California accounts for most of the United States’ production; and

28 WHEREAS, California is the nation’s leader in agricultural
29 exports, annually shipping more than 6.5 billion dollars in both
30 food and agricultural commodities around the world and it is
31 estimated that nearly 18 percent of all of California’s agricultural
32 production is shipped to foreign markets; and

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

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

38 WHEREAS, The Agricultural Literacy and Fairs Alliance is a
39 program that provides teachers with curriculum and materials for
40 agricultural projects to complement curriculum in the core



1 subjects, and in exchange, the teachers help ensure that students’
2 projects are showcased at their local fair; and

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

6 WHEREAS, The California 5 A Day For Better Health
7 Campaign, first begun in 1988, was the precursor for the National
8 5 A Day Program, which spread the message that healthy eating
9 through the consumption of fruits, vegetables and other food
10 products can reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer by as much
11 as 30 percent; and

12 WHEREAS, The tireless efforts of approximately 800,000
13 farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the
14 agricultural industry; and

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

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

21 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,* That it takes
22 great pleasure in honoring the men and women of California
23 agriculture for their dedication and productivity by observing the
24 week of March 17 to March 23, 2002, as National Agriculture
25 Week and Wednesday, March 20, 2002, as National Agriculture
26 Day; and be it further

27 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit
28 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

