

By Senator Montford

3-02236-15

20151586__

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing and celebrating March 18, 2015, as "Florida Agriculture Day."

WHEREAS, National Agriculture Day was established in 1973 to increase public awareness of the vital role of agriculture in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the world population is expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2040, and Florida farmers and ranchers play an increasingly important role in meeting global demands for healthy, wholesome, safe, and nutritious food, and

WHEREAS, the agriculture industry is part of the very fabric of this state, fostering ingenuity and preserving Florida's rural character and values, and

WHEREAS, Florida's 47,500 farms produce nearly 300 different commodities on more than 9 million acres of land, employing 2 million Floridians and contributing more than \$100 billion to Florida's economy each year, and

WHEREAS, Florida is one of the national leaders in agriculture, ranking first in the nation in production of oranges, grapefruit, sweet corn, snap beans, cucumbers, squash, sugarcane, and watermelons, and

WHEREAS, Florida farmers and ranchers are responsible stewards of the land, maintaining 9.25 million acres of greenspace and conserving more than 11 billion gallons of fresh water each year, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

3-02236-15

20151586__

30 That March 18, 2015, is recognized as "Florida Agriculture
31 Day" as part of the larger celebration of "National Agriculture
32 Day," in which we honor Florida farmers and ranchers, who
33 produce the safest and most abundant food supply in the world,
34 as well as the researchers, entrepreneurs, businesses, and
35 innovators who support farm families and help drive the
36 agriculture economy in this state.