

By Senator Montford

3-02132-16

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing and celebrating February 3,
3 2016, as "Florida Agriculture Day."

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

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

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

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

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

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

27
28 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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30 That February 3, 2016, is recognized as "Florida
31 Agriculture Day" as part of the larger celebration of "National
32 Agriculture Day," observed on March 15, 2016, in which we honor

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33 Florida farmers and ranchers, who produce the safest and most
34 abundant food supply in the world, as well as the researchers,
35 entrepreneurs, businesses, and innovators who support farm
36 families and help drive the agriculture economy in this state.