



## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 09-024

BY SENATOR(S) Penry, Isgar, Bacon, Boyd, Brophy, Cadman, Carroll M., Foster, Gibbs, Groff, Harvey, Heath, Hodge, Hudak, Keller, Kester, King K., Kopp, Lundberg, Mitchell, Morse, Newell, Renfro, Romer, Sandoval, Scheffel, Schultheis, Schwartz, Shaffer B., Spence, Tapia, Tochtrop, Veiga, White, Williams;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Sonnenberg, Curry, Gardner C., Acree, Apuan, Balmer, Baumgardner, Benefield, Bradford, Casso, Court, Ferrandino, Fischer, Frangas, Gagliardi, Gardner B., Gerou, Green, Hullinghorst, Kefalas, Kerr A., Kerr J., King S., Labuda, Lambert, Levy, Liston, Looper, Marostica, Massey, May, McCann, McFadyen, McGihon, McKinley, McNulty, Merrifield, Miklosi, Murray, Nikkel, Pace, Peniston, Pommer, Primavera, Priola, Rice, Riesberg, Roberts, Ryden, Scanlan, Schafer S., Solano, Soper, Stephens, Summers, Swalm, Tipton, Todd, Vaad, Vigil, Waller, Carroll T.

CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF MARCH 18, 2009, AS "NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY".

WHEREAS, Americans enjoy the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world, thanks in large part to the efficiency and productivity of America's farm and ranch families; and

WHEREAS, There will be millions of new people to feed, many of whom will rely on United States food production to meet this need as the world's population is expected to rise to 9.2 billion by 2050; and

WHEREAS, The agriculture industry is the third largest industry in Colorado, generating over \$16 billion of the state's total economic production; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is honored to recognize that Weld County ranks eighth in the nation for agriculture production and that Colorado cattle

exports in 2008 increased by 55% to \$497 million; and

WHEREAS, American consumers spend less than 10% of their annual income on food, less than any other developed nation, but farmers and ranchers receive only 19 cents of every dollar spent on food; and

WHEREAS, Today, 98% of all U.S. farms are owned by individuals, family partnerships, or family corporations, and each U.S. farmer produces food and fiber for nearly 143 people in the United States and abroad; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculture industry is very labor intensive and requires an adequate, reliable work force in order to bring food from the field to the table; and

WHEREAS, The American farmer and rancher is the most capable and responsible provider for the safety, health, and well-being of their livestock; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculture industry helps feed the nation; drives the state economy; preserves and restores wetlands; participates in conservation programs that prevent soil erosion, improve air and water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat; and plays a major role in providing feedstocks for the production of renewable fuels; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculture industry is extremely diversified in terms of value and production, ranging from cattle, sheep, wine grapes, vegetables, Anasazi beans, greenhouse and nursery products, aquaculture, honey, bison, and elk, along with standard commodities; and

WHEREAS, The majority of the state's wildlife habitat is provided by farmers and ranchers on private land all across the state of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, The protection of private property and the rights of landowners who provide food, fiber, and fuel to Americans and others worldwide is essential; and

WHEREAS, Losing agricultural land and water to other uses will result in overall negative impacts to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, The week of March 15th through the 21st, 2009, is

"National Agriculture Week"; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

That we, the members of the General Assembly, proudly recognize "National Agriculture Day" on March 18, 2009, in celebration of the many men and women who provide Americans and others worldwide with food, fiber, and fuel.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Honorable Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture John Stulp, and the members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation.

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Peter C. Groff  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Terrance D. Carroll  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Karen Goldman  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES