

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 46

Reps. Neyer, Alexander, BeGole, Bierlein, Breen, Fink, Fitzgerald, Glanville, Greene, Haadsma, Liberati, Morse, Rheingans, Rogers and Schuette offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 2023 as Agriculture Month in the
2 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 and is a major source of employment for the state's
9 workforce, supporting approximately 805,000 jobs, which is roughly
10 17.2 percent of the state's workforce; and

11 Whereas, Michigan's food and agriculture sector is the second

1 most diverse in the country with nearly 51,000 farms, 99 percent of
2 which are family-owned, farming nearly 10 million acres of farmland
3 and commercially producing more than 300 food and agricultural
4 commodities; and

5 Whereas, Michigan ranks first in the nation for asparagus
6 production, producing up to 23 million pounds annually; and

7 Whereas, Michigan is one of the top blueberry producing states
8 with more than 100 million pounds produced by 575 farms
9 contributing nearly \$132 million to the state's economy; and

10 Whereas, Michigan has 12,221 farms with 1,201,383 cattle and
11 calves and cash receipts over \$575 million; and

12 Whereas, Michigan produced roughly 400 million pounds of dry
13 edible beans with a value of \$126 million; and

14 Whereas, Michigan ranks seventh in production of eggs with
15 more than 15.4 million laying hens that produce 4,548 million eggs
16 per year, contributing \$655 million to the Michigan economy
17 annually;

18 Whereas, Michigan leads the nation in many floriculture crops,
19 including impatiens, begonias, Easter lillies, geraniums, hostas,
20 and petunias with a wholesale value of \$467 million; and

21 Whereas, Michigan has 13,100 acres of vines, making Michigan
22 the eighth-largest grape producing state in the nation and home to
23 more than 100 commercial wineries; and

24 Whereas, Michigan is now the fourth-largest hop growing state
25 in the United States and ranks 14th in the world for hop
26 production; and

27 Whereas, Michigan has 47,641 farms with 2,068,138 acres under
28 irrigation; and

29 Whereas, Michigan grows 70% of the United States supply of

1 juicy tart cherries, ranking first in production with 201 million
2 pounds valued at \$280 million; and

3 Whereas, Michigan grows over 1 billion pounds of apples
4 produced on 30 million acres with an economic impact of over \$250
5 million; and

6 Whereas, Michigan grows many varieties of kale and the market
7 has grown by over 60% in recent years; and

8 Whereas, Michigan grows multiple varieties of lettuce both
9 indoors and outdoors with a rapid expansion of production due to
10 climate, muck soil and hydroponic opportunities; and

11 Whereas, Michigan ranks #5 in the nation for maple syrup
12 production and produces about 90,000 gallons of syrup per year with
13 an economic impact of \$2.5 million annual; and

14 Whereas, Michigan nursery, landscape, and lawn care industries
15 have an economic impact of \$4.5 billion; and

16 Whereas, Michigan onion production is approximately 79 million
17 pounds which yield a total value of \$10 million; and

18 Whereas, Michigan produced more than 21.2 million pounds of
19 peaches valued at more than \$9.2 million; and

20 Whereas, Michigan has a total of 79 farms raising quail, with
21 34 farms selling quail; and

22 Whereas, Michigan has over 500 farms and 500 acres in
23 raspberry production; and

24 Whereas, Soybeans are Michigan's top export with over 109
25 million bushels produced with a value over \$941 million; and

26 Whereas, Michigan grows tomatoes for both fresh and processed
27 uses. In 2016, Michigan produced 120,100 tons of tomatoes for
28 process and 74 million pounds for fresh market; and

29 Whereas, Michigan is home to nearly 1,200 dairy farms who care

1 for over 445,000 cows giving 27,000 pounds of undeniably nutritious
2 milk each year. Michigan is ranked 6th in milk production in the
3 United States; and

4 Whereas, Michigan grows over 50 types of vegetables with 3,047
5 farms harvesting over 101,750 acres; and

6 Whereas, Michigan is home to 500,000 acres of wheat in 75
7 Michigan counties producing over 35 million bushels annually; and

8 Whereas, Michigan is the leading producer of potatoes for
9 extra crispy potato chip processing and they are the state's second
10 leading produce commodity with over 1.8 billion pounds of potatoes
11 produced annually generating \$182 million in sales; and

12 Whereas, Michigan pumpkins, yellow, and various other species
13 of squash generate over \$24 million from production of
14 approximately 220 million pounds of pumpkins and squash; and

15 Whereas, Michigan ranks first nationally with 822 farms
16 harvesting over 29,000 acres and 236,700 tons of zesty cucumbers;
17 and

18 Whereas, Michigan's food and agricultural sector continues to
19 be a growing industry offering new business and career
20 opportunities for Michiganders, making food and agriculture a
21 cornerstone of Michigan's continued prosperity; now, therefore, be
22 it

23 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
24 this legislative body declare March 2023 as Agriculture Month in
25 the state of Michigan. We encourage all citizens to recognize and
26 celebrate this momentous occasion.