

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 199

Reps. Neyer, Kunse, Martin, Markkanen, Jaime Greene, Beson, St. Germaine, DeBoyer, Outman, Hoadley, BeGole, Roth, Cavitt, Lightner, Smit, Mueller, DeSana, Zorn, Fox, Johnsen, Meerman, Bruck, Slagh, Prestin, Friske, Fink, Aragona, Paquette, Posthumus, Kuhn, VanderWall, Phil Green, Wozniak, Witwer, Miller, Hall, Borton, Tisdell, Paiz, Rigas, Alexander, Bezotte, Haadsma, Rheingans and Schuette offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare March 2024 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

1 contributes more than \$125.8 billion annually to the state's  
2 economy and is a major source of employment for the state's  
3 workforce, supporting approximately 805,000 jobs, which is roughly  
4 17.2 percent of the state's workforce; and

5       Whereas, Michigan's food and agriculture sector is the second  
6 most diverse in the country with 44,300 farms, 99 percent of which  
7 are family-owned, farming nearly ten million acres of farmland and  
8 commercially producing more than three hundred food and  
9 agricultural commodities; and

10       Whereas, Michigan ranks first in the nation for asparagus  
11 production, producing up to thirty-two million pounds annually; and

12       Whereas, Michigan is one of the top blueberry producing states  
13 with sixty-nine million pounds produced by over five hundred farms  
14 contributing nearly \$115 million to the state's economy; and

15       Whereas, Michigan has about 12,000 farms with 1.1 million  
16 cattle and calves and cash receipts over \$661 million; and

17       Whereas, Michigan produced roughly five hundred million pounds  
18 of dry edible beans with a value of over \$200 million; and

19       Whereas, Michigan ranks seventh in production of eggs with  
20 more than 16.6 million laying hens that produce 4.9 billion eggs  
21 per year, contributing \$833 million to the Michigan economy  
22 annually;

23       Whereas, Michigan leads the nation in many floriculture crops,  
24 including impatiens, begonias, marigolds, geraniums, hearty  
25 chrysanthemums, and petunias with a value of \$711 million; and

26       Whereas, Michigan has 10,900 acres of vines, making Michigan  
27 the sixth-largest grape producing state in the nation and home to  
28 more than one hundred commercial wineries; and

29       Whereas, Michigan is now the fourth-largest hop growing state

1 in the United States and ranks 14th in the world for hop  
2 production; and

3       Whereas, Michigan has 47,641 farms with 2,066,138 acres under  
4 irrigation; and

5       Whereas, Michigan grows 59% of the United States supply of  
6 juicy tart cherries, ranking first in production with 120 million  
7 pounds valued at \$36 million; and

8       Whereas, Michigan grows over one billion pounds of apples  
9 produced on 38,000 acres with an economic impact of over \$400  
10 million; and

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

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

16       Whereas, Michigan ranks #5 in the nation for maple syrup  
17 production and produces about 195,000 gallons of syrup per year  
18 with an economic impact of \$7.0 million annual; and

19       Whereas, Michigan nursery, landscape, and lawn care industries  
20 have an economic impact of \$4.3 billion; and

21       Whereas, Michigan onion production is approximately thirty-  
22 five million pounds which yield a total value of \$5.4 million; and

23       Whereas, Michigan produced more than twenty-two million pounds  
24 of peaches valued at more than \$20 million; and

25       Whereas, Michigan has a total of seventy-nine farms raising  
26 quail, with thirty-four farms selling quail; and

27       Whereas, Michigan has over five hundred farms and five hundred  
28 acres in raspberry production; and

29       Whereas, Soybeans are Michigan's top export with over ninety-

1 three million bushels produced with a value over \$1,548 million;  
2 and

3       Whereas, Michigan grows tomatoes for both fresh and processed  
4 uses. In 2018, Michigan produced 112,750 tons of tomatoes for  
5 process and fifty million pounds for fresh market; and

6       Whereas, Michigan is home to over 1,000 dairy farms who care  
7 for over 439,000 cows giving US leading 27,000 pounds of undeniably  
8 nutritious milk each year. Michigan is ranked sixth in milk  
9 production in the United States; and

10       Whereas, Michigan grows over fifty types of vegetables with  
11 3,047 farms harvesting over 165,000 acres; and

12       Whereas, Michigan is home to 600,000 acres of wheat in 75  
13 Michigan counties producing over forty-six million bushels  
14 annually; and

15       Whereas, Michigan is the leading producer of potatoes for  
16 extra crispy potato chip processing and they are the state's second  
17 leading produce commodity with over 2.1 billion pounds of potatoes  
18 produced annually generating \$291 million in sales; and

19       Whereas, Michigan pumpkins, yellow, and various other species  
20 of squash generate over \$55 million from production of  
21 approximately 257 million pounds of pumpkins and squash; and

22       Whereas, Michigan ranks first nationally with 822 farms  
23 harvesting over 33,000 acres and 246,000 tons of zesty cucumbers;  
24 and

25       Whereas, Michigan's food and agricultural sector continues to  
26 be a growing industry offering new business and career  
27 opportunities for Michiganders, making food and agriculture a  
28 cornerstone of Michigan's continued prosperity; now, therefore, be  
29 it

1           Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
2 this legislative body declare March 2024 as Agriculture Month in  
3 the state of Michigan. We encourage all citizens to recognize and  
4 celebrate this momentous occasion.