

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 and Rigas 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
7 contributes more than \$125.8 billion annually to the state's

1 economy and is a major source of employment for the state's
2 workforce, supporting approximately 805,000 jobs, which is roughly
3 17.2 percent of the state's workforce; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 Whereas, Michigan is now the fourth-largest hop growing state
29 in the United States and ranks 14th in the world for hop

1 production; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 Whereas, Soybeans are Michigan's top export with over ninety-
29 three million bushels produced with a value over \$1,548 million;

1 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of

1 this legislative body declare March 2024 as Agriculture Month in
2 the state of Michigan. We encourage all citizens to recognize and
3 celebrate this momentous occasion.