

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 46

Rep. Neyer 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
12 most diverse in the country with nearly 51,000 farms, 99 percent of
13 which are family-owned, farming nearly 10 million acres of farmland

1 and commercially producing more than 300 food and agricultural
2 commodities; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 Whereas, Michigan grows 70% of the United States supply of
28 juicy tart cherries, ranking first in production with 201 million
29 pounds valued at \$280 million; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 Whereas, Michigan has a total of 79 farms raising quail, with
19 34 farms selling quail; and

20 Whereas, Michigan has over 500 farms and 500 acres in
21 raspberry production; and

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

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

27 Whereas, Michigan is home to nearly 1,200 dairy farms who care
28 for over 445,000 cows giving 27,000 pounds of undeniably nutritious
29 milk each year. Michigan is ranked 6th in milk production in the

1 United States; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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