

**First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

LLS NO. R15-0944.01 Darren Thornberry x4143

**SJR15-015**

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**Brown and Coram,**

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**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15-015**

101      **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 18, 2015, AS**  
102                      **AGRICULTURE DAY IN COLORADO.**

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

4                      WHEREAS, As the world's population is predicted to grow from  
5 7 billion to 9 billion by 2045, farmers and ranchers face the challenge of  
6 producing more food, feed, fiber, and fuel; and

7                      WHEREAS, Today, 97% of all U.S. farms are family-owned, and  
8 each American farmer feeds more than 156 people, a dramatic increase  
9 from the 1960s, when each farmer could feed only 25 people; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
Final Reading  
March 18, 2015

SENATE  
Final Reading  
March 18, 2015

1           WHEREAS, Americans spend less than 9% of their annual income  
2 on food, less than any other developed nation, while American farmers  
3 and ranchers receive on average only 15.8 cents of every dollar spent on  
4 food; and

5           WHEREAS, American farmers and ranchers are the most capable  
6 and responsible providers for the safety, health, and well-being of their  
7 livestock; and

8           WHEREAS, The agriculture industry is the second largest industry  
9 in Colorado, supporting more than 173,000 jobs in Colorado and  
10 contributing \$41 billion to the state's economy; and

11           WHEREAS, Colorado was responsible for exporting more than \$2  
12 billion in food and agricultural products in 2012; and

13           WHEREAS, Colorado agriculture contributes to national security  
14 not only by providing food and fiber, but also by producing energy; and

15           WHEREAS, Colorado recognizes landowners whose livelihood  
16 depends upon the property they reside on, operate on, and care for as they  
17 work to provide basic necessities to all; and

18           WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculture industry requires an adequate,  
19 reliable workforce in order to provide food from the field to the table; and

20           WHEREAS, Colorado's farms and ranches provide wildlife  
21 habitats, open space, and a site for innovative and sustainable farming  
22 practices that ensure the protection of state resources; and

23           WHEREAS, Colorado's agricultural producers provide a diverse  
24 and valuable array of livestock and crops, including cattle, sheep, hogs,  
25 horses, goats, bison, elk, poultry and eggs, and aquaculture; as well as  
26 field corn, sweet corn, wheat, hay, potatoes, barley, sorghum, sunflowers,  
27 dry beans, soybeans, onions, carrots, wine grapes, fruit, numerous other  
28 vegetables, honey, and greenhouse and nursery products; and

29           WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculturists employ sound animal  
30 husbandry practices, ensuring that livestock remain healthy, productive,  
31 and content; and

32           WHEREAS, Colorado agriculture provides an estimated \$67.5

1 million annually to support the state's wildlife; and

2 WHEREAS, Colorado's farmers and ranchers are innovative  
3 entrepreneurs and business leaders who remain resilient in their  
4 dedication to the continued prosperity of the state's agriculture; and

5 WHEREAS, The protection of private property and the rights of  
6 landowners who provide wholesome, safe food to Americans and others  
7 worldwide is essential; and

8 WHEREAS, Farmers and ranchers are critical to Colorado  
9 agritourism, welcoming tourists from around the world and showing them  
10 all Colorado has to offer; and

11 WHEREAS, Losing agricultural land and water to other uses will  
12 result in overall negative impacts to the state's economy and a loss of food  
13 production vital to all Coloradans; and

14 WHEREAS, March 18, 2015, is "National Agriculture Day"; now,  
15 therefore,

16 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*  
17 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

18 That we, the members of the General Assembly, proudly recognize  
19 "Agriculture Day" on March 18, 2015, in celebration of the many men  
20 and women who strengthen the nation's agriculture industry; promote a  
21 safe, high-quality, and sustainable food supply; and protect consumers,  
22 the environment, and natural resources.

23 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
24 to the Honorable Governor John Hickenlooper, Colorado Commissioner  
25 of Agriculture Don Brown, and the members of the Colorado  
26 congressional delegation.