

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 32

Reps. Neyer, Alexander, Johnsen, Kelly, Lightner, Martin, Rheingans, Rigas, Schuette and Slagh offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare March 2025 as Agriculture Appreciation  
2       Month in the state of Michigan.

3       Whereas, Every March, states nationwide come together to  
4       celebrate the vital role of food and agriculture in driving the  
5       national economy.

6       Whereas, The Michigan food and agriculture industry  
7       contributes more than \$125.8 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 47,600 farms, 99 percent of which

1 are family-owned, farming nearly 10 million acres of farmland and  
2 commercially producing more than 300 food and agricultural  
3 commodities; and

4       Whereas, Michigan ranks first in the nation for asparagus  
5 production, producing up to 30 million pounds annually; and

6       Whereas, Michigan is one of the top blueberry-producing  
7 states, with 87 million pounds produced by over 500 farms,  
8 contributing nearly \$130 million to the state's economy; and

9       Whereas, Michigan has about 12,000 farms with 1.1 million  
10 cattle and calves, contributing \$140 million in beef exports  
11 annually; and

12       Whereas, Michigan produced over 500 million pounds of dry  
13 edible beans, valued at over \$200 million; and

14       Whereas, Michigan ranks seventh in egg production, with more  
15 than 16.6 million laying hens on average producing over 5 billion  
16 eggs per year, economically impacting the state of Michigan by \$1.4  
17 billion; and

18       Whereas, Michigan leads the nation in floriculture crops,  
19 including impatiens, begonias, marigolds, geraniums, hearty  
20 chrysanthemums, and petunias, with a value of \$695 million; and

21       Whereas, Michigan has 10,900 acres of vines, making it the  
22 eighth-largest grape-producing state in the nation and home to more  
23 than 200 commercial wineries; and

24       Whereas, Michigan is now the fourth-largest hop-growing state  
25 in the United States; and

26       Whereas, In 2022 Michigan had 2,066,138 acres of farms under  
27 irrigation; and

28       Whereas, Michigan grows 59% of the United States' tart  
29 cherries, ranking first in production with 182 million pounds; and

1       Whereas, Michigan grows over 1.2 billion pounds of apples on  
2 38,000 acres, with an economic impact of over \$350 million; and

3       Whereas, Michigan grows many varieties of kale, with market  
4 growth exceeding 60% in recent years; and

5       Whereas, Michigan produces multiple varieties of lettuce, both  
6 indoors and outdoors, benefiting from climate, muck soil, and  
7 hydroponic opportunities; and

8       Whereas, Michigan ranks fifth in the nation for maple syrup  
9 production, producing approximately 200,000 gallons per year, with  
10 an economic impact of \$8.7 million in 2023; and

11       Whereas, Michigan's nursery, landscape, and lawn care  
12 industries contribute \$4.5 billion to the economy; and

13       Whereas, Michigan produces approximately 79 million pounds of  
14 onions, yielding a total value of \$10 million; and

15       Whereas, Michigan produced more than 11 million pounds of  
16 peaches, on roughly 23,000 acres; and

17       Whereas, Michigan has over 500 farms and 500 acres dedicated  
18 to raspberry production; and

19       Whereas, Soybeans are Michigan's top agricultural export, with  
20 over 105million bushels produced, valued at over \$1.55 billion; and

21       Whereas, Michigan grows tomatoes for both fresh and processed  
22 uses, producing 120,100 tons of processing tomatoes and 74 million  
23 pounds for the fresh market; and

24       Whereas, Michigan is home to over 1,000 dairy farms, caring  
25 for over 440,000, producing an industry-leading 27,680 pounds of  
26 milk per cow annually, ranking sixth in the nation for milk  
27 production; and

28       Whereas, Michigan grows over 50 types of vegetables, with  
29 3,047 farms harvesting over 165,000 acres; and

1       Whereas, Michigan has over 460,000 acres of wheat across 75  
2 counties, producing over 36 million bushels annually; and

3       Whereas, Michigan is the leading producer of potatoes for  
4 potato chip processing, making potatoes the second-leading produce  
5 commodity in the state, with over 1.9 billion pounds of potatoes  
6 produced annually, contributing over \$2.5 billion to Michigan's  
7 economy; and

8       Whereas, Michigan's pumpkin and squash production generates  
9 over \$55 million from approximately 257 million pounds of produce;  
10 and

11       Whereas, Michigan ranks first nationally in cucumber  
12 production, with over 800 farms harvesting over 29,000 acres and  
13 53.6 million pounds of cucumbers; and

14       Whereas, Michigan's food and agriculture sector continues to  
15 be a thriving industry, offering new opportunities for  
16 Michiganders, making food and agriculture a cornerstone of  
17 Michigan's continued prosperity; now, therefore, be it

18       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
19 this legislative body declare March 2025 as Agriculture  
20 appreciation Month in the state of Michigan. We encourage all  
21 citizens to recognize and celebrate this momentous occasion.