

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 71

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Space and Wirths

SYNOPSIS

Designates March 20th of each year as “New Jersey Agriculture Day.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/9/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating March 20th of each year as
2 “New Jersey Agriculture Day.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Agriculture has been a key part of New Jersey’s economy
5 since the earliest Native American settlements, laying the
6 foundation for what would become the United States; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Although New Jersey is one of the smallest states in the
8 nation by land mass and is the most densely populated state, it is
9 also among the national leaders in the production of certain crops,
10 ranking among the top 10 states in the production of cranberries,
11 bell peppers, spinach, peaches, blueberries, cucumbers, sweet corn,
12 squash, tomatoes, snap beans, and cabbage; and
13 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s agricultural production goes beyond fruit and
14 vegetable crops to include nursery stock, greenhouse plants, sod,
15 Christmas trees, field crops, equine, seafood, dairy, wineries,
16 breweries, distilleries, beekeeping, and other categories of
17 agricultural enterprises; and
18 **WHEREAS**, In order to foster growth, development, regulation, and
19 refinement of agricultural enterprises, the New Jersey Department
20 of Agriculture (NJDA) was established in 1916; and
21 **WHEREAS**, In 1984, the NJDA created the first in the nation state-
22 sponsored agricultural branding program, Jersey Fresh, in order to
23 distinguish the high quality of New Jersey produced fruits and
24 vegetables from others in the marketplace; and
25 **WHEREAS**, This State-sponsored branding program was later
26 expanded to include Jersey Grown for nursery crops, Jersey
27 Seafood for aquacultured and wild-caught fish and shellfish, Jersey
28 Equine for equine livestock, and Made with Jersey Fresh for
29 processed food made with New Jersey sourced agricultural
30 products; and
31 **WHEREAS**, The agricultural industry is a part of the very fabric of New
32 Jersey, driving the economy, fostering ingenuity, and preserving the
33 deepest values of the people of this State; and
34 **WHEREAS**, The importance of agriculture to the State is reflected in its
35 nickname the “Garden State,” and the State’s agriculture and food
36 industry is valued in the billions of dollars; and
37 **WHEREAS**, It is also imperative to honor the researchers,
38 entrepreneurs, businesses, and innovators who support farm
39 families in New Jersey and help drive the agricultural economy;
40 now, therefore,
41
42 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
43 *State of New Jersey:*
44
45 1. March 20th of each year is designated as “New Jersey
46 Agriculture Day” to increase public awareness of the important role of
47 agriculture in the continued life, health, and prosperity of all citizens
48 of this State and of the nation.

AJR71 DANCER, HOUGHTALING

3

1 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
2 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of the State
3 to observe “New Jersey Agriculture Day” with appropriate activities
4 and programs.

5

6 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

7

8

9

STATEMENT

10

11 This joint resolution, as amended, designates March 20th of each
12 year as “New Jersey Agriculture Day,” to recognize the vital role
13 that agriculture plays in the State. The joint resolution, as amended,
14 also requests the Governor to issue an annual proclamation calling
15 upon public officials and citizens of the State to observe “New
16 Jersey Agriculture Day” with appropriate activities and programs.