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SENATE MEMORIAL

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Benny Shendo

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING JANUARY 25, 2022 "AGRICULTURE EDUCATION DAY" IN THE SENATE IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION PLAY IN THE DAILY LIVES OF ALL NEW MEXICANS.

WHEREAS, each and every person has significant ties to agriculture through history and culture; and

WHEREAS, agriculture plays an integral role in the daily lives of New Mexicans by providing the food, fiber and fuel that is needed to live; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico agriculture is composed of roughly twenty-five thousand farms and ranches statewide and encompasses over forty million acres; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico agriculture is valued at three billion four hundred forty million dollars (\$3,440,000,000) and stimulates both rural and urban economies; and

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1 WHEREAS, agriculture provides the food that nourishes all
2 bodies; and

3 WHEREAS, there is a need for increased emphasis and
4 education regarding where food comes from and why food choices
5 are important; and

6 WHEREAS, incorporating increased agriculture-related
7 curriculum in New Mexico's K-12 school systems will promote
8 interest and intrigue in agriculture, food and nutrition; and

9 WHEREAS, agriculture, food and nutrition education can be
10 used as a strong component of an outdoor classroom curriculum
11 and directly connect students with natural resources in a
12 stimulating environment; and

13 WHEREAS, the New Mexico farm and livestock bureau's "ag in
14 the classroom" program is one of many great tools to link
15 students with agriculture, food and nutrition; and

16 WHEREAS, agriculture, food and nutrition education are
17 highly dependent on science, technology, engineering and
18 mathematics curriculum and skills; and

19 WHEREAS, there is an extreme need to develop not only the
20 next generation of farmers and ranchers but also biologists,
21 food scientists and nutritionists; and

22 WHEREAS, it is important that K-12 education begin to
23 prepare New Mexico's young people with the skills they need to
24 pursue careers in these extremely vital sectors;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

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1 OF NEW MEXICO, in recognition of the importance that
2 agriculture, food and nutrition play in the daily lives of all
3 New Mexicans and the contribution that agriculture, food and
4 nutrition make to the overall well-being of the residents of
5 New Mexico, that January 25, 2022 be declared "agriculture
6 education day" in the senate; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
8 department be requested to investigate how to incorporate
9 curriculum pertaining to agriculture, food and nutrition into
10 K-12 school systems and to provide a report with
11 recommendations and a time line for implementation to the
12 appropriate legislative interim committees by October 1, 2022;
13 and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the New Mexico department of agriculture, the
16 public education department and the office of the governor.