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## **Agriculture News Release - 1993-03-17b**

United States. Congress. House. Committee on Agriculture

E. De la Garza

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# news release

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Room 1301, Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

(NR93-022)

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## **CONGRESS DESIGNATES MARCH 20 AS NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY**

For immediate release, Wednesday, March 17, 1993

WASHINGTON -- The House of Representatives has passed and sent to the President a resolution designating Saturday, March 20, 1993 as National Agriculture Day. This nationwide event has been celebrated annually since 1973.

Senate Joint Resolution 36, approved by the Senate on March 11 and passed by the House on March 16, proclaims March 20 as a day of nationwide observance to promote a better understanding of agriculture's role in the American economy. In addition, the week of March 14th through March 20 is designated as National Agriculture Week.

"Today it seems that many Americans have lost touch with the importance of agriculture in their lives. National Agriculture Day, at least in a small way, serves to remind us how important food and the people involved in the food and fiber sector are to our nation," said House Agriculture Committee Chairman Kika de la Garza, D-TX, in a statement on the House floor in support of the resolution's passage.

The importance of American agriculture to the U.S. economy is illustrated by the following facts:

- America's food and agriculture system represents 16% of our nation's gross national product.
- On average, Americans spend only about 10% of their income on food, much less than in other nations.
- America's food and agriculture system generates about 21 million American jobs -- 17% of the entire U.S. work force.
- One American farmer/rancher provides enough food and fiber for 128 people: 94 in the United States and 34 abroad.
- The United States is the world's largest exporter of agricultural products. In 1991, the United States exported \$37.6 billion in farm products, cutting our trade deficit in non-farm trade by 14%.