

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 1, 2010 "FARM AND RANCH DAY" AT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, agriculture's contribution to New Mexico's heritage and economic health is well-known; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is ranked sixth in the nation in the exportation of dairy products, the state's number one agricultural commodity; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is ranked thirteenth in the nation in cattle production, the state's number two commodity; and

WHEREAS, according to United States department of agriculture rankings, only California had greater chile production than New Mexico, and New Mexicans know that no place grows better chile than New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, major farm and ranch production in New Mexico includes cattle, sheep and wool, dairy products, alfalfa and other hays, wheat, sorghum, cotton, chile, pecans, lettuce, corn and onions; and

WHEREAS, the production of many of these commodities would not be possible without New Mexico's farmers and ranchers and the approximately twelve thousand farm and ranch workers in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, farmers, ranchers and farm and ranch workers in New Mexico have been tending crops and livestock since before

1920, which is the year that large-scale agriculture began in this state; and

WHEREAS, for all of this time, farmers, ranchers and farm and ranch workers have been the backbone of much of the farming and ranching industry; and

WHEREAS, farmers, ranchers and farm and ranch workers receive little recognition for their work; and

WHEREAS, all New Mexicans benefit from the labor of farmers, ranchers and farm and ranch workers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 1, 2010 be declared "Farm and Ranch Day" at the house of representatives to honor the hardworking people whose role in New Mexico's economy is of great importance to all residents of the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor and the lieutenant governor.