



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-016

BY SENATOR(S) Sonnenberg, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Carroll, Cooke, Crowder, Donovan, Garcia, Grantham, Guzman, Heath, Hill, Hodge, Holbert, Jahn, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Neville T., Newell, Roberts, Scheffel, Scott, Steadman, Tate, Todd, Ulibarri, Woods, Cadman; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Vigil, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Brown, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Conti, Coram, Court, Danielson, DelGrosso, Dore, Duran, Esgar, Everett, Fields, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Hamner, Humphrey, Joshi, Kagan, Klingenschmitt, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lontine, Lundeen, McCann, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Ransom, Rosenthal, Roupe, Ryden, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Tyler, Van Winkle, Willett, Williams, Wilson, Windholz, Winter, Wist, Young, Hullinghorst.

CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF COLORADO CENTENNIAL FARMS.

WHEREAS, In 1986, the Colorado Centennial Farms program was created by Governor Richard D. Lamm, History Colorado (formerly known as the Colorado Historical Society), and the Colorado Department of Agriculture to recognize the important role agriculture has played in our state's history and economic development; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Centennial Farms program recognizes Colorado farms and ranches that have been owned and operated by the same family for 100 years or more for their strength, endurance, and perseverance despite the associated challenges; and

WHEREAS, In the last 30 years, nearly 500 family farms and ranches in 61 of Colorado's 64 counties have been designated through the program; and

WHEREAS, The histories of the Colorado Centennial Farms and those individuals who have worked in the agricultural industry are an intrinsic part of the cultural tapestry of this state; and

WHEREAS, Many of the farms and ranches located across Colorado were first homesteaded by filing a claim pursuant to the federal "Homestead Act of 1862", planting crops and constructing a dwelling, which **resulted** in the transfer of the deed to the new owner, while other properties were purchased outright; and

WHEREAS, Regardless of the method of acquisition, the transaction did not guarantee success for the farmers and ranchers; their success had to be secured through dedication and hard work; and

WHEREAS, The Ortega Farm in San Luis, established in 1851, is Colorado's oldest Centennial Farm; and

WHEREAS, The majority of farms and ranches designated as Colorado Centennial Farms were established between 1880 and 1895; and

WHEREAS, Weld County has more than 60 designated Centennial Farms – the most in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, More than 200 Centennial Farms have received the Historic Structures Award; and

WHEREAS, Colorado farmers and ranchers understand that hardships are part of the agricultural lifestyle, but they hope future generations will embrace the hardships with the rewards; and

WHEREAS, Many of these farmers and ranchers struggle to survive in present times due to an unstable economy; and

WHEREAS, Farmers and ranchers faced with the uncertainty of the current economy must overcome adversity by adopting a more urban lifestyle, often requiring them to work multiple jobs; and

WHEREAS, Urbanization and commercialization threaten the existence of Colorado Centennial Farms; and

WHEREAS, While centennial farmers and ranchers continually work to keep their operations up-to-date, they must also attempt to preserve their century-old traditions; and

WHEREAS, Many Colorado Centennial Farms are working toward conservation efforts by utilizing environmentally conscious farming and ranching methods to ensure the vitality of cultivated land in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Today, 97% of all farms in the United States are family-owned, and every year each American farmer produces enough food for nearly 155 people in the United States and abroad; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's food and agriculture industry ranks among the state's most important economic drivers, generating more than \$40 billion in economic activity annually and supporting more than 170,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Colorado Centennial Farms help feed the nation, support the state economy, participate in conservation programs that prevent soil erosion, improve air and water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and play a major role in providing feedstock for the production of renewable fuels; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Centennial Farms program recognizes how vital these properties are to the overall economic and environmental well-being of our state; and

WHEREAS, Family farms in Colorado that turn 100 years old deserve recognition; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

(1) Recognize centennial farms and ranches as a vital component of the history of Colorado;

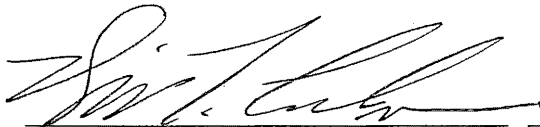
(2) Recognize the 30th anniversary of the Colorado Centennial Farm

and Ranch program and hope that over the next 30 years more farms and ranches will join and receive this recognition;

(3) Recognize those Coloradans who have contributed to the economic vibrancy of this state through their involvement in agricultural enterprises; and

(4) Acknowledge that it is through those individuals that future generations of Colorado farmers and ranchers can find inspiration to make our state's agricultural industry continue to prosper.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado State Fair, Colorado Tourism, and History Colorado.



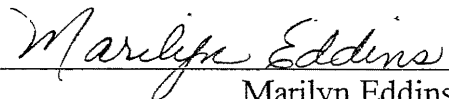
Bill L. Cadman
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