

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 100TH
YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Michael L. Kohler

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution recognizes and expresses appreciation to the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ outlines the history of the Department of Agriculture and Food;
- ▶ addresses the many roles of the Department of Agriculture and Food and how these roles benefit the state; and
- ▶ recognizes the Department of Agriculture and Food at its 100th anniversary.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Food's roots date back to the year of Utah's statehood when the 1896 Legislature formed the State Board of Horticulture;

WHEREAS, the Utah Legislature combined several agencies in 1921 to form the Department of Agriculture;

WHEREAS, the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture and Food is to facilitate the production, processing, distribution, and marketing of agricultural products by the private sector and to ensure that consumers have access to high-quality and wholesome food

products;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Food fulfills its mission to protect and promote agriculture by raising public awareness and demand for Utah agriculture and food products;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Food serves Utah's farmers, ranchers, and food producers as they provide Utah with safe and delicious food, build our economy, and conserve our beautiful mountain valleys and desert landscapes;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Food's mission is to promote the healthy growth of Utah agriculture, conserve its natural resources, and protect its food supply;

WHEREAS, agriculture is a critical part of Utah's economy and culture with millions of acres in farm and ranch production and over a billion dollars in cash receipts;

WHEREAS, Utah agriculture producers and processors account for more than 20% of the state's gross domestic product;

WHEREAS, agriculture workers are categorized as essential in emergency declarations and continued to work through the recent pandemic shutdown in spite of obvious health risks;

WHEREAS, agriculture benefits the environment through agriculture's ability to sequester carbon;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Food provides food safety oversight and consumer protection of agricultural products and services;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Food provides regulatory oversight to ensure product quality, accuracy of labeling, and equity in the marketplace;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Food provides oversight to prevent and control animal disease and assure animal health on the range and in our food supply;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Food provides oversight to preserve and protect Utah's soil and water for the betterment of Utah agriculture and its people;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Food supports and provides continuing agriculture education throughout the state;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Food has additional duties such as

58 weights and measures and the regulation of bedding, upholstered furniture, and quilted clothing
59 inspection; and

60 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Food is well positioned to serve Utah
61 for the next 100 years:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
63 Governor concurring therein, recognizes the Department of Agriculture and Food for the
64 tremendous impact the department has had on driving agriculture and food commerce over the
65 last 100 years, assuring a safe and secure food supply, and leading out on the conservation of
66 critical open lands for food production, wildlife habitat, healthy watersheds, and the
67 sustainability of our natural resources.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Department
69 of Agriculture and Food.