

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1999

179C0045

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. **1001**

Introduced by: Representatives Weber, Jaspers, Lockner, and Wetz and Senators Benson, Brown (Arnold), Drake, Lange, Reedy, Valandra, and Vitter at the request of the Interim Agriculture Committee

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Declaring 1999 the Year of Agriculture.

2 WHEREAS, the benefits of agricultural land include food and fiber production, wildlife
3 habitat, scenic vistas, psychological well-being of citizens, and enhanced economic and
4 environmental benefits; and

5 WHEREAS, South Dakota agriculture is a fifteen billion dollar industry, accounting for
6 approximately forty-two percent of the gross state product; and

7 WHEREAS, agriculture and its related industries provide challenging and fulfilling career
8 opportunities; and

9 WHEREAS, United States food and agriculture producer and processor exports amount to
10 approximately seventy billion dollars a year, thereby creating a positive trade balance of twenty
11 billion dollars a year; and

12 WHEREAS, total agricultural production has more than doubled since 1930 even though the
13 agricultural resource base has not changed substantially; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States has less than seven percent of the world's land, but produces
15 thirteen percent of the world's farm commodities; and

1 WHEREAS, the average South Dakota farm family produces enough food to feed one
2 hundred twenty-nine other people; and

3 WHEREAS, the average South Dakota family of four consumes approximately two and one-
4 half tons of food each year; and

5 WHEREAS, because of the South Dakota farmers' productivity, South Dakota families buy
6 their food for eleven and four-tenths percent of their disposable income today compared to
7 sixteen and three-tenths percent spent by European families; and

8 WHEREAS, since the average age of South Dakota farmers is sixty-one, it is critical that
9 young people consider agriculture and related careers so the state's agricultural industry is not
10 lost; and

11 WHEREAS, although marketing of South Dakota crops and livestock in 1997 produced a
12 twenty percent increase in cash receipts over 1993, production expenses contributed to a decline
13 in actual farm income; and

14 WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers are great conservationists of soil, water, and other natural
15 resources, and are excellent stewards of wildlife habitat; and

16 WHEREAS, it is farmers and ranchers - those who work the land and raise the animals - who
17 help sustain life, who bring the greatest convenience to modern life, and truly understand the
18 price of that convenience; and

19 WHEREAS, as agriculture grows and prospers, so do our communities which provide
20 significant resources for the agricultural industry; and

21 WHEREAS, communities can work together to make agriculture economically sustainable
22 and our communities viable; and

23 WHEREAS, it is fitting that, as we honor South Dakota's rich cultural heritage, we continue
24 the celebration by recognizing one of the most important parts of the state's history - the work
25 of all agriculturalists:

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
2 fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that 1999 be
3 declared the Year of Agriculture in South Dakota; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature urges the citizens of South Dakota to
5 reflect on the contributions made by the farmers who work the soil, ranchers and farmers who
6 raise the animals, and business persons who sustain the effort to produce the food and fiber that
7 enriches lives, and encourage South Dakotans to support the state's agricultural producers and
8 processors.