

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 17, 1989

CONTACT: SARA BELDEN
(202) 224-6521

SENATE DESIGNATES NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

KANSAS SENATOR BOB DOLE HAILED PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION DESIGNATING MARCH 20, 1989, AS NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY. THE JOINT RESOLUTION PASSED YESTERDAY UNANIMOUSLY BY THE SENATE. THE FOLLOWING IS SENATOR DOLE'S STATEMENT:

"MARCH 20 HAS BEEN CELEBRATED AS NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY SINCE 1973. I HAVE JOINED AS A COSPONSOR OF THE RESOLUTION THE SENATE HAS PASSED TO ONCE AGAIN DESIGNATE MARCH 20 AS NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY. THIS NOTEWORTHY EFFORT HELPS TO REMIND ALL AMERICANS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE TO THEIR STATE AND TO THE NATION AS A WHOLE.

IMPORTANCE TO KANSAS

AGRICULTURE IS A CORNERSTONE OF THE KANSAS ECONOMY AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. ACCORDING TO THE 1987 CENSUS, THE MOST RECENT CENSUS ON AGRICULTURE, KANSAS HAS ABOUT 70,000 FARMS WHICH SELL ABOUT \$6.5 BILLION IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. CROP FARMERS SOLD \$1.7 BILLION OF THIS AMOUNT WHILE SALES FROM LIVESTOCK AND RELATED PRODUCTS TOTALED \$4.8 BILLION. MANY OF OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES UNDERSTAND THAT AGRICULTURE IS AT THE HEART OF THEIR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

IMPORTANCE TO THE NATION

THE NATION'S FARMING INDUSTRY REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT SECTOR OF OUR SOCIETY'S ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AS WELL. THE U.S. AG LABOR FORCE REPRESENTS ONLY THREE-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S LABOR FORCE, YET IT PRODUCES EIGHT PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S FOOD GRAINS, TWENTY-PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S FEED GRAINS, AND TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S BEEF. THE U.S. IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST EXPORTING NATION OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS AND LAST YEAR HAD A TRADE BALANCE OF OVER \$14 BILLION.

THE 1985 FARM BILL HAS HELPED THE AMERICAN FARMER GET BACK ON HIS FEET BY PROTECTING FARM INCOME AND PROMOTING EXPORTS, WHICH ARE THE LIFE-BLOOD OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. NEEDLESS TO SAY, OUR FARM EXPORTS HAVE AN ECONOMIC RIPPLE EFFECT, CREATING JOBS THROUGHOUT THE ECONOMY IN THE HANDLING, PROCESSING, TRANSPORTING AND SHIPPING AND RELATED SECTORS.

THE AMERICAN FARMER HAS BEEN THE MOST PRODUCTIVE IN THE WORLD, AND WE ALL BENEFIT FROM HIS PRODUCTIVITY. IT IS ONLY APPROPRIATE TO REMIND OURSELVES NEXT WEEK THAT WE HAVE AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF WHOLESOME FOOD BECAUSE OF THE EFFORTS AND TOIL OF OUR FARM FAMILIES."

THE RESOLUTION STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE BY HIGHLIGHTING THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

AGRICULTURE IS THE NATION'S LARGEST AND MOST BASIC INDUSTRY, AND ITS ASSOCIATED PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND MARKETING SEGMENTS TOGETHER PROVIDE MORE JOBS THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE INDUSTRY.

AGRICULTURE SERVES ALL AMERICANS BY PROVIDING FOOD, FIBER, AND OTHER BASIC NECESSITIES OF LIFE.

THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY IS VITAL TO
MAINTAINING THE STRENGTH OF OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY, THE
STANDARD OF LIVING OF OUR CITIZENS, AND OUR PRESENCE IN WORLD
TRADE MARKETS.

ALL AMERICANS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE ROLE THAT AGRICULTURE
PLAYS IN THEIR LIVES AND WELL-BEING WHETHER THEY LIVE IN
URBAN OR RURAL AREAS.

MANY ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 19 THROUGH
MARCH 25, 1989, TO OBSERVE THIS DAY.

##