

BY: Senator OBERACKER

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 21, 2023, as Agriculture Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of March 2023, as National Agriculture Month

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to support and promote the observance of Agriculture Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of March 2023, as National Agriculture Month; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture Day is a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies, and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Hardworking American farmers are dedicated to providing New York State, the Nation, and much of the world with a safe, healthy, affordable, and abundant food supply; this dedication is equaled only by their commitment to protecting the land that makes it possible; and

WHEREAS, Farmers across the country live by this commitment every day; as stewards of a healthy planet, they care for the soil, their animals, and the crops that provide us food, fuel and clothes; furthermore, farmers boost our local economies by spending locally, attracting tourism, and keeping money in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture is at the intersection of food, family, health, community, environment, nature, science, homeland security, economic concerns, and other significant things we care about; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of farms and ranches in the United States, and especially in New York State, are family owned and operated and have deep historical roots in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Farmers provide fresh, locally grown food to our urban neighborhoods through an increasing number of farmers markets, CSAs, and urban farms, improving food options in our cities and creating better understanding between urban and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Farmers can be important stewards of our natural resources, ensuring clean water, healthy soils, and increased use of renewable energy with sound, sustainable agricultural practices; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture in New York State generates over \$5 billion a year in commodity sales and creates 196,000 jobs on and off the farm; and

WHEREAS, Though the average age of an American farmer is still 57, young and beginning farmers are literally putting down roots to be the next generation to feed our families, and returning veterans are finding

new and healing ways to rebuild their lives through agriculture; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of National Agriculture Day is in recognition of farmers from all racial, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds and walks of life, who feed us and our families every day and of the importance of agriculture as a vital industry and economic driver in New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 21, 2023, as Agriculture Day in the State of New York, honoring and recognizing the important contributions of all branches of farming to the health, economic well-being, environment, beauty, and future of New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; and the Chenango County Farm Bureau.