

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023**

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**HOUSE BILL 539  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/5/23**

Short Title: North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day. (Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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April 3, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT DESIGNATING THE SECOND WEDNESDAY IN NOVEMBER OF EACH YEAR  
3 AS NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS APPRECIATION DAY.

4 Whereas, we should never forget that to remain a free nation we must maintain and  
5 improve our ability to feed and clothe ourselves; and

6 Whereas, the food and fiber we produce to feed and clothe ourselves must necessarily  
7 be safe, reliable, and economically affordable; and

8 Whereas, from the beginning of our nation, the agriculture sector has served us well  
9 in these and many other areas; and

10 Whereas, the heart and soul of agriculture has been and continues to be the American  
11 farmer; and

12 Whereas, we must continue to use our land, water, and air to produce food and fiber  
13 in environmentally responsible and sustainable ways; and

14 Whereas, many of our citizens no longer reside near working farms and are therefore  
15 unfamiliar with how our food and fiber is produced; and

16 Whereas, North Carolina farmers are dedicated to producing the food and fiber to  
17 feed and clothe our population; and

18 Whereas, the farmers of North Carolina have set the pace and performed  
19 exceptionally well in many parts of the agriculture sector; and

20 Whereas, countless people across our nation and in many other nations depend on  
21 food and fiber produced here in North Carolina; and

22 Whereas, it is important to properly acknowledge and express gratitude for the efforts  
23 of North Carolina farmers; Now, therefore,

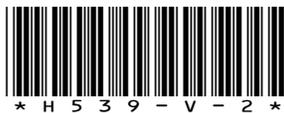
24 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

25 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 103 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
26 section to read:

27 "**§ 103-17. North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day.**

28 The second Wednesday in November of each year, beginning in 2024, is designated as North  
29 Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day."

30 **SECTION 2.** The North Carolina Grange is designated as the lead organization for  
31 the recognition of North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day and shall develop a plan to raise  
32 awareness of and promote the first annual North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day. In  
33 developing the plan, the Grange shall consult with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
34 and Consumer Services; North Carolina Cooperative Extension, including representatives from  
35 NC State University Extension and NC A&T State University Extension; the University of Mt.  
36 Olive School of Agricultural and Biological Sciences; North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation,



1 Inc.; commodity groups and associations, including the North Carolina Pork Council, the North  
2 Carolina Poultry Federation, and the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association; and any other  
3 organizations the Grange deems appropriate.

4 **SECTION 3.** The North Carolina Grange shall report to the Joint Legislative  
5 Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources no later than June 30,  
6 2024, regarding its plan to raise awareness of and promote the first annual North Carolina  
7 Farmers Appreciation Day.

8 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.