

2011-J558

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Coyne Farms, Inc. upon the occasion of its designation by the New York State Agricultural Society as a 2011 Business of the Year

WHEREAS, The agricultural industry is part of the foundation upon which our distinct American heritage is built; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes great pride in acknowledging outstanding individuals and businesses associated with the agricultural industry which clearly contribute to the spirit of excellence that so distinguishes the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Coyne Farms, Inc. of Avon, New York upon the occasion of its designation by the New York State Agricultural Society as a 2011 Business of the Year at the Society's 179th Annual Agricultural Forum, held in Syracuse on January 6, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Agricultural Society was organized in 1832 to foster, promote and improve the New York State food and agriculture industry; adapting to the changing needs of the industry, the Society remains true to its mission and each year proudly honors several New York State farms with its Business of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, The Business of the Year Award, developed to promote the State's food system and to recognize the quality, leadership and innovation demonstrated by New York agribusinesses, was first presented by the Society in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Irish immigrant Malachy Coyne spent \$19,000 in 1922 to purchase a 192 acre farm in Avon for his son William and his new wife, Mary; in the years since, what began with 20 cows milked by hand, has grown to a herd of 1,000 milking cows; and

WHEREAS, William and Mary's sons, Dick and Jerry, have been the leaders of much of that growth, and by example have instilled a love of dairy farming in their families; as evidence of this, Jerry's son, Malachy, and Dick's sons, Greg and Shaun, are integral to the current farm management structure and, more recently, two of Dick's grandsons have become the fourth generation of Coyne's to farm in Avon; and

WHEREAS, The attention of the Coyne's to detail is unmistakable at this scenic Dairy of Distinction located on Routes 5 and 20 in Livingston County; their land stewardship values and farm management led them to place 1,500 acres of their farm land under contract with New York State to be permanently protected and available for farming in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, Manure management is a multi-layered and complex process at Coyne Farms; manure is separated and a percentage of the solids are composted by Worm Power, a vermicomposting business, via an earthworm composting process resulting in a marketable soil fertility product; and

WHEREAS, The liquid that remains after separation is then stored in a lagoon prior to injection on farm fields and, at this storage stage, the waste methane gas is flared off through a project funded by Environmental Credit Corp. in exchange for the right to sell the resulting earned carbon credits; and

WHEREAS, Coyne Farms is also known for marketing excellent Holstein genetics worldwide through the sale of embryos; most of the cows on the farm are registered and the Coyne's have been long-time active members of the National Holstein Association of which both Dick and Greg Coyne are Past Presidents and, in 2001, Jerry and Dick Coyne were honored as Dairymen of the Year at the World Dairy Expo; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Coyne family have, in addition, been active in local and statewide community organizations, and in the agricultural industry; over the years family members have served on town, school, and planning boards; Jerry Coyne has served on the SUNY Geneseo College Council for several years and Malachy Coyne has similarly served on the

Northeast Dairy Producers Board; and

WHEREAS, Innovation, industry leadership, progressive management and a true love of dairy farming have kept the Coyne family farming for four generations, and have justly earned them a New York State Agricultural Society 2011 Business of the Year Award; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Coyne Farms, Inc. upon the occasion of its designation by the New York State Agricultural Society as a 2011 Business of the Year and to commend the Coyne family for its commitment to excellence and for proudly continuing New York's agricultural heritage, which remains such an important part of our great State and nation's economic foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Coyne family, proud stewards of Coyne Farms, Inc., Routes 5 and 20, Avon, New York 14414.