

2015-J75

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Outback Dairy upon the occasion of being named the 2014 Conservation Farm of the Year by the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and applaud the leaders of commerce and industry whose accomplishments contribute to the economic health and prosperity of the communities of the State of New York and to the quality of life of its people; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Outback Dairy upon the occasion of being named the 2014 Conservation Farm of the Year by the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District; and

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

WHEREAS, New York State and the entire United States are dependent on our agricultural industry for a variety of food products; and

WHEREAS, The Becker family has owned and operated Outback Dairy since 1867, when Joseph Becker founded the farm; in 1979, Norm and Diane Becker took the farm over and began implementing a number of practices which help to conserve soil and water; and

WHEREAS, The family has taken steps, including adding drainage tiling, strip cropping, and similar practices used to prevent erosion; they also added a manure lagoon in 1982, and conservation has been a big part of their operation ever since; and

WHEREAS, Continuing their 147-year tradition, the Beckers implemented 17 different practices that have helped to improve the farm's soil and water; including, sod waterways, stone chutes, diversion ditches, plastic recycling, and a bunk leachate system; they also built a new barn,

and improved their management practices to prevent clean and dirtier water from getting mixed together; and

WHEREAS, Outback Dairy has 365 Holsteins, including 300 milking cows; the family worked with Western New York Crop Management, to make the best use of the cows' manure as fertilizer; furthermore, the operation has about 365 total acres, including 179 acres of tillable land; and WHEREAS, Today, the farm is still a family operation; along with Norm and Diane Becker, their son, Adam, and his wife, Katie, help run the farm; and

WHEREAS, Adam and Katie Becker also have two additional businesses, including Cougars & Cowboys Nutrition, and Katie Becker Photography; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of our farmers as they continue their hard work of cultivating the land, facing the many challenges of nature such as flood, drought and heat, in order to grow our food; and

WHEREAS, Through their diligence and expertise in soil and water conservation, the Becker family has brought pride and recognition to themselves in their local community, and to our great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Outback Dairy upon the occasion of being named the 2014 Conservation Farm of the Year by the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Becker family, Outback Dairy.