

2015-J3669

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Holst Hill Land and Cattle, LLC upon the occasion of receiving the Century Farm Award by the New York State Agricultural Society

WHEREAS, The agricultural industry is part of the foundation upon which our distinct American heritage is built; New York State and the entire United States is dependent on our agricultural industry for a variety of food products; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Holst Hill Land and Cattle, LLC upon the occasion of receiving the Century Farm Award from the New York State Agricultural Society; and

WHEREAS, The Century Farm Program began in 1937, and honors New York farms in continuous operation on the same land by the same family for 100 years or more; for more than a century, Holst Hill Land and Cattle, LLC, a point of pride for Oswego County's agricultural industry, has been successfully managed by the Holst family; and

WHEREAS, The Holst family's dedication to raising quality cattle in an environmentally-friendly manner which protects land and water resources, has earned not only the Century Farm Award, but also the respect and gratitude of those beef farmers with whom they work, their customers, and their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Like every Century Farm Award winner, Paul and Nona Holst, Jr. understand that in agriculture, sustainability means profitability; implementing best management practices which help lower production

costs, thereby protecting the environment and attracting customers, has enabled them to adapt to the many challenges of an ever-changing farm economy; the success of Holst Hill Land and Cattle, LLC proves that a farm can be run cleaner and greener and remain economically viable at the same time; and

WHEREAS, 102 years ago, Paul's grandfather, Hans Holst, began the enterprise as a dairy farm; in 1933, the original farmhouse was totally destroyed when a forest fire swept through the area; the house was rebuilt and it is where Paul and Nona Holst, Jr. live today; and

WHEREAS, At the young age of nine, Paul Holst, Jr. started to work on the farm; during his first year, his sisters hitched up the horse team for him (because he wasn't tall enough yet), and he took the team out to the field to cultivate; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, Holst Hill Land and Cattle, LLC was passed on to Paul Holst, Sr. and three years later, he passed it down to Paul Holst, Jr.; today, Paul Holst, Jr. continues to own and manage the operation, with his wife Nona handling the bookkeeping and finances; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Holsts were assisted in the majority of the farm activities by son-in-law, Chuck Gilkey until his untimely passing in February of 2015; in the future, their daughter Toni, and granddaughters Moriah and Christa, plan to carry on the family tradition; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, Paul Holst, Jr. switched from the dairy business to the beef business; currently, the farm raises a cross-bred herd of Charolaise and Angus beef cattle; they also own approximately 120 acres of land and rent an additional 100 acres of hay land; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of Paul and Nona Holst, Jr., Holst Hill Land and Cattle, LLC adheres to the Global Animal Partnership, 5-Step Animal Welfare Rating Standard for Beef Cattle; the goal of the

program is improving the welfare of animals in agriculture, promoting and facilitating continuous improvement, and better informing consumers about the production systems they choose to support; and

WHEREAS, Since the farm is in the Oneida Lake Watershed, properly controlling clean water, polluted runoff, and organic waste is significant to protecting the water quality of the lake; since 2007, Paul Holst, Jr. has diligently worked with the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager and District Agricultural Environmental Management Program to address drainage concerns and complete several phases of the AEM process; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, a New York State Round 17 Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution and Abatement Control Program Grant and a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant were utilized to install several agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the farm; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to the farming industry, Paul Holst, Jr. holds the position of President of the Oswego County Beef Producers Association, and is a vital member of New York Beef Producers Association, Oswego County Farm Bureau, and the Oneida Lake Association; in the past, he served as a Councilman for the Town of Constantia; and

WHEREAS, The Holst family has served as dedicated advocates for the farming industry that has been the mainstay of their family for generations; their involvement within the community, as well as their beef cattle enterprise, tells a story of stamina, caring attitude, and family, which will carry them long into the future; and

WHEREAS, Through their diligence and expertise, the Holst family has brought pride and recognition to their farm, the local community, and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges the success of this exceptional family farm and its contributions to the local and State economies, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Holst Hill Land and Cattle, LLC, upon the occasion of receiving the Century Farm Award by the New York State Agricultural Society; and

be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Paul and Nona Holst, Jr., Owners, Holst Hill Land and Cattle, LLC.