

2011-K112

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Mar-Dan Farms upon the occasion of its designation by the New York State Agricultural Society as the recipient of a 2011 Century Farm Award

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 which 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 Mar-Dan Farms of Java Center, New York upon the occasion of its designation by the New York State Agricultural Society as the recipient of a 2011 Century Farm Award 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 Century Farm Award; and

WHEREAS, The Century Farm program, begun in 1937, honors New York Farms in continuous operation on the same land by the same family for 100 years or more; each year deserving farm families are recognized by the Society with Century Farm Awards, now proudly sponsored by Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1830's Christopher McCormick came to Java, where his brother, Richard McCormick, and his wife's sister, Anna Hamm McCormick, had purchased property; in 1839 Christopher and Mary Hamm McCor-

mick purchased property next to that of his brother and his sister-in-law's and established Mar-Dan Farms; Anna Hamm McCormick and Mary Hamm McCormick were the daughters of Richard and Mary Egan Hamm and both the Egans and the Hamms also had a large presence in the area; and

WHEREAS, Christopher McCormick, like many Irish, also helped build the nation's canal system; in order to earn funds to expand his holdings it is said that in the fall after the harvest, he would pack a gunny sack with a side of pork and beans, head across lots for Buffalo, and take a boat on the Great Lakes making his way to the Mississippi and down to New Orleans, a trip which took seven to ten days; and

WHEREAS, He would return in time for spring planting; his efforts were fruitful, allowing him to build the first two-story house in Java and a large modern barn; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately the barn was struck by lightning in early 1920; his granary and pig and chicken houses were removed in 2006 but a small woodshed historically used as a playhouse can still be seen on the farm; and

WHEREAS, Christopher McCormick II, the next generation, also built a beautiful home with nine large bedrooms and a third floor attic which was used for holiday events and wedding receptions, accompanied by fiddle music; all the home's floors, from cellar to attic had high ceilings; and

WHEREAS, Tragically, this beautiful home burned in 1959 and a smaller house was built on the site; and

WHEREAS, Today Mark Allen McCormick is the owner and manager of Mar-Dan Farms; the original 165 acres have grown to encompass more than 700 acres, where crops supply the feed for the herd of 240 milk cows and 218 head of young stock; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, Mark McCormick is a member of St. Patrick's Church in Java Center which was built on land donated by Christopher McCormick I; Mark is Chairman of the Java Zoning Board of

Appeals and ably follows in the footsteps of his father, Donald, who served for more than 25 years as Chairman of the town's Assessment Board of Review; and

WHEREAS, Mar-Dan Farms has continued to change and grow over the years and the McCormick family has met many challenges, always with a sensitivity to the community, its citizens and its needs; and

WHEREAS, Mar-Dan Farms, located in Wyoming County, truly and justly merits recognition as a Century Farm; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mar-Dan Farms upon the occasion of its designation by the New York State Agricultural Society as a 2011 Century Farm and to commend the McCormick 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 McCormick family, proud stewards of Mar-Dan Farms, 1495 Torrey Hill Road, Java Center, New York 14082.