

2013-J3664

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Baskin Livestock upon the occasion of being named the 2013 Genesee County Conservation Farm of the Year by the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District

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 is dependent on our agricultural industry for a variety of food products, as well as for the wise and prudent management of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the efforts of our farmers as they continue their hard work of cultivating the land, raising livestock, and facing the many challenges of nature in order to provide food; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Baskin Livestock upon the occasion of being named the 2013 Genesee County Conservation Farm of the Year by the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District; its achievements will be honored at the Celebrate Agriculture Dinner on Saturday, March 22, 2014, at the Alexander Firemen's Recreation Hall, Alexander, New York; and

WHEREAS, Baskin Livestock is a family enterprise, owned and operated by married couple Bill Baskin and Susan Blackburn; established in 1980 in Cumberland, Rhode Island, the owners moved to Batavia, New York, in 1991, and the business has been at its present site since 1993; and

WHEREAS, A thriving business, Baskin Livestock owns nearly 1,750 acres of land in Genesee County, and raises dairy replacement heifers, beef steers, and American quarter horses; in addition, the farm operates a mill facility that recycles items from the human food production stream and processes them into quality bakery meal that is sold to other farm-

ers and feed mills, thereby diverting them from possible landfilling;

and

WHEREAS, Baskin Livestock proudly follows all best-management practices to ensure the stewardship of its land and environment; livestock is fenced out of stream channels, a good percentage of its property is in pasture for the grazing of its cattle and horses, and its manure is composted to provide a more stable usable product for land application or sale; and

WHEREAS, Active in the Agricultural Environmental Management Plan, Baskin Livestock's recent conservation practices installed with the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District's assistance include heavy use area protection, waste transfer system, roof runoff structure, compost facility, and waste storage facilities; it has one of the most extensive grazing systems in the county; and

WHEREAS, Through their commitment to employing the best available methods for environmental sustainability while operating Baskin Livestock with integrity and talent, Bill Baskin and Susan Blackburn have brought pride and recognition to themselves, to Genesee County, and to our great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Businesses such as Baskin Livestock exert a strong, positive influence on the communities they serve and are a crucial element in the economy of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Baskin Livestock upon the occasion of being named the 2013 Genesee County Conservation Farm of the Year by the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bill Baskin and Susan Blackburn, owners of Baskin Livestock.