

2013-J3684

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Harkins Dairy Farm LLC upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of a Gold Level National Dairy Quality Award

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 are dependent on our agricultural industry for a variety of food products; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the achievements of those families which substantially contribute to the economic vitality of their communities and the entire Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate the Harkins Dairy Farm LLC upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of a Gold Level National Dairy Quality Award, which was celebrated at a special ceremony on January 26-28, 2014, in Fort Worth, Texas; and

WHEREAS, The National Dairy Quality Awards recognizes the very best in milk production; its goal is to honor dairy producers from across the United States who have successfully placed high priority on producing milk of the highest quality; and

WHEREAS, Harkins Dairy Farm LLC is owned and operated by Craig and Barb Harkins with their sons Tom and Rob Harkin; since its establishment in 1927, the 575 acre farm has been in the family for the past five generations of Barb Harkins' family; and

WHEREAS, The Harkins Dairy Farm milks its 275 Holsteins cows three times a day, and 26,000 pounds of milk are shipped out daily; they take pride in their all-natural dairy products; and

WHEREAS, This outstanding farm is one of only 40 in the country to

receive a National Dairy Quality Award (NDQA), honoring them for producing superior quality milk; this year, they were chosen out of more than 200 applicants across the United States; and

WHEREAS, After winning the Silver Level Award for two consecutive years, the Harkins Dairy Farm received the Gold Level based upon their excellence in milk production; tests done on chemical indicators in the milk showed extremely high quality; judges also took note of cow's comfort and health, as well as the farm's adherence to drug use and record-keeping standards; and

WHEREAS, The Harkins Dairy Farm's commitment to excellence has won it numerous additional awards including the Gold Standard from both the New York State Super Milk and from the Upstate Niagara Cooperative; they were also named a Dairy of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges the success of this exceptional family 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 commend Harkins Dairy Farm LLC upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of a Gold Level National Dairy Quality Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Harkins Family.