

2013 -- S 0846

=====
LC02256
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE LOCAL FARMS THAT CONSTITUTE THE RHODE ISLAND
DAIRY FARMS COOPERATIVE ON BEING NAMED THE RICHMOND GRANGE 2013
"AGRICULTURISTS OF THE YEAR"

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: April 04, 2013

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Here in Rhode Island, dairy farms have been in steady decline for several
2 decades. Farmers routinely face issues surrounding the price of milk, high land values, and lack
3 of a local presence. Because of these issues, five local farms, Meadowburg Farm, Tomaquag
4 Farm, Escobar's Highland Farm, Cottrell Homestead, and Wanton Farm, formed the Rhode
5 Island Dairy Farms Cooperative in 2004. Their goal was to produce local fresh milk; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2004, after years of hard work and dedication, the Rhode Island Dairy
7 Farms Cooperative launched its first product, Rhody Fresh, on the shelves of independent grocery
8 stores and numerous Mom and Pop stores. After a huge public response, Stop and Shop and
9 Shaw's added Rhody Fresh to their shelves and within the first six months, Rhody Fresh met its
10 three-year projected goal. In 2007, this delicious product witnessed a thirty percent increase in
11 sales; and

12 WHEREAS, After the success of Rhody Fresh milk, it was only natural for the Rhode
13 Island Dairy Farms Cooperative to expand. In 2009, Rhody Fresh launched two new products,
14 Rhody Fresh half and half and Rhody Fresh heavy cream. Throughout the state, these products
15 were sold at retail stores, colleges, and other locations, resulting in a need for more farms in the
16 cooperative. Four more farms, Emma Acres, Bailey Brook Farm, Breene Hollow Farm, and
17 Elmrock Farm, joined the collaborative venture; and

18 WHEREAS, Rhody Fresh has continued to grow, with Rhody Fresh butter hitting the
19 shelves in early 2010 and, later that same year, a new variety of artisan cheese, Butterkase, made

1 using Rhody Fresh milk, was launched; and

2 WHEREAS, The collaborative work and outstanding achievements realized by the Rhode
3 Island Dairy Farms Cooperative serve as a tremendous example for other businesses in the state
4 to emulate; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
6 hereby congratulates the local farms that constitute the Rhode Island Dairy Farms Cooperative on
7 being named the 2013 “Agriculturists of the Year” by the Richmond Grange. We commend them
8 on their contributions and achievements and wish them continued success in their future
9 endeavors; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the local farms that constitute the Rhode Island
12 Dairy Farms Cooperative.

=====
LC02256
=====