

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY SENATORS KOSTELKA AND WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Charles H. "Charlie" Staples of Calhoun, Louisiana, upon selection as Outstanding Agricultural Producer of the Year at the 2012 AG EXPO Agricultural Awards and Legislative Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by the North Louisiana Agri-Business Council.

WHEREAS, farming has existed for thousands of years and agriculture has been the mainstay of this state's economy since its inception; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana farmers engage in all manner of agrarian pursuits, in particular, dairy farming, that yields products which target local, national, and international markets; agribusiness contributes to a positive aspect of America's foreign trade balance with the exportation of foodstuffs; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Staples is owner of Staples Dairy, a family-owned business that has been in continuous operation since 1924; it is the only operating dairy in Ouachita Parish and one of eight dairies found in the Northeast Louisiana region; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Staples learned the business from the ground up; he began to hand milk cows at the tender age of three; by age of six, he started daily milking chores; and with the exclusion of three years of military service in the United States Air Force, he has been involved in milking operations at the dairy, twice a day, for over seventy years; and

WHEREAS, Charlie took over supervision of the dairy in 1958, and since that time it is estimated that Staples Dairy has produced over eighty-seven million pounds of milk; that is enough to fill 174 million eight-ounce glasses; and

WHEREAS, since childhood, Charlie has witnessed a steady development of applied technologies related to the advancement of animal husbandry, refrigeration, and increased milk production, from hand milking to the latest vacuum devices, milking pipelines, and fully automated robotic milking stations like the Herringbone Parlor; and

WHEREAS, these improvements are most evident in a comparison of milk production output; in 1958, a dairy cow produced thirty-five pounds of milk or four gallons per day, while presently, daily production averages sixty pounds or about seven gallons; and

WHEREAS, Charlie transformed Staples Dairy from a small business selling raw milk stock locally, to a more profitable enterprise selling to Dairy Farmers of America Co-op, a national marketing co-operative that distributes bulk milk to commodities producers throughout the United States and overseas; and

WHEREAS, Charlie continues in the vocation that he loves, in a venture started by his parents, Fred and Vivian Staples, and he has inherited their stewardship for the land with concern for water and soil conservation and a respect for the animals placed in his care embracing sound practices in feed nutrition and veterinary medicine; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Staples is passionate about dairy science, proud of his family-oriented business, yet humble from the presence of God's grace in his life; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Staples is a successful business manager, farmer, and dairyman; his family enterprise has prospered from his hard work and tenacity; and his continued success contributes greatly to the economic strength of the state and the nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Charles H. "Charlie" Staples upon selection as the Outstanding Agricultural Producer of the Year for 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Charlie Staples.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE