

**No. R-480. House concurrent resolution recognizing June as National Dairy Month in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.406)

Offered by: Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

Whereas, since the 18th century, the dairy industry has been a mainstay of Vermont's agricultural way of life, and

Whereas, although the methodologies and technologies associated with dairy farming have evolved considerably since Vermont's earliest days, the essence of dairy farming, rising early every day for the first milking of the herd and readying the raw milk for processing in various products have remained largely unchanged, and

Whereas, dairy farms cover 15 percent of Vermont reflecting their prominence on the State's landscape, and 80 percent of the State's farmland is dedicated to dairy, and

Whereas, according to the latest data from the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Vermont dairy industry annually generates \$2.2 billion in economic activity, and

Whereas, dairy accounts for 70 percent of the State's agricultural sales and between 6,000 and 7,000 Vermonters are employed in the dairy industry, and

Whereas, 63 percent of the milk produced in New England originates on Vermont dairy farms, and

Whereas, in 2018, Vermonters and visitors to the State will have the opportunity to view dairy operations firsthand through the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' Vermont Breakfast on the Farm program to be held at the Gervais Family Farm in Enosburg Falls in June and at the Kayhart Brothers Dairy in West Addison in July, and

Whereas, the International Dairy Foods Association has designated June as National Dairy Month, and it affords a great opportunity for Vermonters to celebrate the importance of dairy in our State's culture, economy, history, and as a fundamental element of Vermont's scenic landscape, and

Whereas, on Friday, June 22, 2018, at the Vermont Mountaineers' baseball game to be played at the Montpelier Recreation Field, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets will celebrate Dairy Month and the birthday of Clover, the Agency's multi-breed dairy cow, in a fun-filled event, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes June as National Dairy Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.