**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE KEVIN YON OF YON FAMILY FARMS AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON BEING NAMED THE 2018 SOUTHEASTERN FARMER OF THE YEAR.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is proud to recognize Kevin Yon on winning the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award at the 2018 Sunbelt Ag Expo farm show in Moultrie, Georgia on October 16, 2018; and

Whereas, the Southeastern Farmer of the Year award recognizes excellence in agricultural production and farm management. In the award’s twenty-nine-year history, Mr. Yon marks only the third South Carolinian to win and the first Clemson alumnus to do so; and

Whereas, a native of Anderson County and a son and grandson of sharecroppers, Mr. Yon bought his first steer and heifer at the age of twelve, and by high school, he’d purchased a small crossbred herd. After graduating from Clemson, he worked for seven years managing the beef herd at Congaree Farms, and he was able to buy half of that herd in order to start his own; and

Whereas, a first generation Angus breeder, Mr. Yon established Yon Family Farms in Ridge Spring, and the farm has grown to become one of the best Angus seedstock herds in the nation and one of the largest purebred operations. The farm’s herd includes about 1,200 registered breeding‑age females, 590 commercial breeding‑age females, and 90 steers and heifers that are fed out; and

Whereas, with 4,258 acres, Yon Family Farms has also grown well beyond just cattle, with the addition of alfalfa, corn, soybeans, pecans, and grain sorghum. The Yons also own a retail store in Ridge Spring, where they sell pecans, beef from their farm, and other South Carolina‑grown products; and

Whereas, Yon Family Farms is a true family business. Kevin and his wife, Lydia, raised all three of their children, Sally, Drake, and Corbin, on the farm, and, as adults, all three have returned to work on it, along with two of their spouses. The family includes six graduates of Clemson’s College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences, and the farm has worked and continues to work closely with the Clemson University Extension, especially with their agent, Travis Mitchell, and his predecessor, Phil Perry; and

Whereas, the Yons give back to the agricultural field and their community by hosting tours and meetings, providing work for college student interns and school-aged helpers, and employing ten permanent workers; and

Whereas, an active leader in his profession, Mr. Yon has served with a number of local, state, and national organizations, including the American Angus Association. In 2009, the farm received the National Environmental Stewardship Award from the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association; and

Whereas, devout Christians, Kevin and Lydia are active members of Ridge Spring Baptist Church; and

Whereas, Kevin Yon built his farm with honesty, integrity, and hard work. The members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the pride and recognition that Mr. Yon has brought to the State of South Carolina and look forward to a future filled with further accomplishments by this talented farmer. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor and recognize Kevin Yon of Yon Family Farms and congratulate him on being named the 2018 Southeastern Farmer of the Year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Kevin Yon.

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