



2020 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Commemoration 826

Introduced by: **Senator Brock Greenfield**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring Johnson Farms as the 2019 Leopold**
2 **Conservation Award recipient.**

3 WHEREAS, the Leopold Conservation Award, named for renowned conservationist Aldo
4 Leopold, recognizes farm and ranch families who demonstrate outstanding conservation
5 leadership on their land and in their communities and a commitment to the health of South
6 Dakota's natural resources, exemplified by Johnson Farms as the recipient of the 2019
7 Leopold Conservation Award; and

8 WHEREAS, Alan and Mickie Johnson, with their son Brian and his wife Jamie, use a mix of
9 old school practices and modern technology to leave their Spink County land in better shape
10 for the next generation; and

11 WHEREAS, the Johnsons couple no-till practices with cover crops and diverse rotations,
12 improve water infiltration and soil health, minimize agricultural runoff, naturally ease pest
13 management, and provide wildlife habitat, making the land more productive than when first
14 broken by homesteaders; and

15 WHEREAS, realizing that different areas of each field have varying productivity, the
16 Johnsons apply the precise amount of nutrients on the soil, saving time and natural resources
17 and delivering a better return on investment; and

18 WHEREAS, their herd of Angus beef cattle is allowed to graze on mature cover crops and
19 corn stubble, creating a cooperative relationship between the cattle and the land; and

20 WHEREAS, when they met as interns during the 2004 Legislature, Brian and Jamie's
21 relationship budded, blossoming into a family with four sprouts:

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Fifth Legislature of the State
23 of South Dakota, that the Legislature honors Johnson Farms as the 2019 Leopold Conservation
24 Award recipient.