RESOLUTION # 24

ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, we support the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's cooperative efforts in developing a comprehensive animal waste management program for livestock farms that considers and incorporates the environmental, alternative-energy and economic aspects of animal waste; and

WHEREAS, the Department recognizes animal waste as a nutrient-rich resource and continues to explore alternative uses of animal waste, including bio-gas production, and allowing for the productive reuse of manure as a means to reduce the use of synthetic fertilizers, which reduces hauling costs and benefits the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Department works in conjunction with its conservation partners to implement demonstration projects, such as the one that installed best management practices at the Equine Science Center, to provide hands-on training and research facilities to educate livestock owners on the design, implementation and construction of cost-effective environmental management practices and facilities to minimize water quality impacts and provide an opportunity for the evaluation of the effectiveness of such practices and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture continues to identify ways to assist livestock farmers with self-certified and high-density plan development and implementation to assure that the animal waste management program is effective, practical, affordable and feasible; and

WHEREAS, to date the Department has received declaration pages from 630 animal operations confirming that a self-certified AWMP has been developed and implemented on their farms, and several high-density AWMPs were developed and

reviewed by conservation professionals to ensure compliance with the NRCS-Field Office Technical Guide; and

WHEREAS, the Department has continued its role in the coordination of building an anaerobic digester at the Landis Sewerage Authority in Vineland, Cumberland County, and that digester is now managed by both Landis and a private LLC and is, through the digestion of food waste and cow manure, creating natural gas for use in powering Landis' operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the delegates to the 101st State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 10-11, 2016, support the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's cooperative efforts in developing a comprehensive animal waste management program for livestock farms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge livestock operators to file animal waste management plans with the Department in order to comply with state regulations regarding the need for such plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we direct the Department to continue to recognize animal waste as a resource and continue to explore alternative uses of animal waste including bio-gas production that could help meet the State Energy Master Plan goals, allow for the productive reuse of manure, reduce hauling costs and benefit the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we direct the Department to continue to work in conjunction with conservation partners to: implement demonstration projects, such as the one that installed best management practices at the Equine Science Center; to provide hands-on training and research facilities to educate livestock owners on the design and construction of cost-effective environmental management practices and facilities; to identify opportunities for implementation incentives for facilities to minimize

water quality impacts (such as in the eight-year preservation program and the Farm Bill); and provide an opportunity for the evaluation of the effectiveness of such practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we strongly urge the New Jersey Congressional Delegation to support sufficient funding for NRCS and other federal-level cost-share programs that help New Jersey farmers adequately address animal-waste issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Department, working in cooperation with partners such as Rutgers University and the New Jersey Farm Bureau, to educate New Jersey's farmers about the provisions in the Food Safety Modernization Act that will impact the use of manure on fields where food crops are grown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support the Rutgers Cooperative Extension's Compost Certification Program as called for in the NJDEP Solid Waste Management regulations and that we monitor program compliance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we direct the Department to work with the Equine Science Center and other appropriate agencies to provide outreach to equine owners through enhancements to their websites, newsletters and special meetings and provide information on training sessions, regulation timeframes and other related information regarding rule implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support the amendments made to the NJDEP Solid Waste Management regulations that exempt farmers from permitting requirements when composting specific feedstocks at certain limits, as these amendments create a first step toward ultimately establishing an Ag Composting Program under the Department of Agriculture; and we also support the Department's and Rutgers Bulletin E347 outlining how to bury or compost normal livestock mortalities and butcher waste on farms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we direct the Department to continue to identify ways to reach out to and assist livestock farmers with self-certified and high-density plan development and implementation to assure that animal waste management is practical, affordable and feasible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support the ongoing operation of the centrally located anaerobic digester at the Landis Sewerage Authority in Vineland, Cumberland County, to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency of operating such a facility that can accept manure and food waste from numerous locations to produce bio-gas for use in generating electricity.