

RESOLUTION # 17
DICKEYA BLACKLEG

1 **WHEREAS**, Dickeya blackleg, often referred to simply as Dickeya, is a bacterial
2 disease that is relatively new to the United States, is highly aggressive, and has caused
3 severe damage to white potato crops; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Dickeya thrives in warmer temperatures, making crops grown in
5 southern states and the Mid-Atlantic states (including New Jersey) more susceptible,
6 and has resulted in many cases of severe crop loss; and

7 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's potato growers could be devastated by widespread
8 Dickeya if preventive measures are not established quickly; and

9 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey farmers harvested 2,300 acres of white potatoes in
10 2015; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the potential for Dickeya spreading beyond potato crops and into
12 other types of crops in New Jersey is not yet determined.

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 102nd
14 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 8-9,
15 2017, do hereby urge that the Department and Rutgers NJAES to establish a joint
16 program for testing potato seed for Dickeya.

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Department and Rutgers to
18 establish protocols for defining and certifying clean seed, and for eliminating Dickeya
19 from contaminated fields.

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Department and Rutgers to
21 develop best management practices for avoiding, controlling and eliminating Dickeya
22 and to determine the risk to other crops from Dickeya introduced into an area via
23 potatoes, including best management practices for minimizing such risks.

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge all appropriate agencies and farm
25 advocacy groups to investigate potential sources of funding to carry out the necessary
26 research, testing and support programs on Dickeya, including but not limited to food
27 processors, other segments of the food industry, pesticide companies and others with an
28 interest in keeping Dickeya from becoming further established in New Jersey.