

RESOLUTION # 19

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

1 **WHEREAS**, the world population is predicted to top nine billion by 2050, and is
2 estimated to include growth in the middle class by three billion people, who will demand
3 60 percent more meat, milk and eggs than currently being produced today; and

4 **WHEREAS**, an increased supply of human capital is required to fill the 57,900
5 annual employment opportunities nationally for candidates with at least a bachelor's
6 degree in the area of Food, Agriculture, Renewable Energy and the Environment
7 between 2015-2020; and

8 **WHEREAS**, today's high-tech Agricultural Science Education curricula is infused
9 with rigorous academics, including STEM (science, technology, engineering and math)
10 components provided by the Curriculum in Agricultural Science Education (CASE)
11 courses, as well as other ag-science education, to ensure global competitiveness,
12 student achievement and well prepared graduates for over 300 careers in the food,
13 agriculture, renewable energy and environmental industries; and

14 **WHEREAS**, there are over 60 New Jersey agricultural education positions at
15 the secondary (high school) level and the potential for up to 15 retirements over the next
16 three to five years; and

17 **WHEREAS**, NJDA's Office of Agricultural Education established a State Teach
18 Agriculture Results (STAR) team, which includes representatives from Rutgers
19 University, Delaware Valley University, New Jersey Department of Education, New
20 Jersey Farm Bureau, New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators, New Jersey
21 FFA Foundation, New Jersey FFA Alumni and New Jersey Agricultural Education
22 Advisory Council, a Rutgers teacher prep student and Office of Ag Education staff to
23 develop strategies to address this critical shortage; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the critical shortage of agriculture teachers is made more critical by
25 the need to increase the number of agricultural education programs to serve the global
26 needs of the industry.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates of the 102nd
28 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 8-9,
29 2017, support increased awareness of, and education about, global agriculture
30 demands; increased marketing of New Jersey’s high-tech agricultural science programs
31 at the secondary level; increased awareness of New Jersey’s critical need for certified
32 agriculture teachers; and increased communications about the demand for agriculture
33 graduates.

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support continuing a strong and viable
35 Agricultural Education program in New Jersey through a continuing memorandum of
36 understanding between the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey
37 Department of Agriculture; support continual improvement of resources and services to
38 all New Jersey Agricultural Education programs at the middle, secondary and post-
39 secondary levels; support the development of new and updated local agriculture
40 instruction programs, such as CASE, and support the continued work of NJ’s STAR
41 team to increase the supply of agriculture teachers.

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the expansion of the Rutgers Ag Education
43 certification program be supported to help solve the critical need of agriculture teachers
44 in New Jersey and across the country to meet global food, agriculture, renewable energy
45 and environmental industry employment demands.