

RESOLUTION # 2

NEW JERSEY FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION



1 **WHEREAS**, the world population is predicted to top 9 billion by 2050 and is
2 estimated to include growth in the middle class by 3 billion people who will demand 60
3 percent more meat, milk and eggs than produced today; and

4 **WHEREAS**, an increased supply of human capital is required to fill the 57,900
5 annual employment opportunities in Food, Agriculture, Renewable Energy and the
6 Environment between 2015-2020; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the instructional program for the agriculture career cluster in New Jersey
8 will be known as *New Jersey Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education* and the
9 logo (pictured at the top of this resolution) to help depict over 250 career areas includes: the
10 science of agriculture, plant systems, animal systems, and food science systems; and

11 **WHEREAS**, FFA is the appropriate Career and Technical Student Organization for
12 all approved ag career cluster instructional programs in food, agriculture and natural
13 resources, including biotechnology; and

14 **WHEREAS**, today's high-tech Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Education,
15 beginning with early student exposure, with examples such as National Agriculture in the
16 Classroom (NAITC), and then a curriculum infused with rigorous academics, including
17 STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) components provided by Curriculum in
18 Agricultural Science Education (CASE) courses, as well as other ag science education, to
19 ensure global competitiveness, student achievement and well-prepared graduates for over
20 250 career areas in the food, agriculture, renewable energy and environmental industry; and

21 **WHEREAS**, there are 59 New Jersey agricultural education positions at the
22 secondary (high school) level and the potential of up to 15 retirements over the next three to
23 five years; and

24 **WHEREAS**, NJDA, Office of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education
25 conducts the State Teach Agriculture Results (STAR) program with team members from
26 Rutgers University, Delaware Valley University, New Jersey Department of Education, New
27 Jersey Farm Bureau, New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators, New Jersey FFA
28 Foundation, New Jersey FFA Alumni Association and New Jersey Agricultural Advisory
29 Council, a college student preparing to become an agriculture teacher and Office of Food,
30 Agriculture and Natural Resources Education staff to develop strategies to address this
31 critical shortage; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the critical shortage of agriculture teachers is exemplified by the need to
33 increase the number of instructional programs in food, agriculture and natural resources to
34 serve the global needs of the industry.

35 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates of the 103rd State
36 Agricultural Convention assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey on February 7-8, 2018,
37 support increased marketing of, and education about, global agriculture demands; increased
38 marketing of New Jersey's Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education programs at
39 all levels of education; increased awareness of New Jersey's critical need for certified
40 agriculture teachers and increased communications about the demand for agriculture
41 graduates.

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support continuing a strong and viable Food,
43 Agriculture and Natural Resources Education program in New Jersey through a continuing
44 memorandum of understanding between the New Jersey Department of Education and the
45 New Jersey Department of Agriculture; support continual improvement of resources and

46 services to all New Jersey instructional programs for food, agriculture, and natural resources
47 at all levels of education; support the development of new and updated local agriculture
48 instruction programs, such as CASE, and support the continued work of New Jersey's STAR
49 team to increase the supply of agriculture teachers.

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the expansion of the Rutgers Ag Education
51 certification program be supported to help support the critical need of agriculture teachers in
52 New Jersey and across the country to meet global food, agriculture, renewable energy and
53 environmental industry employment demands.

54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we support legislation in the establishment of a "Loan
55 Redemption Program for Teachers of Agriculture" created to help increase the number of
56 needed outstanding new and beginning teachers in pursuit of serving the industry of Food,
57 Agriculture and Natural Resources.