

RESOLUTION # 26

ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

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

20 **WHEREAS**, Department staff is currently updating the electronic Animal Waste
21 Management Plan template to make it more streamlined and user-friendly, and to include
22 specific action steps an operator can take to address concerns that may be identified in the
23 plan; and

24 **WHEREAS**, to date the Department has received declaration pages from 741 animal
25 operations confirming that a self-certified AWMP has been developed and implemented on

26 their farms, and several high-density AWMPs were developed and reviewed by conservation
27 professionals to ensure compliance with the NRCS-Field Office Technical Guide.

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 103rd State
29 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 7-8, 2018,
30 support the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's cooperative efforts in developing a
31 comprehensive animal waste management program for livestock farms.

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

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

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the Department to continue to work in
40 conjunction with conservation partners to: implement demonstration projects, such as the
41 one that installed best management practices at the Equine Science Center; to provide
42 hands-on training and research facilities to educate livestock owners on the design and
43 construction of cost-effective environmental management practices and facilities; to identify
44 opportunities for implementation incentives for facilities to minimize water quality impacts
45 (such as in the eight-year preservation program and the Farm Bill); and provide an
46 opportunity for the evaluation of the effectiveness of such practices.

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

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Department, working in cooperation
51 with partners such as Rutgers University and the New Jersey Farm Bureau, to educate New
52 Jersey's farmers about the provisions in the Food Safety Modernization Act that will impact

53 the duration of time between the date manure can be spread on fields and when many food
54 crops grown on those fields can be harvested.

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

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

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

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

73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the Department's efforts to
74 streamline and make more user-friendly the electronic template for an Animal Waste
75 Management Plan, and to include specific action steps an operator can take to address
76 concerns that may be identified in the plan.

77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the ongoing operation of the centrally
78 located anaerobic digester at the Landis Sewerage Authority in Vineland, Cumberland
79 County, to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency of operating such a facility that can

80 accept manure and food waste from numerous locations to produce bio-gas for use in
81 generating electricity.