

## RESOLUTION # 35

### NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES

1           **WHEREAS**, destructive insect pests are among the most harmful challenges faced  
2 by farmers, homeowners and government agencies when trying to protect plant life; and

3           **WHEREAS**, much work has been undertaken over the past five decades to ensure  
4 that pesticides marketed for general use carry the least unintended harm to humans,  
5 animals, and beneficial and non-target insects; and

6           **WHEREAS**, pesticides in the neonicotinoid group play a major role in most  
7 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans, which are designed to limit the overuse of  
8 pesticides by employing a combination of chemical and natural methods to fight pests; and

9           **WHEREAS**, included in the neonicotinoid group is the pesticide imidacloprid, which  
10 was first registered for use in the United States in 1992 and has a wide range of target pests  
11 and sites, and is effective in protecting vegetables, fruits, potatoes, cereals and turf; and

12           **WHEREAS**, a number of insecticide products in the “neonicotinoid” group are  
13 classified as being for general use and have been registered under the EPA’s Conventional  
14 Reduced Risk Program due to their favorable toxicological profiles, and they play an  
15 important role in controlling a variety of insects in both agricultural and veterinary  
16 applications; and

17           **WHEREAS**, as a group, neonicotinoids are effective against sucking insects such as  
18 aphids, leaf hoppers, whitefly and thrips, as well as chewing insects such as termites, and  
19 larvae of beetles (wireworms and grubs) and some Lepidopteran pests, particularly  
20 cutworms; and

21           **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and USDA effectively used  
22 imidacloprid to protect trees from attack by the Asian longhorned beetle during the  
23 eradication of that insect in two separate infestations in New Jersey; and

24           **WHEREAS**, the formulations of the neonicotinoids, clothianidin (GrubEx®),  
25 (Arena®), imidacloprid (Merit®), and thiamethoxam (Meridian™); are widely used by

26 homeowners and golf course managers to protect turfgrass from Japanese beetle grub  
27 damage; and

28 **WHEREAS**, another insecticide included in the neonicotinoid group is dinotefuran,  
29 which is effective on a broad spectrum of insects infesting vegetable, fruit and fiber crops,  
30 and which was granted Organophosphorous Alternative and Reduced Risk Status by the  
31 EPA; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the “Scorpion® and Venom®” formulations of dinotefuran are relied  
33 upon by New Jersey’s peach and apple growers to protect their crops against the invasive  
34 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug; and

35 **WHEREAS**, imidacloprid is widely used against a number of veterinary parasites  
36 such as fleas, flies and lice on domestic dogs, cats and livestock; and

37 **WHEREAS**, while neonicotinoids are a factor in the debate over the cause of Colony  
38 Collapse Disorder (CCD) among honeybees, no single, identifiable cause of CCD has been  
39 determined by widespread research into that phenomenon; and

40 **WHEREAS**, neonicotinoid insecticides already come in containers with label  
41 instructions that address their potential impacts to honeybee colonies; and

42 **WHEREAS**, the loss of neonicotinoid pesticides as a tool in a producer’s pest-  
43 fighting arsenal would likely lead to increased use of other broad-spectrum insecticides that  
44 may not carry the Reduced Risk Status by the EPA; and

45 **WHEREAS**, action to provide education to producers about the proper use of  
46 neonicotinoid insecticides would have more beneficial impacts; and

47 **WHEREAS**, legislation has been introduced to direct the Department of  
48 Environmental Protection to classify neonicotinoids as “restricted use” pesticides in New  
49 Jersey, limiting their application to certified and licensed pesticide applicators, but not to  
50 outrightly prohibit the use or sale of neonicotinoid pesticides in the state.

51 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 103<sup>rd</sup> State  
52 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey on February 7-8, 2018, do

53 hereby urge the Department to support the continued availability of neonicotinoid pesticides  
54 for the agricultural and veterinary applications they have been used for to date.

55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we oppose any legislation to ban the use of  
56 neonicotinoids, as the scientific evidence does not support that the drawbacks of using  
57 neonicotinoids outweigh the substantial benefits of neonicotinoids, and since the EPA has  
58 granted them a “Reduced Risk” designation.

59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we encourage an educational program on the  
60 proper use of neonicotinoid insecticides be undertaken as an alternative to legislation  
61 banning their use, emphasizing the precautions to be taken when using them.