

RESOLUTION # 6

FEEDING FOOD WASTE TO LIVESTOCK

1 **WHEREAS**, an estimated 40 percent of the food the world grows, processes and
2 transports is wasted, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

3 **WHEREAS**, disposal of this wasted food has frequently been handled by dumping it
4 into landfills, where, as it breaks down, it creates uncaptured methane gas that escapes into
5 the atmosphere, contributing to climate change; and

6 **WHEREAS**, some facilities have been established in New Jersey to turn food waste
7 into captured methane gas that can be transformed into electrical power, but there are not
8 enough of those facilities with enough capacity to use all the food waste generated in the
9 state; and

10 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has a stated goal, created via legislation passed in July
11 2017, of reducing food waste in the state by 50 percent by the year 2030; and

12 **WHEREAS**, another major option for putting food waste to beneficial use instead of
13 landfilling it is to feed it to livestock; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the EPA lists feeding food waste to livestock as one of its preferred
15 methods for reducing the amount of food waste going into landfills; and

16 **WHEREAS**, under New Jersey law, the Department of Environmental Protection's
17 Solid Waste regulations exempt source-separated food waste fed to livestock in New Jersey
18 as approved by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture; and

19 **WHEREAS**, that means the oversight for farm operators feeding food waste to
20 livestock is assigned to the NJDA, which strives to balance the benefits of using these
21 methods of feeding livestock, including the nutritional value to the animal, with preventing
22 odor and environmental complaints by neighbors that would give rise to Right to Farm issues
23 and potential litigation; and

24 **WHEREAS**, a standardized set of procedures, crafted to account for differences in
25 the sizes and types of livestock operations that feed livestock with food waste, would help
26 guide farmers using this feeding method to maintain appropriate levels of food waste inputs
27 for their animal types and herd sizes, and thus help to avoid complaints from neighbors; and

28 **WHEREAS**, these standardized procedures also would guide Department staff in
29 recommending steps that farmers could take to remedy any issues that are leading to
30 neighbor complaints.

31 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 103rd State
32 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 7-8, 2018, do
33 hereby call upon the Department to work with all appropriate groups or entities to create the
34 standardized procedures described above.

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this group shall report back to the delegates to
36 the 2019 State Agricultural Convention on progress regarding its findings about standardized
37 procedures and how they can be implemented.