

RESOLUTION # 12

NEW JERSEY ONE HEALTH PROGRAM

1 **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, serving as the lead agency
2 in New Jersey Emergency Support Function 11 (NJESF11) within the state's Emergency
3 Response Plan, works to plan for, and respond to, statewide or multi-county natural or man-
4 made disasters and emergencies in the state; and

5 **WHEREAS**, operations coordinated by NJESF11 include providing co-located animal
6 shelters where temporary county or state shelters are established for humans who must
7 evacuate, so that they do not either leave their pets behind or refuse to evacuate if they
8 cannot take their pets with them; and

9 **WHEREAS**, NJESF11 also plans for and provides coordination for moving at-risk
10 livestock from farms to county fairgrounds or other safe locations in natural or man-made
11 disasters, and is charged with coordinating movement of necessary foods from the state's
12 two USDA warehouses to feed humans at temporary shelters; and

13 **WHEREAS**, an important part of NJESF11 is for NJDA's Division of Animal Health to
14 plan for the prevention and response to outbreaks of contagious and possibly zoonotic
15 diseases (those able to transfer from animals to humans) in livestock, assist domestic
16 companion animals (i.e. household pets) in disaster, and detect animal diseases through its
17 Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic shone a light on the potential harm that can
19 come from zoonotic diseases (those which can transfer from animals to humans) and on the
20 relationship between human health, animal health, and environmental health; and

21 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has become the first state in the nation, and the first
22 regional jurisdiction in the United States and Canada, to legislate a One Health initiative, -
23 the New Jersey One Health Task Force - to study, prepare for, and respond to instances
24 where health concerns cross the barriers of human, animal, and environmental health; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in recognition of NJDA’s lead role in NJESF11, the expertise in animal
26 diseases, both zoonotic and non-zoonotic, concentrated in the Division of Animal Health, and
27 the understanding of the ways in which diseases can cross the barriers between the health
28 categories, the Legislature and Governor placed the New Jersey One Health program in the
29 NJDA.; and

30 **WHEREAS**, coordination of the various agencies and other entities involved in the
31 One Health program, its unique status as the first effort of its kind in the nation, and the need
32 to be innovative and groundbreaking in its approaches, are important and time-consuming
33 additional duties for the Division; and

34 **WHEREAS**, NJDA has been working with the other state, federal, and regional
35 partners within the One Health program to address the relevant aspects of agriculture that
36 impact the health and livelihood of New Jerseyans, - including emerging and endemic
37 zoonotic diseases, food security, child and adult nutrition, farmland preservation, agricultural
38 sustainability, and carbon sequestration efforts - by utilizing the One Health approach to
39 improve ecosystem health in the state; and

40 **WHEREAS**, climate change is deeply intertwined with not only public health, animal
41 health, and environmental health, but also demographic, social, and economic patterns of
42 inequality that reach across all sectors – being a key One Health issue that experts consider
43 the biggest health threat facing humanity worldwide, a transdisciplinary One Health approach
44 is necessary.

45 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 108th State
46 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 8-9, 2023, do
47 hereby continue to support the New Jersey One Health program being an integral part of
48 how the Department participates in emergency planning and response in the state.

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we strongly urge the Legislature and Governor to
50 consider the additional expense and workload to the Department in taking on this task, and

51 to bear those costs in mind when establishing funding for the program in the Department's
52 annual budget.