

## RESOLUTION # 40

### ANIMAL HEALTH AND OTC MEDICATIONS

1           **WHEREAS**, preventing animal diseases from entering New Jersey's livestock  
2 populations, and responding to disease outbreaks when they do occur, is a primary mission  
3 of both the Department and its Division of Animal Health (DAH); and

4           **WHEREAS**, a large part of that responsibility is ensuring that importation of livestock  
5 into New Jersey from other parts of the nation or the world does not also bring animal  
6 diseases that could spread to animals already in the state; and

7           **WHEREAS**, the DAH must continually prepare to prevent diseases from entering the  
8 state, not only via animals that may be imported to New Jersey but also through wildlife that  
9 cannot be controlled for testing; for example, working with USDA and fellow state agencies  
10 during 2022 to respond to instances of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) that arrived  
11 in several backyard flocks via wild birds (mainly black vultures) and which, on the larger-  
12 outbreak scale, resulted in the euthanasia of millions of birds throughout the nation; and

13           **WHEREAS**, there has been continuous growth in small farms of fewer than 50 acres  
14 since 2012, with a drastic increase since 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic; and this  
15 increase of small farms has underscored a lack of available resources for beginners; and

16           **WHEREAS**, the increase in livestock and small ruminants for self-sufficient  
17 households has highlighted the lack of access to a veterinarian and contacts for emergency  
18 assistance; and

19           **WHEREAS**, the new over-the-counter drug access-reduction taking effect in June 2023  
20 will greatly affect any established producers, and lack of access to veterinarian assistance,  
21 and/or previously established veterinary/producer relationships.

22           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 108<sup>th</sup> State  
23 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 8-9, 2023, do  
24 hereby strongly oppose any removal of existing over-the-counter medications, including  
25 antibiotics, available to producers, as the FDA should allow existing, and encourage new,

26 over-the-counter drugs to assist producers in economical, humane, and more immediate  
27 care of their animals.

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NJDA and NJAES work to develop a list of  
29 veterinarians in the state, their specialties, and areas of coverage to encourage the creation  
30 of producer/veterinarian relationships to ensure proper diagnosis and access for treatment of  
31 livestock since new regulations will prohibit many medications now available being sold over  
32 the counter.

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the State Board of Agriculture Livestock  
34 Committee to promptly address the issue of OTC medications and communicate with the  
35 FDA the positions adopted by the delegates to this Convention.