

RESOLUTION # 36

NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 **WHEREAS**, the formulations of the neonicotinoids, clothianidin (GrubEx®),
28 (Arena®), imidacloprid (Merit®), and thiamethoxam (Meridian™); are widely used by
29 homeowners and golf course managers to protect turfgrass from Japanese beetle grub
30 damage; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

50 **WHEREAS**, legislation (A-1373) has been introduced to prohibit the use or sale
51 of neonicotinoid pesticides in New Jersey.

52 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we , the delegates to the 101st
53 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey on February 10-
54 11, 2016, do hereby urge the Department to support the continued use of neonicotinoid
55 pesticides for the agricultural and veterinary applications they have been used for to
56 date.

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

61 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we encourage an educational program on
62 the proper use of neonicotinoid insecticides be undertaken as an alternative to
63 legislation banning their use.