

## RESOLUTION # 18

### NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

1           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s agricultural community is faced with a multitude of  
2 challenges that threaten its viability and sustainability, including: Right to Farm conflicts;  
3 taxation issues; wildlife damage; labor supply shortages; land use and environmental  
4 regulation; rising production costs; and water-quality concerns; and

5           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey agriculture’s viability and sustainability are also  
6 impacted by untapped market opportunities and limited access to innovations that would  
7 enhance prosperity, stewardship potential and compatibility with other land uses; and

8           **WHEREAS**, given the economic impacts and public benefits of the agricultural  
9 and food complex, not only in rural areas but also in the state’s urban and suburban  
10 communities, the constraints on the industry impinge upon the assurance of food  
11 security, nutrition and health, water quality and supply, environmental sustainability,  
12 economic development, and the quality of life for all residents of the Garden State; and

13           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s status as the nation’s most densely populated state  
14 means its environmental pressures exceed those of other states, and thus have raised  
15 the environment to become a key quality-of-life issue; and

16           **WHEREAS**, this requires new policies and technologies that are effective in  
17 maintaining the delicate balance between environmental quality and economic growth;  
18 and

19           **WHEREAS**, the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES)  
20 provides a diverse range of research, extension, and education programs that serve the  
21 people and businesses of New Jersey and the urban, suburban, and rural communities  
22 in which they live and work, and provides the expertise and information needed to

23 develop the policies and technologies that strike the balance between environmental  
24 quality and economic growth; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the budget constraints faced by NJAES, including large budget cuts  
26 or flat budgets over the past decade, and the need to continue meeting operational  
27 costs, have meant that less funding is available for its personnel, research and outreach  
28 programs; and

29 **WHEREAS**, exacerbating the funding cuts has been a threat that the federal  
30 formula funding for state agricultural experiment stations could be replaced with  
31 competitive grant funding only; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the circumstances detailed above have strained the ability of NJAES  
33 to continue to provide its traditional high-level of service to all its stakeholder groups; and

34 **WHEREAS**, further continued decreases in funding will negatively impact the  
35 delivery of crucial agricultural programs across the state; and

36 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Managers appreciates the inclusiveness with which  
37 NJAES/School of Environmental and Biological Sciences has approached forming  
38 search committees to fill vital faculty and staff positions over the past year; and

39 **WHEREAS**, while both agricultural extension agents and specialists have  
40 traditionally had multiple roles – including outreach, farm visits to production agriculture  
41 operators and research, in the case of extension agents, and outreach, in-class  
42 instruction and research, in the case of specialists – it is important to maintain the proper  
43 balance of these duties, especially in light of decreased budgets meaning that both  
44 positions are being asked to do more with less; and

45 **WHEREAS**, the state’s agricultural community is concerned about maintaining  
46 appropriate resources in order to retain extension agents and specialists as some  
47 become eligible for retirement; and

48           **WHEREAS**, NJAES, unlike other facets of the university system, cannot make up  
49 for lost budget dollars with tuition increases, as it does not receive tuition revenues.

50           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 102<sup>nd</sup>  
51 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey on February 8-9,  
52 2017, do hereby declare that support for production agriculture and NJAES must be  
53 improved and maintained if solutions to the critical issues that production agriculture  
54 faces are to be achieved, ensuring the viability of the state’s agricultural and food  
55 system.

56           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the agricultural community to  
57 support an initiative to have state legislators add \$1 million in program support funds for  
58 production agriculture in the FY2018 state budget.

59           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we call upon the Executive Dean of the  
60 School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the Executive Director of the New  
61 Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES), in cooperation with its Board of  
62 Managers, County Boards of Agriculture, the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture,  
63 agricultural commodity groups and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension staff to continue  
64 their efforts to develop the necessary funding strategies to support the staffing and  
65 programming that will enable the continued delivery of quality programming to  
66 production agriculture and all NJAES constituent groups and to develop new programs  
67 as identified by stakeholders in agriculture and natural resources that catalyze economic  
68 development in a sustainable manner.

69           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we call upon the Executive Dean of the  
70 School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the Executive Director of the New  
71 Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, the Board of Managers, County Boards of  
72 Agriculture, the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture and Rutgers Cooperative  
73 Extension staff to maintain timely communications among these groups on key issues.

74                   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we strongly urge the New Jersey State Board  
75 of Agriculture, the NJAES Board of Managers and the New Jersey Farm Bureau to work  
76 with the Governor, the Legislature and the county Boards of Chosen Freeholders to  
77 restore adequate state funding for the NJAES and agricultural research, including core  
78 funding to the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Upper Deerfield;  
79 the Philip E. Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research; the Snyder  
80 Research and Extension Farm; the Rutgers Food Innovation Center; the Rutgers Equine  
81 Science Center; the Fruit and Ornamental Research and Extension Center at Cream  
82 Ridge; Adelpia Plant Science Research and Extension Center; the Rutgers  
83 EcoComplex and the Aquaculture Innovation Center to compliment the extramural  
84 grants, contracts and bequests secured by NJAES staff in the past fiscal years.

85                   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we also urge the USDA to provide a stable  
86 source of funding for the Land Grant University and Extension programs.

87                   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge all county boards of agriculture and  
88 commodity organizations to support the Rutgers NJAES Board of Managers'  
89 "Discovering New Jersey's Agricultural Experiment Station" campaign, which includes  
90 education information and an on-site visit to an NJAES facility for state legislators and  
91 county freeholders so that they can learn of the large and diverse constituency of New  
92 Jersey residents served by NJAES.

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