

## RESOLUTION # 20

### ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

1           **WHEREAS**, we support the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's cooperative  
2 efforts in developing a comprehensive animal waste management program for livestock  
3 farms that considers and incorporates the environmental, alternative-energy and  
4 economic aspects of animal waste; and

5           **WHEREAS**, the Department recognizes animal waste as a nutrient-rich resource  
6 and continues to explore alternative uses of animal waste, including bio-gas production,  
7 and allowing for the productive reuse of manure as a means to reduce the use of  
8 synthetic fertilizers, which reduces hauling costs and benefits the environment; and

9           **WHEREAS**, the Department works in conjunction with its conservation partners  
10 to implement demonstration projects, such as the one that installed best management  
11 practices at the Equine Science Center, to provide hands-on training and research  
12 facilities to educate livestock owners on the design, implementation and construction of  
13 cost-effective environmental management practices and facilities to minimize water  
14 quality impacts and provide an opportunity for the evaluation of the effectiveness of such  
15 practices and facilities; and

16           **WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture continues to identify ways to assist  
17 livestock farmers with self-certified and high-density plan development and  
18 implementation to assure that the animal waste management program is effective,  
19 practical, affordable and feasible; and

20           **WHEREAS**, to date the Department has received declaration pages from 636  
21 animal operations confirming that a self-certified AWMP has been developed and  
22 implemented on their farms, and several high-density AWMPs were developed and

23 reviewed by conservation professionals to ensure compliance with the NRCS-Field  
24 Office Technical Guide; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Department has continued its role in the coordination of building  
26 an anaerobic digester at the Landis Sewerage Authority in Vineland, Cumberland  
27 County, and that digester is now managed by both Landis and a private LLC and is,  
28 through the digestion of food waste and cow manure, creating natural gas for use in  
29 powering Landis' operations.

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 102<sup>nd</sup>  
31 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 8-9,  
32 2017, support the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's cooperative efforts in  
33 developing a comprehensive animal waste management program for livestock farms.

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we strongly urge livestock operators to file  
35 animal waste management plans with the Department in order to comply with state  
36 regulations regarding the need for such plans.

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the Department to continue to  
38 recognize animal waste as a resource and continue to explore alternative uses of animal  
39 waste including bio-gas production that could help meet the State Energy Master Plan  
40 goals, allow for the productive reuse of manure, reduce hauling costs and benefit the  
41 environment.

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the Department to continue to work  
43 in conjunction with conservation partners to: implement demonstration projects, such as  
44 the one that installed best management practices at the Equine Science Center; to  
45 provide hands-on training and research facilities to educate livestock owners on the  
46 design and construction of cost-effective environmental management practices and  
47 facilities; to identify opportunities for implementation incentives for facilities to minimize

48 water quality impacts (such as in the eight-year preservation program and the Farm Bill);  
49 and provide an opportunity for the evaluation of the effectiveness of such practices.

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we strongly urge the New Jersey  
51 Congressional Delegation to support sufficient funding for NRCS and other federal-level  
52 cost-share programs that help New Jersey farmers adequately address animal-waste  
53 issues.

54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Department, working in  
55 cooperation with partners such as Rutgers University and the New Jersey Farm Bureau,  
56 to educate New Jersey's farmers about the provisions in the Food Safety Modernization  
57 Act that will impact the duration of time between the date manure can be spread on  
58 fields and when many food crops grown on those fields can be harvested.

59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the Rutgers Cooperative  
60 Extension's Compost Certification Program as called for in the NJDEP Solid Waste  
61 Management regulations and that we monitor program compliance.

62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the Department to work with the  
63 Equine Science Center and other appropriate agencies to provide outreach to equine  
64 owners through enhancements to their websites, newsletters and special meetings and  
65 provide information on training sessions, regulation timeframes and other related  
66 information regarding rule implementation.

67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the amendments made to the  
68 NJDEP Solid Waste Management regulations that exempt farmers from permitting  
69 requirements when composting specific feedstocks, such as brewers grains, at certain  
70 limits, as these amendments create a first step toward ultimately establishing an Ag  
71 Composting Program under the Department of Agriculture; and we also support the  
72 Department's and Rutgers Bulletin E347 outlining how to bury or compost normal  
73 livestock mortalities and butcher waste on farms.

74                   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the Department to continue to  
75 identify ways to reach out to and assist livestock farmers with self-certified and high-  
76 density plan development and implementation to assure that animal waste management  
77 is practical, affordable and feasible.

78                   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the ongoing operation of the  
79 centrally located anaerobic digester at the Landis Sewerage Authority in Vineland,  
80 Cumberland County, to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency of operating such a  
81 facility that can accept manure and food waste from numerous locations to produce bio-  
82 gas for use in generating electricity.