

RESOLUTION # 24

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 economic
4 aspects of animal waste; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Department recognizes animal waste as a nutrient- and energy-rich
6 resource and continues to explore alternative uses of animal waste, including bio-gas
7 production, 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 to
10 implement demonstration projects, such as the one that installed best management practices
11 at the Rutgers Equine Science Center, to provide hands-on training and research facilities to
12 educate livestock owners on the design, implementation and construction of cost-effective
13 environmental management practices and facilities to minimize water quality impacts and
14 provide an opportunity for the evaluation of the effectiveness of such practices and facilities;
15 and

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

19 **WHEREAS**, Department staff is currently updating the electronic Animal Waste
20 Management Plan template to make it more streamlined and user-friendly, and to include
21 specific action steps an operator can take to address concerns that may be identified in the
22 plan; and

23 **WHEREAS**, to date the Department has received declaration pages from 768 animal
24 operations confirming that a self-certified AWMP has been developed and implemented on

25 their farms, and several high-density AWMPs were developed and reviewed by conservation
26 professionals to ensure compliance with the NRCS-Field Office Technical Guide.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 104th State
28 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 6-7, 2019,
29 support the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's cooperative efforts in developing a
30 comprehensive animal waste management program for livestock farms.

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

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

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the Department to continue to work in
39 conjunction with conservation partners to: implement demonstration projects, such as the
40 one that installed best management practices at the Equine Science Center; to provide
41 hands-on training and research facilities to educate livestock owners on the design and
42 construction of cost-effective environmental management practices and facilities; to identify
43 opportunities for implementation incentives for facilities to minimize water quality impacts
44 (such as in the state cost-share program and the Farm Bill); and provide an opportunity for
45 the evaluation of the effectiveness of such practices.

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

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Department, working in cooperation
50 with partners such as Rutgers University and the New Jersey Farm Bureau, to educate New
51 Jersey's farmers about the provisions in the Food Safety Modernization Act that will impact

52 the duration of time between the date manure is spread on fields and when many food crops
53 grown on those fields can be harvested.

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

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

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

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

72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the Department's efforts to
73 streamline and make more user-friendly the electronic template for an Animal Waste
74 Management Plan, and to include specific action steps an operator can take to address
75 concerns that may be identified in the plan.