

2018 Proposed Resolutions for the State Agriculture Convention

Resolution #1 – Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station

Strongly urge the State Board of Agriculture, NJAES Board of Managers, County Boards of Ag and NJFB to work with the Governor, the Legislature and the County Boards of Chosen Freeholders to restore adequate, stable state funding for the NJAES and ag research and extension (as well as USDA funding).

Resolution #2 – NJ Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education

Expand Rutgers Ag Education certification program to help support the critical need for agricultural teachers to meet global food, agriculture, renewable energy and environmental industry employment demands as well as support legislation in the establishment of a “Loan Redemption Program for Teachers of Agriculture” to help increase the number of new teachers for the industry.

Resolution #3 – TDR

Encourage the legislature to establish a program that enables the redemption of Highlands and Pinelands development credits statewide to specifically motivate the purchase of Highlands and Pinelands TDR credits in exchange for approval of projects that may be anywhere in the state.

Resolution #4 – Farmland Preservation

Strongly encourage SADC to institute a requirement that preserved farmland be kept in agricultural production rather than available for, urge SADC to interpret its authorizing statutes and regulations as broadly and liberally as possible to maximize flexibility afforded to owners; ad support SADC’s efforts to learn as much as possible from the winery pilot program and determine what may need improvement in the future.

Resolution #5 – Land Use

Urge government agencies at all levels to limit the transforming of farmland into wetlands and if necessary, use a one-to-one ratio instead of the current three-to-one ratio. Urge department to continue taking lead role in supporting and advancing equitable and feasible density-transfer methods; explore funding options for Ag Enterprise zones to stimulate economic viability; support non-contiguous clustering. Oppose downzoning, adoption of restrictive land use and wildlife management or protection statutes and hard and fast caps on impervious cover.

Resolution #6 – Feeding Food Waste to Livestock

Call upon Department to work with appropriate groups and entities to create standardized procedures and report back to delegates at 2019 Convention on how to implement such.

Resolution #7 – Farm Labor

Strongly urge federal legislators to delay e-verify; request that Congress and USDOL streamline process for acquiring temporary visas for guest ag-workers; oppose current version of the “Agricultural Guest Worker Act”.

Resolution #8 – Agriculture and the State Minimum Wage

Oppose efforts to have new minimum wage apply to agriculture; if min wage rises include separate and lower wage for ag and youth or use tax credits for meals and housing; support freezing of training wage for 1st year of employment.

2018 Proposed Resolutions for the State Agriculture Convention

Resolution #9 – Food Safety

Support continued use to Jersey Fresh quality grading standards and third-party auditing as components of a comprehensive food-safety strategy; urge Governor and Legislature to provide additional funding for third party auditing as well as for FSMA requirements.

Resolution #10 – Farm Bill Priorities

Maintain Specialty Crop Block Grant Program; Fund grant/loan programs for innovative projects to improve ag infrastructure, boost R&D, educate future farmers and provide technical assistance; provide matching funds for state farm viability programs and ag innovation centers; create balance between commodity funding; consider equine breeding ag production; funding of a forestry title; expansion of food and nutrition programs (buying local first).

Resolution #11 – Hunger and Nutrition in NJ

Urge Governor and Legislature to recognize the critical nature of maintaining state funding levels supporting the federal school nutrition and commodity programs in an amount that will ensure no federal funds are lost; purchase local to the greatest extent practicable; continue to support gleaning organizations in budget; increase WIC redemption; and encourage transfer of SFMNP vouchers from DOH to NJDA (with resources and personnel).

Resolution #12 – Pesticides

Amend Clean Water Act to ensure that pesticides applied in accordance with their labels are not considered pollutants; clarify that invasive species control not subject to NJPDES permit or if need for NJPDES permits for pesticide application not eliminated make them as user friendly as possible (and no more stringent than federal regulation).

Resolution #13 – Wildlife and Agriculture

Urge wildlife management plans on public lands and increase hunting on private lands; extend Canada Goose season year-round and increase bag limit; used science-based black bear management methodology that includes hunting; move deer farming industry from F&WL to NJDA; expeditiously appoint farmer to NJ Fish and Game Council; restitution to farmers for wildlife damage to crops and livestock (as well as materials and labor for prevention) caused by wildlife that US F&WL regulates.

Resolution #14 – Supporting Jersey Fresh

Increase funding for Jersey Fresh; urge department to develop a branding program for all livestock products, such as meat, wool, fiber, eggs and hides produced in NJ; form working group to leverage Jersey Fresh brand recognition.

Resolution #15 – Industrial Hemp

Urge Legislature and Governor to pass legislation to provide opportunities to NJ farmers to research, produce and market industrial hemp (*this is missing “processing”*); NJDA Division of Plant Industry to perform inspections of growing facilities, testing of seeds and other relevant laboratory tests for mycotoxins (as they already do for medical marijuana).

Resolution #16 – Horticultural Therapy

Support and promote horticultural therapy as outlets for NJ agricultural products.

2018 Proposed Resolutions for the State Agriculture Convention

Resolution #17 – Livestock in NJ Agriculture

Increase funding to allow DAH to monitor humane enforcement and provide expert advice; appropriate authorities to oversee NJSPCA (*should this be removed now that they are being disbanded?*); work with NJFB and Rutgers for assistance to “backyard livestock” owners; promote all livestock products, such as meat, wool, fiber, eggs and hides, through Jersey branding programs.

Resolution #18 – Drones and Agriculture

Promote legislation regarding licensing and operation of drones in agricultural operations; create guidance for farmers; oppose legislation making it unlawful for farmers with depredation permits to use drones to aid in taking of wildlife to protect crops and livestock.

Resolution #19 – Rural Telecommunications

Urge BPU to conduct the investigation called for by the State Board of Agriculture; urge State Board and NJDA to continue exploring ways to bring service to rural communities.

Resolution #20 – Renewable Energy

Maximize farmers’ potential roles as both producers and consumers of alternative energy; increase participation of farmers growing cellulosic crops that can be used in alternative-energy processes; support reuse of food waste including feeding to livestock (*do we really support this?*); encourage legislation to put into effect a graduated three percent/five percent biodiesel mandate; support establishment of biofuel production facilities for NJ crops; support SADC rules for incorporating solar and wind power into preserved farm operations and urge SADC and NJDA to promptly finalize the rules regarding biomass power-generation facilities on both preserved and non-preserved farms.

Resolution #21 – Dickeya

Urge NJDA and Rutgers NJAES to establish a joint program for testing potato seed for Dickeya and establish protocol to eliminate Dickeya from contaminated fields, develop BMPs for avoiding/controlling/elimination and urge appropriate groups to identify potential funding sources.

Resolution #22 – Beekeeping

“Gratefully recognize the Legislature and Governor for passing and signing the bill to establish the states’ exclusive authority to regulate apiary activities” and urge department to conduct review of comments on proposed regulations.

Resolution #23 – Agri-Tourism Liability

Urge legislation that would provide civil-liability protection for agritourism activities.

Resolution #24 – Horse Racing Industry

Continue to support horse racing by passing legislation to allow some form of alternative games; in absence of new revenues generated by alternative gaming, the state dedicate funds to support further development of industry; support continuing the dedication of a portion of the Sire Stakes Program to being open to horses not necessarily sired by a NJ-based stallion but whose dams spend not less than 150 days gestating in the state during the year that they foal.

2018 Proposed Resolutions for the State Agriculture Convention

Resolution #25 – Dairy Industry

Continue to support industry; identify and pursue milk-processing opportunities on commercial and value-added levels; support efforts to ensure competitive, free and open market within Federal Milk Marketing Order; monitor Farm Bill for dairy-related issues.