

**RESOLUTION # 9**  
**Approved by Delegates of**  
**95<sup>th</sup> State Agricultural Convention**  
**February 9, 2010**

**PREPARING AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES (AFNR)**  
**EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO MEET GLOBAL DEMANDS OF THE INDUSTRY**

1           **WHEREAS**, world food production must double in the next several decades to  
2 meet the needs of a growing population, and the science and technology of agriculture  
3 need to advance to produce more food on the same or smaller land mass; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the world will need greater numbers of students enrolled in, and  
5 graduating from, agriculture programs emphasizing science, business and technology at  
6 all levels of our education system to meet the ever-expanding needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century;  
7 and

8           **WHEREAS**, FFA, 4-H, high school curricula emphasizing agriculture’s relevance  
9 to our everyday lives, and the advanced, specialized agricultural education provided by  
10 land grant institutions such as Rutgers University, are all important components of  
11 preparing the next generation of agricultural professionals to provide the important  
12 products and services needed to meet the demands of a growing population.

13           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 95<sup>th</sup> State  
14 Agricultural Convention, assembled in East Brunswick, New Jersey, on February 9,  
15 2010, do hereby support: (1) the continued interagency agreement between the New  
16 Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to  
17 administer all agricultural education programs in New Jersey; (2) expanding  
18 opportunities for students, including those from non-agricultural backgrounds, to  
19 participate in the “*Agriculture is Cool*” campaign and increasing the number of quality  
20 instructional programs, including but not limited to the establishment of new programs  
21 offering the *advanced* Curriculum in Agricultural Science Education (CASE), aimed at

22 increasing high school and college graduates pursuing AFNR careers; (3) seamless  
23 transitions for agriculture students pursuing associate, baccalaureate and/or advanced  
24 degrees; (4) strengthening of the agriculture teacher preparation program at the Rutgers  
25 School of Environmental and Biological Science to serve more agricultural education  
26 programs; and (4) the coalition of “Team Ag Ed” to support, inform and advocate for  
27 programs, projects and initiatives to help improve the image of agriculture statewide.

## **Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Education**

### **BACKGROUND**

The *perception* of the importance of agriculture and agricultural education is often limited in contrast to reality. As the industry's needs expand to meet an increase in population, so do the number of career opportunities in the science, business and technology of agriculture.

Steps must be taken to insure that all residents of New Jersey have a better understanding of the "scope of agriculture" and a better appreciation of the contributions that a strong agriculture industry makes to the quality of life for all residents.

Strong impressions can be made upon students by what they are taught in school, and those impressions can lead to long-term decisions about which careers to pursue. A strong, vibrant and relevant agricultural education curriculum can help students understand and appreciate the important role agriculture plays in their lives and can play in their career choices.