

AGRICULTURE/ENVIRONMENT

Growth Management Plan for Milk

Submitted by: Blue Mountain Grange #263 and Kingdom Pomona Grange #35

WHEREAS: managing milk volume growth to meet both domestic and export needs and to supply a 30-day emergency stock of dairy products is the goal of the Growth Management Plan, and

WHEREAS: all dairy producers will need to be actively involved in an equitable program for all dairy producers regardless of farm location, farm size, and/or business structure, and

WHEREAS: the alignment of milk volume with need would reduce volatility and provide stabilization of milk prices for both farmers and consumers at a national level, and

WHEREAS: the continued unabated growth in milk production across the nation is causing an extreme imbalance in milk volume as compared to domestic commercial disappearance and exports of dairy products, which depress milk prices paid to farmers, and

WHEREAS: the VT Milk Commission endorses a program to equalize the supply and demand of milk to stabilize milk volumes at the national level and stabilize milk prices, and

WHEREAS: many other farm organizations are working together to support these efforts, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the VT State Grange and the National Grange recommend a Growth Management Plan that would incorporate:

- A dairy farmer governance board working in conjunction with USDA. The National Dairy Board model could be used for farmer representation with the addition of dairy economist and two dairy processors
 - Determination of a base milk volume for individual producers
 - Determination of the volume of milk required to meet domestic and export needs as well as a 30-day emergency stock of dairy products, nationally, regionally, and to the individual dairy farmer
 - A means to provide strong signals to individual dairy farmers that milk over the required domestic and export volume and emergency stock is not desired
 - A means for new dairy farmers to join family operations and/or start new individual dairy farms
 - Detailed rules and regulations for the merging of dairy farming operations, the dissolution of farm partnerships and other changes in business structures, and be it further
- RESOLVED:
- That the Growth Management Plan be implemented at a national level and must be mandatory for all dairy producers to take part
 - An administrative fee for all dairy farmers and a flat rate is supported

AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS

Resolution #2

Ex-officio Membership

Submitted by: Blue Spruce Grange #574

WHEREAS: at times, and for many reasons, Community and/or Pomona Granges are not able to show a quorum, and

WHEREAS: during these times, votes cannot be held to bring in a new member(s) to the Community or Pomona Grange, thus causing a delay of such actions, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that in the event only six (6) members are present, and a quorum is not met with the membership and when, and only if a Deputy is present for a scheduled visit, said Deputy would be considered an Ex-officio Member of the Community or Pomona Grange for that meeting, thus making a quorum. The Deputy could vote on the question, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Deputy would be the last Granger to vote and then would vote with the majority, and be it further

RESOLVED: that in the event of a tie vote of the membership, the Deputy would not have authorization to act as a tiebreaker. The question would need to be postponed to the next regularly scheduled meeting, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Executive Committee would be responsible for fine-tuning this resolution with written procedures, and finally be it

RESOLVED: that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the National Grange, as it would be a change in the Digest.

EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE

Resolution #3

Change to Praxis Core Academic Skill for Early Education Teachers

Submitted by: Blue Mountain Grange #263

WHEREAS: VT State Board of Education requires Praxis Core Academic Skills scores as part of the teacher licensing process, and

WHEREAS: the VBE sets its own requirements for which Praxis tests are taken, and

WHEREAS: an initial VT Educator Licensure is seeking high quality teaching ability for specific grade levels, and

WHEREAS: Early Education, specifically Birth to Kindergarten "Learning about the World", specifies number sense, quantity, and counting, and the simple awareness of shapes and size, classifications by grouping and measurement, and

WHEREAS: Praxis testing covers advanced knowledge through calculus and involves time and money if not passed on the first try, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the VT Board of Education reconsider possible exemption for the math section, if the applicant is teaching only Early Education through kindergarten, recognizing that the goals and expected outcomes for the students in Early Education here in VT do not include calculus and advanced algebra.

Resolution #4 School Meals Plate Waste

Submitted by Blue Mountain Grange #263

WHEREAS: a recent USDA School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study Final Report: Vol. 4 examined the relationship between plate waste and four key domains: 1) student gender, 2) characteristics of NSLP lunches, 3) characteristics of school food service operations, and 4) characteristics of the school environment, and

WHEREAS: the study indicates these meals were divided into Elementary, Middle, and High School levels, and

WHEREAS: the USDA Food Pattern food groups were largely consistent, and

WHEREAS: the study does not convey that portion sizes were appropriate for the different age levels, and

WHEREAS: the study shows significant food waste in the lower grades, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the NSLP seek to change portion sizes according to grade levels in an effort to see less food wasted in our schools, and be it further

RESOLVED: that middle and high school students be given the option of choosing more protein and dairy, especially if they are athletes.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/GRANGE ACTIVITIES

Resolution #5 Outstanding Grange Member Award

Submitted by: Blue Mountain Grange #263 and Kingdom Pomona Grange #35

WHEREAS: the Grange Community Citizen Award goes to a citizen or organization who gives unselfishly to their community, and

WHEREAS: each year local Granges try to find a local person or organization that meets the requirements of the award, and

WHEREAS: one stipulation of the award is that the recipient be a non-Grange member, and

WHEREAS: this requirement is restrictive and eliminates many deserving Grangers, therefore be it

RESOLVED: each Grange have the opportunity to present another award and name it the

“Outstanding Grange Member Award”. This award would be given to members of subordinate Granges who, through the year(s) devote their time and energy to make their respective communities a better place and that members chosen have served faithfully as either officers or Committee Chairs, and be it further

RESOLVED: that this suggestion be passed along to National Grange for their consideration

Resolution #6 Directories Distributed in More Timely Manner

Submitted by: Lakeview Grange #359 and Kingdom Pomona Grange #35

WHEREAS: it is very difficult to contact other Granges as well as State officers and committee heads

WHEREAS: when the directories are very tardy about being distributed after each election year, and

this is usually due to the printers waiting for some Granges that are very slow in sending

in their information, and

WHEREAS: this could be improved by simply sticking with a deadline for getting information to the

proper person(s), therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange set a deadline for getting information and sticking to

that deadline, and be it further

RESOLVED: that if the Granges do not get their information in by the deadline, it would go into the

directory as “No information Received from This Grange.”

Resolution #7 Name Change for Home Economics Department

Submitted by: Milton Grange #522 and Blue Spruce Grange #574

WHEREAS: the Home Economics Department was changed several years ago from Women's

Activities to better reflect what the department was focusing on, and

WHEREAS: the name Home Economics Department still reflects a narrow scope of activities and

responsibilities, and

WHEREAS: a change in name from Home Economics to Family Activities would better reflect what

current programming reflects and that the Department is all inclusive, and

WHEREAS: many State Granges have changed the name of their Home Economics Department to

include the whole family, and a name change would align Vermont with other states in the Northeast Region, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange change the name of the Home Economics Department to Family Activities.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Road Repairs

Submitted by: Blue Mountain Grange #263 and Kingdom Pomona Grange #35

Resolution #8

WHEREAS: the roads this past spring were in terrible shape with many potholes, and

WHEREAS: the condition of the roads can and does cause undue damage to Vermonters' cars, and

WHEREAS: avoiding potholes can increase the possibility of accidents, and

WHEREAS: priorities much be given to road and bridge repair before new expanded Park and Rides

are added to state transportation expenses, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the State of Vermont use available transportation funds for such repairs, and be it

further

RESOLVED: that if enough funding is not available, the State of Vermont should seek out bonding for

such expense.

Resolution #9

Stricter Rules for Bicycle Traffic

Submitted by: Taconic Community Grange #491 and Friendship Pomona Grange #31

WHEREAS: stricter rules for bicycle traffic are needed, especially for adults. They need a helmet,

and they need to obey all traffic laws, as do all vehicles on the road, and

WHEREAS: it is important to the safety of the person on the bicycle, and

WHEREAS: all vehicles on the road need to be aware that bicycles share the road, and

WHEREAS: the State of Vermont needs to advertise and fine all those do not follow the rules of the

road, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that all those riding bicycles on Vermont roads follow all traffic laws or be fined.

Resolution #10

Enforcement of School Bus Laws

Submitted by: Taconic Community Grange #491 and Friendship Pomona Grange #31

School Bus laws are not being enforced. Not only should motorists stop the correct distance behind the

school bus, but in front of it, too.

WHEREAS: Vermont State school bus drivers are complaining that motorists are coming too close to

a stopped school bus, especially in the front, and

WHEREAS: this is a safety hazard for the students, the bus, and other vehicles, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that school bus laws be strictly enforced and fines be given out when laws are broken.

Resolution #11 Placement and Removal of Temporary Signs

Submitted by: Beacon Light Grange #557 and Champlain Valley Pomona #37

WHEREAS: temporary signs placed along VT roads and highways are used to announce sales, events, and political elections, and

WHEREAS: many of these temporary signs are sometimes installed in the public right of way and are left to become trash along the highways, therefore be it

RESOLVED:

- That temporary signs shall be placed at least 25 feet from the center line of the highway
- That temporary signs shall be placed not more than 2 weeks before the sale, event, or election
- That temporary signs shall not be placed at any intersection as to impede the sight of the driver
- That temporary signs shall not be placed on the interstate highways or entrance/exit ramps
- That temporary signs shall be removed within 48 hours of the end of the event or election

LEGISLATIVE

Resolution #12 Register Voters with Thumb Print

Submitted by: Taconic Community Grange #491 and Friendship Pomona Grange #31

Let the State of Vermont be among the first states in the United States of America to register voters with a thumb print.

WHEREAS: here in the USA, we hear about foreign countries interfering with our elections, and

WHEREAS: it is important to prevent voter fraud, and

WHEREAS: it is important to ensure that Vermont voters are who they say they are, and

WHEREAS: Vermont State wants eligible voters to vote only once in any election, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that all eligible voters in the State of Vermont be registered to vote with a thumb print.

Resolution #13 Bagging Items or Paid Stickers

Submitted by: Taconic Community Grange #491 and Friendship Pomona Grange #31

All stores in the State of Vermont should put all paid for merchandise in bags or put paid stickers on them.

WHEREAS: stores need to ensure that all items leaving their store are paid for, and

WHEREAS: consumers often do not have the time to be held up by one store employee checking everyone's cart against their sales slip, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the store could eliminate this procedure, that hold customers up, by placing all items in a proper store bag/paid sticker.

Resolution #14 Act 250 Revisions

Submitted by: Blue Spruce Grange #574

WHEREAS: the current process for approval of Act 250 applications is a long and cumbersome

process and can take as long as 3 years to be approved, and

WHEREAS: this long process delays projects and, in many cases, adds extra costs, and

WHEREAS: revision of Act 250 will be considered in the near future by the Vermont State Legislature, and

WHEREAS: this review does not include any changes in the application process, there be it

RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange encourage the Vermont Legislature to include a review of the application procedures along with the review of the Act 250 Legislation, and be it further

RESOLVED: that a copy of this resolution be sent to the appropriate committee in Montpelier.

Resolution #15 Rural Broadband

Submitted by: Cobble Hill Grange #453 and Heart of Vermont Pomona #34

WHEREAS: many parts of Vermont are unserved or underserved by broadband internet service, and

WHEREAS: such service has been a priority concern of the Grange, both in Vermont and nationally, and

WHEREAS: the possibility exists for rural electrical cooperatives and other power companies to provide this service if authorized to do so, and

WHEREAS: the proposal to reward people who move to Vermont and work at home would benefit from improved broadband internet access, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange support the passage of House Bill 95, currently under consideration by the Vermont House of Representatives, that will require the

Commissioner of Public Service to study the feasibility of electric companies providing broadband internet access service using electrical distribution and transmission infrastructure, and be it further

RESOLVED: that copies of this resolution be sent to members of the Vermont General Assembly.

TAXATION

Resolution #16

Tax at Charging Stations

Submitted by: Lakeview Grange #359 and Kingdom Pomona Grange #35

WHEREAS: electric cars are becoming more and more popular, and

WHEREAS: the State of Vermont is losing money due to this, and

WHEREAS: the Vermont State Legislature is currently assessing the possibility of raising the gas tax to compensate for monies lost, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the State Legislature be urged to consider placing a tax at the charging stations so that the electric cars are paying corresponding tax as they charge their cars at the charging stations around the state. This would then include the cars that are visiting the state, rather than raising the already high price of gas.

