

**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS 2023 VERMONT STATE GRANGE**

**AGRICULTURE**

**Resolution #1 Upholding the Standard of Identity for Dairy**

Submitted by: Blue Mountain Grange #263

WHEREAS: many consumers have been confused or misled by the lack of clear labeling in the dairy case, and

WHEREAS: U S congress has written the Dairy Pride Act to uphold real milk's standard of identity, and

WHEREAS: the ingredients of plant-based beverage are "water, animal-free whey protein (from fermentation), sunflower oil, sugar less than 1% of: vitamin A, vitamin B 12, vitamin D 2, riboflavin, citrus fiber, salt, dipotassium phosphate, acacia, gellan gum, mixed tocopherols (antioxidant), calcium, potassium, citrate, and natural flavor", therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the VT State Grange and National Grange support this Act by stressing the need for action to pass this legislation to our congressional representatives.

**Resolution #2 Vermont Farm Show**

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

WHEREAS: the Vermont Farm Show has a long and distinguished history celebrating the many facets of Vermont agriculture, and

WHEREAS: the Farm Show was cancelled because of the Covid pandemic in 2021 and 2022, and again in 2023, even though the pandemic had passed, therefore be it

RESOLVED: the Vermont State Grange encourages the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets to ensure that the Farm Show be held in 2024, and that we support the Agency's efforts to reimagine the event, with due regard for it history, to evolve and meet the current needs of the Vermont Agricultural community, and be it further

RESOLVED: that this resolution be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets and to the Vermont Farm Show Board of Trustees.

**Resolution #3 Investing in Vermont Agriculture**

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

WHEREAS: Governor Phil Scott has proposed, on the recommendation of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Vermont Agriculture, an investment of \$10 million for grant funding for small and mid-sized agricultural producers and value-added processors in the meat, vegetable, and maple sectors, and \$4 million to be dedicated to the

- Working Lands Enterprise Fund to promote the expansion of food and forestry businesses, and
- WHEREAS: this budget proposal will leverage innovative investments and programs to grow Vermont's food, farm, and forest economy, therefore be it
- RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange supports the Governor's recommendations regarding investing in Vermont Agriculture outlined in his budget address of January 20, 2023, and urges the legislature to adopt them, and be it further
- RESOLVED: this resolution be forwarded to members of the legislature.

**Resolution #4 Food Composting in Institutions Serving Meals**

Submitted by: Lake View Grange #359 and Kingdom Pomona #35

- WHEREAS: in 2012, the Vermont Legislature resolved by unanimous decision to pass the Universal Recycling Law by adopting Act 148 that took effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, and bans food scraps from trash bins, along with "blue-bin" recyclables and clean yard debris, and
- WHEREAS: the new law highlights Vermont's sustainable and green effort to push the state towards a more environmentally conscious place to live, and
- WHEREAS: this new law makes it illegal to throw away food scraps (kitchen wastes, organics) in your main trash, and notes that fruit and vegetable waste, coffee grounds and filters, paper napkins, newspaper, yard clippings, and wood ashes can be composted, while diseased plants, dairy products, coal and charcoal ashes, meat and bones, oil, fat, and grease, silverware and plastic containers of all sizes may not be composted, and
- WHEREAS: according to the EPA, 60-80% of garbage produced by restaurants was food waste. By composting, you can reduce your environmental impact by keeping waste out of the landfill, lower your waste hauling and disposal costs, and
- WHEREAS: a composting program in an institution or your home will be useless if employees or family don't understand or care about it, therefore be it
- RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange supports efforts to encourage everyone from private homes to all food businesses, from cooks to bus boys, to hospital and nursing home attendants, be aware of what should go in the compost and recycling bins and what should go into the dumpster. This will help to ensure that businesses and community reap the benefits of composting, and be it further
- RESOLVED: that some composting facilities will come to an establishment to help train staff on the process. These businesses should have in-house training annually as well. In addition, the busyness of a commercial kitchen can be a deterrent to conscientious composting; therefore, multiple compost bins located in prime areas throughout the service area can provide efficiency. This will make it quick and easy for your employees to responsibly and effectively dispose of organic waste.

**Resolution #5                    Solar Farms and Displacement of Prime Agricultural Land**

Submitted by:                    Tunbridge Grange #384

WHEREAS:                    solar panels produce a good source of alternative energy generation, and

WHEREAS:                    agricultural farmland has been a prime location for expansion of solar development, primarily because it tends to be in areas of relatively flat land with good sun exposure, and

WHEREAS:                    recent mandates for reducing carbon emissions from fossil fuels, has resulted in an increase in solar farm construction, which can displace prime farmland and valuable forestland (which trees absorb carbon dioxide and help prevent erosion from stormwater leading to increased flood risk), and

WHEREAS:                    there are many possible locations for placement of solar farms as alternative to prime agricultural and/or forestland, such as abandoned industrial sites, landfills, (current or future development of) commercial and residential rooftops, or parking lots (reducing urban heating), and

WHEREAS:                    there are many examples of "solar sharing" called Agri Voltaics (AV), such as planting grass under panels for use as grazing for sheep, which saves on the cost of cutting the grass, while at the same time, shelters the sheep from the hot sun. Other examples include placing solar panels on reservoirs, which keep the water cooler during the day, reducing evaporation, therefore be it

RESOLVED:                    While the Vermont State Grange recognizes the importance of creating alternative energy generation, which can result in reducing carbon emissions from fossil fuels, it nevertheless supports the installation of future solar farm construction using alternative locations rather than prime agricultural and/or forestland, and be it further

RESOLVED:                    that the National Grange includes, as a priority, these solar farm alternative location options, along with Agri Voltaics solar sharing in their policy statement.

**AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS**

**Resolution #6                    Associate Membership**

Submitted by:                    Vermont State Grange Executive Committee

WHEREAS:                    some Granges in Vermont have admitted Associate Members, and

WHEREAS:                    the National Digest of Laws states in Article II that State Granges of the Order have the right to establish an associate class of individual membership, and in Article VI, Section 4.6.13 states that qualifications and procedures for attaining Associate Membership shall be provided for in the By-Laws of the State Grange having jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS: the By-Laws of the Vermont State Grange do not currently have such provisions, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: the Vermont State Grange By-Laws be amended by inserting the following after Article X, Section 6:

"Sec. 7. Subordinate Granges may admit a person or business with an interest in the advancement of agriculture and improvement of rural life as an Associate Member. Such member shall pay dues as prescribed by 4.8.2 (E) of the National Grange Digest of Laws and be entitled to receive information publications and participate in State Grange services, provided that Associate Members shall not be entitled to vote on matters of Grange policy or participate in Grange contests designed for Grange Members only."

**Resolution #7                      Date Change for VSG State Session**

Submitted by: Blue Spruce Grange #574 and Champlain Valley Pomona #37

WHEREAS: the Vermont State Grange currently hold its Annual Session, as required by the current By-Laws, during the month of October, and

WHEREAS: it is becoming more difficult to find suitable locations in October, and

WHEREAS: travel to a selected hotel or convention center can be difficult in October due to possible winter conditions, and

WHEREAS: holding State Session at a hotel or convention center is becoming cost prohibitive, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange change its current By-Laws to permit its Annual Session to be held at some time after July 1<sup>st</sup>, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange consider holding the Annual Session in a Vermont Grange Hall, the Vermont Grange Center, or a school if a suitable hotel or convention center cannot be located, and finally be it

RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange Executive Committee be responsible for the selection and confirmation of the meeting place and that its location be announced at the Annual State Session.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Resolution #8                      Contest Entries from Affiliate Members**

Submitted by: New Horizon Pomona #33

WHEREAS: more members are affiliated with second Granges to maintain a legal membership total, and

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WHEREAS: affiliate members are not allowed to enter Grange contests as affiliate members, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the members may submit contest entries in both Granges as long as the entries are different, and that a copy of this resolution be submitted to National Grange.

**Resolution #9                    Educational Aid Fund Grants**

Submitted by: Lake View Grange #359

WHEREAS: Resolution 2016-10 has to do with yearly \$100 grants (15 per year) from the Educational Aid Fund to be given to Grangers to pursue a hobby/craft, and

WHEREAS: this resolution was reaffirmed in 2018 (reference number 2018-05), and

WHEREAS: the time has run out on the effect of this resolution and

WHEREAS: it has been beneficial to many Grangers over these past seven years, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the \$100 grants from the Educational Aid Fund be continued until either interest in the grant wanes or funds are depleted, and be further

RESOLVED: that the wording of this new policy be: "The Educational Aid Committee will offer fifteen \$100 grants per year to Vermont Grangers (in good standing). These Grangers can apply for a one time educational, agricultural, or learning (hobby/craft) class during the year."

**Resolution #10                    Junior Camp**

Submitted by: Blue Spruce Grange #574

WHEREAS: Junior Camp should be for Grange Juniors (5-13), and

WHEREAS: the total cost of camp should be reflected in the camper fee, and

WHEREAS: the ratio of non-members far outweighs Junior Grangers, and

WHEREAS: Granges give scholarship money to support Junior Grangers and camp, therefore be it

RESOLVED:

- A 1. That the Director(s) of Junior Camp ideally have experience with running a camp;
- A 2. That there has to be an equal number of Junior Grange campers to non-member Juniors (ages 5-13) attending, as Granges have to donate to Junior Camp (food, art supplies, snacks, cash), Junior Goodwill or the Junior Scholarship Fund to get a seal;
- B. that there be a total of at least 20 campers in order to hold Junior Camp, and an application cut-off time to be June 30<sup>th</sup> and with a ratio of one counselor for every 5 Juniors
- C. the camper fee has to be able to pay 75% of the expenses for Junior Camp

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D. Junior Grangers could receive 50% scholarship

E. that the Executive Committee have more oversight on the camp and programs or appoint someone to do it

F. that this resolution takes effect for the 2024 season, if camp happens

**HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE**

**Resolution #11      Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act**

Submitted by: Blue Mountain Grange #263

WHEREAS: the bipartisan 2023 Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act was introduced in Congress as H. R. 1147 by House Ag Committee Chair Rep. Glen (G.T.) Thompson of PA, and

WHEREAS: this act would allow schools to return to serving whole and 2% plan and flavored milk in school breakfast and lunch programs, and

WHEREAS: milk is very healthy for most people. It contains many vital nutrients, including protein and bone-supporting calcium, and is often fortified with vitamin D. Research supports the many health benefits of milk, including being anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, preventing weight gain, encouraging proper growth in children, and protecting bones, and

WHEREAS: dairy milk is also found to be more hydrating than plain water because it contains the sugar lactose, plus some protein and fat, which help to slow the emptying fluid from the stomach that sustains hydration, and

WHEREAS: dairy is the number one agriculture economy in Vermont, and disallowing whole milk has meant less milk is consumed, and children are not benefiting from the needed nutritional value of dairy, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the VT congressional delegation be urged to pass this act into law.