

Resolution No. 2018-

RESOLUTION OF THE SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, Since 1928, the Future Farmers of America has been at the center of agricultural education, bringing together teachers, students and the agricultural industry to provide leadership, personal growth and a career path for those with a passion for agriculture. Its roots lay in the passage of the Smith-Hughes Vocational Training Act of 1917 which provided federal funding for high school courses in vocational education; and

WHEREAS, the California Association of the Future Farmers of America was formed on October 26, 1928 at the Hotel Claremont, in Oakland. Following the National FFA convention a month later, California received National Charter No. 4; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 87,000 FFA members, ages 13-21 in 330 high schools across the state, making California one of the top five membership states along with Texas, Georgia, Oklahoma and Missouri. More than 761 FFA advisors and agriculture teachers provide an integrated model of agriculture education in urban schools in Los Angeles and the Bay Area to rural schools all across the state. In Solano County, local FFA chapters are present in Vacaville, Dixon, Rio Vista and Winters; and

WHEREAS, classroom activities include math and science as well as hands-on work experience and the development of life skills. Collectively, FFA members earn more than \$4 billion annually through their work experience, which can range from agricultural communications and food science, to turf grass management and wildlife production and management; and

WHEREAS, the FFA motto is, "Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve." The agricultural education provided through FFA gives direction and purpose to students who take an active role in their success. Further, agricultural education ensures a steady supply of young professionals to meet the growing needs of the science, business and technology sectors within agriculture; and

WHEREAS, industry experts who chart the changing demographics of agriculture note the rising average age of the principal farm operator. Older farmers are retiring and the next generation is less inclined to continue farming when faced with the likelihood of long hours for low pay or the temptation to develop the land. To ensure the agricultural economy remains strong and to maintain an abundant food supply, it is critical to educate and encourage youth to pursue careers in agriculture. The FFA program helps to cultivate the Ag innovators and leaders of the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in conjunction with National Ag Week, March 18-24, 2018, the Solano County Board of Supervisors hereby recognize the 90th anniversary of the Future Farmers of America and celebrates its members for their contributions to agriculture in Solano County and across the nation.

Dated this 13th day of March, 2018

JOHN M. VASQUEZ, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
BIRGITTA E. CORSELLO, Clerk
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Jeanette Neiger, Chief Deputy Clerk