

**Lee County Board
Dixon, Illinois**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEE COUNTY AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, Illinois is home to more than 71,000 farms, 96% of which are family-owned and a third of which include livestock; and

WHEREAS, Lee County farms account for 832 of these farms, providing 4,086 jobs representing an estimated 23 percent of total jobs in the County; and

WHEREAS, Lee County agriculture and related industries generate total sales or output estimated at \$2.782 billion and represents 28.9 percent of taxable value, providing critical services to Lee County residents; and

WHEREAS, farmland is a finite resource that is vital to agriculture, food production, and the economic well-being of our county; and WHEREAS, the international pandemic displayed the importance of American food systems, processing, and supply chain weaknesses; and

WHEREAS, new livestock development accounts for additional jobs creating additional economic growth within the county; and

WHEREAS, farmers are dedicated to caring for their animals in ways that also benefit the land. Using tools and technology to better manage soil nutrients, water runoff and air quality on the farm, farmers are using fewer natural resources and reducing their carbon footprint while producing more food; and

WHEREAS, farmers in Illinois face multiple layers of regulation involving state and federal agencies providing a comprehensive, robust regulatory program for all farms including those raising livestock; and

WHEREAS, data and information from state regulatory agencies demonstrates environmental issues from agriculture are an extremely rare occurrence; and

WHEREAS, the county recognizes the value agriculture contributes to our county and the rural way of life is the backbone of our country and that efforts should be made to accommodate future success of the rural community; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Lee County Board hereby acknowledges and supports agriculture within our county. The jobs created, taxes generated, technologies embraced, and environmental practices implemented by farmers makes agriculture a valuable industry within our county; and

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the County of Lee elected board and county staff will work to support and promote the development of agriculture for the benefit of our county and all its residents.

PASSED BY THE LEE COUNTY BOARD

THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Lee County Board Chairman

BY: _____
Lee County Clerk