

RESOLUTION #2

SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE FARM MANAGED GRAZING OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, managed grazing is an important operation system used by many producers in the state, and

WHEREAS, managed grazing is a way to increase individual and collective farm sustainability in the state, and

WHEREAS, managed grazing is an economically favorable practice for producers that can optimize the costs of equipment, fuel, chemicals and labor while greatly increasing the amount of forage harvested, and

WHEREAS, compared to cropland, well-managed pastures decrease soil erosion, require only minimal fertilizer and pesticides, and greatly reduce the threat of barnyard runoff during the grazing months, and

WHEREAS, managed grazing can help reduce high soil phosphorus levels from excessive manure and fertilizer applications, and

WHEREAS, cropland converted to well-managed pasture can also help reverse the declining populations of grassland birds and help provide good nesting habitat for game birds, and

WHEREAS, meat and dairy products produced through managed grazing systems have higher economic benefits for the producer and higher health benefits for the consumer, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WI Land+Water respectfully encourages, on behalf of all counties, that the state legislature make available additional resources to encourage and support managed grazing operations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be directed to the attention of the state legislators, the governor, the directors of DNR, DATCP, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be directed to the attention of the federal agencies and partners in positions to support managed grazing initiatives.

Adopted by the Northwest Land & Water Conservation Association on December 9, 2016.