

2009 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 655

Offered January 14, 2009

Prefiled January 5, 2009

Commending the Virginia Farm Bureau's Young Farmers.

Patron—Lohr , Athey, Carrico, Cline, Cole, Cox, Gilbert, Hamilton, Iaquinto, Jones, Kilgore, Knight, Landes, Lingamfelter, Loupassi, Marshall, D. W., Massie, Merricks, Miller, J.H., Morgan, O'Bannon, Oder, Orrock, Peace, Pogge, Saxman, Scott, E.T., Sherwood, and Wright

WHEREAS, the Young Farmers program, founded by the Virginia Farm Bureau, prepares men and women in Virginia for careers in agriculture and enhances leadership skills and encourages community participation in all areas of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Farm Bureau's Young Farmers encourage the development of youth through enrollment in vocational agriculture programs, FFA and 4-H, and a Collegiate Young Farmers program, in which students earning their undergraduate degrees have the opportunity to become further engaged in the agriculture industry; and

WHEREAS, the participation of young men and women actively involved in the future of agriculture in the Commonwealth increases annually within the Young Farmers program, and over 1,500 Young Farmers have recognized 100 of their peers for excellence in production agriculture, agribusiness, and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Farm Bureau's Young Farmers participate in a number of legislative activities, including communicating regularly on issues and legislation with county supervisors, state delegates and senators, and United States congressmen on behalf of Virginia agriculture; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is the Commonwealth's oldest and largest industry, creating one in 10 jobs and generating approximately \$55 billion of Virginia's gross state product; the efforts of the Virginia Farm Bureau's enthusiastic and talented Young Farmers will help maintain this high level of productivity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Virginia Farm Bureau's Young Farmers for their service, leadership, and commitment to Virginia agriculture and to the Commonwealth as a whole; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Virginia Farm Bureau's Young Farmers as an expression of the appreciation and best wishes of the General Assembly.

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