

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to young farmers and ranchers;
 3 creating s. 570.843, F.S.; creating the Young Farmer
 4 and Rancher Advisory Council within the department;
 5 specifying membership of the council; providing for
 6 staggered terms; specifying the meetings, powers,
 7 duties, procedures, and recordkeeping of the council;
 8 specifying that the council may submit findings and
 9 recommendations to the Commissioner of Agriculture;
 10 specifying the issues the council may examine;
 11 creating s. 570.844, F.S.; requiring the department to
 12 establish a clearinghouse on its website for resources
 13 to assist young and beginning farmers and ranchers;
 14 providing an effective date.

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 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 18 Section 1. Section 570.843, Florida Statutes, is created
 19 to read:

20 570.843 Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Advisory
 21 Council.—

22 (1) There is created within the department the Florida
 23 Young Farmer and Rancher Advisory Council, to consist of 12
 24 members to be appointed by the commissioner. Initially, 6
 25 members shall be appointed by the commissioner for a 1-year term

26 | and 6 members for a 2-year term. Thereafter, members shall be
 27 | appointed for 2-year terms.

28 | (2) The meetings, powers, duties, procedures, and
 29 | recordkeeping of the Florida Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory
 30 | Council shall be pursuant to s. 570.232.

31 | (3) The council may submit to the commissioner, annually,
 32 | findings and recommendations for mitigating challenges facing
 33 | aspiring farmers and ranchers in the early stages of their
 34 | careers. The council may examine issues that include, but are
 35 | not limited to, access to land, availability of credit and
 36 | capital, and access to business skills training.

37 | Section 2. Section 570.844, Florida Statutes, is created
 38 | to read:

39 | 570.844 Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Resource
 40 | Clearinghouse.—The department shall establish on its website a
 41 | clearinghouse for resources available to young and beginning
 42 | farmers and ranchers, including, but not limited to, local,
 43 | state, federal, and private sources of grants, loans, and
 44 | scholarships, as well as general resources on finance and
 45 | business planning. This must include resources available to
 46 | beginning agricultural producers who are defined as veterans
 47 | under s. 1.01.

48 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.