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

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

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

21 570.843 Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Advisory 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

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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 to
38 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. The clearinghouse also must include resources
46 available to beginning agricultural producers who are veterans
47 as defined in s. 1.01.

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