



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: August 11, 2026

Item Number: 2026-0756

Resolution Number: _____

☒ 4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California,
Congratulating the Mahrt Family and Petaluma Egg Farm as the 2026 Sonoma County Fair
Outstanding Northbay Rancher. (Countywide)**

Whereas, Sonoma County has a proud agricultural history, and from the 1920s through the 1940s, Petaluma was widely known as the “World’s Egg Basket,” with egg production serving as one of the region’s leading agricultural industries; and

Whereas, while the number of local egg ranches has declined over the years, the Mahrt family has remained deeply rooted in Sonoma County’s poultry industry and committed to ensuring that locally produced eggs remain available to consumers throughout the region; and

Whereas, the Mahrt family’s involvement in poultry and egg production dates to the early twentieth century, continuing a tradition of agricultural entrepreneurship, hard work, and family stewardship across generations; and

Whereas, Petaluma Egg Farm was established in 1983 when Steve Mahrt followed in his father’s footsteps and purchased an egg-processing plant, building upon his family’s longstanding connection to the poultry industry; and

Whereas, with the support of his wife, Judy, whose family also has deep roots in poultry farming, Steve developed Petaluma Egg Farm into a successful multigenerational family business dedicated to producing and distributing fresh, high-quality eggs; and

Whereas, Steve and Judy’s four sons- Jonathan, Jeremy, Jordan, and Justin- are now directly

involved in the family business, each contributing to different aspects of its operations and helping carry the family's agricultural legacy into the future; and

Whereas, Petaluma Egg Farm remains an independent, family-operated producer with a strong commitment to selling directly to local stores, supporting regional food systems and maintaining close relationships with the communities it serves; and

Whereas, although considered a smaller producer compared with some larger California egg operations, the Mahrt family supplies fresh eggs throughout Northern California while educating the public about egg production, animal care, food quality, and the importance of local agriculture; and

Whereas, for more than 40 years, the Mahrt family has supported Petaluma's beloved Butter and Eggs Day Parade by sponsoring the Cutest Little Chick in Town Contest, a cherished community tradition featuring children dressed in imaginative chicken and egg costumes; and

Whereas, the family has also shared its agricultural story with Sonoma County Fair visitors through the Petaluma Farms educational trailer, offering fairgoers a meaningful look at local egg production, the Mahrt family's history, and agriculture's enduring importance to Sonoma County; and

Whereas, the Mahrt family has demonstrated leadership in balancing the care and welfare of its birds, evolving state regulations, high standards for product quality, and the expectations of today's consumers; and

Whereas, the Sonoma County Fair Agricultural Committee unanimously selected the Mahrt family for this recognition, citing their generations of service, strong values, community spirit, humility, and meaningful contributions to Sonoma County agriculture; and

Whereas, through their dedication, innovation, public education, and steadfast commitment to family farming, the Mahrt family continues to strengthen Sonoma County's agricultural economy and preserve Petaluma's celebrated poultry heritage.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma congratulates the Mahrt family and Petaluma Egg Farm on being named the 2026 Sonoma County Fair Outstanding Northbay Rancher and recognizes their generations of leadership and

excellence in the egg industry.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors extends its sincere appreciation to Steve and Judy Mahrt and their sons, Jonathan, Jeremy, Jordan, and Justin, for their dedication to family farming, agricultural education, community involvement, and the preservation of Sonoma County's poultry heritage.

Supervisors:

Hermosillo:

Rabbitt:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.