County of Sonoma
State of California

Date: July 9, 2026

Item Number: 2026-0403

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Congratulating The Mahrt Family Of Petaluma Egg Farm Upon Being Named The Sonoma County Farm Bureau's 2026 Farm Family Of The Year

Whereas, the Mahrt Family of Petaluma Egg Farm has been named the Sonoma County Farm Bureau's 2026 Farm Family of the Year in recognition of their dedication, perseverance, and enduring commitment to Sonoma County agriculture; and

Whereas, agriculture requires resilience, sacrifice, and a deep connection to both land and community, and the Mahrt Family has demonstrated these values through their work as independent family-farmed egg producers serving consumers throughout Northern California; and

Whereas, Petaluma Egg Farm was founded in 1983, when Steve Mahrt set out on his own and acquired his first egg plant in Petaluma, using eggs purchased from his father's ranch and building upon generations of family experience in poultry and egg production; and

Whereas, Steve and Judy Mahrt both come from families with deep roots in agriculture and egg production, including Judy's family's poultry history dating back to 1905 and Steve's family's arrival in Sonoma County from Germany in the 1920s, during Petaluma's era as "The World's Egg Basket"; and

Whereas, Steve's parents, Boyd and Ingrid Mahrt, established their own egg farm and passed along a strong work ethic that continues to guide Petaluma Egg Farm and the generations that now carry the family business forward; and

Whereas, Steve and Judy Mahrt have built their family and business through 38 years of marriage, hard work, partnership, and mutual support, with Judy's dedication to raising their sons and supporting the early years of the business forming an essential part of the family's success; and

Whereas, Steve and Judy now work alongside their four sons, Jonathan, Jeremy, Jordan, and Justin, each of whom pursued other careers before returning to the family business with new skills, perspective, and a shared commitment to continuing the family tradition; and

Whereas, the Mahrt Family has remained steadfast through significant challenges affecting agriculture and animal agriculture, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, changing regulations, water and labor pressures, market uncertainty, and the challenges of operating an independent farm in California; and

Whereas, Petaluma Egg Farm has been cage-free since the 1980s, long before it was required, and continues to prioritize the health and care of its chickens, recognizing their full dependence on the people who care for them; and

Whereas, the Mahrt Family strives to provide fresh, local, all-natural, Certified Humane eggs in a pesticide- and herbicide-free environment, using a chlorine-free sanitizing process to support food safety and quality for consumers; and

Whereas, remaining independent and distributing only in Northern California reflects the Mahrt Family's belief that everyone deserves access to fresh local eggs and that local food systems are vital to community resilience; and

Whereas, the Mahrt Family also plays an important role in agricultural education, including through their mobile "egg-ucational" trailer, which helps community members better understand how eggs travel from farm to store and why locally produced food matters; and

Whereas, for 42 years, the Mahrt Family has sponsored the beloved "Cutest Little Chick in Town" Contest at Petaluma's Butter and Eggs Day Parade, creating a joyful community tradition now enjoyed across generations; and

Whereas, through their work, the Mahrt Family has helped preserve Sonoma County's agricultural heritage while adapting to the changing realities of farming, animal care, food production, and consumer education; and

Whereas, the Mahrt Family's story reflects the strength of multi-generational family farming, the importance of local food production, and the enduring spirit of Petaluma's agricultural identity;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma hereby congratulates the Mahrt Family of Petaluma Egg Farm upon being named the Sonoma County Farm Bureau's 2026 Farm Family of the Year and expresses its sincere appreciation for their contributions to local agriculture, food production, agricultural education, and community tradition.

Be It Further Resolved that the Board of Supervisors joins the Sonoma County Farm Bureau in honoring Steve and Judy Mahrt, their sons Jonathan, Jeremy, Jordan, and Justin, and the entire Mahrt Family for their dedication to family farming, animal care, local food systems, and the agricultural legacy of Sonoma County.

Supervisors:

Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins: Hermosillo:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.