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1                   A bill to be entitled  
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.

16  
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.