

Recommendations on National Policies

(N 5) ANTIBIOTIC USE

1 We recognize the need for feed additives and
2 medication in livestock feeds. The availability of
3 antibiotics for the livestock industry is critical. The
4 limitation or elimination of animal antibiotic use from the
5 livestock industry will have negative economic and
6 animal health consequences. The use of antibiotics is
7 approved by FDA only after a complete scientific review
8 and testing process has been completed. We strongly
9 support the current approval process for antibiotic use in
10 farm animals. The animal agriculture industry relies on
11 the veterinarian community to assist with and oversee
12 animal health. We would support veterinarian oversight
13 of antibiotic use rather than limitations or elimination of
14 these critical animal health and food safety protection
15 tools. We believe that veterinarian oversight is defined
16 as a working relationship with a licensed veterinarian.

17 In an attempt to protect the continued use of these
18 critical animal health products we support the following:

- 19 • Sound science as the basis for decision-making
20 and policy development regarding antibiotics /
21 antimicrobials used in food animal production.
- 22 • Use of the National Antimicrobial Resistance
23 Monitoring System, the National Animal Health
24 Monitoring System, and USDA's food safety
25 monitoring system to address issues of
26 antimicrobial resistance trends in food-borne
27 bacteria and animal health.
- 28 • Regulation of antibiotics / antimicrobials at the
29 national level to avoid a state-by-state patchwork of
30 regulation.
- 31 • A multi-agency approach to on-farm antimicrobial-
32 resistant bacteria trend research and surveillance
33 that includes Animal and Plant Health Inspection
34 Service, Agricultural Research Service, Food Safety
35 and Inspection Service and livestock producers.

36 Our industry fully realizes the importance of ensuring
37 consumer confidence in our livestock and dairy
38 industries while protecting human and animal health.
39 We must exhibit due diligence in our daily production
40 practices. It is critical that all farmers, ranchers and any
41 livestock producers associated with the use of animal
42 health and protection products be properly trained on
43 their use, and only use these products according to
44 label or by veterinarian instruction. We urge all livestock
45 producers to become enrolled in industry programs such
46 as Pork Quality Assurance Plus, Beef Quality
47 Assurance, National Dairy FARM Program, United Egg

(N 6) CONSUMER EDUCATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

1 We ~~urge~~ commend the American Farm Bureau
2 Federation (AFBF) ~~to take a more aggressive~~ for their
3 leadership role in the establishment of a national
4 consumer education and public relations campaign to
5 provide a positive image of agriculture through the
6 creation of the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance.

7 We encourage all Farm Bureau members to take an
8 active role in educating their neighbors and consumers
9 in an effort to spread the general information on their
10 food supply and the scientifically based production
11 practices.

12 We urge AFBF to ~~spearhead~~ expand the U.S.
13 Farmers and Ranchers Alliance by continuing to build a
14 consortium of all players in the food production system
15 ~~food industry and agricultural representatives~~ to
16 develop and market a public relations campaign to
17 educate consumers. ~~We support a proactive and~~
18 ~~aggressive effort to address attacks by activist~~
19 ~~organizations against agriculture.~~ We recommend the
20 U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance develop a
21 state/regional matching grant program for creation and
22 execution of public relation campaign efforts.

23 We support:

- 24 • ~~an aggressive~~ A comprehensive program
25 presenting the facts of modern production
26 agriculture ~~production~~ to the general public, food
27 industry, college students and school children. ~~We~~
28 ~~oppose the use of educational materials in our~~
29 ~~public schools and universities that discourage use~~
30 ~~of animal products.~~
- 31 • A proactive and aggressive effort to address
32 attacks by activist organizations against
33 agriculture.

34 We oppose:

- 35 • The use of educational materials in our public
36 schools and universities that discourage use of
37 animal products.
 - 38 • ~~We oppose~~ Contributions to PETA, HSUS and
39 similar organizations.
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(N 7) CROP INSURANCE

1 Crop insurance is an important part of risk
2 management. Farmers today desire to rely less on
3 government disaster programs and more on their own
4 risk management practices to build the "safety net" that
5 is needed in farming. We support crop insurance that
6 allows for all commodities to be eligible with coverage at
7 comparable levels for all commodity sectors.

8 Improvements are needed in the Federal Crop
9 Insurance Corporation program (FCIC). We support
10 these changes to the FCIC program:

- 11 • Reform of federal crop insurance to reflect a
12 revenue basis that is representative of the cost of
13 production and available at a reasonable cost.
- 14 • Increasing the premium subsidy amount for higher
15 levels of buy-up coverage.
- 16 • Creation of an alternate means of insurance by
17 establishing an agricultural savings account, with
18 the federal government matching grower
19 contributions up to traditional federal crop insurance
20 subsidy levels.
- 21 • No reduction of Actual Production History in disaster
22 years.
- 23 • Make Group Risk Plan (GRP) and Group Risk
24 Income plan (GRIP) policies permanent and
25 available in all counties. County yield
26 determinations must reflect production from total dry
27 land and irrigated land in the county.
- 28 • Initiate an accurate system to calculate GRP county
29 yields based on actual test or scientific data
30 considering irrigated vs. dry land yields.
- 31 • Make forage policies available nationwide.
- 32 • Make a replanting of crop payment available for all
33 crops. Calculations need to be revised to reflect
34 producer costs.
- 35 • Premiums should be adjusted on a loss/no loss
36 based on claim history.
- 37 • Allow acreage reporting revision based on accurate
38 FSA certification even if the acres were not
39 originally reported correctly on the insurance
40 company acreage report.
- 41 • Allow an appeal process through the local Natural
42 Resources Conservation Service as to the FCIC
43 designations of high risk on farmland.
- 44 • Allow crop insurance for any crop grown in an area
45 that can normally produce that type of crop.
- 46 • Final closing dates for crop insurance cut-offs
47 should be reviewed and adjusted to reflect current
48 production practices and varietal advancements.

CONTINUED We support these changes....:

- 49 • All government subsidized policies should have the
50 same rules regardless of the agent or company
51 selling the policy and adjusters should administer
52 claims uniformly and consistently.
- 53 • Allow flexibility in the production unit size eligible for
54 crop insurance sign-up based upon verifiable
55 management records.
- 56 • Expansion of the Adjusted Gross Revenue pilot
57 program for all commodities in all counties
- 58 • When verifying crop quality loss adjustment,
59 sampling and inspection conducted by local handler
60 grading to a “marketable” quality product should be
61 accepted proof of loss.
- 62 • When a farmer is eligible for a claim and the toxin
63 level qualifies the grain as a total loss, the farmer
64 can receive a portion of the claim (50-75%) with the
65 balance of the money paid when the grain has been
66 completely disposed.
- 67 • Risk Management Agency (RMA) recognize the
68 falling number when determining quality loss
69 adjustments for wheat, and payments on insurance
70 claims on falling numbers should be comparable to
71 current market discounts.
- 72 • We recommend RMA explore development of a
73 new insurance policy that would allow for the
74 differentiation between classes of the same
75 commodity.

76 We oppose any changes after the sales closing date
77 to the Loss Adjustment Manual (LAM) that result in
78 increased costs to the insured.

79 Although the purchase of crop insurance is voluntary,
80 ~~many farmers are awarded~~ a farmer should not be
81 eligible for disaster assistance without purchasing a
82 form of crop insurance/NAP. ~~Therefore, disaster~~
83 ~~assistance given to an uninsured farmer should be~~
84 ~~reduced by the amount of crop insurance premium that~~
85 ~~would have been charged for the acres covered.~~
86 ~~Purchase of insurance for the next two years should be~~
87 ~~required.~~

(N 8) ENERGY

1 Energy sources are critical components of the
2 nation’s economy and self sufficiency. We support the
3 national energy policy that provides incentives for
4 expanded production and increased use of biomass
5 fuels by increasing the current Renewable Fuels
6 Standard (RFS) of 36 billion gallons by 2022. We are
7 opposed to any renewal of the blenders credit for
8 ethanol. We encourage manufacturers of engine

9 components to offer more products that are renewable
10 fuel capable and we support incentives to encourage
11 the production and purchase of flex-fuel vehicles. We
12 encourage continued efforts to utilize domestic energy
13 sources and a streamlined regulatory approach for
14 refinery and Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) port facilities. We
15 encourage exploration, extraction and construction of
16 pipeline and port facilities to ensure natural gas supplies
17 meet demand. We urge the AFBF to build and lead a
18 broad based energy coalition and aggressively work to
19 implement a comprehensive and varying energy policy.

20 Congress should encourage capital investment
21 within the competitive enterprise system by providing
22 deregulation and other measures, without endangering
23 the environment, to develop coal liquefaction, domestic
24 oil and gas exploration and increase refinery capacity.
25 The use and development of energy reserves in this
26 country should be encouraged and streamlined by
27 expediting the permitting process, such as lifting bans,
28 for energy exploration and production.

29 We support making federal funds available to
30 encourage both public and private research and
31 development on renewable energy supplies. This should
32 include, but not be limited to, alcohol fuels and its
33 sources (including cellulose feedstocks), methane,
34 biodiesel, solar power, hydrogen fuel cells, biomass
35 material, and wind power. We support the concept of
36 net metering from all renewable energy sources.

37 We also support research into expanding the ethanol
38 content beyond an E10 blend without losing engine
39 efficiency and performance, and without requiring engine
40 modifications to a standard gas engine. We would also
41 encourage support of engine design research that will
42 support ethanol fuels that will increase fuel economy and
43 decrease emissions. We also support the establishment
44 of national quality standards for biodiesel, renewable
45 fuels, and related products, and the enforcement of such
46 standards.

47 We encourage AFBF to provide information to
48 producers regarding the value of renewable energy
49 sources, (i.e., wind power) to the farm/landowner where
50 the energy source is generated.

51 We support and commend the use of renewable
52 fuels in all public and government vehicles. We favor
53 increased production of all forms of renewable fuels
54 from agricultural resources. We support federal tax
55 credits and other appropriate measures to promote the
56 production and sale of renewable fuels and to
57 encourage energy conservation and technology. We
58 oppose any tax on electrical energy produced from
59 renewable energy systems. We encourage distribution

60 of biomass fuels via pipelines or other cost-effective
61 means. We encourage further development of the
62 ethanol retail distribution system so as to ensure its
63 availability to all consumers. In an attempt to make the
64 denaturing of ethanol more economical, we support
65 research for the development of alternative denaturing
66 options. We urge the EPA to recognize the full potential
67 of renewable fuels to achieve clean air standards and
68 national energy self-sufficiency. We encourage ongoing
69 research into ethanol and other agriculturally-based
70 products as a fuel source for hydrogen fuel cells. We
71 encourage the expansion of alternative energy
72 resources through university, industry and governmental
73 collaboration in an effort to improve technologies and
74 make use of agricultural and forest products to help
75 address future energy needs.

76 We support the development of fuel efficient heat
77 sources, vehicles and machinery that can utilize fuels
78 derived from biomass, including silvicultural (forestry)
79 products.

80 We encourage the use of clean coal, biomass, wind,
81 nuclear and hydroelectric power in generation of
82 electricity. Efforts should be made to reduce natural gas
83 supplies being used for electrical generation.

84 We are concerned that new electrical energy
85 capacity may not keep pace with demand. This may
86 result in expensive disruptions in electrical service and
87 higher costs to individuals and businesses. Investment
88 emphasis should be placed on updating the electric grid.
89 We support the use of clean coal as a source of energy.
90 Those industries that convert to the use of clean coal
91 would be eligible for tax advantages.

92 We believe that a government requirement/mandate
93 for electric car production and use should be matched
94 by concurrent approval for the construction and/or
95 upgrades for reliable electric generation facilities to
96 deliver the power needed. We support charging
97 electric cars in off-peak hours. We oppose the
98 government use of smart grid capabilities on electric
99 meters to control public and private usage.

100 We support nuclear energy plants as a source of
101 needed energy with adequate safeguards to ensure
102 their safe and environmentally sound use with
103 increased emphasis regarding the reprocessing of
104 nuclear waste. We believe with good management and
105 standardized plant construction of modern nuclear
106 power plant technology that nuclear energy can be a
107 major source of safe, affordable electrical power.

108 Agriculture should receive energy supplies in times
109 of national emergencies.

110 We encourage educational programs, such as
111 energy audits, to promote sound energy conservation.

112 We encourage AFBF to work with existing
113 organizations to help promote ethanol and biofuels.

114 We recommend agricultural producers and the
115 public to use renewable fuels, diesel fuels and flex fuel
116 vehicles. We encourage suppliers to offer these
117 products.

118 We do not support imports of biodiesel to be eligible
119 for the \$1 per gallon supports as provided by the energy
120 bill.

121 We encourage AFBF to research the price
122 differential and fluctuation between gasoline and diesel.

123 We support the planned expansion of the
124 TransCanada Corp. Keystone XL pipeline from
125 Hardisty, Alberta to the U.S. gulf coast refineries.

(N 9) EQUINE

1 We urge the AFBF to develop and implement a
2 national education campaign targeted toward legislators
3 and the media as to the consequences of eliminating
4 equine slaughter, resulting in unintended animal abuse
5 and neglect, and the negative impact on the equine
6 industry.

7 We support the research and development of
8 alternative markets and harvest options for the equine
9 industry. We encourage legislation to reinstate horse
10 slaughter and the appropriate USDA inspection funding.

11 We strongly oppose any attempts to further limit or
12 eliminate harvest options for equine.

13 ~~We are also opposed to~~ oppose:

14 • Any national resolution or legislation which would
15 prohibit the transport, sale, delivery or export of
16 horses for slaughter.

17 • Coggins testing for horses going direct to
18 slaughter.

19 We support the development of a national testing
20 requirement for Piroplasmosis.

(N 10) FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY

1 Several recent well-publicized food safety issues
2 have caused consumer alarm, along with economic
3 damage to producers, handlers and entire commodity
4 sectors. No human disease should be allowed to bear
5 the name of an animal or food. We support cooperative
6 efforts between producers, food processors and
7 handlers, food safety experts, consumer groups and
8 governmental agencies to address food safety issues.
9 Governmental agencies must utilize sound scientific

10 evidence prior to issuing consumer warnings. Food
11 safety regulations should be administered and funded
12 by the USDA. Efforts must be directed toward assisting
13 the media in providing accurate and responsible
14 information to the public.

15 ***Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)***

16 Good Agricultural Practices, more commonly referred
17 to as GAP, are a set of recommendations that can help
18 improve the quality and safety of the produce grown.

19 We support:

- 20 • All government agencies following food safety and
21 security protocol on farm operations.
- 22 • All GAP auditors complying with the same rules.
- 23 • Training for all auditors being consistent and
24 uniform for both private and USDA auditors.
- 25 • GAP certification should have requirements
26 reviewed by industry and science groups.
- 27 • Pre-audit education for producers to help in GAP
28 compliance.
- 29 • GAP being coordinated with already established
30 and related certifications to minimize conflicts,
31 overlap and paperwork.
- 32 • Limiting food origin traceability “back to the farm”
33 for fruits and vegetables (not individual field or
34 plant level).
- 35 • Producers of imported fruits and vegetables must
36 meet the same GAP audits as required of U.S.
37 farmers.
- 38 • Reasonable fees based on farm size.
- 39 • Audits based on whole farm, or like commodities,
40 rather than individual crops.
- 41 • Development of a brand or logo to recognize
42 domestically produced GAP-verified products.

43 We oppose:

- 44 • Expanding GAP audits beyond fruits and
45 vegetables.
- 46 • ~~The Tester amendment in the Food Safety and~~
47 ~~Modernization Act.~~

48 ***Recalls***

49 No government agency shall publicly accuse any
50 commodity of being at fault in the case of contamination,
51 disease or illness unless it has scientific proof that its
52 claim is correct.

(N 11) FORESTRY

1 We support the multiple use management philosophy
2 of our public forests with emphasis on sustainable
3 management and harvest of national forestlands.

4 We urge:

- 5 • The U.S. Forest Service to base timber sale from
6 public lands on reasonable aggregate economic
7 and social impacts.
- 8 • The U.S. Forest Service use a more aggressive
9 policy toward the removal of down and dead timber
10 to reduce the risk of wildfires in our National forests.
- 11 • The U.S. Forest Service be retained within the U.S.
12 Department of Agriculture.
- 13 • The U.S. Forest Service Director be a forester, one
14 who has been promoted through the system.
- 15 • The development of federal legislation to address
16 interstate theft of timber based on point of harvest
17 and on point of first delivery.

18 To maximize proceeds from the sale of timber
19 products from national forests, we urge that sales be
20 made at market value levels, and encourage the U.S.
21 Forest Service to minimize bureaucratic costs while
22 adhering to its 10-year forest management plan.

23 We support the concepts contained in the former
24 Forest Land Enhancement Program. We oppose any
25 further increase of roadless area designations in
26 national forest lands. We support the retention and
27 maintenance of existing roads and new road
28 construction as needed to implement the Healthy Forest
29 Initiative. Funding for fire suppression and other natural
30 disasters should not come at the expense of annual
31 operational funding of the USDA Forest Service.

32 We support:

- 33 • The use of fly ash derived from biomass as an
34 alternative to fly ash derived from coal. We support
35 the use of biomass as a fuel for electric power
36 generation whenever economically feasible.
- 37 • The definition of biomass to include “all forms of
38 wood fiber harvested from all lands, public and
39 private.”
- 40 • The use of invasive species as an eligible use of
41 biomass energy production, if this use is
42 determined to be a viable means of control.
- 43 • Funding of the Forestry Stewardship Program
44 comparable to the 2008 Farm Bill.
- 45 • An increase in the establishment, production and
46 utilization of eligible biomass energy crops through
47 the Biomass Crop Assistance Program,
- 48 • The continuation of the Forest Legacy Act, so long
49 as timber harvest rights are preserved.

(N 12) LANGUAGE

1 As an immigrant nation, a wide variety of national
2 groups, with a myriad of languages, have sought to
3 make a home in the United States. This variety of
4 humanity has, by and large, mastered the English
5 language and it has become the primary language of
6 the Nation. We believe it is imperative that persons
7 desiring to be citizens of the United States become
8 proficient in the English language in order to foster
9 unity and reduce the societal costs of accommodating
10 many different languages.

11 We do not seek to deny rights to immigrants, but
12 believe it is the responsibility of the immigrant to seek
13 out assistive services for translation rather than placing
14 the responsibility on the established society to
15 accommodate and translate for the manifold people
16 groups that seek opportunity in the United States.

(N 13) NATIONAL HEALTH CARE

1 We believe all U.S. citizens currently have access to
2 basic health care. No persons shall be turned away
3 from emergency medical services. We further believe
4 that health care is primarily the responsibility of the
5 individual.

6 For any state or federal program or legislation
7 regarding health care, we support:

- 8 • A private and affordable health care plan that
9 allows for additional benefits at the consumer's
10 option.
- 11 • Legislation to limit malpractice liability awards
12 including, but not limited to, capping malpractice
13 settlements, including attorney contingency fees,
14 and strengthening licensing disciplinary action.
- 15 • Methods to reduce the cost of prescription drugs
16 that will best benefit all individuals.
- 17 • Health education to encourage consumers of
18 health care to question physicians, hospital staff
19 and administration about procedures and costs
20 regarding their own health care.
- 21 • Itemized billing and electronic recordkeeping.
- 22 • Insurance incentives for a healthy lifestyle.
- 23 • Health insurance premiums being 100 percent tax
24 deductible for all policy purchasers immediately.
- 25 • Health Savings Accounts and Medical Savings
26 Accounts.
- 27 • Medicare and Medicaid payments to hospitals that
28 cover expenses in full. Rural hospitals should not
29 be discriminated against by using a lower cost of
30 living scale.

CONTINUED ...we support:

- 31 • An individual's right to select treatment options
- 32 which should be respected, and we encourage the
- 33 use of living wills and/or Durable Power of Attorney
- 34 for health care.
- 35 • Nurse practitioners, physician assistants,
- 36 midwives, chiropractors and certified holistic
- 37 healthcare providers being able to receive
- 38 reimbursement for their services from insurance
- 39 companies, Medicaid and Medicare.
- 40 • Organ and blood donations.
- 41 • Competition between private insurers.
- 42 • Insurance companies being allowed to cross state
- 43 lines.
- 44 • 100% insurance premium expensing for the self-
- 45 employed.
- 46 • Allowing "sleeping rails" on nursing home beds to
- 47 help ensure patient safety.
- 48 • The expansion of home and community based
- 49 long-term care.
- 50 • Programs that encourage medical professionals to
- 51 locate in rural areas, including the USDA J-1
- 52 program supporting placement of foreign-born
- 53 doctors in rural areas.

54 We oppose:

- 55 • Employer mandates.
- 56 • Any state or federal program requiring employers
- 57 to provide health insurance for employees and their
- 58 dependents.
- 59 • Mandatory health insurance.
- 60 • Any tax increases to fund health care.
- 61 • An additional tax on payroll wages.
- 62 • Any tax on agricultural commodities being used to
- 63 fund a health care program.
- 64 • Taxpayer funding of abortion.

65 For the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
66 and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act
67 of 2010, which passed in March of 2010, we support
68 the repeal of both pieces of legislation. If repeal cannot
69 be achieved, we support:

- 70 • Defunding of the national health care bill.
 - 71 • ~~Repeal of the 1099 provision in the new federal~~
 - 72 ~~health care law.~~
 - 73 • Employers being exempted from mandatorily
 - 74 providing health care coverage to any employee
 - 75 who falls under the Migrant and Seasonal Workers
 - 76 Protection Act (MSWPA).
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(N 14) REGULATORY REFORM AND REDUCTION

1 ~~We strongly support regulatory reform. Farm Bureau~~
2 ~~believes in reforming federal regulatory agencies and~~
3 ~~opposes infringement upon states' rights.~~

4 We support the following actions:

- 5 • Congress should fully exercise its authority to
6 review regulatory efforts and override unnecessary
7 regulations.
- 8 • Regulations should be understandable and ~~easy to~~
9 ~~comply with~~ reasonable. Any penalties should fit
10 the violation.
- 11 • Federal agencies should be required to conduct
12 standardized risk assessments, cost/benefit
13 analyses, and economic impact statements of all
14 proposed regulations.
- 15 • The adoption of the current USDA definition of
16 agriculture for use in the regulatory functions by
17 various federal departments.
- 18 • AFBF should challenge legal interpretations, made
19 by governmental agencies, that deviate from the
20 intent of the law.

21 New regulations should expire after a defined period
22 of time unless a review finds substantial reasons to
23 continue the programs.

(N 15) SUGAR

1 We support a program to protect the interests of
2 domestic sugar producers and recommend that any
3 appropriate legislation should include a sugar title with
4 provisions that ensure a strong and economically viable
5 domestic sugar industry.

6 We support:

- 7 • Retention of the current loan rate as a minimum.
- 8 • Amendments to allow domestic allocations to be
9 distributed to sugar from domestically produced
10 cane or beets before increasing import allocations.
- 11 • Elimination of the marketing assessment fees or
12 loan forfeiture penalties.

13 The U.S. sugar industry is threatened by the imports
14 of subsidized dumped sugar from foreign countries.
15 Free trade negotiations threaten to drive domestic
16 sugar producers out of business.

17 We support the commitment to minimize the negative
18 import access allowed under CAFTA through direct
19 government purchases or compensation to CAFTA
20 countries, as well as research into the viability of sugar
21 to ethanol conversion.

22 We support continued efforts to minimize negative
23 impacts to the U.S. sugar industry from any trade
24 agreement.

25 Market liberalization for sugar should be reserved
26 for the negotiations in the World Trade Organization,
27 where foreign export subsidies, monopolies, and
28 domestic support programs must be addressed so as
29 not to unfairly disadvantage American producers.

30 In unilateral trade negotiations, we urge the U.S.
31 Trade Representative to classify sugar as a “sensitive
32 commodity” to maintain a viable sugar industry in the
33 United States.

34 We encourage Farm Bureau to work with all
35 relevant entities to expedite the resolution and
36 completion of the environmental impact study on
37 biotech roundup ready sugar beets by the USDA
38 Animal Plant Health Inspection Service. We encourage
39 the use of the prior testing and scientific results of case
40 studies that clearly define the safety of the genetically
41 modified sugar beet crop. The expeditious manner of
42 this study is important to ensure the supply of seed for
43 future growing seasons and to maintain the future
44 viability of domestic sugar production.

(N 16) TAX REFORM

1 We support a tax policy that will encourage private
2 initiative, economic growth, equity and simplicity.

3 We support the following changes in the current tax
4 code to restore equity and recognize the needs of
5 agriculture:

- 6 • ~~Clarification and simplification of the tax code to~~
7 ~~increase the understanding and compliance without~~
8 ~~increasing the individual’s tax liability.~~
- 9 • Exempt capital gains from any state or federal
10 income taxation and, until exempted, index capital
11 gains for inflation.
- 12 • Continuation of the 100 percent health insurance
13 tax deduction. We propose that the medical
14 expenses on the Federal Income Tax returns be
15 moved from 1040 Schedule A (Itemized
16 Deductions), and be placed directly on the front
17 page of Form 1040 (Adjustments to Income). The
18 eligible amount should include the insurance
19 premiums and non-reimbursed medical expenses.
- 20 • Exemption from Social Security taxes for that
21 portion of a self-employed person’s income that is
22 attributable to return on investment.
- 23 • Any capital purchases made during the year be
24 allowed a full year’s depreciation.
- 25 • Restoration of investment tax credit.
- 26 • Allow proceeds from the sale of farm assets to be
27 rolled-over into an IRA or similar retirement account
28 with taxes deferred until the proceeds are withdrawn.

CONTINUED We support the following changes...:

- 29 • Permanent elimination of the federal estate tax.
- 30 • Making permanent the tax cuts enacted in 2001 and
- 31 later.
- 32 • Eliminate the adjusted gross income limitation for
- 33 deductible Individual Retirement Account
- 34 contributions.
- 35 • Provisions for exemption from capital gains or
- 36 ordinary income for indemnification for livestock
- 37 ordered destroyed, or compensation received for
- 38 loss of income, because of state or federal
- 39 government action.
- 40 • Increase the qualification cap for Section 179.
- 41 • Partial farmland easement donations associated
- 42 with a landowner's Purchase of Development Rights
- 43 agreement will be considered double the actual
- 44 monetary value when determining the federal
- 45 charitable gift exemption allowed.
- 46 • Repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax and, until
- 47 repealed, increase the threshold and deductions
- 48 allowed.
- 49 • Tax incentive credits for alternative energy systems
- 50 in businesses and homes.
- 51 • A person who has filed a 1040 Schedule F
- 52 continuously shall be exempt from filing a quarterly
- 53 estimated tax.
- 54 • A repeal of the three percent withholding tax for
- 55 government contractor payments.

56 In general, taxpayers do not have to pay self-
57 employment tax on unearned income from investments
58 such as cash rent from land. We support legislation to
59 restore proper application of the self-employment tax
60 by making it clear that cash rent from farmland and
61 income from CRP is not subject to the tax.

62 The federal government should remit back to a state
63 not less than 92 percent of the federal gas tax collected
64 and paid by the state.

65 Tax revenue received by the federal government
66 from the sale of property development rights shall be
67 remitted back to the state of origin for farmland
68 preservation programs.

69 We oppose:

- 70 • Retroactive tax increases.
- 71 • Until the federal estate tax is eliminated, any estate
- 72 tax legislation that would disrupt the orderly transfer
- 73 of assets from one generation to the next or
- 74 increase the loss of assets to taxation.
- 75 • A value-added tax.
- 76 • Any increase in the fuel tax to fund deficit reduction
- 77 efforts or other non-highway programs.
- 78 • The taxation of Social Security benefits.

- 79 • Any unfunded mandates including, but not limited
80 to, USDA GAP audits.

81 We may support ~~the FAIR~~ a national consumption-
82 based tax pending a specific analysis outlining the
83 impacts and benefits to agriculture.

(N 17) TRADE

1 As the largest, most influential general farm and
2 ranch organization, and as stated in our policy book
3 under Farm Bureau Purpose, “Farm Bureau is the
4 voice of agriculture at all levels.” Farm Bureau has long
5 supported open, free and fair trade that benefits all and
6 every segment of agriculture.

7 Higher living standards throughout the world depend
8 upon mutually beneficial trade among nations. We urge
9 that trade and other economic policies be developed
10 that promote fair trade practices. As Farm Bureau is a
11 general farm and ranch organization, we will evaluate
12 the economic impact of agreements and/or policies on
13 all agriculture before support or opposition is stated.

14 We support aggressive enforcement of
15 phytosanitary protocol at ports of entry to detect illegal
16 plant and animal products, diseases, pests or invasive
17 species. We support research on the development and
18 use of improved detection equipment and technology.

19 Agricultural products that also have an industrial use
20 or application shall remain classified as an agricultural
21 commodity for purposes of trade.

22 We oppose artificial barriers between states.

23 We support renewal of Trade Promotion Authority.

Agricultural Exports

24 We oppose any export restrictions, including trade
25 sanctions, on any commodity except where national
26 security is endangered and is ratified by both Houses of
27 Congress. If trade sanctions are imposed upon
28 agricultural commodities, farmers must be compensated
29 for any resulting lost revenue. We urge a
30 comprehensive reassessment of national policies
31 pertaining to agricultural embargoes.

32 We favor commercial trade for cash and normal
33 credit terms without subsidy, including subsidies brought
34 about by the manipulation of currency values. However,
35 when other nations unfairly subsidize their exports or
36 unfairly restrict imports from the United States and
37 refuse to bargain in good faith, our country should use
38 whatever legal methods are necessary to break down
39 these barriers and/or subsidies to free trade.

40 The coordination of government's role in agricultural
41 trade policies should be the responsibility of USDA.
42

43 We support the Market Access Program, the Export
44 Enhancement Program and the Dairy Export Incentive
45 Program and encourage they be used aggressively to
46 obtain new and expand existing export markets. We
47 favor expanded use of P.L. 480 to permit the United
48 States to continue providing food assistance to needy
49 countries. Congress should fully fund these programs
50 and require USDA to utilize all of the funds
51 appropriated. We encourage USDA to only use
52 quality/approved shippers for P.L.480 purchases and
53 that all shipments are inspected and documented prior
54 to shipment to ensure quality.

55 We support a vigorous program to promote and
56 expand exports of value-added agricultural products.

57 We support efforts to provide fair treatment for bulk
58 shipments of agricultural commodities to Canada.

59 We oppose all cargo preference requirements.

60 We oppose any seasonal trade restrictions by trade
61 partners.

62 We support amending the Jones Act to increase
63 competition in domestic coastal transportation.

64 We urge an aggressive effort by industry groups,
65 U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and USDA to
66 promote foreign acceptance and exports of U.S.
67 commodities, including the commodities derived through
68 biotechnology.

69 ***Agricultural Imports***

70 We oppose importation of any commodity that does
71 not meet the same protocol and treaty standards that
72 the U.S. has agreed to abide by.

73 Agriculture and food products should not be singled
74 out for bargaining and influencing foreign policy,
75 homeland or worldwide security, without adequate
76 compensation to producers.

77 Legislated import quotas and tariffs are unacceptable
78 solutions to import problems because they invite
79 retaliation.

80 Countries wishing to modify or withdraw tariff
81 concessions should do so within the provisions of Article
82 XXVIII of General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs
83 (GATT).

84 Farm Bureau should take an active role in supporting
85 the desires of individual commodity producers for import
86 relief including transshipment, when consistent with
87 Farm Bureau policy.

88 We oppose a temporary increase in import quotas or
89 reduction in tariffs of any commodity to lower the
90 domestic price.

91 Countervailing duties should be levied on any
92 subsidized raw or processed agricultural imports. A

93 countervailing duty should be removed only when it is
94 determined that the subsidy has been removed. We
95 support legislation that will allow for rapid relief from
96 subsidized or dumped imports.

97 We support mandatory participation for imported
98 agricultural commodities in all commodity check-off
99 programs.

100 We support strict enforcement of Quarantine 37 and
101 oppose efforts to weaken present restrictions. We
102 request industry input, led by Farm Bureau, in proposed
103 changes to the import regulations covering Plants for
104 Planting, including input regarding the development of
105 import risk assessments.

106 We support firm protocols should be established and
107 enforced to prevent the introduction of exotic and
108 invasive pests and disease.

109 All imported agricultural products shall be subject to
110 the same inspection, phytosanitary, quality, labeling,
111 pesticide use, producer record-keeping, livestock
112 therapeutic drugs and residue standards as domestic
113 products from the United States. The inspection shall be
114 made by U.S. inspectors at the port of debarkation. Any
115 products that do not meet these standards should be
116 denied entry and labeled to prevent entry at other U.S.
117 ports. We support increased funds or a redistribution of
118 inspectors so that imported agricultural products are
119 subject to the same level of inspection as domestic
120 production. Consideration should be given to the
121 feasibility of increasing the percentage of imported
122 agricultural products being inspected.

123 We support the education of U.S. citizens on the
124 safety of U.S. products vs. imports.

125 All trade agreements between other countries and/or
126 the World Trade Organization (WTO) should include a
127 worldwide pesticide standard. We support adherence to
128 the sanitary and phytosanitary principles as were
129 contained in the Uruguay Round Agreement on
130 Agriculture.

131 We recommend that only domestic agricultural and
132 manufactured products be used in government
133 supported institutions in the continental United States.

134 We support normalizing trade with Cuba if Cuban
135 sugar imports to the U.S. are included as part of the
136 WTO minimum of 1.25 million tons.

137 ***Trade Negotiations and Agreements***

138 The ratification of bilateral and multi-lateral trade
139 agreements have expanded agricultural trade between
140 the United States and its trading partners. Farm Bureau
141 should continue to monitor implementation of trade
142 agreements. Farm Bureau shall analyze the effects of

143 proposed trade agreements to determine their impact on
144 all aspects of agriculture, including specialty crops. If
145 these agreements continue to prove beneficial to
146 American farmers we will support bringing more
147 countries into the agreements.

148 Modifications to our domestic trade policy are best
149 done through multilateral negotiations. Bilateral and/or
150 regional trade agreements must only be negotiated if
151 they contribute to a positive outcome for U.S.
152 agriculture.

153 We advocate the development of classification
154 criteria for developed and developing country status in
155 the WTO discussions rather than the current self-
156 election process. We oppose Least Developed
157 Countries and Developing Countries from receiving
158 special treatment in WTO agreements for commodities
159 in which they are significant export suppliers.

160 We support improvements to bilateral and multi-
161 lateral dispute resolution and consultation processes
162 that shorten the timeframe and allow the resolution of
163 regional disputes.

164 USDA and the U.S. Trade Representative must
165 aggressively enforce all trade agreements to protect
166 American agricultural producers, explore and enhance
167 export opportunities, and monitor import competition.

168 In the Doha round of WTO negotiations, we urge all
169 ultra-filtered dry dairy products, MPCs, and casein be
170 included under the dairy import quotas.

171 We support legislation that will require the USTR to
172 submit an annual report to Congress designating
173 countries whose agriculture trade policies result in the
174 greatest adverse impact on U.S. agricultural products.
175 The United States would initiate a streamlined case
176 (Section 301) against the designated countries' trade
177 barriers and conclude the case within 6 months.

178 ~~We recommend that duty-free access for agricultural~~
179 ~~products from Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA)~~
180 ~~beneficiary countries be eliminated and tariffs be~~
181 ~~returned to full WTO consistent levels unless~~
182 ~~compensation is provided to damaged U.S. producers.~~

183 ~~We support legislative or administrative action that~~
184 ~~would eliminate imports of foreign trash.~~

185 We support increased inspection of all honeybees
186 imported from Australia due to the confirmed detection
187 of Apis Cenera in Australia.

(N 18) TRANSPORTATION

1 Agriculture is dependent on a sound transportation
2 system to move materials and products to and from farm
3 and market.

4 Because funding for state transportation systems are
5 tied to the adoption of federal trucking regulations, we
6 support the following federal changes:

- 7 • The F-endorsement distances be raised to 300
8 miles, or to the state border, whichever is greater.
9 As farm suppliers and markets become fewer and
10 farther between, distances farmers must travel for
11 supplies, services and markets have increased
12 substantially.
- 13 • Farm vehicles should not be required to display
14 vehicle identification on the side of any vehicle or
15 trailer, regardless of combined vehicle weight.
- 16 • Allowing farm trucks that are mandated to have
17 annual inspections to be allowed bi-annual
18 inspections if driven less than 5,000 miles per year.

19 The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
20 issued a rule requiring all commercial motor vehicles
21 operating in interstate commerce be subject to a fee
22 under the Unified Carrier Registration (UCR)
23 Agreement. Previously farmers and agricultural
24 operations were exempt from this type of fee. We seek
25 to have the agricultural exemption included in the UCR
26 Agreement.

27 Lumper fees are fees that are back charged to the
28 shipper, by the receiver, for unloading the product the
29 receiver ordered from the shipper. This fee shall not be
30 charged for product meeting the “USDA Good Delivery”
31 standard unless agreed in the original order.

32 Current AFBF Highways policy states, “We
33 recommend that all farm vehicles be exempt from
34 requirements to use taxable (undyed) diesel fuel. This
35 should include farm trucks exempt from state vehicle
36 registration or registered but operating within a 50-
37 miles radius of the farm or farm business.” This policy
38 is asking that farmers be exempt from sharing in the
39 cost of the roadways as long as they stay within 50
40 miles of home. We believe this is shirking our
41 responsibility to share in the cost of that infrastructure
42 and ask that these two sentences be removed from the
43 policy book for 2012.

44 We oppose the classification by a state or federal
45 government to include implements of husbandry as
46 commercial motor vehicles.

(N 19) UNEMPLOYMENT

1 We support:

- 2 • Increasing the threshold level of agricultural
3 coverage from the present level of \$20,000 of
4 wages paid in any calendar quarter to \$50,000 to
5 reflect wage inflation that has occurred since the
6 enactment of agricultural coverage, and that it be
7 indexed in the future to adjust for inflation.
 - 8 • Unemployment benefits being limited to 26 weeks
 - 9 • All states reviewing their reciprocal agreements for
10 unemployment payments between states to reduce
11 payment of ineligible claims.
-

(N 20) WETLANDS

1 Farmers continue to face many problems caused by
2 the regulation of wetlands under Section 404 of the
3 Clean Water Act.

4 We oppose a national goal of no-net loss of
5 wetlands.

6 We urge state and federal agencies to adopt a
7 consistent and realistic definition of wetlands. Wetlands
8 regulations should be limited to naturally occurring
9 areas that are generally recognized as swamps,
10 marshes or bogs that are wet more often than dry.
11 There should be no regulation of wetlands of less than 5
12 acres in size.

13 We urge Congress to approve legislation to establish
14 a reasonable, common sense wetlands policy for the
15 nation and correct the many abuses of private property
16 rights by regulatory agencies charged with regulating
17 wetlands. The legislation should:

- 18 • Define wetlands of 5 acres or more as areas that
19 are saturated with water at the soil surface for a
20 minimum of 60 consecutive days during the frost-
21 free period, have hydric soils, and have obligate
22 hydrophytes present.
- 23 • Exclude all prior converted wetlands from
24 regulation.
- 25 • Disallow improper drain maintenance from
26 constituting a wetlands determination.
- 27 • Clarify that normal farming activities on farmed
28 wetlands are exempt from permit requirements.
- 29 • Provide for classification of wetlands according to
30 their values and functions.
- 31 • Exclude man-made wetlands from regulation.
- 32 • Allow wetlands to be used for the production of
33 agricultural commodities, such as cranberries,
34 blueberries and rice, that are compatible with
35 wetland conservation.

CONTINUED The legislation should:

- 36 • Require compensation be provided to landowners
37 for the loss of economic use of private property
38 resulting from wetland regulations, or for planting
39 and maintenance of designed topsoil filter strips.
- 40 • Establish the Natural Resources Conservation
41 Service as the sole agency responsible for
42 administering all regulation of wetlands on
43 agricultural lands.
- 44 • Bring Section 404 wetland provisions into conformity
45 with the Swampbuster program.
- 46 • Establish ~~a timely and~~ an inexpensive appeals
47 process for landowners to appeal wetland
48 delineations and permit denials with government
49 agencies being held to the same response times as
50 the land owner. The appeals process should also
51 allow for judicial review.

52 We oppose:

- 53 • The use of productive agricultural land for wetland
54 mitigation.
- 55 • Agricultural-zoned productive land being used for
56 man made wetland restoration.
- 57 • The granting of easements to the U.S. Fish and
58 Wildlife Service on wetlands that exist on land held
59 by the Farm Service Agency and sold to private
60 owners.
- 61 • The expansion of the Clean Water Act, including
62 deleting the word “navigable” from the definition of
63 “waters of the United States”.
- 64 • Penalties for farm bill program violations being
65 applied to the entire farm operation, instead of the
66 portion of the farm in question.

67 We support:

- 68 • Legislation to terminate authority for the federal
69 government to purchase permanent easements
70 under the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).
- 71 • Notification of all adjoining landowners who may be
72 impacted by water flow or natural drainage prior to
73 land being enrolled into WRP.
- 74 • Requiring mosquito abatement and management
75 plans on government owned lands used for
76 wetlands or riparian areas.
- 77 • All issues of determination, enforcement, and
78 penalties need to be handled by government
79 agencies working in unison and cooperation.

Reaffirmation of National Policies

(NR 1) AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

1 The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has
2 developed air quality standards for ozone and
3 particulate matter (PM).

4 Agriculture practices identified as emitters of fine PM
5 or ozone include livestock production facilities, fuel
6 combustion sources, diesel emissions, and dust from
7 soil tillage, crop harvesting, grain mills, grain elevators
8 and value-added processing plants.

9 We oppose:

- 10 • Mandatory air quality standards for farmers and
11 agricultural businesses that voluntarily conduct
12 effective environmental conservation practices.
- 13 • Further emission controls for agricultural
14 equipment and practices.
- 15 • Any attempt to regulate dust emitted from farming
16 practices.
- 17 • Air permits for agricultural operations, that are not
18 science or practice based.
- 19 • EPA's use of rulemaking that allows unelected and
20 unaccountable EPA bureaucrats to bypass the
21 legislative process and put mandatory regulations
22 on businesses.

23 We urge American Farm Bureau Federation to:

- 24 • Educate members on air quality and its impact on
25 agriculture.
- 26 • Seek out the findings of major universities
27 researching agriculture air quality standards and
28 best management practices.
- 29 • Work with the EPA to create voluntary, functional
30 guidelines that recognize normal agricultural
31 production practices and the associated air
32 particulate generated.
- 33 • Monitor the direction and guidance of the USDA
34 Agricultural Air Quality Task Force.

35 We support:

- 36 • Funding for agriculture air quality research to
37 establish accurate agricultural emission baselines.
- 38 • The EPA establishing and maintaining a deliberate,
39 consistent and transparent decision-making
40 process to inform the public, including farmers, of
41 any criteria used to regulate air emissions.
- 42 • Benefits exceeding the cost of any regulation or
43 program.
- 44 • Congress reviewing the effects of the Clean Air Act
45 (CAA) on agricultural operations and ensuring
46 workable and reasonable CAA rules and programs.

- 47 • Continued use of prescribed or controlled burn
48 programs.
49 • An agricultural exemption regarding particulate
50 emissions in EPA’s ambient air quality standards.
51 We insist that government air quality policies be
52 based on sound science and consider economic impact.
53 Compliance costs associated with meeting any imposed
54 standards should be the responsibility of the federal
55 government.
-

(NR 2) APPLE INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH

1 Crop insurance has not proven to be a viable tool to
2 compensate for the loss of apple trees due to fire blight
3 and other natural disasters. We continue to support the
4 tree assistance program with no payment limitations.

5 We support continued funding of fire blight research
6 and reinstatement of the funding for post-harvest apple
7 research.

8 To assist the industry in adjusting to the current
9 market conditions, we support:

- 10 • Market and economic loss assistance payments.
11 • Expansion of USDA purchase of apples for use in
12 domestic food programs.
-

(NR 3) ASPARAGUS INDUSTRY

1 The asparagus industry has been severely damaged
2 by import competition and by the loss of export markets.
3 The rising competition in both our domestic market and
4 world markets is in large part due to our trade
5 agreements (NAFTA) and our anti-dumping policy (Andean
6 Trade Preference Act.) Since asparagus is a long-term
7 perennial crop requiring a large initial investment to
8 establish acreage, rapid change in total production
9 capacity is very difficult.

10 To assist the industry in adjusting to the current
11 market conditions, we support:

- 12 • Market Loss Assistance payments.
13 • Expansion of USDA purchases of asparagus for
14 use in domestic food programs.
-

(NR 4) BANKRUPTCY

1 Farmers need maximum assurance of payment for
2 commodities delivered. When a buyer becomes
3 insolvent or declares bankruptcy many people suffer.
4 The impact on farmers is more significant because of
5 the perishability and the seasonal nature of many
6 commodities.

7 We support legislation at the federal level to give
8 first claim on commodity inventories or proceeds to
9 farmers, including grower/processor participating
10 contracts, who have delivered commodities or products
11 to a purchaser who subsequently files for bankruptcy
12 protection.

(NR 5) CLIMATE CHANGE

1 We strongly oppose any U.S. participation in any
2 agreement regarding climate change protocol that will:
3 • Impose new regulations on American farmers
4 through the United Nations.
5 • Impose new costs for fuel, fertilizers and agricultural
6 chemicals.
7 • Put U.S. farmers at a disadvantage in international
8 trade because of exemptions for nations that are
9 significant contributors of greenhouse gases.
10 We urge the U.S. not to approve any environmental
11 treaty without the use of sound science and to ensure
12 our nation is not placed at an economic disadvantage
13 or our sovereignty threatened.

Cap and Trade

14 We oppose:
15 • Any regulation of CO₂ under the Clean Air Act and
16 Montreal Protocol.
17 • Regulation of agriculture greenhouse gas
18 emissions.
19 • Mandatory cap & trade legislation.
20 • Taxes on carbon uses or emissions.
21 • Non-scientific assumptions linking bio-fuel
22 production and international land use.
23 We support science-based research to determine
24 agriculture's contribution, if any, to climate change.
25

(NR 6) ELECTIONS

1 Farm Bureau supports limiting active campaign ads
2 through the media to no more than 90 days prior to the
3 general election and no more than 90 days prior to a
4 primary election.
5 Currently, national campaign ads and public debates
6 generally do little to adequately inform the public about
7 candidates and their positions on issues, initiatives,
8 proposals and programs.
9 We support:
10 • Better use of technology (websites, blogs, emails)
11 and printed media to more thoroughly describe and
12 communicate positions and proposals the
13 candidates are claiming.

- 14 • The use of a third party fact finder to rate the
- 15 truthfulness of various candidate claims on ads and
- 16 debates and make results available to the public.
- 17 • Development of workable methods to limit the huge
- 18 spending for elections.
- 19 • The ability to include auto political phone calls in
- 20 the National Do Not Call Registry for individuals.
- 21 • All laws passed by Congress should apply equally
- 22 to Congress and U.S. citizens.
- 23 • Exploring the concept of Congressional term limits.
- 24 • Election day results should not be released to the
- 25 public until all polls are closed in the continental
- 26 United States.
- 27 • Clear, concise and simple language be used on all
- 28 ballot issues.
- 29 • All ballots be printed in English only.
- 30 • Congressional district representation be determined
- 31 based on U.S. citizenship.

32 We support retention of the Electoral College for the
33 United States presidential elections, but electors should
34 be required to vote for the candidates on the ballots to
35 which they were pledged. We oppose proposals to
36 make the popular vote the sole determinant of
37 presidential elections.

(NR 7) ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

1 The Endangered Species Act does not provide for
2 consideration of economic impacts when decisions are
3 made to list a species as endangered or threatened.

4 We believe modern society cannot continue to
5 operate on the basis that all species must be managed
6 at any cost.

7 All state and federal actions, legislative or
8 regulatory, designed to protect species believed to be
9 endangered should demonstrate that the benefits to
10 humans exceed the cost to humans. We believe that
11 endangered species protection should be achieved by
12 providing incentives to private landowners and public
13 land users rather than by imposing land use restrictions
14 and penalties.

15 An economic impact study should be required and
16 its results considered before declaring a species
17 endangered. If use of private property by an owner is
18 adversely affected by the implementation of the
19 Endangered Species Act, the landowner should be
20 compensated for the loss of the use of their property.
21 Farmers should also be compensated for losses due to
22 the reintroduction of endangered species.

23 We oppose legislation that would amend the
24 Endangered Species Act to extend protection to

25 species which in the future might be candidates for
26 listing as endangered or threatened.

27 We oppose authorization of funds to conduct a
28 national biological survey.

29 We oppose endangered species environmental
30 regulations that are not founded on sound scientific
31 studies.

32 We continue to support the delisting of the Eastern
33 Gray Wolf and ask the American Farm Bureau to assist
34 the Great Lakes States (Michigan, Wisconsin,
35 Minnesota) in pursuit of removal from the endangered
36 species list. We support legislation to allow livestock
37 owners and/or herdsman responsible for livestock
38 well-being to control the Eastern Gray Wolf on land
39 occupied by livestock. The appropriate agency must be
40 contacted as soon as possible and alerted of such
41 action.

(NR 8) FEDERAL FOOD PURCHASE PROGRAMS

1 We encourage USDA to review the list of approved
2 food purchases for the school lunch programs, the
3 military and other federal programs to ensure all
4 domestically produced agricultural commodities are
5 included. Only domestically produced commodities
6 should be eligible for purchase.

7 We do not support the inclusion of carbonated soft
8 drinks in the federally funded school lunch program.
9 We encourage the use of nutritional beverages such as
10 milk, vegetable and fruit juices.

11 We urge the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program be
12 expanded to all schools in the United States.

13 We support initiatives to encourage school systems
14 to purchase locally grown products.

15 We support the enablement of schools to give first
16 preference to buying local food from local farms, if it is
17 available, without any dollar limit, and then purchase
18 the remaining food needs from USDA commodity
19 programs and other sources.

20 We oppose any limitations or restrictions on USDA
21 purchases due to the violation of "no match" and/or
22 other immigration regulations.

(NR 9) FEDERAL MARKETING AND BARGAINING LEGISLATION

1 We support the enactment of a comprehensive
2 federal marketing and bargaining act. This legislation
3 should be available to producers in all states who own
4 their product if they desire to organize marketing
5 associations and operate within the provisions of the
6 act. It should establish procedures for:

- 7 • Defining bargaining units
- 8 • Accrediting associations to bargain as exclusive
- 9 agents for all producer-members of bargaining
- 10 units
- 11 • Good faith bargaining between accredited
- 12 associations, handlers and processors
- 13 • Establishing minimum requirements and rights in
- 14 the operation of accredited associations, and
- 15 • Resolving bargaining impasses by mediation and
- 16 arbitration by a joint settlement committee utilizing
- 17 the principle of final offer selection.

18 We support enactment of legislation to amend the
19 Agricultural Fair Practices Act to allow state marketing
20 associations to represent all producers of a commodity
21 under the majority rule concept and require handlers to
22 recognize and deal with association of producers.

23 We urge Farm Bureau at all levels to give a higher
24 priority to marketing and bargaining legislation.

(NR 10) FEDERAL WAREHOUSE ACT

1 The USDA has issued new regulations for the United
2 States Warehouse Act (USWA) to implement provisions
3 of the Grain Standards and Warehouse Improvement
4 Act of 2000. The regulations pre-empt state laws and
5 regulations covering merchandising activities of
6 federally licensed grain warehouses.

7 This change will be detrimental to agriculture as:

- 8 • Federally licensed warehouses may be inclined to
- 9 drop their state grain dealer/buyer licenses.
- 10 • State licensed warehouses may switch to federal
- 11 licenses to escape the scrutiny of state regulators.
- 12 • Federally licensed warehouses would be able to
- 13 avoid regulation of their merchandising activities by
- 14 state authorities and be free to engage in
- 15 unregulated speculative merchandising to the
- 16 potential detriment of grain producers and
- 17 depositors. Commodity Credit Corporation owned
- 18 and loaned inventory could be in jeopardy in a
- 19 failing elevator.
- 20 • The benefits of dual regulation would be lost.
- 21 • The interests of producers could no longer be
- 22 protected by state regulators in the event of a
- 23 federal warehouse failure.

24 We support restoring the state's authority to enforce
25 grain laws that regulate all activities of federally
26 licensed grain warehouses, with the exception of those
27 directly relating to warehousing. The USWA must be
28 amended to allow states to regulate merchandising
29 activity of federally licensed warehouses and
30 administer grain insurance funds in order to provide

31 protection to the farmer.

(NR 11) FERTILIZER

1 Due to increasing fertilizer cost and supply issues,
2 we encourage expanded domestic production and new
3 investment. We support research into the discovery of
4 alternative sources of plant nutrients, expansion of
5 existing mines, and development of new mines and
6 production facilities.

7 We support the creation of a USDA-led, inter-agency
8 working group to develop specific strategies or actions
9 to help address and alleviate shortages and excessive
10 price increases for fertilizer.

(NR 12) GRAIN STANDARDS

1 We support adjusting U.S. grains and oilseeds
2 premiums and discount schedules to encourage the
3 storage, delivery and export of high-quality, clean grain;
4 and offer incentives to minimize the percentage of
5 moisture, foreign material, dockage, and shrunken and
6 damaged kernels.

7 We support strengthening and enforcing federal
8 standards that would reflect the quality of grain sold in
9 world trade.

10 We propose that USDA:

- 11 • Accelerate research to develop more objective tests
12 and promote the use of those tests to accurately
13 differentiate between types of classes of grains
14 based on hardness, protein content and physical
15 and biological characteristics;
- 16 • Conduct a comprehensive study to identify the
17 changes in grading procedures and standards
18 including sampling and testing methods needed to
19 ensure that class and grade will accurately indicate
20 the appropriate end use for each lot of grain; and
- 21 • Allow all information available, such as identification
22 by variety, to be used in the classification
23 procedures, pending the adoption of acceptable
24 objective tests.

25 The objective of improving grain standards must be
26 to enhance sales and improve returns to producers.
27 New standards should be developed immediately and
28 be strictly enforced. Foreign material, including
29 dockage, should be defined in new grain standards as
30 material other than the grain being marketed.

31 We believe Farm Bureau, USDA and the grain trade
32 should continue to work cooperatively to improve grain
33 standards which accurately reflect the importance of test
34 weight, protein content, insect infestation levels,

35 moisture, dry matter basis, and foreign material in
36 determining quality, grading, and pricing factors for
37 agricultural commodities including soybeans, wheat and
38 feed grains. We support amending the United States
39 Grain Standards Act for wheat to include the level of
40 alpha-amylase enzyme based on the falling number
41 test.

42 The practice of adding foreign material, other grains
43 or screenings to a shipment of grain to meet a certain
44 grade should be prohibited. Criminal penalties for
45 violations should be swiftly and surely administered.

46 The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards
47 Administration (GIPSA) should inspect and check cargo
48 weights of all export shipments. GIPSA should also
49 verify the cleanliness, quality and test weight of every
50 export grain shipment.

51 The current grain marketing system discounts
52 producer returns for "high moisture" grain but does not
53 pay a premium for low moisture grain. Therefore, we
54 support the adoption of a dry matter based system for
55 grain marketing which rewards producers for delivery of
56 a quality product. A change to a dry matter based
57 system would eliminate the economic incentive of
58 manipulating moisture levels and more accurately reflect
59 the commodity's true value.

60 Unless sound science demonstrates a real need, we
61 oppose the establishment of "defect action levels" in
62 grain by the FDA and encourage the continual use of
63 "guidelines" so that blending of product can be
64 continued.

(NR 13) INDUSTRIAL HEMP

1 The United States is the only industrialized nation in
2 which the production of industrial hemp is illegal.

3 Therefore, to meet domestic needs, industrial hemp
4 must be imported. The legalization of industrial hemp
5 production would provide diversification and economic
6 opportunities for American farmers.

7 We support the development of industrial hemp plant
8 varieties that are **clearly distinguishable** from
9 marijuana.

(NR 14) INSPECTION AND GRADING OF MEAT AND POULTRY

1 New industries create the possibilities of new market
2 opportunities. We support amendments to the code of
3 federal regulations that extend the United States
4 Department of Agriculture's (USDA) amenable species
5 Grading and Inspection Service to other species,

6 including, but not limited to, farm raised rabbits,
7 privately-owned cervids, buffalo, emus, and ostrich.

8 This service should be extended to facilities that
9 process over 10,000 pounds of product annually.

10 The discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
11 (BSE) in December 2003 brought about many changes
12 to our meat processing industry. It is imperative that we
13 constantly monitor our production and processing
14 industries to ensure a healthy food supply for
15 consumers. We support the BSE surveillance testing
16 being performed by USDA, however adjustments are
17 needed.

18 Current regulations do not allow for non-ambulatory
19 cattle to enter the food chain. We believe there is a clear
20 difference between “downer” livestock and those
21 animals that are simply injured and non-ambulatory. A
22 clarification needs to be made between the two by
23 USDA. There should be an opportunity for producers to
24 harvest injured livestock for personal, on-farm or custom
25 slaughter use.

26 We support continued BSE testing for all downer and
27 non-ambulatory cattle. We urge further research and
28 development of live animal tests for BSE and Scrapie.

29 We support the establishment of an industry-led
30 federal task force to evaluate the USDA meat inspection
31 program and their requirements. We believe that USDA
32 Food Safety Inspection Service should focus its efforts
33 on food safety. A complete evaluation should be
34 conducted with recommended guidelines for areas of
35 improvement. Representatives from production,
36 processing and food safety industries should be
37 involved in the task force.

(NR 15) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

1 Research institutions, especially land grant
2 universities, are scaling back on their agricultural
3 research and are requiring agricultural commodity
4 groups and associations to participate financially, both
5 in the research areas and staff funding.

6 We are in favor of Protected Plant Varieties as long
7 as they are developed entirely with private funds.
8 When public funds or facilities are used to develop
9 these varieties, they should become accessible to all as
10 public varieties with a small royalty fee.

(NR 16) LABELING

1 We advocate the following regarding labeling of
2 foods, fibers, and other agricultural products.
3 Manufacturers of imitation foods should be allowed to
4 label their products with any available name, provided
5 no reference is made to the product being simulated
6 and no descriptions are used that implies the traditional
7 food origins.

8 Labels on imitation products should state on the
9 main display panel of the package that the product is an
10 imitation in letters not less than one-half the size of the
11 product name.

12 We support legislation to require percentage labeling
13 of all diluted fruit and vegetable beverages.

14 Agricultural products that are produced using
15 approved technology should not be required to
16 designate individual inputs or specific technologies on
17 the product label.

18 We oppose any changes to labeling that will weaken
19 or eliminate local and state laws governing food safety.
20 In addition, we oppose false, misleading, or deceptive
21 marketing and promotion and/or label claims. We
22 support the campaign to change the labeling for soy
23 “milk” to a more appropriate name, such as soy drink or
24 soy juice. We support USDA approved market-based
25 certification programs which identify production
26 practices used to produce such food.

27 We also support an initiative to educate consumers
28 about the safety and quality of U.S. food, and inform
29 consumers when imported foods are produced under
30 less strict standards or using products not legal in the
31 United States.

32 We believe the origin of all products should be
33 prominently displayed in a consistent format on the
34 packaging/product. We support stepped-up enforcement
35 of country-of-origin labeling requirements. We support
36 the further development of cost effective methods of
37 agricultural product identification and traceability.

38 We support the inclusion of honey and dry beans in
39 the mandatory country of origin labeling program.

(NR 17) LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

1 We support the establishment and implementation of
2 a mandatory national animal identification system
3 capable of providing support for animal disease control
4 and eradication, as well as enhancing food safety. We
5 support the opportunity for each state to decide the
6 entity controlling their respective animal ID program
7 database. However, in the event of a disease outbreak,
8 the controlling entities must be equipped to

9 communicate and utilize the system to track and trace
10 animals in a timely manner.

11 A cost-effective national system of livestock
12 identification, with adequate cost-share among
13 government, industry and producers, should be
14 established and regulated by an advisory board of
15 producers, processors and USDA. Any such program
16 must protect producers from liability for acts of others
17 after livestock leaves the producer's hands, including
18 nuisance suits naming everyone who handled particular
19 livestock.

20 We support the following guidelines for a livestock
21 identification program:

- 22 • The development of uniform standards for
23 electronic identification.
- 24 • The development of lot identification concepts that
25 are species appropriate and practical.
- 26 • The program be as simple and inexpensive as
27 possible for producers to implement.
- 28 • Cost-sharing from the federal government,
29 especially for development and implementation.
- 30 • Producer information be confidential and exempt
31 from disclosure under the Freedom of Information
32 Act (FOIA).
- 33 • Information be made available only to the proper
34 animal health authorities in the event of an animal
35 disease incident. Any unauthorized use
36 inconsistent with the FOIA shall constitute a felony.
- 37 • The identification of animals not be required until
38 movement from the original registered premise.
- 39 • All imported animals be permanently identified
40 regarding their country of origin upon entry into the
41 United States.

42 The program should ensure the security of producer
43 information and respect the privacy of producers by only
44 collecting data necessary to establish a trace-back
45 system.

46 We support the development and adoption of
47 livestock identification technology which will enhance
48 the implementation of value-based marketing.

(NR 18) METHYL BROMIDE

1 Methyl Bromide is an agricultural fumigant used to
2 protect crops and other materials from insects, rodents,
3 nematodes, weeds and many plant diseases. Safe,
4 effective and economically viable alternatives do not
5 exist for most uses.

6 In 1992, Methyl Bromide was listed as a
7 stratospheric ozone depleting substance by the
8 international treaty known as the Montreal Protocol, and

9 a phase-out of use was mandated in 1997. The
10 Montreal Protocol allows developing countries to
11 maintain use until 2015, and required developed
12 countries to phase out use by 2005, without required
13 Critical Use Exemptions (CUE) from the meeting of the
14 parties to the Montreal Protocol.

15 We strongly oppose the rapid reductions in the use
16 of Methyl Bromide in the U.S.

17 We support changes to the Clean Air Act to allow
18 United States producers to have access to Methyl
19 Bromide that is consistent with the reductions in the
20 developing countries.

21 We further encourage research funded through state
22 and federal agencies to find viable alternatives for
23 Methyl Bromide.

24 We oppose the United States funding the Unilateral
25 Fund of the Montreal Protocol at the United Nations.

26 We oppose the U.S. EPA lowering the industry
27 amount supported and needed Critical Use Nominations
28 for Methyl Bromide to the meeting of the parties to the
29 Montreal Protocol and then changing and lowering the
30 CUEs we receive from the parties when the EPA
31 publishes in the Federal Register.

(NR 19) MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICY

1 We support a Constitutional amendment requiring a
2 balanced federal budget except in the event of war,
3 national emergency and national disasters. A balanced
4 budget should be accomplished through spending
5 restraint or by reducing the rate of growth, rather than
6 by increasing taxes or revenues. Congress should
7 accept its sole authority vested by the constitution to
8 appropriate funds. Congress should enact
9 appropriations at levels that do not result in deficit
10 spending or require increased taxes to finance. A
11 balanced budget must not be achieved by levying new
12 taxes or increasing existing taxes.

13 We support the pay-as-you-go provision in current
14 law which requires that increased spending be offset by
15 reduced spending in other budget areas. We strongly
16 oppose the use of tax increases, assessments and user
17 fees to achieve the required offset.

18 We support fundamental reform in federal
19 entitlement programs and cost of living adjustments.
20 Entitlement programs should not be exempt from
21 federal budget cutting requirements.

22 We recommend that all government agencies be
23 required to return unspent money to the treasury
24 without a budget cut or penalty being imposed for the

25 new fiscal year. Surplus dollars should be used for
26 federal debt reduction.

27 We oppose the withholding of funds to state and
28 local governments to force compliance with federal
29 programs.

30 We urge that statements on budgets should
31 accurately reflect increase or decrease in actual
32 dollars.

33 We support open disclosure of government
34 spending at all levels.

(NR 20) MONOPOLY

1 We oppose mergers, acquisitions or leveraged
2 buyouts which tend to create a monopoly of production,
3 marketing and transportation situations or reduce
4 competition in acquiring, pricing or transportation of
5 farm inputs, commodities and products.

6 We are increasingly concerned over additional
7 mergers of agri-business and their higher percentage of
8 ownership and control of the agricultural industry by
9 fewer companies. Ownership by packers of livestock,
10 control of grain by merchandisers and buy-outs of
11 pharmaceutical companies have led to less
12 competition, a decrease of price discovery
13 opportunities and the loss of farm operations
14 throughout the country. We believe that companies
15 have reached or are reaching the point of monopolistic
16 control within the agricultural industry and are
17 threatening the future of who owns and controls
18 production agriculture.

19 We are opposed to ownership and control of
20 agricultural inputs and production by agri-business and
21 the processing/retail industry when that ownership
22 reaches the point of monopolistic powers and leads to
23 limiting price discovery ability and marketing
24 opportunities.

25 We believe Congress should immediately begin
26 investigations of the agricultural industry for antitrust
27 abuse and alleged monopolies, and demand the U.S.
28 Justice Department review such mergers and
29 vigorously enforce all anti-trust and monopoly laws
30 when deemed necessary. These investigations should
31 consider regional monopolistic powers and abuses
32 and their impact on agriculture.

33 We support the continuation of the Capper-
34 Volstead Act.

35 We support the swift prosecution of all individuals or
36 companies who violate antitrust and monopoly law in
37 an attempt to control the production and pricing of
38 agricultural inputs, commodity prices, and production.

39 This should be a priority issue for the American Farm
40 Bureau Federation.

(NR 21) PEST CONTROL

1 The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide
2 Act (FIFRA) regulates the use, storage and registration
3 of pesticides. We support amendments to FIFRA to
4 include liability protection against environmental damage
5 if the pesticide applicator has followed label instructions
6 and immunity for an applicator from paying the cost of
7 cleaning up environmental contamination if label
8 directions were followed during application of a pesticide.

9 We support legislation to prohibit state and local
10 pesticide regulations from being more stringent than
11 FIFRA. We support harmonizing registration guidelines
12 and labeling requirements to facilitate U.S. farmers
13 purchasing products worldwide.

14 We urge Congress to keep close oversight of EPA
15 implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act
16 (FQPA) to ensure the intent of the law is followed. We
17 support legislative and legal efforts to ensure proper
18 implementation of FQPA based on scientific protocol
19 that will instill consumer confidence in our food and
20 fiber. The EPA Pesticide Scientific Advisory Panel
21 should consist of unbiased experts in toxicology.

22 EPA should be required to utilize actual use data to
23 assess risks and establish tolerances when registering
24 and re-registering pesticides and avoid decisions based
25 on worst case assumptions. EPA should not assume
26 that farmers apply pesticides at the maximum dosage
27 rates or frequency of application as the label will allow.
28 We support continued funding to allow USDA or
29 Extension to conduct periodic national surveys through
30 a reliable sample of pesticide users for the purpose of
31 gathering pesticide use data to be used by EPA. The
32 identity of the pesticide users surveyed must be kept
33 confidential.

34 In October 2009, EPA began an unscheduled review
35 of Atrazine that appears to be inconsistent with EPA's
36 normal FIFRA process. Scientific evidence has proven
37 that Atrazine is safe to use according to its label, and we
38 strongly support the continued availability of Atrazine.

39 We request EPA increase its evaluation and
40 registration of additional new crop protection tools.

41 We encourage farmers to keep records on all
42 pesticide use to provide a database. Regulations require
43 farmers using restricted use pesticides to keep records
44 for a minimum of three years.

45 We support legislative solutions to ensure availability
46 of specialty crop use pesticides. These solutions shall

47 include, but not be limited to, tax credits to registrants
48 who maintain these uses and/or reduced third-party
49 registration liability.

50 We recommend that growers be allowed to apply for
51 a special use permit from their state regulatory agency
52 regarding the availability of pesticides for non-food
53 crops. This permit would allow them to apply pesticides
54 to non-food crops that have already been registered for
55 use on other crops. The grower would assume
56 responsibility for damage to their crop and must apply
57 the pesticide at or below the labeled rate for the
58 registered use.

59 We strongly urge Congress to appropriate funds for
60 the heavily backlogged Inter Regional Project # 4 (IR-4).
61 The IR-4 project is critical in supplying data required by
62 EPA to keep essential specialty crop pesticides on the
63 market.

64 We support enhanced funding and voluntary use of
65 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as a method of
66 reducing costs, risks, liability and total dependence on
67 chemicals.

68 We support approved technologies, such as
69 irradiation, as a pest control tool.

70 We encourage the development of Pest
71 Management Strategic Plans.

72 We urge EPA to cooperate in sponsoring amnesty
73 programs for proper disposal of hazardous chemicals
74 and discontinued chemicals.

75 We oppose mandated buffer zones not based on
76 scientific data.

77 We oppose any curtailment of the safe and proper
78 use of agricultural chemicals and drugs unless research
79 and scientific data determine that injury to health and
80 well being would result. We also request re-evaluation
81 of previously canceled pesticides based on current
82 scientific data.

83 We support continuation of the Pesticide Data
84 Program which provides pesticide residue information in
85 food products for use by EPA in setting tolerance
86 standards and registering pesticides. EPA should be
87 able to contract with other entities to perform the testing
88 for pesticide residues.

89 We encourage USDA, EPA and FDA to conduct their
90 activities in a manner that will help instill consumer
91 confidence.

92 We support the removal of the Cormorant, Sand Hill
93 Cranes, and "seagulls" from the migratory bird
94 protection listing to facilitate control by the states that
95 have these birds in excessive numbers.

(NR 22) PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

1 We believe any action by government that
2 diminishes an owner's right to use his property
3 constitutes a taking of that owner's property. Therefore,
4 government should provide due process and
5 compensation to the exact degree that an owner's right
6 to use his property has been diminished by government
7 action. When regulations or legislation regarding rare,
8 threatened or endangered species or environmental
9 restrictions alter agricultural practices, agricultural
10 producers should be compensated for the cost of their
11 altered agricultural practices. Compensation for a taking
12 should be paid from the budget of the agency
13 responsible for the taking. Furthermore, we believe that
14 the only just basis for compensation in such cases is fair
15 market value.

16 We oppose any legislation that would allow public
17 access to or through private property without permission
18 of the property owner or authorized agent. We oppose
19 government takeover of private property for the purpose
20 of banking land for future use.

21 We call for review of all federal regulations that
22 encroach on the rights of property owners.

23 We support legislation requiring federal agencies to
24 conduct and publish an analysis of the impact that
25 proposed regulations would have on private property
26 rights.

27 Government takeovers of agricultural land should be
28 limited to the need to provide a necessary service to the
29 public, but not include recreational services or private
30 economic development. We oppose any agency
31 designating a citizen's land as a historical site without
32 the owner's approval. We support a no-net-gain policy
33 of federal land within the United States.

34 Rules and regulations regarding floodplain
35 management should not supercede private property
36 rights. We believe that property owners should be
37 notified and a public hearing be held before floodplain
38 designation changes are made.

39 The Flood Plain Maps published by the government
40 should be accurate. Banks will not make loans for
41 buildings in flood plains. A loan applicant can challenge
42 the map's accuracy by hiring a registered surveyor and
43 filing a favorable finding with the government. The
44 applicant should be reimbursed for all expenses
45 incurred in the process of obtaining map correction.

(NR 23) SOCIAL SECURITY / MEDICARE

1 The Social Security Administration regulations
2 provide that social security numbers may not be used
3 for anything except social security purposes. We
4 support giving the Social Security Administration the
5 authority to enforce the restrictions on both private and
6 government usage of social security numbers as
7 regulated.

8 We oppose:

- 9 • Earned income restrictions for those on Social
10 Security/Medicare.
- 11 • Social Security/Medicare regulations which classify
12 Conservation Reserve Program payments to Social
13 Security/Medicare recipients as earned income.
14 Such payments should be considered as rent.
- 15 • Rules or legislation that further erode farm
16 homestead assets for Medicaid eligibility
17 determinations.
- 18 • Congressional exemption from the Social Security
19 Program.

20 We believe the amount an employee can make
21 before requiring the deduction of Social
22 Security/Medicare and the filing of W-2 Forms should
23 be \$1000 per employer annually.

24 Social Security benefits should be exempt from the
25 taxable base for income tax purposes.

26 We support the option to contribute to either Social
27 Security/Medicare or a private retirement fund which
28 operates under the same deposit percentages and
29 withdrawal age rules.

30 We believe the federal government should use
31 funds collected and intended for use in Social Security
32 only for the Social Security programs.
