

RESOLUTIONS

IOWA FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION

2021

Adopted at the
15th Annual
Summer Policy Conference
September 10, 2020



IOWA FARM BUREAU

PEOPLE. PROGRESS. PRIDE.®

Dear Farm Bureau Members and Friends,

In September 2020, voting delegates from each county Farm Bureau debated important agricultural issues of the day and approved the policy statements in this book. Using a truly grassroots process, Iowa farmers identified important issues related to agriculture, researched them, and then debated those issues in every county. This grassroots process brings Farm Bureau members from across the state together to create a unified voice on issues affecting agriculture and rural Iowa. For over one hundred years, grassroots has given Iowa Farm Bureau its strength. I would like to thank the Resolutions Committee and voting delegates, whose dedication and work is vital to establishing Farm Bureau policy.

The policy development process guides Iowa Farm Bureau's policy implementation efforts throughout the year. Members from across the state will participate in the policy implementation process by engaging their legislators on Farm Bureau policy issues prior to and during the 2021 legislative session. Farm Bureau members will effectively advocate at the grassroots level on the key issues of importance to agriculture and rural Iowa.

I would like to thank every county Farm Bureau for participating in these policy development and policy implementation efforts. If you have not been actively involved, I would encourage you to participate in policy development by submitting an issue, attending your county's policy discussion meetings, or by simply filling out your county opinionnaire. Additionally, I strongly encourage you to join our advocacy efforts at the Capitol and back home with your legislators. Your efforts are what makes Farm Bureau the most respected grassroots organization in the state.

Please take some time to review Farm Bureau's state policy statements. Every member can play an important role to develop and implement policies that improve the well-being of Iowa farmers and our rural communities.

Craig Hill
President

STATUS OF RESOLUTIONS

The board of directors is authorized to formulate policy in areas not covered by currently valid resolutions if such action is necessary. Board-adopted policy concerning public issues shall be in effect for five years or until modified by the board or superseded by delegate-adopted policy.

New 2021 policy is highlighted in bold print throughout this book.

The resolutions adopted at the four previous annual meetings are hereby reaffirmed, except insofar as they have been modified or supplanted by later state resolutions adopted by the Iowa Farm Bureau delegate body or national resolutions adopted by the American Farm Bureau delegate body including those adopted at this annual meeting. All other resolutions shall be deemed to have lapsed except that the board of directors may, in its policy interpretation role, reinstate a lapsed resolution not in conflict with current policy.

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1 **ANIMAL PRODUCTION & HEALTH AND AG**
2 **BIOSECURITY**

3 **Animal Care**

4 **Farmers should utilize industry's best**
5 **animal care practices. The state should**
6 **not regulate animal care standards. (2021)**

7 Farmers should continue to be allowed to
8 administer prescription drugs and perform
9 standard animal husbandry practices on their
10 own animals without a veterinarian license.
11 (2020)

12 Non-veterinarians should be allowed to
13 provide standard animal husbandry practices
14 including embryo transfer, ultrasound or
15 palpation services for a fee without being
16 supervised by a licensed veterinarian. (2020)

17 **Animal Disease Mitigation**

18 Pre-approved on-farm disposal plans will help
19 with managing Class A animal disease
20 outbreaks. (2017)

21 USDA business interruption payments and
22 private business interruption insurance
23 should be available to help manage risks of a
24 Class A animal disease outbreak. (2017)

25 The farm premises identification program
26 should be confidential and only used in case
27 of a Class A animal disease outbreak. (2017)

28 **Feral Swine**

29 **The State Veterinarian should have**
30 **authority to order the elimination of feral**
31 **swine. (2021)**

32 **Food Safety**

33 Only pasteurized milk and milk products should
34 be sold or distributed for human consumption.
35 (2018)

1 **On-Farm Slaughter for Sale**

2 An individual should be allowed to perform or
3 assist in the slaughter/processing of livestock
4 for home consumption, for pay or otherwise.
5 (2017)

6 The state of Iowa should participate in the
7 USDA cooperative inspection program that
8 allows for the interstate shipment of meat and
9 poultry products from eligible state inspected
10 facilities. (2017)

11 The federal regulatory exemption that allows
12 people to slaughter 1,000 birds of their own
13 raising and sell to consumers should be
14 expanded to include other livestock. (2017)

15 **CONSERVATION AND NATURAL**
16 **RESOURCES**

17 **Buffer Strips**

18 We support the voluntary use of buffer strips
19 and grass waterways to protect streams, rivers
20 and lakes. (2017)

21 **Cover Crops**

22 **State cover crop cost-share should be**
23 **available for winter annuals seeded after**
24 **the cutoff date if farmers terminate later-**
25 **seeded crops as late as practical the**
26 **following spring to maximize**
27 **environmental benefits. (2021)**

28 **Drainage Districts**

29 Drainage district project costs should be
30 assigned to landowners by share of benefit.
31 (2019)

32 We support reclassification of drainage
33 districts using updated technology to
34 determine the distribution of assessments to
35 bring them up to date with current land
36 drainage practices/management. (2019)

1 Drainage District Trustees or County
2 Supervisors acting in the capacity of Trustees
3 should notify landowners of a proposed
4 project and estimated costs by certified mail.
5 (2019)

6 **Drainage Project**

7 **The project cost threshold requiring a**
8 **drainage district to hire an engineer should**
9 **be increased to reflect increased**
10 **construction costs. (2021)**

11 **Floodplains**

12 **We do not support increasing the size of the**
13 **floodplain beyond the current 100 year**
14 **configuration, nor support any additional**
15 **restrictions on agricultural activities in the**
16 **floodplain beyond current law. (2021)**

17 **Natural Resource Funding**

18 We support additional funding for soil
19 conservation and water quality. (2019)

20 To fund the Nutrient Reduction Strategy, long-
21 term dedicated funding for water quality and soil
22 conservation should be financed by
23 reprioritizing existing state revenue and new
24 dedicated revenue sources that include
25 contributions by all lowans. (2017)

26 The Natural Resources and Outdoor
27 Recreation Trust Fund distribution formula
28 should be redefined to focus on implementing
29 the Nutrient Reduction Strategy and lake or
30 stream restoration projects with minimal
31 emphasis on land acquisition, recreational trails
32 or REAP. (2017)

33 **Nutrient Limits**

34 Farm Bureau supports a legally and
35 scientifically defensible state nutrient strategy
36 based on adequately-funded, incentive-
37 based, voluntary soil and water conservation
38 programs and best management practices.
39 The state and federal government should not

1 regulate farmers' use of fertilizer, tillage or
2 tiling practices to address nutrients in surface
3 water or to implement total maximum daily
4 loads. Farmers should work cooperatively
5 with agribusiness, university researchers, the
6 state department of agriculture and other
7 interested stakeholders to minimize nutrient
8 and sediment impacts. (2017)

9 Environmental and cost-share programs can
10 achieve the greatest benefit by targeting the
11 most vulnerable watersheds and farms by
12 implementing the best management
13 practices. (2017)

14 **Public Land Management**

15 **The state of Iowa should concentrate more**
16 **on the management of currently owned**
17 **state land and reduce the effort to acquire**
18 **more public land. To justify future public**
19 **land acquisitions or purchases by federal,**
20 **state or county agencies, a site specific**
21 **study should be completed on each project**
22 **to verify the benefits and needs. (2021)**

23 **Resource Enhancement And Protection** 24 **(REAP)**

25 County, state or federal employees who
26 administer REAP should be prohibited from
27 participating in the biennial REAP congress.
28 (2017)

29 REAP formula needs to be changed to allot
30 enough money to maintain and repair all state
31 parks. (2017)

32 More REAP funds should be spent on soil and
33 water conservation. (2017)

34 District soil and water conservation
35 commissions should be given more flexibility to
36 award REAP funds. (2017)

37 **Stream Bank and Streambed Erosion**

38 **Stream bank and streambed erosion**
39 **sources should be considered as a separate**

1 **category from point sources and nonpoint**
2 **sources in watershed plans and**
3 **programming. (2021)**

4 **Water Trails**

5 Water trail sponsors should be responsible for
6 injury and property damage claims, litter and
7 refuse clean up, trespassing prevention, and
8 communication with landowners. We do not
9 support additional water trail development
10 until personal property rights and liability
11 issues are resolved. (2019)

12 **Watershed Management Authorities**

13 Watershed Management Authorities should
14 be established with balanced urban and
15 agricultural representation from within that
16 watershed. (2019)

17 All participating local governments should be
18 required to approve the spending of any tax
19 dollars by the Watershed Management
20 Authority. (2019)

21 **Wildlife Management**

22 Iowa should pursue a smaller overall deer
23 population as the goal for its management
24 plan to balance the public's demand for
25 hunting and viewing opportunities with
26 agricultural interests, highway safety and
27 habitat limitations. (2020)

28 The Iowa deer depredation program should
29 be improved by increasing public awareness,
30 making regulations more flexible, and
31 expanding eligibility. (2018)

32 Controlling nuisance deer should include
33 expanding the DNR nuisance wildlife control
34 program to include deer. (2018)

35 Permits for harvest of deer and wildlife on a
36 year round basis are important to protect
37 crops and rural property. Implementation of
38 the deer depredation program, including the
39 use of in-season depredation licenses, must

1 be improved to reduce the deer population.
2 (2018)

3 lowans should be able to protect their families
4 and property from predators without the
5 permission of a conservation officer. (2018)

6 Iowa should not adopt wildlife management
7 polices or programs that increase populations of
8 new wildlife predators. (2018)

9 **Nonresidents who own Iowa land should**
10 **not be allowed to obtain landowner**
11 **hunting privileges on their land. (2021)**

12 **CROP PRODUCTION AND** 13 **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

14 **Pesticides**

15 **We strongly support the continued safe**
16 **use of agricultural crop protection**
17 **compounds. Any use restrictions on**
18 **atrazine or any other agricultural**
19 **pesticides should be based only on a**
20 **transparent Federal Insecticide, Fungicide**
21 **and Rodenticide Act process that relies on**
22 **sound science. (2021)**

23 **Weed Control**

24 All CRP seed mixes must be certified
25 “noxious weed free.” (2018)

26 **EDUCATION**

27 **Grade Sharing and Consolidation**

28 We are opposed to mandatory efforts to
29 reorganize or consolidate school districts.
30 (2017)

31 The state should continue to offer financial
32 incentives to encourage sharing between
33 school districts and offer incentives for
34 sharing critical shortage area teachers.
35 (2017)

1 **Programs and Curriculum**

2 **We highly recommend school districts**
3 **make vocational agriculture, agricultural**
4 **education and industrial tech available to**
5 **students. (2021)**

6 Local school districts should have discretion
7 and control when determining Career
8 Technical Education (CTE) funding. (2017)

9 **School Financing**

10 We are adamant in our support for increased
11 state aid for schools in order to phase out the
12 reliance on property taxes. To achieve this
13 we support an additional state appropriation,
14 using a portion of the state sales tax, or
15 increasing the state sales tax to replace
16 school property taxes on a dollar-for-dollar
17 basis. An increase in the state sales tax
18 should be used to reduce the uniform school
19 tax levy and/or fund the budget guarantee.
20 (2018)

21 When a school bond referendum contains
22 both a total dollar ballot question and a
23 separate rate question in order to exceed a
24 \$2.70 per thousand levy, both questions must
25 meet the same waiting period for
26 resubmission to the voters. (2017)

27 School districts should not levy additional
28 property taxes to maintain their budgets
29 unless approved by the voters in the district.
30 (2017)

31 **The specific list of PPEL expenditures**
32 **should not be expanded. (2021)**

33 Changes in the school finance formula should
34 be designed to reduce the reliance on
35 property taxes. Reduced state appropriations
36 for schools should not result in additional
37 property taxes. (2017)

38 In developing a new school finance formula,
39 we believe that a greater effort should be
40 made to equalize the distribution of state aid

1 among all districts. Property valuations per
2 student should not be the primary factor in
3 calculating a district's state aid. A per pupil
4 income factor should also be included in
5 making this determination. Other factors to
6 consider include population density,
7 transportation, energy costs, and other
8 unique features within a school district. (2017)

9 **School Transportation**

10 **We favor making changes in the formula**
11 **to factor transportation cost only if there**
12 **was an offsetting reduction in property**
13 **taxes. (2021)**

14 **ENERGY**

15 **Biofuels**

16 **Iowa should require a minimum 10 percent**
17 **ethanol blend for all gasoline sold for on-**
18 **road vehicles. (2021)**

19 **Renewable Fuels**

20 **We support policy that includes:**
21 **increasing the use of renewable fuels,**
22 **achieving the highest renewable fuel**
23 **standard possible, and removing**
24 **obstacles that prevent the increased**
25 **usage of higher renewable fuels blends in**
26 **the marketplace. We support policy**
27 **requiring all gasoline sold in Iowa to be**
28 **blended with ethanol at the maximum rate**
29 **allowed in the standard automotive fleet.**
30 **We believe the incentives for renewable**
31 **fuels should apply only to domestically**
32 **produced fuels. (2021)**

33 We support incentives to promote the
34 production and use of ethanol, soy-diesel and
35 other renewable fuels. (2020)

36 **Wind & Solar Farms**

37 Siting and setback rules for wind and solar
38 farms should be determined by the state.
39 (2020)

1 Wind and solar farms should be taxed
2 similarly according to structure and output.
3 (2020)

4 ENVIRONMENTAL & OTHER 5 REGULATIONS

6 Agency Access to Private Property

7 Governmental agency personnel should only
8 enter farms with the owner's written consent
9 or a search warrant. (2017)

10 Bottle Deposit Law

11 We support the current and an expanded bottle
12 deposit law. (2019)

13 Credible Data/Scientific Evidence

14 Water quality standards, state water quality
15 reports, impaired waters lists and total
16 maximum daily loads (TMDLs) should be based
17 on credible data. Iowa crop and livestock
18 farmers should be treated equitably and not
19 placed at a competitive disadvantage. (2018)

20 State government should establish a
21 standard definition of acceptable scientific
22 proof before proposing or adopting more
23 restrictive regulations. Government should
24 be required to identify and prove the sources
25 of water quality impairments through
26 appropriate modeling and onsite monitoring
27 before developing a watershed improvement
28 plan. The government must prove a sizeable
29 negative impact on public health or the
30 environment before restricting or prohibiting
31 an activity. (2018)

32 We oppose additional regulation of the livestock
33 industry unless it ensures sound, reasonable
34 growth of the livestock industry, it does not
35 endanger the viability of the independent
36 producer, and it is based on the best scientific
37 research available. (2020)

1 **Lawmaking Authority and Responsibility**

2 The role of county governments should be
3 thoroughly defined and limited to specific
4 authorities granted by the state. (2018)

5 The regulation of the livestock industry should be
6 uniform across the state so that one producer is
7 not at a competitive disadvantage to another.
8 The Department of Natural Resources and the
9 Environmental Protection Commission should
10 be encouraged to seek advice and input from
11 producers on regulations affecting livestock
12 operations. Counties should not be allowed to
13 adopt local laws that regulate livestock
14 production. (2020)

15 Regulation of environmental laws, shall be set
16 by state or federal government and not by local
17 governments. Regulations should apply to all
18 stakeholders in a watershed, such as farmers,
19 homeowners, industry, lawn care professionals,
20 golf courses and municipalities. (2018)

21 A state agency or appointed commission
22 should not regulate without having specific
23 authority approved by the legislature. Rules
24 implementing specific legislation should be
25 applied equally to similar operations. (2017)

26 Economic impact, compliance costs and
27 alternative approaches must be analyzed and
28 compared when an agency is proposing new
29 rules. (2019)

30 **Livestock & Commodity Theft**

31 Mandatory minimum sentences should be
32 imposed for felony livestock or commodity
33 theft. (2020)

34 **Livestock Building Site Location**

35 Location of livestock facilities should be subject
36 to a minimum separation distance and/or
37 prevailing wind direction from neighboring
38 residences and certain public use areas. The
39 distance requirement should apply to
40 operations with a specific number of animal

1 units and allow for a waiver of the distance
2 requirement among consenting residence
3 owners. A grandfather clause should protect
4 existing operations and modifications to existing
5 facilities. (2020)

6 **Manure and Nutrient Management**

7 Crop nutrient application rates, timing and
8 practices are best managed by farmers and if
9 regulated should be done based on sound
10 science. (2017)

11 Manure management plans should
12 accommodate the nutrient availability in the
13 manure when calculating fertilization rates.
14 Additional research should be conducted to
15 improve the accuracy of the calculation for
16 available nutrients in livestock manure.
17 (2017)

18 **Tile Drainage**

19 **Subsurface drainage is a conservation**
20 **practice that improves crop production,**
21 **decreases surface water runoff and**
22 **decreases peak surface runoff rates. Basin-**
23 **wide floods are largely attributable to**
24 **extreme precipitation, not subsurface**
25 **drainage. (2021)**

26 **Farm Bureau supports voluntary drainage**
27 **redesigns and installation. Farm Bureau**
28 **supports continued land grant university**
29 **drainage research to minimize subsurface**
30 **nutrient loss and surface soil loss while**
31 **continuing to improve crop production,**
32 **demonstration of their effectiveness, and**
33 **USDA program implementation of optimized**
34 **drainage systems. (2021)**

35 **As these tile drainage systems are updated,**
36 **state and federal regulatory agencies need**
37 **to balance wetland mitigation requirements**
38 **with the need for optimized tile drainage for**
39 **food, fiber and fuel production. Farm**
40 **Bureau sees no significant justification for**
41 **additional state or federal regulations**

1 associated with tile drainage and, therefore,
2 opposes them. (2021)

3 **Trespass/Hunting Permission**

4 Trespassing onto private property continues
5 to be a problem. Current trespassing laws
6 should be more strictly enforced. (2020)

7 To limit trespassing, permission must be
8 given to enter private property. Permission
9 should be required to train hunting dogs on
10 private property. (2017)

11 **Waters of the State Definition**

12 State government's regulatory jurisdiction
13 should be limited to public lakes, rivers, and
14 aquifers. (2017)

15 **Water Quality**

16 Information should be collected to
17 demonstrate the increased adoption of
18 conservation practices to support the
19 implementation of the Iowa Nutrient
20 Reduction Strategy. The data should be
21 supplied voluntarily and protect individually
22 identifying information. (2020)

23 We support a voluntary, incentive-based state
24 water protection plan that includes these
25 principles: (1) is based on agronomic factors;
26 (2) coordinates state, federal and private
27 resources and chemical review activities; (3)
28 identifies and promotes locally appropriate best
29 management practices (BMPs); (4) provides
30 financial incentives for BMP adoption, such as
31 a tax credit; (5) includes a nutrient (manure)
32 management and sediment delivery reduction
33 educational component; (6) compliments
34 groundwater protection efforts; (7) includes
35 opportunities for coordination with water utilities
36 with interest in source water protection
37 programs; (8) that satisfies all state and federal
38 groundwater and surface water planning
39 requirements; and, (9) provides a "safe harbor"

1 from state and federal environmental
2 enforcement actions. (2019)

3 We support voluntary approaches to water
4 quality protection and improvement. We
5 support development of watershed plans that
6 encourage education and demonstration of
7 proven, voluntary agricultural practices that
8 protect water quality. (2020)

9 We oppose plans that force costly state or local
10 regulations on private property owners, or that
11 infringe upon property rights. We support a
12 coalition of agricultural, conservation and public
13 interests in developing all local watershed plans.
14 (2020)

15 **The Iowa DNR should not adopt more**
16 **stringent National Pollution Discharge**
17 **Elimination System (NPDES) permit**
18 **requirements than what is required by the**
19 **federal Clean Water Act. Farmers should**
20 **not be required to get a NPDES general or**
21 **individual permit for pesticide applications;**
22 **these registration issues are covered by the**
23 **Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and**
24 **Rodenticide Act. (2021)**

25 **RISK MANAGEMENT & FARM PROGRAMS**

26 **Beginning Farmers**

27 Additional incentives should be available for
28 current and retired landowners and livestock
29 farmers to offer cropland, machinery, livestock,
30 facilities and other assets at lower rents, leases
31 or partnerships to transfer assets to beginning
32 farmers. (2017)

33 **Estate Planning**

34 Iowa should allow real estate to transfer,
35 outside of probate, using a transfer on death
36 deed with provisions to protect the property
37 owners' interests. (2019)

1 **Farm Ownership**

2 Current restrictions on the ownership of
3 agricultural land and livestock farms by
4 limited liability companies, corporations and
5 trusts should be maintained. (2019)

6 **RURAL VITALITY & DEVELOPMENT**

7 **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**
8 **Certification Incentives**

9 **Incentives should be provided to increase**
10 **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**
11 **provider compensation in rural areas.**

12 **The process for individuals to meet**
13 **certification requirements should be**
14 **streamlined and expanded to include**
15 **prequalified individuals. (2021)**

16 **Fence Law**

17 We support the current Iowa fence law. (2018)

18 Owners at the time of sale or transfer of land,
19 should be encouraged to reach a written
20 agreement regarding their border fences and
21 file them with the county recorder. (2017)

22 **Land Access**

23 Property owners should not be permitted to sell
24 land without having an established access route
25 to a public road. Property owners who may be
26 subject to condemnation to provide access to a
27 landlocked property should be given preference
28 when determining the access route. (2018)

29 **Land Use Planning & Zoning**

30 **Counties should have the option of**
31 **determining whether county zoning should**
32 **be adopted. If zoning is enacted, the county**
33 **should control the location of residential**
34 **dwellings near agricultural districts as a way**
35 **to reduce nuisance suits. We oppose any**
36 **attempt by counties to regulate the use and**
37 **construction of agricultural buildings,**

1 **structures or land when used for**
2 **agricultural purposes. (2021)**

3 A county zoning board or commission should
4 only include residents who live within the
5 jurisdiction of their zoning ordinance. (2018)

6 **Local Food**

7 **A single, state streamlined permit process**
8 **should replace city and county permitting**
9 **for entities preparing and selling food**
10 **products directly to consumers. (2021)**

11 **Agencies regulating direct food marketing**
12 **need to provide regulatory transparency for**
13 **entities obtaining permits or licenses. (2021)**

14 **Property Rights**

15 Any action by government that significantly
16 diminishes an owner's right to use his property
17 constitutes a taking of that owner's property.
18 The government should provide due process
19 and reasonable compensation for the amount
20 the owner's right has been diminished. We
21 oppose agency regulations which unreasonably
22 encroach on the rights of property owners.
23 (2019)

24 **Eminent domain shall not be used to**
25 **condemn or transfer property from one**
26 **private entity to another private entity for**
27 **economic development or any other**
28 **private use. (2021)**

29 The use of eminent domain power for lake
30 development should ensure that only the land
31 necessary for providing a drinking water
32 supply is condemned. (2017)

33 **Veterinarian Incentives**

34 Programs and incentives should be
35 structured to maintain the future availability of
36 private practice food animal veterinarians in
37 Iowa. (2020)

1 **TAXATION, FINANCING, GOVERNMENT,**
2 **AND ELECTIONS**

3 **Exempt Property**

4 **DNR must pay full property and drainage**
5 **taxes on all DNR land. Penalties for non-**
6 **payment of property and drainage taxes**
7 **must be identical to penalties imposed on**
8 **private citizens and corporations and that**
9 **they allow drainage tile through their**
10 **properties. (2021)**

11 **Foreign Land Ownership**

12 The prohibition against agricultural land
13 ownership by non-resident foreigners should
14 be continued. Enforcement methods should
15 be improved, and foreign ownership records
16 should be made more transparent. (2020)

17 **Forest Reserve Program**

18 **Protocols should be developed for the**
19 **investigation and enforcement of the**
20 **economic gain limitations for ground**
21 **enrolled in the state forest reserve**
22 **program. (2021)**

23 We strongly feel the need to eliminate the
24 forest reserve exemption in the property tax
25 code. (2018)

26 **Government Advocacy**

27 We recognize the need for government
28 entities to provide information during the
29 legislative process. However, tax dollars
30 should not pay for government lobbyists to
31 advocate changes in the law. Similarly,
32 government officials should not use
33 government work facilities or salaried work-
34 time to influence the outcome of legislation.
35 (2017)

36 **Government Consolidation**

37 Any consolidation of county, state or political
38 subdivision functions, or transfers of

1 responsibility between levels of government
2 should result in greater total savings than
3 costs incurred by the citizens. Rural citizens
4 must be adequately represented in all
5 consolidation discussions and agreements.
6 Major consolidations of county, state or
7 political subdivisions should be determined by
8 dual referendum. (2017)

9 **Legal System**

10 Unreasonable nuisance lawsuits filed against
11 agriculture are a risk that should be minimized
12 through tort reform. (2017)

13 Damage awards in nuisance lawsuits should
14 be limited to actual economic damages. Other
15 ways to minimize this risk include limiting the
16 time in which a lawsuit can be filed, limiting
17 the number of times the plaintiff can file a
18 lawsuit against the same farm, and increasing
19 the burden of proof when a plaintiff does not
20 live near the farm. (2017)

21 Attorney fees and other expenses should be
22 reimbursed to a prevailing defendant in a
23 nuisance lawsuit. (2017)

24 **Local Government Accounting**

25 **Local governments should deposit**
26 **refunds they receive for contracts,**
27 **products or services back into the same**
28 **account where the original purchase was**
29 **recorded. (2021)**

30 **Local Government Debt**

31 **Local government projects that include**
32 **significant debt financing should require**
33 **voter approval from the taxpayers**
34 **responsible for repayment. A 60 percent**
35 **threshold for approval should be required**
36 **regardless of the facility's location,**
37 **governance structure, or funding sources.**
38 **(2021)**

1 **Minimum Wage**

2 Counties and cities should not have authority
3 to set minimum wage requirements. (2017)

4 **Property Tax Assessments**

5 We support assessment of agricultural land
6 and buildings on a productivity basis. (2019)

7 **Property Tax Limitation**

8 We urge the legislature to strictly limit annual
9 property tax increases. Counties must hold a
10 local referendum before increasing property
11 taxes above the general basic or rural basic
12 rate limits. (2018)

13 Government provides many services directly
14 related to people or population yet most local
15 governments continue to rely on property
16 taxes to fund programs and services.
17 Government functions should rely on broader
18 tax bases such as sales and income to
19 eliminate the reliance on property taxes for
20 people services. (2017)

21 The State should assume the costs of the
22 mental health and disability services system,
23 with a dollar for dollar reduction in property
24 taxes. Until property taxes no longer fund
25 mental health services, population, taxable
26 valuations, tax levy rates, and comparable
27 levels of service should all be considered as
28 factors affecting equitable funding solutions.
29 Ag land property taxes should remain capped
30 at current levels until reduced. (2017)

31 Goals for reaching property taxpayer equity in
32 mental health program funding include:
33 protecting ag land owners from property tax
34 increases, aligning costs to population, and
35 reducing ag property taxes in higher tax
36 counties to achieve more ag land owner
37 equity. (2017)

38 Emergency fire and medical services should
39 be funded within the current property tax levy
40 limits. Fees for services should only be

1 allowed when property taxes are not
2 sufficient. (2019)

3 **Representation by County Supervisors**

4 **County supervisors should be elected by**
5 **district and reside within the district they**
6 **represent in counties larger than 75,000**
7 **population. (2021)**

8 **Roadway Projects**

9 Limiting farmland conversion should be
10 prioritized in new roadway construction. (2017)

11 **Rural Road Closure Notifications**

12 **Notification to landowners, lessees and**
13 **the public about rural road closures and**
14 **maintenance reductions should be**
15 **expanded. (2021)**

16 **State Budget**

17 Establishing long-term debt at the state level
18 is no substitute for sound fiscal responsibility.
19 Long-term debt should not be used to fund
20 current expenditures. (2018)

21 One-time money should not be used for on-
22 going expenses, but instead should be used
23 for one-time expenditures such as
24 infrastructure, property tax relief, emergency
25 programs, or rainy day funds. (2017)

26 When establishing a budget for state
27 spending for agencies and programs, we feel
28 that it is important that agriculture,
29 conservation, property tax credits, K-12 and
30 higher education, and public safety should be
31 funding priorities. (2020)

32 **Tax Exemptions, Credits & Incentives**

33 Federal deductibility should be maintained
34 when calculating Iowa tax liability. Tax reform
35 should protect the benefits of deducting
36 federal taxes. (2018)

1 Landowners should not be able to receive an
2 income tax credit for land donations to
3 charitable organizations and government.
4 (2017)

5 We will closely examine any proposals that
6 change the property tax credits and
7 exemptions. Full funding should be provided
8 for ag land and family farm tax credits.
9 Incentives (with a \$200,000 cap) should be
10 given for family farm owned livestock facilities
11 to help revitalize the livestock industry. Tax
12 policy should be changed to encourage
13 investment in ag buildings, grain storage and
14 grain handling facilities. Funding for these
15 incentives should not come at the expense of
16 ag land or family farm tax credit recipients.
17 (2017)

18 All farm equipment used for crop and
19 livestock production should be sales tax
20 exempt, including ATVs. (2017)

21 State tax policy should be coupled with
22 federal tax law changes that provide
23 economic benefits for farmers. (2020)

24 **Tax Reform**

25 We support reform of the tax system that
26 reduces the reliance on property taxes for
27 non-property related services. Goals of the
28 reform should also include simplification,
29 reducing administrative costs, and
30 establishing limits for state and local spending
31 authority. School, county and state
32 government must continue to find ways to
33 control spending. (2017)

34 **The primary objective of property tax**
35 **reform should be to reduce property**
36 **taxes. This can be accomplished by**
37 **shifting to other funding sources, limiting**
38 **future growth and limiting the services for**
39 **which property taxes pay. (2021)**

1 **TRANSPORTATION & RURAL**
2 **INFRASTRUCTURE**

3 **Energy Infrastructure (Pipelines,**
4 **Transmission Lines, Etc.)**

5 **When multiple properties are involved, a**
6 **minimum threshold should be established**
7 **for voluntary easements obtained by a**
8 **nongovernmental entity and this minimum**
9 **threshold should be met before the**
10 **entity is granted eminent domain**
11 **authority. (2021)**

12 Pipeline construction and maintenance
13 should minimize damage to agricultural land
14 productivity by repairing or replacing tile
15 drainage and conservation practices, and
16 complying with all environmental and
17 conservation regulations. (2020)

18 **After the installation of underground**
19 **infrastructure, agricultural land and all**
20 **improvements should be restored to the**
21 **original or improved condition. The**
22 **development company should consult**
23 **with the landowner and all affected**
24 **landowners or authorized agents when**
25 **restoring drainage infrastructure. (2021)**

26 **Highway Overpasses**

27 When the Department of Transportation
28 decides to make improvements or widen a
29 highway, the local government should
30 determine whether a county or city road
31 overpass is closed or replaced. (2019)

32 The Department of Transportation should be
33 responsible for costs associated with
34 replacing overpasses impacted by their
35 highway improvement decisions. (2019)

36 **Interstate Highway Tolls**

37 If Congress grants states the authority to
38 implement new tolling, Iowa should not add

1 tolling as an alternative revenue source to pay
2 for interstate highways. (2019)

3 **Iowa One Call**

4 Accurately identifying the location of
5 underground utilities and pipelines is
6 essential for public safety and the protection
7 of property. New underground water utility
8 installations should be required to include a
9 tracer wire or similar locator technology to
10 improve location services. (2019)

11 **Minor Farm Driver's Permit**

12 A driver's permit, similar to a minor school
13 license, should be available to minors under
14 the age of 16 for farm work. The permit should
15 allow them to independently drive an insured
16 passenger vehicle for farm purposes after
17 meeting state requirements. (2020)

18 **Recreational Trails**

19 We oppose the use of eminent domain to
20 acquire property for recreational trails. (2020)

21 **Utility Easement/Landowner Rights**

22 An owner of a communication or utility tower
23 should be responsible for the removal and
24 disposal of the tower once its use is
25 discontinued. (2019)

26 Landowners should be compensated for any
27 new or expanded easement. (2019)

28 The state should not automatically grant a utility
29 easement when there is not a recorded, written
30 easement for the existing electric lines and
31 poles. However, the state could allow
32 expanded use of existing electric utility
33 easements on the current infrastructure to
34 provide broadband internet service to rural
35 areas with compensation to the landowner.
36 (2019)

37 The state should not expand existing electric
38 utility easements to allow tree trimming and

- 1 removal farther away from the lines than the
- 2 current easement. (2019)

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