

# RESOLUTIONS

IOWA FARM BUREAU  
FEDERATION

2022

Adopted at the  
16th Annual  
Summer Policy Conference  
September 2, 2021



Dear Farm Bureau Members and Friends,

In September 2021, 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 2022 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 Board-adopted policy concerning public issues shall be in effect for five years or until modified by the board or superseded by delegate-adopted policy.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 2022 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 animal  
5 care practices. The state should not regulate  
6 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**  
19 **help with managing Class A animal**  
20 **disease outbreaks. (2022)**

21 **The farm premises identification program**  
22 **should be confidential and only used in**  
23 **case of a Class A animal disease outbreak.**  
24 **(2022)**

25 **Feral Swine**

26 The State Veterinarian should have authority  
27 to order the elimination of feral swine. (2021)

28 **Food Safety**

29 Only pasteurized milk and milk products should  
30 be sold or distributed for human consumption.  
31 (2018)

32 **On-Farm Slaughter for Sale**

33 **An individual should be allowed to**  
34 **perform or assist in the**  
35 **slaughter/processing of livestock for**  
36 **home consumption, for pay or otherwise.**  
37 **(2022)**

1     **The state of Iowa should participate in the**  
2     **USDA cooperative inspection program**  
3     **that allows for the interstate shipment of**  
4     **meat and poultry products from eligible**  
5     **state inspected facilities. (2022)**

6     **The federal regulatory exemption that**  
7     **allows people to slaughter 1,000 birds of**  
8     **their own raising and sell to consumers**  
9     **should be expanded to include other**  
10    **livestock. (2022)**

## 11                   **CONSERVATION AND NATURAL** 12                   **RESOURCES**

### 13     **Buffer Strips**

14    **We support the voluntary use of buffer**  
15    **strips and grass waterways to protect**  
16    **streams, rivers and lakes. (2022)**

### 17     **Cover Crops**

18    State cover crop cost-share should be  
19    available for winter annuals seeded after the  
20    cutoff date if farmers terminate later-seeded  
21    crops as late as practical the following spring  
22    to maximize environmental benefits. (2021)

### 23     **Drainage Districts**

24    Drainage district project costs should be  
25    assigned to landowners by share of benefit.  
26    (2019)

27    We support reclassification of drainage  
28    districts using updated technology to  
29    determine the distribution of assessments to  
30    bring them up to date with current land  
31    drainage practices/management. (2019)

32    Drainage District Trustees or County  
33    Supervisors acting in the capacity of Trustees  
34    should notify landowners of a proposed  
35    project and estimated costs by certified mail.  
36    (2019)

1     **Drainage Project**

2     The project cost threshold requiring a drainage  
3     district to hire an engineer should be increased  
4     to reflect increased construction costs. (2021)

5     **Floodplains**

6     We do not support increasing the size of the  
7     floodplain beyond the current 100 year  
8     configuration, nor support any additional  
9     restrictions on agricultural activities in the  
10    floodplain beyond current law. (2021)

11    **Natural Resource Funding**

12    We support additional funding for soil  
13    conservation and water quality. (2019)

14    **To fund the Nutrient Reduction Strategy,**  
15    **long-term dedicated funding for water**  
16    **quality and soil conservation should be**  
17    **financed by reprioritizing existing state**  
18    **revenue and new dedicated revenue**  
19    **sources that include contributions by all**  
20    **Iowans. (2022)**

21    **The Natural Resources and Outdoor**  
22    **Recreation Trust Fund distribution formula**  
23    **should be redefined to focus on**  
24    **implementing the Nutrient Reduction**  
25    **Strategy and lake or stream restoration**  
26    **projects with minimal emphasis on land**  
27    **acquisition, recreational trails or REAP.**  
28    **(2022)**

29    **Nutrient Limits**

30    **Farm Bureau supports a legally and**  
31    **scientifically defensible state nutrient**  
32    **strategy based on adequately-funded,**  
33    **incentive-based, voluntary soil and water**  
34    **conservation programs and best**  
35    **management practices. The state and**  
36    **federal government should not regulate**  
37    **farmers' use of fertilizer, tillage or tiling**  
38    **practices to address nutrients in surface**  
39    **water or to implement total maximum daily**  
40    **loads. Farmers should work cooperatively**



1 with agribusiness, university researchers,  
2 the state department of agriculture and  
3 other interested stakeholders to minimize  
4 nutrient and sediment impacts. (2022)

5 Environmental and cost-share programs  
6 can achieve the greatest benefit by  
7 targeting the most vulnerable watersheds  
8 and farms by implementing the best  
9 management practices. (2022)

## 10 Public Land Management

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

## 19 Resource Enhancement And Protection 20 (REAP)

21 County, state or federal employees who  
22 administer REAP should be prohibited from  
23 participating in the biennial REAP congress.  
24 (2022)

25 REAP formula needs to be changed to allot  
26 enough money to maintain and repair all  
27 state parks. (2022)

28 More REAP funds should be spent on soil  
29 and water conservation. (2022)

30 District soil and water conservation  
31 commissions should be given more  
32 flexibility to award REAP funds. (2022)

## 33 Stream Bank and Streambed Erosion

34 Stream bank and streambed erosion sources  
35 should be considered as a separate category  
36 from point sources and nonpoint sources in  
37 watershed plans and programming. (2021)

1 **Water Trails**

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

9 **Watershed Management Authorities**

10 Watershed Management Authorities should  
11 be established with balanced urban and  
12 agricultural representation from within that  
13 watershed. (2019)

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

18 **Wildlife Management**

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

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

29 Controlling nuisance deer should include  
30 expanding the DNR nuisance wildlife control  
31 program to include deer. (2018)

32 Permits for harvest of deer and wildlife on a  
33 year round basis are important to protect  
34 crops and rural property. Implementation of  
35 the deer depredation program, including the  
36 use of in-season depredation licenses, must  
37 be improved to reduce the deer population.  
38 (2018)

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

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

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

## 10 **CROP PRODUCTION AND** 11 **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

### 12 **Pesticides**

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

### 20 **Weed Control**

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

## 23 **EDUCATION**

### 24 **Grade Sharing and Consolidation**

25 **We are opposed to mandatory efforts to**  
26 **reorganize or consolidate school districts.**  
27 **(2022)**

28 **The state should continue to offer**  
29 **financial incentives to encourage sharing**  
30 **between school districts and offer**  
31 **incentives for sharing critical shortage**  
32 **area teachers. (2022)**

### 33 **Programs and Curriculum**

34 We highly recommend school districts make  
35 vocational agriculture, agricultural education  
36 and industrial tech available to students.

1 **School Financing**

2 We are adamant in our support for increased  
3 state aid for schools in order to phase out the  
4 reliance on property taxes. To achieve this  
5 we support an additional state appropriation,  
6 using a portion of the state sales tax, or  
7 increasing the state sales tax to replace  
8 school property taxes on a dollar-for-dollar  
9 basis. An increase in the state sales tax  
10 should be used to reduce the uniform school  
11 tax levy and/or fund the budget guarantee.  
12 (2018)

13 **When a school bond referendum contains**  
14 **both a total dollar ballot question and a**  
15 **separate rate question in order to exceed**  
16 **a \$2.70 per thousand levy, both questions**  
17 **must meet the same waiting period for**  
18 **resubmission to the voters. (2022)**

19 **School districts should not levy additional**  
20 **property taxes to maintain their budgets**  
21 **unless approved by the voters in the**  
22 **district. (2022)**

23 The specific list of PPEL expenditures should  
24 not be expanded. (2021)

25 **Changes in the school finance formula**  
26 **should be designed to reduce the reliance**  
27 **on property taxes. Reduced state**  
28 **appropriations for schools should not**  
29 **result in additional property taxes. (2022)**

30 **In developing a new school finance**  
31 **formula, we believe that a greater effort**  
32 **should be made to equalize the**  
33 **distribution of state aid among all**  
34 **districts. Property valuations per student**  
35 **should not be the primary factor in**  
36 **calculating a district's state aid. A per**  
37 **pupil income factor should also be**  
38 **included in making this determination.**  
39 **Other factors to consider include**  
40 **population density, transportation, energy**  
41 **costs, and other unique features within a**  
42 **school district. (2022)**

1 **School Transportation**

2 We favor making changes in the formula to  
3 factor transportation cost only if there was an  
4 offsetting reduction in property taxes. (2021)

5 **ENERGY**

6 **Biofuels**

7 Iowa should require a minimum 10 percent  
8 ethanol blend for all gasoline sold for on-road  
9 vehicles. (2021)

10 **Renewable Fuels**

11 We support policy that includes: increasing  
12 the use of renewable fuels, achieving the  
13 highest renewable fuel standard possible,  
14 and removing obstacles that prevent the  
15 increased usage of higher renewable fuels  
16 blends in the marketplace. We support policy  
17 requiring all gasoline sold in Iowa to be  
18 blended with ethanol at the maximum rate  
19 allowed in the standard automotive fleet. We  
20 believe the incentives for renewable fuels  
21 should apply only to domestically produced  
22 fuels. (2021)

23 We support incentives to promote the  
24 production and use of ethanol, soy-diesel and  
25 other renewable fuels. (2020)

26 **Wind & Solar Farms**

27 Siting and setback rules for wind and solar  
28 farms should be determined by the state.  
29 (2020)

30 **State siting and setback rules for utility-**  
31 **scale solar and wind projects should**  
32 **consider landowner preference,**  
33 **agricultural productivity, and**  
34 **environmental and neighborhood**  
35 **impacts. (2022)**

36 Wind and solar farms should be taxed  
37 similarly according to structure and output.  
38 (2020)

1                   **ENVIRONMENTAL & OTHER**  
2                   **REGULATIONS**

3           **Agency Access to Private Property**

4           **Governmental agency personnel should**  
5           **only enter farms with the owner’s written**  
6           **consent or a search warrant. (2022)**

7           **Bottle Deposit Law**

8           We support the current and an expanded bottle  
9           deposit law. (2019)

10          **Credible Data/Scientific Evidence**

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

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

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

35          **Lawmaking Authority and Responsibility**

36          The role of county governments should be  
37          thoroughly defined and limited to specific  
38          authorities granted by the state. (2018)

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

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

17 **A state agency or appointed commission**  
18 **should not regulate without having specific**  
19 **authority approved by the legislature. Rules**  
20 **implementing specific legislation should be**  
21 **applied equally to similar operations. (2022)**

22 Economic impact, compliance costs and  
23 alternative approaches must be analyzed and  
24 compared when an agency is proposing new  
25 rules. (2019)

## 26 **Livestock & Commodity Theft**

27 Mandatory minimum sentences should be  
28 imposed for felony livestock or commodity  
29 theft. (2020)

## 30 **Livestock Building Site Location**

31 Location of livestock facilities should be subject  
32 to a minimum separation distance and/or  
33 prevailing wind direction from neighboring  
34 residences and certain public use areas. The  
35 distance requirement should apply to  
36 operations with a specific number of animal  
37 units and allow for a waiver of the distance  
38 requirement among consenting residence  
39 owners. A grandfather clause should protect  
40 existing operations and modifications to existing  
41 facilities. (2020)

1 **Manure and Nutrient Management**

2 **Crop nutrient application rates, timing and**  
3 **practices are best managed by farmers and**  
4 **if regulated should be done based on sound**  
5 **science. (2022)**

6 **Manure management plans should**  
7 **accommodate the nutrient availability in**  
8 **the manure when calculating fertilization**  
9 **rates. Additional research should be**  
10 **conducted to improve the accuracy of the**  
11 **calculation for available nutrients in**  
12 **livestock manure. (2022)**

13 **Tile Drainage**

14 Subsurface drainage is a conservation practice  
15 that improves crop production, decreases  
16 surface water runoff and decreases peak  
17 surface runoff rates. Basin-wide floods are  
18 largely attributable to extreme precipitation, not  
19 subsurface drainage. (2021)

20 Farm Bureau supports voluntary drainage  
21 redesigns and installation. Farm Bureau  
22 supports continued land grant university  
23 drainage research to minimize subsurface  
24 nutrient loss and surface soil loss while  
25 continuing to improve crop production,  
26 demonstration of their effectiveness, and USDA  
27 program implementation of optimized drainage  
28 systems. (2021)

29 As these tile drainage systems are updated,  
30 state and federal regulatory agencies need to  
31 balance wetland mitigation requirements with  
32 the need for optimized tile drainage for food,  
33 fiber and fuel production. Farm Bureau sees no  
34 significant justification for additional state or  
35 federal regulations associated with tile drainage  
36 and, therefore, opposes them. (2021)

37 **Trespass/Hunting Permission**

38 Trespassing onto private property continues  
39 to be a problem. Current trespassing laws  
40 should be more strictly enforced. (2020)



1 **To limit trespassing, permission must be**  
2 **given to enter private property.**  
3 **Permission should be required to train**  
4 **hunting dogs on private property. (2022)**

## 5 **Waters of the State Definition**

6 **State government's regulatory jurisdiction**  
7 **should be limited to public lakes, rivers, and**  
8 **aquifers. (2022)**

## 9 **Water Quality**

10 Information should be collected to  
11 demonstrate the increased adoption of  
12 conservation practices to support the  
13 implementation of the Iowa Nutrient  
14 Reduction Strategy. The data should be  
15 supplied voluntarily and protect individually  
16 identifying information. (2020)

17 We support a voluntary, incentive-based state  
18 water protection plan that includes these  
19 principles: (1) is based on agronomic factors;  
20 (2) coordinates state, federal and private  
21 resources and chemical review activities; (3)  
22 identifies and promotes locally appropriate best  
23 management practices (BMPs); (4) provides  
24 financial incentives for BMP adoption, such as  
25 a tax credit; (5) includes a nutrient (manure)  
26 management and sediment delivery reduction  
27 educational component; (6) compliments  
28 groundwater protection efforts; (7) includes  
29 opportunities for coordination with water utilities  
30 with interest in source water protection  
31 programs; (8) that satisfies all state and federal  
32 groundwater and surface water planning  
33 requirements; and, (9) provides a "safe harbor"  
34 from state and federal environmental  
35 enforcement actions. (2019)

36 We support voluntary approaches to water  
37 quality protection and improvement. We  
38 support development of watershed plans that  
39 encourage education and demonstration of  
40 proven, voluntary agricultural practices that  
41 protect water quality. (2020)

1 We oppose plans that force costly state or local  
2 regulations on private property owners, or that  
3 infringe upon property rights. We support a  
4 coalition of agricultural, conservation and public  
5 interests in developing all local watershed plans.  
6 (2020)

7 The Iowa DNR should not adopt more stringent  
8 National Pollution Discharge Elimination  
9 System (NPDES) permit requirements than  
10 what is required by the federal Clean Water Act.  
11 Farmers should not be required to get a NPDES  
12 general or individual permit for pesticide  
13 applications; these registration issues are  
14 covered by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide  
15 and Rodenticide Act. (2021)

## 16 **RISK MANAGEMENT & FARM PROGRAMS**

### 17 **Beginning Farmers**

18 **Additional incentives should be available**  
19 **for current and retired landowners and**  
20 **livestock farmers to offer cropland,**  
21 **machinery, livestock, facilities and other**  
22 **assets at lower rents, leases or partnerships**  
23 **to transfer assets to beginning farmers.**  
24 **(2022)**

### 25 **Estate Planning**

26 Iowa should allow real estate to transfer,  
27 outside of probate, using a transfer on death  
28 deed with provisions to protect the property  
29 owners' interests. (2019)

### 30 **Farm Ownership**

31 Current restrictions on the ownership of  
32 agricultural land and livestock farms by  
33 limited liability companies, corporations and  
34 trusts should be maintained. (2019)

1           **RURAL VITALITY & DEVELOPMENT**

2           **Development of Farmland**

3           **The landowner should be the decision-**  
4           **maker over whether their farmland is**  
5           **developed for non-agricultural use. (2022)**

6           **Redevelopment of land within city limits**  
7           **should be prioritized before farmland is**  
8           **developed for non-agricultural use. (2022)**

9           **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**

10          Incentives should be provided to increase  
11          Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider  
12          compensation in rural areas. (2021)

13          The process for individuals to meet certification  
14          requirements should be streamlined and  
15          expanded to include prequalified individuals.  
16          (2021)

17          **Fence Law**

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

19          **Owners at the time of sale or transfer of**  
20          **land, should be encouraged to reach a**  
21          **written agreement regarding their border**  
22          **fences and file them with the county**  
23          **recorder. (2022)**

24          **Land Access**

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

31          **Land Use Planning & Zoning**

32          **City zoning ordinances should not apply**  
33          **outside their city limits even when the**  
34          **county is not zoned. (2022)**

35          **Landowners should not be required to sign**  
36          **an annexation agreement as a condition of**

1 **receiving city approval for a building permit**  
2 **or land split. (2022)**

3 Counties should have the option of determining  
4 whether county zoning should be adopted. If  
5 zoning is enacted, the county should control the  
6 location of residential dwellings near agricultural  
7 districts as a way to reduce nuisance suits. We  
8 oppose any attempt by counties to regulate the  
9 use and construction of agricultural buildings,  
10 structures or land when used for agricultural  
11 purposes. (2021)

12 A county zoning board or commission should  
13 only include residents who live within the  
14 jurisdiction of their zoning ordinance. (2018)

## 15 **Local Food**

16 A single, state streamlined permit process  
17 should replace city and county permitting for  
18 entities preparing and selling food products  
19 directly to consumers. (2021)

20 Agencies regulating direct food marketing need  
21 to provide regulatory transparency for entities  
22 obtaining permits or licenses. (2021)

## 23 **Meat Processing and Butchery**

24 **Incentives should be provided to expand**  
25 **Iowa's small-scale meat processing**  
26 **capacity. (2022)**

27 **Meat processing, butchery skills, and**  
28 **business training programs should be**  
29 **developed and incentivized to expand the**  
30 **skilled workforce. (2022)**

## 31 **Property Rights**

32 Any action by government that significantly  
33 diminishes an owner's right to use his property  
34 constitutes a taking of that owner's property.  
35 The government should provide due process  
36 and reasonable compensation for the amount  
37 the owner's right has been diminished. We  
38 oppose agency regulations which unreasonably

1 encroach on the rights of property owners.  
2 (2019)

3 Eminent domain shall not be used to  
4 condemn or transfer property from one  
5 private entity to another private entity for  
6 economic development or any other private  
7 use. (2021)

## 8 **Veterinarian Incentives**

9 Programs and incentives should be  
10 structured to maintain the future availability of  
11 private practice food animal veterinarians in  
12 Iowa. (2020)

## 13 **TAXATION, FINANCING, GOVERNMENT,** 14 **AND ELECTIONS**

### 15 **Exempt Property**

16 DNR must pay full property and drainage  
17 taxes on all DNR land. Penalties for non-  
18 payment of property and drainage taxes must  
19 be identical to penalties imposed on private  
20 citizens and corporations and that they allow  
21 drainage tile through their properties. (2021)

### 22 **Foreign Land Ownership**

23 The prohibition against agricultural land  
24 ownership by non-resident foreigners should  
25 be continued. Enforcement methods should  
26 be improved, and foreign ownership records  
27 should be made more transparent. (2020)

### 28 **Forest Reserve Program**

29 Protocols should be developed for the  
30 investigation and enforcement of the  
31 economic gain limitations for ground enrolled  
32 in the state forest reserve program. (2021)

33 We strongly feel the need to eliminate the  
34 forest reserve exemption in the property tax  
35 code. (2018)

1 **Government Advocacy**

2 **We recognize the need for government**  
3 **entities to provide information during the**  
4 **legislative process. However, tax dollars**  
5 **should not pay for government lobbyists**  
6 **to advocate changes in the law. Similarly,**  
7 **government officials should not use**  
8 **government work facilities or salaried**  
9 **work-time to influence the outcome of**  
10 **legislation. (2022)**

11 **Government Consolidation**

12 **Any consolidation of county, state or**  
13 **political subdivision functions, or**  
14 **transfers of responsibility between levels**  
15 **of government should result in greater**  
16 **total savings than costs incurred by the**  
17 **citizens. Rural citizens must be**  
18 **adequately represented in all**  
19 **consolidation discussions and**  
20 **agreements. Major consolidations of**  
21 **county, state or political subdivisions**  
22 **should be determined by dual referendum.**  
23 **(2022)**

24 **Legal System**

25 **Unreasonable nuisance lawsuits filed**  
26 **against agriculture are a risk that should**  
27 **be minimized through tort reform. (2022)**

28 **Damage awards in nuisance lawsuits**  
29 **should be limited to actual economic**  
30 **damages. Other ways to minimize this risk**  
31 **include limiting the time in which a lawsuit**  
32 **can be filed, limiting the number of times**  
33 **the plaintiff can file a lawsuit against the**  
34 **same farm, and increasing the burden of**  
35 **proof when a plaintiff does not live near**  
36 **the farm. (2022)**

37 **Attorney fees and other expenses should**  
38 **be reimbursed to a prevailing defendant in**  
39 **a nuisance lawsuit. (2022)**

1       **Local Government Accounting**

2       Local governments should deposit refunds  
3       they receive for contracts, products or  
4       services back into the same account where  
5       the original purchase was recorded. (2021)

6       **Local Government Debt**

7       Local government projects that include  
8       significant debt financing should require voter  
9       approval from the taxpayers responsible for  
10      repayment. A 60 percent threshold for  
11      approval should be required regardless of the  
12      facility's location, governance structure, or  
13      funding sources. (2021)

14      **Property Tax Assessments**

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

17      **Property Tax Limitation**

18      We urge the legislature to strictly limit annual  
19      property tax increases. Counties must hold a  
20      local referendum before increasing property  
21      taxes above the general basic or rural basic  
22      rate limits. (2018)

23      **Government provides many services**  
24      **directly related to people or population yet**  
25      **most local governments continue to rely**  
26      **on property taxes to fund programs and**  
27      **services. Government functions should**  
28      **rely on broader tax bases such as sales**  
29      **and income to eliminate the reliance on**  
30      **property taxes for people services. (2022)**

31      Emergency fire and medical services should  
32      be funded within the current property tax levy  
33      limits. Fees for services should only be  
34      allowed when property taxes are not  
35      sufficient. (2019)

36      **Representation by County Supervisors**

37      County supervisors should be elected by  
38      district and reside within the district they

1 represent in counties larger than 75,000  
2 population. (2021)

### 3 **Roadway Projects**

4 **Limiting farmland conversion should be**  
5 **prioritized in new roadway construction.**  
6 **(2022)**

### 7 **Rural Road Closure Notifications**

8 Notification to landowners, lessees and the  
9 public about rural road closures and  
10 maintenance reductions should be expanded.  
11 (2021)

### 12 **State Budget**

13 Establishing long-term debt at the state level  
14 is no substitute for sound fiscal responsibility.  
15 Long-term debt should not be used to fund  
16 current expenditures. (2018)

17 **One-time money should not be used for**  
18 **on-going expenses, but instead should be**  
19 **used for one-time expenditures such as**  
20 **infrastructure, property tax relief,**  
21 **emergency programs, or rainy day funds.**  
22 **(2022)**

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

### 29 **Tax Exemptions, Credits & Incentives**

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

34 **Landowners should not be able to receive**  
35 **an income tax credit for land donations to**  
36 **charitable organizations and government.**  
37 **(2022)**



1 **We will closely examine any proposals**  
2 **that change the property tax credits and**  
3 **exemptions. Full funding should be**  
4 **provided for ag land and family farm tax**  
5 **credits. Incentives (with a \$200,000 cap)**  
6 **should be given for family farm owned**  
7 **livestock facilities to help revitalize the**  
8 **livestock industry. Tax policy should be**  
9 **changed to encourage investment in ag**  
10 **buildings, grain storage and grain**  
11 **handling facilities. Funding for these**  
12 **incentives should not come at the**  
13 **expense of ag land or family farm tax**  
14 **credit recipients. (2022)**

15 **All farm equipment used for crop and**  
16 **livestock production should be sales tax**  
17 **exempt, including ATVs. (2022)**

18 State tax policy should be coupled with  
19 federal tax law changes that provide  
20 economic benefits for farmers. (2020)

## 21 **Tax Reform**

22 **We support reform of the tax system that**  
23 **reduces the reliance on property taxes for**  
24 **non-property related services. Goals of**  
25 **the reform should also include**  
26 **simplification, reducing administrative**  
27 **costs, and establishing limits for state and**  
28 **local spending authority. School, county**  
29 **and state government must continue to**  
30 **find ways to control spending. (2022)**

31 The primary objective of property tax reform  
32 should be to reduce property taxes. This can  
33 be accomplished by shifting to other funding  
34 sources, limiting future growth and limiting the  
35 services for 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 for  
7   voluntary easements obtained by a  
8   nongovernmental entity and this minimum  
9   threshold should be met before the entity is  
10  granted eminent domain authority. (2021)

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

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

25  **Highway Overpasses**

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

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

35  **Interstate Highway Tolls**

36  If Congress grants states the authority to  
37  implement new tolling, Iowa should not add  
38  tolling as an alternative revenue source to pay  
39  for interstate highways. (2019)

1     **Iowa One Call**

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

9     **Minor Farm Driver's Permit**

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

16    **Recreational Trails**

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

19    **Utility Easement/Landowner Rights**

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

24    Landowners should be compensated for any  
25    new or expanded easement. (2019)

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

35    The state should not expand existing electric  
36    utility easements to allow tree trimming and  
37    removal farther away from the lines than the  
38    current easement. (2019)

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