

National Issues		
Category	Issue	Description
Transportation and Infrastructure	Abolish Eminent Domain of Private Property	Private property should not be subjected to eminent domain. It should be a voluntary easement subject to negotiations by both parties only.
Education	AEA Should Return to How it Was	The AEA was working well for those in rural areas. With the new changes, children in low-income areas will be, and are, losing their needed services. When educational questions are evaluated, they need to be done by a company in our state, not by a business outside of our state. That also keeps a state problem, being paid with state dollars, being solved by state people.
Crops and Conservation	Aquifer Depletion	We need to be limiting tile placement that would prevent rainfall from replenishing area aquifer.
Crops and Conservation	Beekeepers Need to Apply for a Zoning Permit	Beekeepers should be required to have a zoning permit, which needs to be approved by the county board of supervisors - similar to a livestock facility/CAFO. We have seen huge growth in the number of beehives in our region, and it is getting more difficult to apply pesticides.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Beyond Gravel Roads	We really should get on board as an organization to support improvements to our rural roads to something beyond gravel roads. Hard or paved roads will cost money for sure, but it will also improve transportation, quality of living, and facilitate growth in smaller communities. I want my children to stay in Iowa but we need to invest more in rural infrastructure to make our state more attractive to live in and for economic investment and growth to increase.
Livestock	Black-Headed Vultures	The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has allowed an open season on black-headed vultures. As they continue to migrate north, Iowa needs to do the same. These vultures are different than turkey vultures - they are predators, not composters. We have an open season on all non-protected predator/nuisance animals, and this one should be no different. Iowa has confirmed sightings.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Broadband Access	Business still have limited access to high-speed internet in Iowa. This not only affects the business but adds additional challenges when managing their computer systems. We need fiber and broadband speeds set to a minimum of 100 Mbps upload and download speeds.

Transportation and Infrastructure	Broadband Infrastructure	Many counties across the state have fiber optic lines running through right of ways but rural areas lack the ability to be connected by service providers. We need the ability to access high speed internet in rural locations across the state. An investment into rural infrastructure or a fund to incentivize businesses to service and expand coverage across the state would make an impact.
Crops and Conservation	Buffers Along all Streams	There should be at least 10 feet of grass along ALL streams to stop erosion and pollution from spraying herbicides, fertilizers, and insecticide directly into the stream.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Buggy and Steel Wheel on Highway	To help recoup some costs, the state should license buggies as other vehicles are licensed. They tear up old and new black top as well.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Clarification of Legal UTV/ATV Use by Farm Youth	Students who have completed the Farm Safety Course should be allowed to operate ATVs and UTVs legally on the road, for farm purposes. The current law says operators must be 18.
Energy	Cleanup of Wind Turbines	Landowners should be protected from renewable energy accidents (i.e. wind turbines breaking). Landowners are stuck with fiberglass contaminating their land and rendering it useless.
Energy	CO2 Pipelines	CO2 pipelines endanger Iowans' health and safety, threaten to contaminate and deplete our water supply, and will destroy our farmland, tile, and roads and should not be granted eminent domain. Pipeline companies promise to enrich the farming community by increasing corn prices, but the only ones who will benefit are the wealthy investors and stockholders. Wake up Farm Bureau, and support the farmers, not the corporations.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Company Vehicle Taxes and Registration	Large regional or statewide input suppliers should be registering and paying taxes on company vehicles in the county that they are conducting businesses in. Too often, they are doing this in the county where they are headquartered, increasing the tax base of urban areas instead of the rural areas. It is becoming more and more difficult to maintain the local roads that are actually being used by these regional and statewide businesses.

Crops and Conservation	Constant Street/Flood Lights Affecting Soybean Maturity	I have a neighbor who is in the Scrap Yard business and has elected to utilize high lumen flood lights as a security/visual measure for his property. This is near a very rural area, and we are 6 miles from town with minimal neighbors around. These lights since installation will severely affect my soybean crop this fall, as they will never reach maturity due to the constant illumination. There needs to be regulations on the use/installation of flood lights for private use near agricultural land, or law that supports paying damages.
Transportation and Infrastructure	County Ditch Rehabilitation	When ditch work is completed, the county should be required to re-seed the ditches within a certain amount of time.
Speciality Ag/Other	County Supervisor Accountability	Supervisors should be required to attend weekly board meetings. If they don't attend, they should receive no paycheck. Once in a while, a Zoom meeting would be ok but not every meeting. They were elected to represent the people, not to be absent from the meeting. An example - in Decatur county, a supervisor was absent for over 60 days while gone working another job. Once in a while he was on the phone for a few minutes and then hung up.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	County Supervisor Districts	County supervisor districts should be determined at the county level and not set by the state (LSA).
Taxation and Rural Vitality	County Supervisor Elections	County elections, especially Board of Supervisors, should be non-party affiliated. At the least, straight-ticket party balloting should be disallowed for county positions.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	County Supervisor Primary Elections	County Boards of Supervisor primary elections should be decided by popular vote - no candidate should have to receive 35% of the vote to be elected. County elections should also be non-party affiliated.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	County Supervisors, City Council Members, and Mayors	These people should not be allowed to collect a salary. They all have the power to set our property tax rates and then turn around raise their salary. This is a direct conflict of interest. School Board Members do not collect a salary and they have the power to set our tax rates. We do not want people running for these positions just to line their pockets.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	County Taxes and Energy Costs	Our biggest issues are the constant rising costs of energy and county property taxes.

Livestock	Coyote Overpopulation	The coyote population has exploded in recent years. Coyotes have gotten overly brave picking off smaller livestock - even in broad daylight. We need some sort of incentive offered for hunting coyotes.
Crops and Conservation	Deer Population Control	More needs to be done to control the deer population, including a requirement to shoot multiple does before a buck is harvested.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Determining Property Lines	Fence lines and property lines should be adjusted when an official survey takes place.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Ditch Care	Farmers who take care of their ditches by mowing and spraying, thereby keeping them weed free and negating the necessity for the county to mow them and cut down brush, should be compensated. Perhaps enough to compensate for the fuel and spray would be a place to begin. Maybe \$1.00/acre off of their property taxes.
Speciality Ag/Other	Early Voting Polling Locations	County auditors have ability to name locations for early voting opportunities, can be named for specific times and dates which is fine. However, these locations should not be a school when a school bond is in on the ballot and should not be held during parent teacher conferences. Similar reasoning for a library bond issue should not occur at a library, EMS as an essential service issue vote should not occur at a Fire station etc.
		These locations being used on actual election day is fine.
Education	Educational Savings Accounts and Vouchers	For decades, the educational outcomes of Iowa students were among the highest nationally. ESAs and "vouchers" are results of a failing system, not the cause of it. If people are genuinely concerned about improving public schools, they need the same flexibility afforded to charter and private schools. The State should do away with Dillion's rules with respect to schools and reduce the "funding silos" they must navigate.
Energy	Electric Lines	Any new power lines should cross public land, instead of private land, when the path is feasible.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Electric Vehicles Should Pay Road Use Taxes	Electric vehicles should have to pay road tax to help maintain our roads either by mile per year or as a flat tax when the vehicle is purchased.
Energy	Electrical Inspections	An inspection should be able to be called by any property owner, not just a licensed electrician.

Crops and Conservation	Eminent Domain on CRP and Wetlands	There needs to be greater consideration for environmentally sensitive areas. For example, in Warren county, a local city government played the eminent domain card during negotiations for a sewer pipe to go through Wetland Restoration CRP ground. This project is necessary for a future development in a suburb of Des Moines. No respect was given to the eight years of conservation efforts that had gone into this land.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	EMT Funding via Taxes	To fund EMT services on the county level, taxes should be applied to all residents of the county equally by using income tax surcharge - not disproportionately via property tax.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	End Can/Bottle Deposit Bill	The only redemption center in our county is closing in March of 2025. With extremely limited options to redeem cans and bottles, it's no longer a deposit, it's an additional tax. The program needs ended.
Speciality Ag/Other	Establish Department of Forestry	The state of Iowa needs to establish a Department of Forestry.
Livestock	Farm Managers	Farm managers should be required to hold a license and take classes in business and ethics.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Farm-to-Market Road Width Restrictions	Farm-to-Market designated roads should not be encumbered by permanent width restrictions that prevent farm equipment use. Indianola recently reconstructed a farm-to-market-designated road that is often used by farmers as a way to avoid driving equipment through the center of town. The new construction is one lane in each direction with a center turn lane. Where a bike path crosses the road, there is a median with curb. The outside of the road also has curb making width for the travel lane only 11 feet wide.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Fire Fighter Incentives	Incentives should be offered to volunteer fire fighters and be based on the percentage of calls they attend.
Education	First Responder Training	Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) training courses should be offered through Iowa community colleges to high school students as a dual credit class.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Fuel Use Tax	The Iowa DOT needs to exempt Iowa farmers from the fuel use tax who market and deliver their agricultural commodities 20 miles or less when they cross a state border.

Crops and Conservation	Grain Indemnity Fund	The grain indemnity fund should remain in place as it currently operates, without a fund increase or addition of credit sale contracts.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Greater Setbacks for Wind Turbines Near Busy Roads	There needs to be a greater setback requirement for wind turbines near busy highways and interstates.
Crops and Conservation	Groundwater Contamination	I want better protections from chemical and fecal run-off from treated fields and meat raising operations. Clean water is a huge issue and farmers need to be more responsible in product selection, amount applied, and feedlot waste to ensure that these chemicals and waste products from their land does not contaminate water downstream, making cleanup a problem passed to those who are unfortunate enough to live downstream.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Harvest Tags/Licensing for Vehicles and Trailers	There are many vehicles and trailers which only get use during a 2-3 month harvest window, yet farmers are required to pay licensing taxes on these vehicles and trailers for an entire year, which can be quite costly. A “harvest tag” should be created which would allow a truck and/or trailer to be taxed only for the time it is used.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Heavy Use Roads	More on-farm confinements and larger on-farm storage have led to larger/heavier equipment use, which is affecting our rural roads. Wagons, semis, grain carts, etc. We, as farmers, should send a strong message by stepping up to the plate and offering more help by paying more local tax on larger facilities that put additional pressure on our infrastructure.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Heavyweight Permits	Heavyweight permits are available for \$500 on some two-lane highways. We need more consistency state-wide, as some counties do allow and some counties do not allow the purchase of these types of permits. We need better access to maps showing such approved highways.
Livestock	Hog Building Insurance Not Being Offered	Very few companies are offering insurance for hog buildings. This is becoming a big concern for hog producers.

Taxation and Rural Vitality	Increase Local Control of Tax Levies	House File 718 overhauled the property tax system across the state with impacts at the county/city level - levies voted on & passed locally were removed by this overreach of the state government. Local levies are vital for rural communities to support things like local libraries and community centers. There should be legislation that allows for local voters who are footing the bill for these types of levies to continue to leverage them without the state's interference.
Speciality Ag/Other	Indemnity for Specialty Crops	If there is an indemnity for grain, shouldn't there be one for large-scale specialty crops? I know there's protection with PACA, but nothing if there is no money from the actual business going under. There are specialty ag folks who have lost money in the 5 figures because of this exact circumstance.
Livestock	Iowa DNR Manure Management Plans and Professional Certification	<p>An Iowa Manure Management Plan is developed to demonstrate that the livestock farm has enough acres of crop land available to use the nutrients that are contained in the manure. The knowledge of soils and crops is a key factor in writing a MMP. The DNR does not require any professional designations by the plan writers. The American Society of Agronomy has had a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) program for 30 years that certifies the agronomist. Using professional agronomist is needed to insure that quality plans are being developed with the insurance that the plan writer is held to a code of ethics. All CCA sign a code of ethics to be certified.</p> <p>Many MMP plans are being prepared to meet minimum standards. The planners are recommending land management practices that are not the best management practices (BMP). The IA DNR does not have the staff to review the thousands of plans that come in every year. Plans developed by CCA's would earn the public's trust of MMP.</p>
Crops and Conservation	Iowa Fertilizer Company Not Selling Anhydrous Ammonia	Iowa fertilizer company in Wever is not guaranteeing anhydrous ammonia sales this fall due to high demand and higher profit for DEF. This plant was built with tax credits so they should be selling fertilizer into Iowa for the public good.

Crops and Conservation	Iowa Hunting Licenses/Crop Loss Fund	Iowa farmers are feeding the Iowa DNR's wildlife free of charge year-round with minimal opportunities to recoup or minimize future damages. If you do qualify for a depredation tag, you still have to pay for it and you can only get these for deer. A portion of all Iowa Hunting Licenses and Species Tags should go to assist in making the Depredation Program free and funding a reimbursement program for farmer's feeding livestock.
Speciality Ag/Other	Iowa Utilities Commission Members Should be Elected by Popular Vote	Members of the Iowa Utilities Commission should be elected during our general elections instead of appointed by the Governor.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Issues Facing Rural Communities	There are serious concerns related to health care, education, and infrastructure in rural communities. First and foremost, the shortage of EMT/ambulance services and the shortage of healthcare providers in rural communities must be addressed. There are incentives for young people to go into health care fields and come back to rural communities to work - this should be continued. Education is also primary concern, with the shortage of teachers being a problem.
Energy	Keep Farmland in Production	Farm Bureau has been an advocate for keeping farm land in production to ensure a bright future for agriculture whether that be losing land to foreign ownership, state government, or CRP. We need to do the same when it comes to taking large parcels of land out of production to be covered in solar. I hope Farm Bureau can take a stance against industrial solar and keep our farm land in production. Wind and solar are all so different, especially when it comes to the impacts they impose.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Keep Forest Reserve Tax Free	Acres in the Forest Reserve Program should not have property taxes. This timber is great wildlife & recreational habitat, and so much more. Fallen trees can be harvested for burning wood. Other trees are culled for timber management. Rarely is timber harvested and sold, and taxes are paid on income from trees that are. Timber sales don't come close to paying the property taxes!.



Transportation and Infrastructure	Keeping Farmers Safe on the Road - Banning Cell Phones	There's a problem with motorists handling their cellphones, while driving. This poses a real danger to farmers hauling grain and livestock or driving combines. There have been accidents because of motorists handling their phones, while driving. Solution is to ban motorists handling cellphones while driving. If they want to talk on their cellphone while driving, they can get a bluetooth that will run the cellphone audio through the dashboard of their car.
Speciality Ag/Other	Land Owners Should Retain Rights on Easement Land	Land Owners should retain the rights over how land under private easements are utilized. The recipient of the easement should cause minimal inconvenience to the land owner and not have a say in how the land is used.
Energy	Landowner Consent for Land Surveys	With all the incentives currently being allocated by the federal government, landowners need protection from all the new start-up energy companies wanting to conduct surveys. Surveyors need to obtain permission from the landowner to access a property for surveying.
Speciality Ag/Other	Landowner Deer Tags	Landowner tags should only be for land owned, and not include land that is leased. There are too many loopholes for people who own land and then rent the ground for hunting, especially with the way landowner tags are now able to be used during all seasons.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Landowner Rights and Surveying	Landowner rights need to be expanded to protect against the current Iowa Laws when it comes to surveying. Our rights as landowners should include who can and who cannot access our ground for the purposes of surveying for non-public entities.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Limit Urban Sprawl	Cities are moving into rural farming areas too quickly. Boundaries should be set and cities should have to utilize all current urban area before being allowed to annex more farmland into city limits.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Litter in Ditches	We spend hours each year picking up litter from our farm ditches. Most of it is non-biodegradable. Beer, soda, water, and other containers are most prevalent. Sadly, most landowners do not take the time to clean up litter from their ditches. I would propose a \$0.25 deposit and return on these items. This would reward people or organizations that pick up litterers' debris. A \$0.25 deposit would offer incentive and reward those who pick up and penalize litters.

Crops and Conservation	Livestock Manure Collection Sites	There needs to be some form of protection for ground near livestock manure collection sites that are owned and/or operated by producers that are not part of livestock collection sites. Areas around these sites can see excess runoff that causes burn areas in neighboring crops, an increase in weed pressures due to wildlife moving collection-area product into there production areas, and increases of carcass parts distributed in neighboring ground creating potential for tire punctures or equipment damage.
Speciality Ag/Other	Local Food Networks & Small Specialty Farms	We've come along way in the last few years to encourage and promote local food systems in Iowa. More and more small businesses are created on small plots of land that produce specialty products. These entrepreneurs are a part of agriculture as much as those who farm thousands of acres and should have access to the same benefits. Reasonable insurance and markets are vital to any ag operation and small operations should not be excluded because of size.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Maintenance of Government Owned Parks and Properties	Currently-budgeted funds should be used to maintain and improve current government lands and facilities rather acquisition of private land.
Livestock	Manure Stock Piles	Organic farmers should not be able to stock pile manure closer to a residence than conventional farmers.
Crops and Conservation	Market Opportunities for Small Grains	Farm Bureau should do more to support developing market opportunities for small grains. For example, an oat mill in central Iowa would be great. Market opportunities should also be developed for smaller beans like mung and black turtle beans, both of which are consumed globally at high rates. We are too dependent on corn ethanol especially with electric vehicles growing in popularity and replacing the combustion engines.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	New Housing Tax Incentives	Land owners that sell 1-5 acres of farmland for single-family, new home builds should receive a tax incentive. This would mean more money in the county, less erosion, more interest in agriculture, more interest in community.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	No Unconstitutional Taxes	All unconstitutional taxes should be done away with in the state of Iowa.

Energy	No Wind Turbines or Solar Panels Should be Allowed	Land for agriculture is valuable, and having companies want to put solar panels and wind turbines on it, taking away space for crops and changing it from food agriculture to energy is very dangerous. Wind turbine and solar companies decrease our production, interfere with people's lives, and increase energy cost because they are not an as effective use of power as coal and other sources are.
Crops and Conservation	Non-Resident Hunting Licensing	Iowa needs a category of hunting license that is fair to non-resident landowners. The present system is purely a money grab by the State of Iowa that unfairly treats conservation-minded, non-resident farmers.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Number of Supervisors on County Boards	County Boards of Supervisors should have a minimum of five board numbers, and duties should be split accordingly.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Oppose Lowering Ethanol Plant Tax Evaluations	Ethanol plants should not be granted/allowed by the state to reduce their tax valuation, therefore reducing tax income/revenue for the county.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Out of State Landowner Tax Increase	Property taxes for out-of-state landowners should be increased.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Over Taxed and Fighting Investors	Family farms should be taxed at the rate that property taxes were when the land was purchased. Large investors need to be taxed as if their land purchases are commercial property due to the nature of their investment.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Oversight of Educational Savings Accounts	During the 2023 Legislative Session, the Iowa Legislature passed HF 68, which allowed parents of private school students to receive \$7,000+ for private school tuition. It's concerning that there is zero oversight on the dispersal of the funds. Public schools are audited every year to ensure financial fidelity. Other states that have passed similar legislation are beginning to realize gross misuse of funds. I would like to see accountability of these tax dollars.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Personal Property Tax	As a small farmer I can only afford to buy used equipment for my 1000 acres, yet my taxes per acre equal the big farmers. Maybe instead of raising taxes, we could start taxing combines and tractors. The big farmers buy new every year or every other year just so they don't have to pay income tax.

Energy	Pipeline Easements Long Term Effects	When the large natural gas pipeline was put in during the 1980s people weren't upset. Today, everyone seems to be upset about everything. The carbon pipeline is certainly less dangerous than the natural gas pipeline. It also may make the ethanol being produced in Iowa eligible to be used for Sustainable Aviation Fuel. We need to focus on long term outcomes (like climate change) and about the good of all.
Livestock	Prevalence of Bio-Digesters	As biodigesters become more prevalent, we need to look at both liability protection and the ownership of the byproduct as gas companies are now operating the biodigesters.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Property Tax	The increase in property tax and farm insurance is a hardship for small farm livestock operations, there has to be a better way to manage increases.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Property Tax Reduction for In-State Landowners	Property taxes should be reduced for landowners that live in Iowa and actively farm and care for the land. When compared to out-of-state/absentee landowners, local farm residents are active in building their rural communities. Cash rent being paid to absentee/out-of-state landowners takes money out of the local economy.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Property Taxes Rates are Unsustainable	The current property tax rate is not sustainable for farmers to continue working in agriculture.
Crops and Conservation	Protect our Crops	The state got it right with raccoons. They need to do the same thing with deer and turkeys.
Education	Public Tax Dollars Should not be Going to Private Schools	Rural, public school systems are struggling to have the funds necessary to retain experienced leaders and educators. Public tax payer money should not be going to private school systems.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Public Use Lands Should be Supported by Usage Fees	Public use lands should be supported by usage fees instead of being maintained by property tax revenue. Examples include state parks, etc.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Reduce Iowa Vehicle Registrations	There used to be a depreciation factor that after 10 years, it was a flat \$50 to renew private vehicle tags. The state needs to go back to that format.
Energy	Renewable Energy	Home rule should be the standard for zoning regarding commercial wind and solar systems.

Taxation and Rural Vitality	Retired Farmer Tax Exemption Parity	Iowa did a good thing when it included rental income on farmland for retired farmers as exempt retirement income. But it omitted rent on that same land if the farmer has done good estate or business planning - for example, owning the land in a trust or a pass-through entity. Fairness and parity would require treating those retired farmers the same and not punishing them for good planning. That income should be exempt from state income tax, too.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Rural Roundabouts	Rural roundabouts should be large enough to accommodate semis and large farm equipment.
Transportation and Infrastructure	School and Work Permit	Prior to July 1, 2024 a student could travel up to 50 miles for ag related work or to travel for school. After July 1, 2024, that number has been reduced to 25 miles. This creates a burden not only for those students enrolled in schools more than 25 miles from their home, but also those that live in rural areas and the feed store is more than 25 miles from their residence. There are new feed stores in Iowa and they are becoming more consolidated which creates additional issues.
Education	School Board/Teacher Conflicts of Interest	Close family members shouldn't be eligible to be on a school board if they have a family member as a teacher in the same district. This would be a conflict of interest.
Transportation and Infrastructure	School Permit	Students on school permits used to be able to drive 50 miles from home to attend school or for ag purposes. Those rules were changed in 2024 and now the limit is 25 miles. There are many rural communities that do not have services available within 25 miles. There are also a limited number of private schools in the state and often those schools are located in the next county over and outside of the new 25 mile limit. It needs to be changed back to the old 50 mile radius.
Education	School Sports Practices	There has been declining participation in school sports. Some kids have attributed to wanting to be a kid and not have to commit to practices and games during school breaks. There shouldn't be games or mandatory practice during school breaks.
Education	School Truancy Reporting	School Truancy Reporting Law restricts the number of days a student can be off campus. This restricts field trips. This needs to be fixed.

Crops and Conservation	Separate Grain Indemnity Fund for Organic Crops	We need to set up a separate fund for Organic Crops as this has been this biggest pull from the fund over the past 40 years. It's a higher risk crop that has been pulling down the Indemnity fund.
Speciality Ag/Other	Shorter Deer Season	Shorten the current deer season to open up the woods for others. After second shotgun season, it should be done.
Speciality Ag/Other	SLAPP Suit Reform	Several opponents to the Summit Pipeline have been served SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) suits. The Iowa Farm Bureau has always encouraged discussion of opposing ideas in developing our policy, and should support reforming Iowa state laws to disallow this type of suit, as 33 other states have already done.
Crops and Conservation	Soil Erosion Eating into Border Fence	A neighbor farms right up to the fence line. Soil is eroding away along his side of the fence to the point that there is almost no soil to hold the fence posts in place. I maintain grass strips along my fence lines & the soil is staying in place. In some places, there is as much as a 3-ft drop-off between the parcels. Grass strips should be required to help prevent this from happening. Soil should be replaced to maintain the fence line & prevent erosion into the adjoining landowner's property.
Energy	Solar Farms and Drainage Tile Repair	There are concerns about the lack of repair of drainage tile that goes through a solar farm.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	State DOR Reform	As the governor has continued to change tax code, the DOR has not kept up these changes with much of their guidance still being from 2022 tax code. They often time send out unnecessary, vague notices that do not give any guidance on what was filed incorrectly. These notices lead to tax payers having to hire accountant or attorney help to clean up their case in which they often times have done nothing wrong, costing Iowans money having to protect themselves from their own Department of Revenue.

Taxation and Rural Vitality	State Imposed Limitations on County Revenues	As a farmer and also an outgoing county supervisor in a geographically small, low-population county, I have been in a position to see the squeezing impact of state limitations on county tax revenues and what they can be used for. In a nutshell, Iowa counties were not all created equal. Rural counties, especially those with livestock, have incredible needs for secondary road infrastructure, and yet limited ability to generate revenue to support that. HF 718 will only compound the problem.
Speciality Ag/Other	State or County Funding for Spaying & Neutering Pets	With almost all of the state's animal shelters at or above capacity, we need to develop a policy for state and/or county funding that would encourage all pet owners to spay/neuter their pets. A possible solution would be based on the owner's income, with the state and/or county paying part or all the cost of the procedure.
Energy	State Regulations of Renewable Energy	Things that should be evaluated: 1) Commercial wind turbines and solar panels being installed on the best farmland in Iowa with a CSR2 rating of 70 and higher; 2) Safe distances for a wind turbine to be built from an occupied residence; and 3) Counties being allowed to make regulations more restrictive than state regulations.
Energy	State Wind and Solar Ordinances vs. County Ordinances	Wind and solar zoning codes should be established by the state, but allow counties to have more strict codes. Every county is different, whether it be the county's tourism, planned urban expansion, availability of crop ground due to topography, etc. In most cases the State Code outweighs the county, but this should be an exception. The state needs to have code to protect the counties that have no code on renewables, while allowing counties to protect itself beyond the state code if need be.
Livestock	Stockpiling Chicken and Turkey Litter	There needs to be restrictions on how long chicken and turkey litter can be stockpiled in fields. There's no need for these piles to sit on these edge of fields for months before it is spread and worked into these fields.
Livestock	Subdivision Fences	Subdivisions that are bordering agricultural land should be responsible for all boundary fences. This way the agricultural producers don't have to deal with splitting fences with every lot owner individually. Fencing provides security for both parties involved.

Crops and Conservation	Support for Checkoff Programs	We need to support the Iowa Corn Checkoff, as well as all other state and national checkoff programs.
Education	Support Public Schools	Iowa has always had strong public schools, among the top education system in the nation. We need to continue to support Iowa's public schools and the AEA, the backbone of rural Iowa schools.
Energy	Sustainable Aviation Fuel	Iowa needs to incentivize sustainable aviation fuel to be produced within the state. It could be through providing a state tax credit to qualifying taxpayers for producing or blending SAF in the state, similar to some of our surrounding states that have legislation in place already.
Specialty Ag/Other	Sustainable Farming	Too much push on hog units and not enough on fruit and vegetable and fish farming. Let's push what is good for us health-wise instead of what is bad for us. Let's push no-till to stop soil loss before it is forced on us and it will be.
Energy	Tax Code & Valuations for Energy Farms/Industrial Complexes	Iowa Farm Bureau should support policy that addresses state tax code & valuations for Solar and Wind farms/industrial complexes that ensure the county receives tax compensation in line with local/state property tax distributions.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Tax Dollars for Rural Roads	Our taxes keep going up, yet the condition of our rural roads keep deteriorating.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Taxation Without Representation	The local school board submitted a bond referendum in the district where we own most of our farmland. The bond referendum was going to increase our property taxes significantly. We live in an adjacent county where the rest of our farmland is located. However, because we don't live in that particular school district, we were not allowed to vote on the bond. In our immediate family, we are aware of at least 10 people that were unable to vote on the property tax increase, because they don't live in that school district, but own land that would be affected.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Two-Lane Highway Speed Limits	Vehicle safety and road improvements have moved surrounding states to increase speeds on two-lane highways. To more efficiently move commerce and be in line with the surrounding states, Iowa should increase speeds on two-lane highways to 60 MPH.



Taxation and Rural Vitality	Unfunded State Mandates	It is time the state start funding any mandates that they pass down. This is putting undo pressure on county officials to balance their budgets. As a newly elected county supervisor, it is apparent that essential services are going to have to be downsized. Costs are growing by leaps and bounds.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Unsurfaced Roads Evaluation for Soil Loss	Unsurfaced roads need to be evaluated for soil loss by local soil conservation districts working with roads department to improve them to the benefit of adjoining land owners and the utilities that use them to provide services underground in the road.
Education	Update of the Farm Safety Course	The Farm Equipment Safety Course hasn't had materials or topics updated in decades. The curriculum should be modernized.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Veterinarian Incentives	It has come to my attention that incentives to bring practicing, large-animal veterinarians to rural areas are taxed, whereas the same incentives used to attract medical providers to rural areas is tax-free. I believe these funds/incentives should be tax-free for veterinarians as well.
Education	Vocational Agriculture Should be a Priority in Iowa Schools	Some schools in Iowa don't have vocational agriculture or FFA programs in their districts. Iowa is highly influenced by how big and important the state's agricultural economy is. We are the largest producer of corn, eggs, and sometimes soybeans in the nation. With that being said, Iowa's schools need to have vocational agriculture programs to highlight and teach both urban and rural students of the opportunity and importance of the agricultural industry.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Why are we Losing Agribusiness?	We need our state government to ask business questions to companies, like "What can we do to keep it in the state?"
Crops and Conservation	Wild Parsnip	Wild Parsnip should be listed as a primary noxious weed.
Energy	Wind and Solar Siting and Setbacks	Wind and Solar siting and setbacks should remain under local control.

Energy	Wind Turbines Endanger Rural Environment and Property Values	Wind turbine installation poses a risk to smaller family and specialty farms. Reports of petrochemical contamination, fire risk, and fiber contamination coupled with inadequate clean up efforts endangers neighboring farms. Many times non-resident land owners who don't live next to the installations have a negative impact on owner operated small farms. Mega energy companies have spent significant amounts to promote an inefficient energy scheme which destroys rural environment and land values.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Working on Your Own Equipment	Farmers should have the ability to work on their own equipment without having to purchase specialty tools and programming to do so.
<b>National Issues</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Description</b>
Transportation and Infrastructure	Ag Exemptions on EPA Regulations on Emission for Farm Equipment	Anyone that has had to use DEF or other emissions-related hardware that goes on farm equipment like DPFs, EGRs, etc. knows the reliability issues they cause. The percentage that farm equipment such as tractors, combines, etc. contribute to emissions is insignificant compared to other industries. There are reliability issues that hinder ag production and also come with great cost of repairs. I propose an ag exemption for farm equipment or the creation of a lower tier.
Speciality Ag/Other	Agricultural Drones	We need to support the use of the most technologically advanced, user friendly, and affordable drone regardless of county of origin.
Crops and Conservation	Airspace Regulation	We need to find balance in the use of air space for piloted aircraft and aerial drones.
Crops and Conservation	Altering Surface Water Flow from Upstream Neighbors	Upstream neighbors should not be allowed to alter surface water flow on unnamed creeks, streams, and springs to create their own ponds or other structures without permits from state and/or federal agencies.
Crops and Conservation	Anhydrous Ammonia	Anhydrous Ammonia needs to be labeled as the toxic/lethal substance it is and not just the green compressed gas placard it has currently.

Crops and Conservation	Beginning Farmer Conservation Program Eligibility	USDA's Beginning Farmer Cost Assistance programs should be for young beginning farmers that lack the equity to complete conservation practices and not for the investors purchasing land for the first time. These older individuals often have equity built up, making it easier to purchase land, and then benefit from a higher percentage of cost-share when applying for these programs.
Speciality Ag/Other	Broaden "Secure" Cybersecurity	Cybersecurity is essential to the agricultural industry for ensuring safe production, distribution, and consumption of food. Cybersecurity practices need to be broadened and implemented to be more proactive instead of reactive to breeches in the agricultural arena.
Crops and Conservation	Chemical Manufacturer Liability After EPA Approval	If the EPA, a government agency of the United States, approves a chemical after seven years of rigorous testing, a manufacturer should not be liable for any future lawsuits.
Crops and Conservation	Climate Change Legislation - Tree Planting	We should support tree planting as an effective carbon sequester method. We should support Federal and State cost-share programs for tree planting. This would also include replacing trees lost to the Emerald Ash Bore.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Commercial Drivers Under 21	Many small businesses are located on or near Iowa's borders. Those trying to employ workers right out of high school can run into issues when hiring people to haul things like cargo or equipment (such as skid loaders or mini excavators), due to federal regulation not allowing loads of 10,000+ lbs. to be hauled across state lines by those under 21 years of age.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Consolidation of Agricultural Production	Agricultural production - whether it be crops, livestock, or other resources - that is owned and profited from by only a few is not good for our communities or economy. The opportunity to become as large of a producer as one pleases should exist, but finding ways for many small producers to be protected and remain economically viable/sustainable is vital to everyone's future.

Crops and Conservation	Creation of an Appeals Process for Mediation Between NRCS and Producers	A cooperative appeal/mediation process needs to be created/enhanced between the NRCS and producers when being checked for out of compliance issues. Example: A neighbor's farm washes out (due to busting sod) and erodes onto a bordering neighbor's land, resulting in the bordering neighbor being found out of compliance for conservation practices.
Crops and Conservation	CRP and Livestock	CRP lands should, at a minimum, be able to be grazed in the winter months to help with vegetation control. The landowner should provide fence and water in return for a cattle grazing rental payment from incoming tenant. Government payment should stay in place this is in addition to.
Crops and Conservation	CRP Contract Length	Young farmers are being locked out of available farm land to rent for crops and livestock. If land could be enrolled for shorter periods of time (resembling the annual set aside program of the 1970's), retiring farmers could focus on areas of land that needed a "rest" from cropping and allow young farmers to rent the more productive areas.
Crops and Conservation	CRP Contract Prices are Too Low	New CRP contracts are not paying enough to incentivize farmers to keep acres in the program. If the government is serious about conservation, these payments need to be increased. It doesn't make sense to see farmers planting more cover crops but taking acres out of CRP.
Crops and Conservation	CRP Payments & Penalties	CRP programs were designed to keep lower quality and highly erodible ground out of production. We need to make sure we are not giving higher payments to ground just for having a high CSR. Also payments should not be taken away /penalties incurred for things deer stands and hay sitting on the property.
Crops and Conservation	CRP Program Maintenance	Would like to see a more consistent program with greater consistency among surrounding counties that either allows or does not allow producers to control weed growth and/or wildlife open season prep.
Crops and Conservation	CRP Set Aside Program	The set aside program of the past worked well for farmers concerned about restoring poor yield fields without a 10-year commitment to the government that often defeats improving the fertility and condition of the land. Could also help young farmers access land to farm.

Speciality Ag/Other	Cybersecurity Breach Responsibility	Individuals and corporations responsible for cybersecurity attacks and breaches need to be held accountable to a higher degree. These attacks have far-reaching effects and can be costly and long lasting.
Speciality Ag/Other	Day Light Savings Time	Daylight Savings Time should no longer exist. Leave it one way or the other.
Crops and Conservation	Dicamba Application Cutoff	There should be no dicamba application on corn or beans after June 1st.
Energy	Disallow Carbon Capture	Carbon capture should not be permitted unless it is being repurposed in an industrial or manufacturing process and is undoubtedly for the benefit of the general public.
Speciality Ag/Other	Election PAC Funds	Money donated to a PAC should only be used in the state in which it was received. Money from outside the state should not be allowed to finance campaigns in the state.
Livestock	Electronic ID for Animal Traceability ONLY	Farm Bureau policy should support the use of animal ID strictly for the use of animal traceability.
Livestock	Encourage Small-Scale Livestock Farming	Lower regulations on pickup/bumper hitch trailers, keep lockers & small processors vital, incentivize new ag veterinarians. What I would like to see is the Pork Quality Assurance and Beef Quality Assurance holders be able to purchase antibiotics & medicines from a farm supply store without prescription or vet feed directive. It would relieve work load on vets, increase timeliness of treatment and cut red tape.
Crops and Conservation	End Farm Subsidies	End subsidies for agriculture. There isn't government aid when the stock market tanks, and farmers shouldn't be bailed out year after year because they put seed in the ground. The government doesn't get reimbursed when corn is \$8, but everyone cries when it's \$4. Financial planning for fluctuations in commodity prices should be utilized instead.
Crops and Conservation	Enforcement of Noncompliance of Conservation Plans	Soil erosion and water quality are issues that are of major concern in rural Iowa. Increased enforcement of noncompliance with conservation plans is necessary.

Crops and Conservation	Environmental Tax Dollars to Ethanol Plants, Not Pipelines	The Federal Government is giving mega tax dollars to clean up the environment. Unfortunately, Iowa farmers are being taking advantage of by Summit Pipeline for those tax dollars. If there is all this money available to clean up our air, specifically the output of CO2 of the Iowa ethanol plants, I would like to see the Federal Government give those tax dollars directly to the ethanol plants so they can convert their CO2 to methanol eliminating the placement of a pipeline.
Crops and Conservation	Fairness in Sampling Procedures	I am concerned that Platinum Crush is charging farmers \$5.50 to sample and grade our soybeans will become common practice. The charge for sampling is out of the ordinary and I do not want that practice to be adopted by other marketing places, as the practice of sampling before the scale has. That practice has resulted in the taking of an approximately a 4 lb. sample before the scale for which farmer is not compensated for.
Speciality Ag/Other	Farm Growth and Purchases	Better programs are needed for young farm families to grow their operations. The ten year Schedule F rule that FSA has is ridiculous and needs to be done away with. "Young farmers" are now 40-50 years old and still trying to get a start. We need far better assistance programs and incentives for sales to young families trying to start or grow their operations.
Energy	Faulty Emissions Systems Issues	There are issues related to equipment functioning with faulty emissions systems.
Livestock	Federal/States Rights for Prop 12	States rights should not be infringed upon to overturn Prop 12.
Crops and Conservation	Flooding Along the Missouri	We have a situation on the Nagel Drainage District that the Corps of Engineers will not even recognize. There's a big gap in the levee that affects our farm, and many others downstream. We've already spent close to \$40,000 removing sand/debris and cleaning ditches. There has been no communication of any kind that there is going to be any resolution, so we could be doing this all over again come spring when the river rises. We are not looking for any kind of handout, we just want this fixed.
Livestock	Genetic Resistance & Production Practices to Eradicate Disease	Farm Bureau policy should support eradication of disease through adoption of genetic resistance and production practices.

Speciality Ag/Other	Government Agency Rulemaking Timeline	There should be a time limit for any government agency to make and release the rules for any law passed by Congress. For example, it has taken far too long for the Department of the Treasury to come up with guidance for sustainable aviation fuel requirements for low carbon farming.
Speciality Ag/Other	Green Anhydrous Ammonia Production	Production of "Green Anhydrous" is subsidized by the federal government at \$500/ton, with the product committed to be sold at \$400/ton, earning companies producing it a \$900/ton profit. This is to be competitive with normal NH3 production. These production facilities will pop up across the Midwest.
Crops and Conservation	Iowa Farmers Should be Paid a Premium for Their Low-CI Grain	There are multiple programs suggested for tracking farmer's grain and CI scores for premiums and payments. "Identity Preservation Chain of Custody Model" (IPCCM), the "Segregation Chain of Custody Model" (SCCM), and the "Book and Claim" and "Mass Balancing", all would have distinct impacts on farmers. Iowa Farm Bureau members should identify the one that will best compensate farmers.
Livestock	Less Antibiotic Regulation	The government needs to allow farmers to utilize antibiotics in their operations without going through a veterinarian. This can get expensive for a small operation where every dollar counts.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Leveling the Playing Field with 1031 Exchange	What can be done to level the playing field dealing with 1031 exchanges? Some possibilities would be 1) limiting 1031 to like ground (land sold for development must be used for other development land, not farm land); 2) 1031 can only be used to purchase ground within 50 miles of sold ground; 3) housing or other real estate sales cannot use 1031 to purchase farm ground; and/or 4) only active farmers can use 1031 exchanges to buy farm land.
Livestock	Livestock Antibiotic & Medicine Accessibility in Rural Iowa	In rural Iowa, where access to veterinary services can be limited and the demands of farming are high, streamlining the process of obtaining antibiotics and livestock medicines could have significant benefits for animal health, farm operations, and rural communities. Allowing farm supply stores to sell these medicines without a prescription or VFD would reduce unnecessary delays, alleviate burdens on veterinarians, and provide small-scale farms with the tools to maintain healthy livestock.

Livestock	Livestock Facility Building Insurance	There have been an alarming increase in the number underwriters that have dropped or reduced coverage for livestock facilities. Older, yet still viable, facilities that are accepted by swine and poultry contractors/integrators are unable to get full replacement value coverage. This severely restricts the ability to sell or transition ownership of these facilities. It also has resulted in increased costs for producers.
Livestock	Livestock Indemnity Program Should Include PRRS	In swine production, PRRS is becoming a larger issue with new strain like PRRS-124 reaching mortality of 50% (or greater in some cases). Currently, there are a few PRRS vaccines available and they seem to be ineffective against more deadly strains of the virus. For pork producers, there is no cushion to soften the financial hit from such a large mortality and the FSA does not consider PRRS to be a disease that qualifies for payment from the Livestock Indemnity Program. Qualifications should change to include this disease.
Crops and Conservation	Organic Farming Causing Soil Erosion	in some areas of the state, organic corn and soybean farming is growing rapidly. Tillage is very intense, leaving the soil extremely vulnerable to soil erosion. Dust storms are getting so bad it looks like the 1930s dust bowl. Apparently we have forgotten history. Organic shouldn't get a free pass on protecting our greatest asset. They must do better. We all can do better.
Crops and Conservation	Organic Production	Organic producers should not be eligible for government subsidies if they are over tilling & encouraging erosion, and should be stewards of the land as part of certification for Organic Crops.
Crops and Conservation	Per Acre Fees by Farm Equipment Manufactures	Farm equipment manufacturers have started implementing "per acre" fees for access to specific technology included on the equipment purchased by farmers. There should be limitations to the per acre fee that manufactures can charge, limiting the "annual fee" we are subjected to as producers who are using the equipment we already purchased.



Taxation and Rural Vitality	Property and Building Insurance has Gotten Out of Hand	The state needs to step in to limit insurance companies' ability to increase insurance rates year-over-year for the same building. The past few years farmers have seen a huge increase in farm building insurance rates. Some have reported almost a double up. The state should mandate that insurance companies publish their rate increase % and the reasons for the increase for policy holders to see clearly at renewal time, as well as declaring what it is not longer covering on the current policy.
Energy	Renewable Energy	We need to keep pushing for renewable energy from agriculture, along with other forms to make us energy independent. We can help fuel and feed the world. Keep working to let agriculture supply SAF needs. Keep working to get 15% ethanol permanent in more areas of the country.
Energy	Renewable Energy Tax Credits	Farm Bureau should advocate to eliminate tax credits for things like carbon, wind, and solar.
Speciality Ag/Other	Repair Part Access and Pricing	Parts to repair equipment have increased in price since Covid to ridiculous levels. At the same time, companies are posting record profits. Price gouging needs to be investigated.
Livestock	Revamp Livestock Indemnity Funds	Under the livestock indemnity program, all federal programs should have the same paperwork from county to county. Why not get paid for the value of all the livestock lost instead of only a small percentage? Losses should be paid for 100 percent of the market value for the livestock on that day.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Rural Population Decline	Small towns are dying. Empty main streets, hospitals closing, EMT services ceasing to operate, etc. We need to grow our small towns. The issue that's causing the problem is integrated livestock farming. We need local, farmer-owned livestock, not huge companies (some foreign) owning our operations. Out-of-state landowners, either investment groups or inherited landowners, take money from the local economy and never spend locally.

Taxation and Rural Vitality	Say No to Further Data Collection (12 C.F.R. Part 1002)	A new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (“CFPB”) rule is coming down the pipeline. 12 C.F.R. part 1002 imposes data collection and reporting obligations on lenders of small businesses. It implements section 1071 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. It sounds like the FDIC is going to adopt. This rule defines "small businesses" as any under \$5,000,000.00 in gross income which includes agricultural operations.
Speciality Ag/Other	Social Security & Medicare	Doing away with Medicare and Social Security so that taxes of big corporations can be slashed sounds bad for retired people. That will create more and more poor people.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Social Security Income Tax	Eliminate tax on social security income. Taxpayers who are eligible for social security, and whose income is above a minimal threshold, have to pay federal income tax on these benefits. However, when they were employed and paying into social security, this money was already taxed. They are being taxed twice, and this tax is on an already low income.
Crops and Conservation	Soybean Checkoff	Farmers should be able to request a refund of their soybean checkoff tax dollars. If that is not an option, then the rate should be a per bushel rate similar to corn. There are way too many dollars collected when compared to the results produced.
Livestock	Standardized Electronic ID Practices	Farm Bureau policy should support the research of standardized electronic ID practices.
Speciality Ag/Other	State Legislature Needs to Increase Starting Wage of IDALS Staff	Some areas of Iowa are facing serious shortages of staff in their local NRCS offices concerning state employees (technicians, etc.). In our area, we currently have no state soil conservationists and only one team member in a four-county area. Training takes forever, and with retirements, there is no one left to do the training anyways. Starting wages are only \$16/hr. The Legislature needs to raise this pay rate or there will be no one in local offices to design structures.
Speciality Ag/Other	Study of Vaccines, GMO Foods, and Organic Foods	The U.S. should conduct a study to discern the effects of vaccines, GMO foods, and organic foods (and how they impact each other) in different groups of children. We spend the most for healthcare as a country, yet rank 42nd in the healthiest country rankings.

Energy	Sunsetting of Existing Federal Tax Incentives for Renewable Energy	Farm Bureau policy should prioritize the sunsetting of existing federal tax incentives, i.e. 45Q/Z from the production of renewable energy (carbon, wind, solar, battery) on the Iowa economy.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Sustainable Ag Rules are Needed in a Timely Manner	Tax credits related to sustainable agriculture should have rules available to the agricultural industry in a timely manner.
Crops and Conservation	Tech Fees for Seed	Currently, South America and other countries do not pay tech fees on corn, soy, and other seeds, giving them an advantage over American farmers when it comes to seed cost. Tech fees should be banned in the United States if the rest of the world doesn't pay them.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	U.S. Farmland Should be Owned by U.S. Citizens	We have been seeing more and more "investors" buying ag land that are not from the U.S. - this needs to stop ASAP.
Crops and Conservation	Uncut Trees on CRP Acres	It doesn't seem to be an issue when trees are allowed to grow on ground in CRP. Most folks are still collecting funds annually. They are told to cut them down and keep them short or get rid of them altogether. Well, roots are still underground and it becomes impossible in the future to disk and plow to plant seeds.
Crops and Conservation	Uniform Calculation for CI Scores	Uniformity of carbon intensity scores and transparency in how they are calculated is needed.
Crops and Conservation	Uniform Crop Termination Dates	Farmers want the option to plant into standing green cover crops and use a burn down after the crop has been planted. Currently Iowa is split into two zones that allow different practices. We need to change the current regulation set by federal crop insurance that does not allow this practice in Western Iowa.
Speciality Ag/Other	USDA Assistance for Small Farmers	There needs to be more support for the small farmers - many are farming on less than 10 acres just trying to support their local communities through farmers markets & direct sales. The programs via USDA covering losses are not beneficial for these small families.
Crops and Conservation	USDA Crop Report	USDA should use FSA certification numbers to determine planted acres, and not be able to adjust acres throughout the growing season.
Energy	Used Cooking Oil & Foreign Feedstocks Used for Tax Credits	"Used" cooking oil and other fuel feedstocks from foreign countries should not be eligible for renewable energy tax breaks.

Crops and Conservation	Woodland Qualification for Carbon Credits	Carbon credits need to be given for maintaining woodland and forest restoration. This, in turn, improves water and reduces soil loss through erosion. This also is a minimal input solution to carbon storage.
Other Issues		
Category	Issue	Description
Existing Policy	Additional Data Points for Drought Monitoring Needed	More data points and precipitation monitors should be used to get the most accurate readings that would impact the drought monitor and the declarations of drought severity and rainfall insurance.
Program Ideas	ASCS Throwback	Do a 5% set-a-side for marginal ground with buy down opportunity to put it back to pasture. Along with a reduced cattle and fence loan for a 10 year period. It brings up commodity prices and will lower beef prices to consumers. Probably need a cow - calf insurance program for existing produces.
General Comments	Banning Books and Lack of Overall Gun Control Laws	Our Iowa Legislature should leave our school libraries alone. Educators, with teaching degrees, know more about what school children should read to get a good, well-rounded education at the proper grade level than the legislators sitting in the statehouse in Des Moines. The well reviewed books chosen by school librarians and local school boards need not be second-guessed nor be forced off the shelf by an ill-conceived law. Stricter gun laws needed as well.
Existing Policy	Beyond the Field: Securing Your Digital Harvest	Modern agriculture is collecting a gargantuan amount of data. Yield data, soil maps, satellite imagery, RTK precision ag, prescription-based inputs, tissue samples, manure management plans, grain monitoring systems, tractor/implement use data, and the list goes on. Farmers deserve transparency to know what data is being collected from their operation, farmers deserve the right to opt out if they so wish, and farmers deserve a way to monetize their data from the third parties who use it.
General Comments	Cancer Rates in Iowa	Iowa has the second highest rate of cancer incidents of any of our 50 states. What is the Farm Bureau doing to deal with this deadly issue? To make certain agriculture pollution has no part in causing these cancers & if it does or doesn't, how are they helping those who are diagnosed with cancer of any nature?

Input on Existing Policy	Capital Gains Tax when Selling Inherited Land	Such large losses from taxation Capital Gains Tax are wrong. Farmers are selling land that was \$2,000/acre when it was acquired, but will sell for \$25,000/acre in today's market.
General Comments	Carbon Pipeline Safety	Is this safe for us and our environment?
General Comments	CO2 Pipeline and Eminent Domain	We want to note that we are not in favor of eminent domain for the CO2 pipeline - this is a private company only in this for the tax credits that come from our hard-earned tax dollars.
Input on Existing Policy	Conventional Tillage vs. Cover Crops	Continued studies on various soil types and terrain across the state comparing conventional tillage with the use of cover crops are needed.
Input on Existing Policy	County Supervisor Control of Wind Turbine Setbacks	Current policy supports state-controlled ordinances and setbacks. With all counties having their own ordinance and setbacks already established, this policy needs to be overturned, and control needs to be turned back over to county supervisors.
Existing Policy	Deer LoT Tags Should be Eligible for all Firearm Seasons	In order to better manage the deer population deer Landowner/Tenant (LoT) tags for firearm hunting should be able to be filled during any firearm season (early muzzleloader, Shotgun 1 & 2, and late muzzleloader) with the Legal Method of Take for the season. This will result in the highest probability of filling the LoT tags.
General Comments	Deer Population Problem	Farm Bureau needs to help the Iowa farmer solving the deer problem. There are way too many deer eating our crops and endangering the motoring public on our highways. DNR needs to grant more hunting tags for a start.
Input on Existing Policy	DEF Systems on Diesel Engines	If a private citizen wants to spend their own money to delete their own emissions system, leave them alone. Nobody voted for this.
General Comments	Discrimination by Iowa DNR Against Non-Resident Property Owners	DNR needs to improve their wildlife management policies. Punishing non-resident hunters with exorbitant hunting license fees and placing non-residents in a lottery system are discriminatory policies. Perhaps Farm Bureau should only allow non-residents to be members for Higher Membership Prices and base Membership on a lottery system?

Input on Existing Policy	DNR and Crop Damage	We have a great deal of damage from deer, raccoons, beaver, and squirrels. We can not get extra tags to reduce the deer population at low (or no) cost. We have crop insurance, but why pay more for that when we can take care of a problem ourselves? We have reduced the raccoons and the beaver moved due to no water in the Des Moines River, and we plan to reduced the squirrels soon. These don't cost us to remove - but the deer do, and with a quota.
Input on Existing Policy	DNR Funding Changes	A change is needed in the Iowa Code so the funds used by the DNR to purchase additional farmland can instead be used to make improvements to existing DNR facilities, such as state parks and state fish hatcheries. This could improve handicap accessibility as well. If needed, the DNR should also be allowed to sell currently-owned farmland in order to generate funding for these improvements. There is no reason to appropriate money for these improvement when the DNR owns farmland that should be privately owned.
General Comments	Driveways	Linn co. ruling on driveways is unfair to land owners. I was told I would have to remove one of my established driveways to put a new culvert in the building driveway. Both have been in place for years. Now the rules say only 1 for 40 acres. I have another farm with the same. If I want to fix one driveway I have to remove another. They have been there for years. That needs to be changed.
General Comments	Energy Needs	Wind and solar can't provide a reliable source of electricity for the future.
Input on Existing Policy	Estate/Inheritance Taxes	Estate/inheritance taxes are the biggest deterrent to family farms continuing and thriving.
General Comments	Farm Bureau Candidate Endorsement	Farm Bureau should stop endorsing candidates from strictly one party.
General Comments	Farm Bureau Work in the Government	It's really important to support political candidates and leaders that put Farm Bureau policies into place at both the state and federal level. Iowa Farm Bureau is responsible for many agricultural policies that are in place here in Iowa - good job.

General Comments	Fixes Not Band-aids On Infrastructure	Money spent on infrastructure needs to be money well-spent. Why are our recently repaired roads crumbling? Where does the problem lie and how do our counties and state address and remedy the issue? We need to find answers and solutions to these questions and problems.
General Comments	Food Safety Confidence	Consumer confidence in the safety of the food supply is diminishing. Product recalls, animal disease, and foodborne illnesses, affect the entire food supply chain, and erode food safety assurances. Every farmer, food producer, and state and federal agency who are assigned the task, need to make sure food safety protocols are adhered to. This is crucial and needs renewed attention.
Input on Existing Policy	Forest Reserve Should NOT be Taxed	Forest Reserve should continue as is, and forest land should not be taxed. But if there is a problem with out of states buying up a bunch of forested land and not paying property taxes, then that is what legislation should be directed towards.
General Comments	Government Systems & Lies	During the Presidential campaign, the claim was made that the government gave billions of dollars to farmers to buy land and get new big tractors. Where's mine for my small family farm? I can't compete with other farmers AND have people like the Iowa coaches and I-Club members throwing their money around, buying farms to hide from taxes. The system is messed up.
Program Ideas	Growing need for a Small Ruminant Advisory Committee	As the landscape of rural Iowa continues to shift, young, beginning and entrepreneurial farmers are looking for opportunities to find a niche in which they can thrive. Often with limited pasture space and seeking to serve a market need, producers are looking to sheep and goats as an opportunity. Just as we have advisory boards for cattle, swine, energy production, and field crops, the Iowa Farm Bureau should add an advisory committee for small ruminants to aid these producers and give them a unified voice.
General Comments	Health Insurance Premiums and Co-Pays	The continued major increases in health care costs for policies offered by Farm Bureau are a major concern for we the self-employed farm family. My current policy with Wellmark, I have experienced a loophole with charges submitted by a provider that are less than what the contracted amount is for a service going against what I owe. If I get a bill for \$250, I don't pay \$400! What happened to managing health care costs?

General Comments	Healthcare	Healthcare premium increases are too high.
Input on Existing Policy	Imported Feedstocks in Biofuel Production	Iowa Farm Bureau should support policy that prohibits tax credit for imported feed stocks used for biofuels production.
General Comments	Inappropriate Use of Tax Dollars	Our tax dollars should not be used to finance war between Israel and Gaza.
Input on Existing Policy	Increase the Weight Limit for Hauling Farm Commodities on the Interstate	Interstates should be included in Governor Reynolds harvest proclamation. It would be much safer and faster to haul farm commodities there than on two-lane highways. While this is a federal matter, it should be an option. Anything we can do to reduce the number of trucks on two-lane highways would be beneficial.
General Comments	Inflation is Too High	I don't know where to begin; however it doesn't matter where I start, because at the end there is nothing left. The cost of food, electricity, and fuel (gas, diesel and LP) along with taxes, all insurances (auto, home, life, health, cattle liability) is out of control and too high to survive. It is not one thing or group that has increased, but every single thing, and has left many people selling things to reduce and try to survive. When will someone say enough is enough?
General Comments	Insurance Costs on Older Vehicles	Insurance costs shouldn't be going up on older vehicles that aren't worth much anymore.
General Comments	Insurance is to High	Insurance rates are too high.
General Comments	Iowa Cancer Rates	Iowa is ranked 2nd in new cancer diagnoses in the country, and Palo Alto County is the highest county in the nation for new cancer diagnosis. We need to figure out why immediately.
Program Ideas	Judge Retention Voting	Farm Bureau should add judges up for retention to their 'Friend of Ag' designation list. Most people don't know anything about them and this would give us a starting point.
Input on Existing Policy	Land and Water Tax Bill	It is well past time to support a bill that the majority of Iowans have requested and voted for years ago - a tax increase that would benefit land and water in the state.
Input on Existing Policy	Legal Immigration	Close the border and only allow immigration through legal channels - not open borders
Program Ideas	Logging on State and Federal Park Land	They should allow logging on state and federal park land. Logging would be a revenue source and would get use out of valuable logs that just lay there.



General Comments	Low Prices	The cost of production is high in comparison to prices received.
Input on Existing Policy	Make Ag Education Universally Available	Given the importance of agriculture to the state, agricultural curriculum should be available to all students. The state of Iowa, through the Department of Education, should incentivize the creation of agricultural courses/programs in communities that don't currently have an agricultural education program. This could be done through the availability of grants, start-up funding, etc. encouraging school districts to adopt agricultural as one of their career and technical standards.
General Comments	Manure Management Plans	Even though I don't like doing the manure management plan, I think it is important to have them.
General Comments	Membership Fee	If a person has more than one policy with Farm Bureau, they should only be charged membership fees one time.
General Comments	Nepotism in the School System	Close family relationships between school board members and employees of that school district are creating issues in our local community. Education is a large part of the state budget, with a great deal of funding coming from our property taxes and this should be addressed.
Input on Existing Policy	No Eminent Domain for Private Gain	We must be adamant in our policy that eminent domain shall not be used for private gain. Farm Bureau needs to continue being champions advocating for property rights and against the use of eminent domain.
General Comments	Non-Farmer FB Dues Benefits	Non-farmers should be getting more benefit from Farm Bureau dues.
Input on Existing Policy	Non-Resident Landowners	Keep the tag requirements for non-residents the same as they have been. Draw only, and a minimum of a 5 year wait for tags after purchasing land.
General Comments	One Party Big Government in Des Moines	The current make up of the state government is anything but conservative. They have done everything in their power to destroy local government instead of returning the government to the people. This is a total destruction of grass roots government, and every time you turn around they are working to get decision making power in the hands of Des Moines big government.
General Comments	Oppose Road Use Tax Dollar Use Changes	Changes to road use tax dollars should be opposed if they negatively impact rural Iowa.

General Comments	PAC Funds for Politicians who Don't Stop Eminent Domain	How can you claim to be "for farmers" when your PAC donates to politicians who are openly supported by Summit? You name them Friends of Ag and they openly attack constituents who oppose their pipeline ideas. On the other side of your mouth, you're still claiming to support small farmers, but you are selling your loyalty out to big ag donors.
General Comments	Premiums and Agent Education	Agents need to provide better education and options to give clients their best rates. Rates are insanely high and we do not need to be over insured on top of it paying for more than we need.
General Comments	Private vs. Public School Funding	I think the Governor did the right thing in funding both types of schools. Private schools can teach the things that parents approve of and frankly, get the best teachers since they are teaching kids that are more evenly matched and are there to actually LEARN. The union has made it much harder on public schools to allow the parents/school boards to actually do what is needed to run their schools as they should be. Competition is always good!
General Comments	Promoting Trade for Iowa Commodities	We need to continually promote Iowa Agricultural Commodities to the world.
General Comments	Property and Auto Insurance Rate Increases	The double-digit increases in property and auto insurance this year are outrageous. I've heard it from many others. Most have had NO claims in the last five years, either!
Input on Existing Policy	Property Assessment	Assessed value should reflect reasonable real estate value. Counties should not be allowed to raise assessed values to balance their budget.
Input on Existing Policy	Property Taxes	It appears there's increased awareness of the unfairness of property taxes and general abuse of those who pay by those who want some contemporary service. For those who want some type of local service, let them pay a proportional share via sales tax or such. I believe some states are taking action to eliminate property taxes. Iowa should take the lead in doing so, too.
Input on Existing Policy	Property Taxes	I have not been in favor of a hard cap on property tax collections, but the increases imposed by county supervisors must stop.
Input on Existing Policy	Protect our Valuable Farmland - No Solar Panels	To protect a vital resource in rural Iowa, we feel that solar panels should be incentivized and built on existing buildings or over parking lots instead of on valuable farmland, taking it out of production.

General Comments	Road Repairs	Iowa's highways are horrible and need serious repairs.
General Comments	Rural Well Water Issues	There are already established farms in areas with no-longer-viable water structures digging for wells with no results.
General Comments	School Truancy Reporting Guidelines	Iowa has new laws and reporting requirements if a student misses more than so many days in a quarter. This is affecting families who take vacations during the school year.
General Comments	Social Security & Medicare	I'm concerned about my continued Social Security benefits and the rising cost of Medicare.
General Comments	Social Security and Medicare	Social Security and Medicare care are wonderful.
Existing Policy	Standardized Fuel Pump Colors	Iowa Farm Bureau should support policy that supports standardized colors for fuel pump handles for E-10, E-15, E-85, Biodiesel at all fuel retailers.
General Comments	Stop Carbon Pipelines	The fact that few policy makers are willing to stand up for farmers and property right is outrageous. Also Farm Bureau should be 100% in the corner of farmers and landowners.
General Comments	Support for CRP	Support CRP.
Input on Existing Policy	Tariff Concerns	I am concerned about our foreign trade. I don't believe tariffs are the answer because could it raises our prices.
General Comments	Taxes	Too much.
Input on Existing Policy	Trade Wars	We have to make sure farmers do not become pawns in trade wars.
General Comments	Transferring Land & Stepped-Up Basis	<p>The way the tax laws are, it is difficult to transfer land to the next generation without unbearable taxes. If you sell land prior to death, you could be faced with a \$250,000 tax bill. If you wait until death and get a stepped-up basis, the tax is zero.</p> <p>That is a lot of money to take out of the operation for no return. So what happens is a parent holds the land until they die to avoid the tax but by that point the child inheriting it is too old to start farming.</p>
Existing Policy	Transparency in US Drought Monitor	More transparency and ground truthing involvement for the US Drought Monitor as it impacts some USDA emergency drought programs and declarations.

Input on Existing Policy	Try Something Different with Education	The education system has become a bloated fossil, worse than the defense department. The poorest American citizens' kids should have first priority to Americas colleges before the richest non-citizen child. Most university professors should be fired as well, as they are corrupt administrators appointed by D.E.I. programs. The emphasis is on sports, not education anymore.
Input on Existing Policy	Unsustainable Government Spending	Governments at both the state and federal level are not fiscally responsible and spending is out of control.
Program Ideas	Use of Wide Ditches and Medians	With the advent of more four-lane highways in Iowa, some income could be gained by harvesting hay from the ditches and medians. The income from this could supplement road use taxes.
General Comments	Water Safety Concerns	Pesticide, fertilizers, and run-off from large animal feeding operations threaten the safety of our water supply in rural Iowa.
Input on Existing Policy	Wildlife Programs	Wildlife populations are getting out of control and causing major crop damage in areas. We need to do a better job of keeping wildlife populations within check. If people are not going to hunt them, they need to be controlled by other means.