

Category	Issue	Description
STATE ISSUES		
Livestock	Absentee Landowner Accountability	Absentee landowners need to be notified and held accountable for issues with livestock, fencing, and weed control. County officials need to be able to enforce rules related to these subjects with penalties.
Education	Adequate Allowable Growth	You want small rural towns to thrive? You don't want your schoolhouse to close in your town? Then we must advocate for at least 4% allowable growth education funding. This constant underfunding of public schools will come back to roost in schools closing and consolidating and small towns drying up.
Energy	Adequate Allowable Growth	The government has underfunded public education. Then last year, a voucher bill that would further direct tax dollars away from public schools and hand it to private schools was passed. This chronic underfunding of schools will erode the ability of schools districts to provide an adequate a quality education to Iowa students. It will cause schools to consolidate and buildings to close, which will decimate small towns and rural Iowa.
Crops and Conservation	Agra Forestry	The Iowa Farm Bureau should embrace Agra Forestry as a partner in soil erosion, carbon sequestration, water quality, wildlife habitat, and nitrate control and not support proposed changes to the Forest Reserve Act of 1906.
Education	Agricultural Awareness via Social Media	Educating the public on agriculture through social media is CRUCIAL for bridging the information gap. We need to share accurate content about farming practices and innovations, influencing public support and policies. This is essential for sustainable agriculture, dispelling misconceptions, and ensuring a resilient future in ag. More resources need to be put towards creating high quality, accurate, intentional content that favors the farmer. There's too much negative stuff out there right now.
Transportation and Infrastructure	B Class Roads	Counties have designated roads as "B Class Roads" solely for a budget cut (snow removal), a very different intent from the original law passed in 1981. A statutory change should be made that requires counties to maintain B class roads up to at least one direction of the location of a farm or residence, reimburse/apply a lower property tax rate on properties that are located on B Class Roads that do not receive basic maintenance, or allow property owners to maintain B Class roads privately.

Crops and Conservation	Bad Farming Practices	Water ways are not wide enough and the state doesn't want to provide incentives to prevent mowing them. Barely any buffer strips are being used. The state needs to create more incentives to prevent our topsoil from going down the Mississippi. More cover crops need to be utilized, to protect our topsoil from disappearing. Not enough funding is being provided to the DNR to properly manage the CWD
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Beginning Farmer Loan Program Updates	Farm Bureau should support enhancements to the existing Beginning Farmer Loan Program. A preapproval process would be beneficial for young farmers to be able to buy land on an auction or when the right piece of land comes to market. Additionally extending the Down Payment Program loan amortization from 20 years to 30 years is needed. Currently payments on a 20 year amortization are too high to make this useful for a beginning farmer.
Education	Behavior in Schools	Behavior needs to be taught in schools, just as academics are. Giving all staff the "tools" to teach and acknowledge appropriate behavior versus punishment only, provides a safe environment and builds positive relationships in schools. Relationships come first. Always. All schools should be required to provide positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) in their schools.
Crops and Conservation	Big Ag not Partaking in Conservation Practices	Too many farms are being sold to big farmers and outside investors - and a lot of these sales are of highly erodible land. The first thing the new owners or operators do is bulldoze all of the terraces to fit their large farm equipment. In a lot of cases, there is a great deal of property damage to down-stream farms (as well as roads and bridges that are taxpayer funded). These owners/operators need to be held accountable for being poor stewards of the land. No-till is not the total answer, especially with rapid snow melt.
Livestock	Black Headed Vultures	Blacked headed vultures are becoming a problem for livestock producers. DNR needs to work with other states to eliminate the issue.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Bridge Replacement	Additional funding for replacing antiquated rural bridges is needed.
Transportation and Infrastructure	By-Pass Speed Limits	When a community has a by-pass highway, they should not be able to reduce the speed limit on that highway. It was the purpose of the by-pass, that was paid for with state funding, to keep the traffic flowing and out of the city (i.e. Pleasantville). This defeats the purpose of the by-pass.

Taxation and Rural Vitality	Cancer Rates in Iowa	Recently, Palo Alto county was listed as the county in the U.S. with the second highest cancer rates, and Iowa was number two for new cancer diagnoses, and the only state to significantly increase from 2015-2021. Rural counties have the highest rates of cancer diagnosis. The state needs to figure out what is causing the increasing number of cancer diagnoses and then enact change to reverse this disturbing trend.
Energy	Carbon Pipeline	The proposed carbon pipeline is not good. It must be opposed.
Energy	Carbon Pipeline Viability	IRFA continues false advertising for these projects so we need keep on telling the truth about the viability of these projects.
Crops and Conservation	Carbon Pipelines	Hazardous CO2 pipelines will have a detrimental affect upon all the categories listed, especially since insurance companies will not specifically insure against loss from a CO2 pipeline incident.
Transportation and Infrastructure	CDL Cost	Why does a CDL cost so much now? The state needs to lower the cost, as it is an employer is sometimes pays for the license with no guarantee that the employee will stay with them after obtaining it.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Changes to the Forest and Fruit Tree Act of 1906	By my count, 32% of Farm Bureau members will be negatively affected by the changes proposed. Farm Bureau should not support changes that will impact this many of its members.
Speciality Ag/Other	Checkoff Legislation	We should not support changes to the checkoff programs in Iowa - including opt-in changes.
Speciality Ag/Other	Checkoff Organizations	IFBF should support all other agricultural checkoff organizations in the state. Policy bringing us together would be beneficial.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Chip Seal Heavily Traveled Gravel Roads	The state needs to begin a program to start seal coating the busiest gravel roads. If you travel to Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, they have many "chip seal" roads - why is Iowa so far behind? Chip seal costs are upfront, then maintenance free for many years. In Iowa, money is put into gravel roads and they are terrible. Most gravel put on during the year ends up in the ditch when they plow for snow.
Livestock	Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)	The DNR needs more funding to help stop the spread of CWD, as it has the potential to spread to livestock. Programs can be put in place to provide more CWD testing stations for livestock, deer, and elk. No charge for sampling should be enforced. Hunters should be issued another free tag if their deer tests positive.

Energy	CO2 Easements and Payments	Any company that wants to cross your land should pay more than just the acres that it is affecting. For example, when a carbon pipeline talked to us about crossing our land, they only want to pay for the 1.65 acres that are touching. What they aren't paying for is how that pipeline is affecting the 80 acres it crosses or the entire 180 acres of the parcel. Easements should have discussions about the entire parcel and future development hurdles for that landowner.
Crops and Conservation	CO2 Pipeline Education	I believe the farm community needs to be better educated on the CO2 sequestering. In SE Iowa we have the fertilizer plant and an ethanol plant both potentially benefiting from the concept. Whether sequestering works or not, my concern is the negative effect that the denial of the line will have on both industries.
Energy	CO2 Pipelines	I understand that ethanol helps us farmers, but CO2 pipelines will not reduce the production of CO2 - the pipelines only promote the production of CO2 and disrupt our farming community. Lastly once a pipeline is put into the ground, it is there forever. No one is ever going to come back and remove it. Help Stop the CO2 pipelines. CO2 pipelines are a short-term taxpayer-funded subsidy that will only help the ethanol producers and will not trickle down to the farmers.
Energy	CO2 Pipeline	No eminent domain for private corporations. They claim everything is safe but are unwilling to share the plume and dispersion modeling. The IUB hearings are like a kangaroo court.
Specialty Ag/Other	Commodity Checkoff Support	Farm Bureau policy should support checkoff funds being utilized for their intended purposes. These funds should not support government funded programs, such as the Gran Indemnity Fund.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	County Jails	Iowa laws need to allow small jails to operate the way they were intended, and not become some mega complex that is incredibly expensive.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	County Property Taxes	It seems whenever the county runs low of funds they increase the property taxes. They don't increase the taxes themselves, but they increase values so we pay more anyway.

Transportation and Infrastructure	County Road Conditions	Montgomery County rural road conditions are in terrible shape. Even when landowners and operators request grading, rock, clean up, etc., they are ignored. The commissioners are not paying close enough attention to the department and I believe are unaware of the situation, or they really are not interested. There is just not enough money to keep up the roads, how can Farm Bureau assist with this issue?
Transportation and Infrastructure	County Road Management	Management of county roads needs to start at the top with people that have that ability and energy to manage county roads. There is a lot of wasted effort or no effort in many areas. You can see it at county lines. New trained responsible people need to replace some existing management.
Transportation and Infrastructure	County Supervisors	The county's board of supervisors are in charge - watch who you vote for. Let's keep local control.
Crops and Conservation	Credit Sale Contract Coverage by Grain Indemnity Fund	Iowa Farm Bureau should revisit/narrow its policy on Credit Sale Contracts being covered by the Grain Indemnity Fund.
Crops and Conservation	CRP Program	CRP ground should not be cut for hay or grazed. Leave the grass for wildlife and birds.
Education	Current Education System	Our students (and future citizens) need to be taught real, accurate facts.
Speciality Ag/Other	Defund the DNR	It is time to defund the DNR - they have gained too much power and are reckless with their spending. They hassle producers. What ever happened to education over regulation?
Crops and Conservation	Designated Natural Areas and Wetlands	Protect Iowa Designated Natural Areas and wetlands.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	DNR and Non-Profit Property Tax	All property owners should pay property tax. DNR needs to pay property tax on their owned land. Non-profits need to pay property tax on income producing property.
Transportation and Infrastructure	DNR Animal Accident Liability	The state Department of Natural Resources should be required to cover vehicle and/or property damage caused by wildlife that they impose hunting restrictions on (deer, turkey, pheasants, etc.). Basically, they should be required to have an insurance policy to cover vehicles that collide with deer and other hunting-controlled species in the state.

Transportation and Infrastructure	DOT Commission Representation	The northern half of the state has been unrepresented or underrepresented on the DOT Commission for decades. The relative poor condition of our roads is proof. One consideration to ensure equal representation is to require one commissioner from each of the state's crop reporting districts.
Education	Drivers Ed Large Equipment Awareness	Drivers should be required to have a short course on large equipment, truck, and train awareness. This needs to include a simulator or ride along. Most people don't understand the limits of large equipment and vehicles. If they were allowed to ride along in a semi, combine, or tractor they would hopefully gain a better respect for what they are driving around.
Speciality Ag/Other	Drone Laws	Iowa's drone laws should mirror federal drone laws.
Crops and Conservation	Drone Spraying	State IDALS requirements for drone spraying are burdensome, as the current requirement is a commercial aerial applicator's license. There should be a lesser and more applicable licensing requirement for drone spraying applicators.
Energy	E15/Unleaded 88 Uniform Labeling	In addition to having uniform color of handles and pumps for e15 across the state, we need to stick to either e15 or unleaded 88 for these blends to reduce consumer confusion. We should prefer using the unleaded 88 label to avoid the confusion of e15 with e85.
Energy	Electric Rate Increases	Electric rates are increasing, even as wind power being generated increases.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Emerald Ash Borer Threatens Powerlines	Unfortunately, the emerald ash borer can damage more than just trees. We need to be more proactive in the removal of damaged trees that are near powerlines. Electricity is essential to farm operations and power outages have economic consequences.
Energy	Eminent Domain	For-profit private companies do not qualify for the use of eminent domain. Personal property rights are the method that needs to be used for building pipelines. The property owner has the right to have a pipeline on the property or the right to not have the pipeline forced on the property.
Energy	Eminent Domain Abuse	I don't know of any farmer that wants land taken by eminent domain - especially for a CO2 pipeline. Just like the Nutrient Reduction Strategy, everything should be voluntary on the part of the farmers. One size does NOT fit all!
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Eminent Domain/Easement-Related Project Crop Damage Payment Taxes	Landowners and/or operators should not have to pay income tax on any easement or crop damage payments from projects that involve the use of eminent domain.

Taxation and Rural Vitality	EMS/Ambulance Service	EMS/Ambulance Service is a people service that is currently partially funded by property taxes. State law allocates property tax funding for EMS. EMS is a people service that needs to be funded through the general fund or through a state/local option sales tax.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	EMS/EMT training	Due to state wide EMS shortage, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) courses should be offered to all high school students as a for credit course through an approved provider.
Energy	Ethanol for Sustainable Aviation Fuel	Ethanol can be the preferred feedstock for sustainable aviation fuel if the CO2 from ethanol production is sequestered. Pipelines are the safest and most economical way to sequester CO2 from ethanol production. If the pipelines for CO2 need to be "public utilities" to get permission to build, then the pipelines should be designed as such - just like the oil & natural gas pipelines that crisscross Iowa. Without the use of ethanol for Sustainable Aviation Fuel, ethanol production will decline.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Excessive Speed on Rural Gravel Roads	We need to prevent excessive speed on gravel roads.
Livestock	Expanded Veterinary Telehealth	There should be an expanded scope of veterinary telemedicine to provide accessible, professional veterinary care for our livestock herds. Speed and quality of animal care and diagnostics are essential for preparedness and response efforts related to disease while maintaining strong biosecurity practices.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Farm Equipment	Farm equipment has outgrown rural infrastructure. Often, new equipment requires the entire roadway forcing oncoming traffic to basically park in roadside ditches.
Crops and Conservation	Farm Managers	We need to have checks and balances for farm managers who take advantage of elderly or out-of-state landowners. Regulations need to be created and enforced.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Farm Rent Income taxation	If I buy a farm using a loan with no intention to farm it myself, but rather rent it out to another farmer, I should not be taxed on the rent payments I receive. I have divested out of my savings and am not making a profit, I am strictly paying back a loan using someone else's money. It is definitely not income and should not be taxed as such.
Speciality Ag/Other	Farm Shop Insurance	Farm shops need to be allowed to be insured as a commercial shop.

Transportation and Infrastructure	Farmland Access	Farmers should be able to access to their farms via levees.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Farmland Ownership	Non-farmer, out-of-state ownership of farmland is an issue. Especially religious entities. The revenue all goes out of state and the land never gets sold again.
Livestock	Farm-Raised Products at Grocery Stores	Iowa Farm Bureau policy should prioritize increasing the transparency of alternative protein in grocery stores as well as maintaining shelf space for farm-raised products versus alternative protein products.
Speciality Ag/Other	Field Fire Indemnity Fund	The state should create a "Field Fire Indemnity Fund" with 1¢ per bushel of crop delivered to an elevator or processing plant used to create the fund.
Livestock	Fireworks Near Livestock Operations	There should setback distances required for discharging otherwise legal fireworks from active livestock facilities and/or pasture with livestock present. Rural subdivisions and acreages near livestock are a problem area.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Forest Reserve	The Iowa Forest Reserve Law should continue as is, Farm Bureau should stop their lobbying against it.
Crops and Conservation	Forest Reserve Act	We need to realize that trees are the best, and cheapest, water quality program going. We are currently losing tree cover at an unsustainable rate, and if the taxation is increased on Forest Reserve acres it will surely result in more tree loss as farmers are not going to pay taxes on this land and not get very much back for their investment. Every tree is helping with water quality, air quality, carbon sequestration and nitrate reduction, as well as run off.
Crops and Conservation	Forest Reserve Law	Iowa Farm Bureau should not endorse or support legislation to reduce or eliminate the 100+ year-old Iowa Forest Reserve Law. This is unfair to farmers who have complied with the requirements to qualify existing timber.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Forest Reserve Program	Forest reserve land should be taxed at value or made open to public for hunting and recreation.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Forest Reserve Should be County Level Decision	County supervisors should be able to decide whether their county opts in or out of the Forest Reserve Program. Leave it to the counties if they want to honor Forest Reserve or not.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Government Administrative Fees	Administrative fees are a large contributor to the depletion of the Grain Indemnity Fund. The same can be said about the constant need to raise taxes. All collection agencies (those administering/collecting taxes, Indemnity Programs, or similar structured programs) should have the amount of funds used for administrative fees capped at 3%.

Livestock	Government Entities Should Maintain Their Fences	Government entities such as the DNR, Army Corps of Engineers, and others which own (read - manage) land which borders livestock farms absolutely need to maintain their half of their fence. In my experience, talking to them about maintaining their half of a fence is like pounding 3 inch staples into hedge posts and trying to get reimbursed for maintaining their fence for them is like trying to squeeze blood from a post driver.
Crops and Conservation	Grain Indemnity Fund	Producers should be assessed until the fund is full at \$25 million. Credit sales should not be covered, as producers are accepting the risk. Organic producers should also be assessed for their sales.
Speciality Ag/Other	H2A Labor	It's no secret that there is a lack of rural farm laborers, and H2A labor needs to remain at a sensible level for farmers to utilize. Increasing the level of pay for H2A labor is not conducive. An H2A labor should also be able to work in enterprises that are year-round.
Speciality Ag/Other	Help for Elderly Farmers	Elderly farmers should receive assistance with things like utilities, food, and transportation.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Highway 2 (Platte Branch Bridge)	The Platte Branch bridge on Highway 2 (east of Bedford) has been limited to 8 tons recently. This is the main road we use to deliver grain. It will add around half an hour of driving to every load. We also need to cross it with farm machinery quite often. Until this bridge is fixed it will have a significant impact on our operation.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Honey Bee Sales Tax	Iowa ranks 16th nationally in the production of honey. Currently, the Department of Revenue is the only government entity that does not recognize honey bees as livestock. The sale of honey bee packages, nucleus colonies, and queens should exempt from sales tax, just the same as all other livestock.
Crops and Conservation	IFBF's Conservation Focus	We do good at highlighting those producers that employ numerous conservation practices. Farm Bureau should work to share more data, including:
		1) How many farmers use cover crops and what percentage of Iowa's farmland (corn and soybean cropland) is covered with cover crops;
		2) What percentage of farmers use ethanol or biodiesel in their equipment;
		3) What percent of COOPs sell biodiesel and regular diesel;
		4) Is today's farming sustainable defined by being able to farm like we are today forever?

Taxation and Rural Vitality	Income Tax and Iowa Funding	Iowa Farm Bureau should discuss and have a stance on "zero income tax" and the Iowa Tax code. There are many negatives that could result, such as increases in sales tax and the increase of land acquisition.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Income Tax Holiday	There should be a 3 year income tax holiday for those who have just completed schooling (high school or college). This will help them pay off loans and get comfortable living here and wanting to stay in the state.
Crops and Conservation	Interest Rates and Sustainability	Interest rates on loans should be reflective of credit risk from a financial perspective. They should not be based on value judgements when it comes to topics such as sustainability. Banks in Europe have stated that they will eventually start imposing higher interest rates on farmers and rural businesses that aren't achieving satisfactory greenhouse gas reductions. We need to ensure we have sufficient policy in this area.
Speciality Ag/Other	Internet Dead Zone	There are several "internet dead zones" across the state. Often, the only options are expensive satellite or mediocre cell connection. If the state truly wants high speed internet to all rural areas, these dead zones need to be addressed.
Crops and Conservation	Iowa DNR Land Rental Rates	Iowa DNR land rental needs to be consistent on contracts across county lines.
Livestock	Iowa Fence Law	It should be required by attorneys or realtors, at the time of purchase, that the buyer of ag land is responsible for his portion of fence under the Iowa Fence Law.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Johnson County Roads	Johnson county has some of the worst roads. Major farm-to-market road needs immediate attention. All trees in the right of way must be removed for safety and visibility. Deer damage to cars are out of control.
Livestock	Lack of Dairy Processing	In Iowa, we need more dairy processing plants. Processing facilities keep getting shutdown and milk is hauled further and further away. The money and logistics wasted by trucking milk across the state and across state lines is unnecessary. The idea of producing a fresh local product is being lost.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Landowner Approval Should be Required When Land Surveys are Amended	We need to create a process for a landowner to approve a surveyor's work before it is recorded in the books. Once a survey is recorded it can be a very difficult process to change. We need to have a review process, with the adjacent landowners also approving the survey.

Livestock	Landowners Without Cattle	Seems the old ways of neighbors up-keeping their fences are long gone. If they don't have cattle, they get to neglect having to do anything as they say it is not their problem. There needs to be something done to keep them held accountable for their share of fencing maintenance.
Education	Livestock Showing	If a student is an active 4-H or FFA member and they attend a livestock show during the school year as a shower, it should be considered a school sponsored event and not count towards them being absent.
Speciality Ag/Other	LLC Rules Allowing Secret Land Ownership	Many investors and entities hide behind the LLC registration process so as to remain anonymous. Even the Secretary of State's office can not fully find the exact land owner in most instances. There needs to be clarity in registration so we can know who all owners/investors are in an LLC that holds ag land in Iowa.
Speciality Ag/Other	Local Food Networks	Local food networks need to be supported - not regulated like a corporate business. The growers that provide a food source typically serve an area of 80 miles or less from their farms. CSAs, Farmer's Markets, and on-site farm stands are the most used outlets for their products. Regulation that is designed for commercial operations hurts the small producer.
Education	Lunch Program	We need to look at revamping the school lunch program. Kids throw so much processed/boxed food. When it was "homemade" kids ate it so much better.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Maintenance of Ditches Alongside Gravel Roadways	The county is responsible for maintaining the ditches along side the gravel roadways. County road maintenance personnel are not doing this, resulting in erosion of property owners' land. Additionally, erosion around culverts are making the roads susceptible to caving in. Improved gravel road maintenance is essential to a strong farm economy.
Education	Mandatory Reporting Class Fees	There are many different fees incurred (finger printing, background checks, etc.) and classes associated with getting your substitute teaching certificate or coaching authorization. Teachers, aids, and coaches are all high need, low paying jobs. Requiring people to pay for these things adds to the cost of these thankless jobs. The state has an excess in budget and should make this online module free.
Speciality Ag/Other	Market Study Trips	Farm Bureau should encourage the State of Iowa to continue pursuing market study trips and additional trade missions as a way of expanding trade markets and foreign agricultural-related relations.

Taxation and Rural Vitality	Matching Experienced/Generational Farmers with Beginning/Current Farmers	Two-thirds of Iowa farmland is owned by people aged 65 or older. Farming is a business that is built slowly over time with the accumulation of equity. The Iowa Farm Bureau needs to be more proactive with the wave of farmland that will turn over in the next 5-10 years. It would be beneficial to have a program available to match experienced/generational farmers with beginning/current farmers wanting to expand their existing operations.
Speciality Ag/Other	Milk Transportation for Small, Single Source Creameries	As more and more dairies look to add value to their product through single source milk processing, it would be advantageous for those farms to utilize existing structures in rural communities. Iowa law mandates that milk can only be hauled in milk trucks, which are expensive and appropriate washing facilities can be prohibitive. Iowa law should allow for small, single source (one farm) creameries to transport milk via transport tanks, or in some cases (Grade B) milk cans.
Crops and Conservation	Mowing of Roadside Ditches	Side roads (like gravel) need to be mowed more than once a year. There are many critters and deer that just "pop" out of nowhere. I would also suggest that they mow farther into the ditch, not just the flat part.
Crops and Conservation	Non-Farm Entities Buying Ground in Iowa	Private non-farm entities have been actively buying ground in our area and across Iowa for many years. They purchase the land and often charge high rent and will never give smaller farmers or young farmers a chance. They just allow the mega farmers to get bigger.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Non-Profit Entities Should Pay Property Taxes	Churches and other non-profit entities should be paying property taxes. They are taking large numbers of acres off of the tax roll.
Crops and Conservation	Noxious Weed/Invasive Species Determination List	Purple Loose Strife, Queen Ann's Lace (a.k.a. Carrot Weed), and the Canada Thistle are all prevalent along roadways in the state. Depending on the list - the Iowa Code, IDNR, county weed commission/conservation boards, etc.), the 3 weeds listed (and possibly others) are classified as noxious or invasive species which, determines if they are controlled.

Crops and Conservation	Nutrient Reduction Strategy	Ten years has come and gone in implementing the goals of the NRS with very little progress in water quality improvements. To meet the goals of reducing Nitrates and Phosphorus entering streams and rivers in Iowa, every farmer in will need to participate. Farmers in Iowa have a great tradition of voluntarily participating in applying conservation practices to their land, and encouraging more conservation incentives will reduce costs to the farmer. We need long term sustainable funding to accomplish these goals.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Ownership Reporting on Ag Land	Plat Books and County Assessors offices mask ownership of ag land by allowing generic corporation names and contact information on ownership documents. The names of majority owners of land should be readily available to the public.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Passing Lane Signage Changes	According to the Iowa DOT Website, "on multi-lane roads, the leftmost lane is to be used to pass slower moving vehicles." The rules and laws for that driving scenario are not followed or enforced as they should be. Current traffic signs that read, "Slower Traffic Keep Right" should be replaced by signs that read "Keep Right Except to Pass."
Energy	Pipeline Issues	Eminent domain should be reserved for public utilities and not used for private, for-profit companies. There are a number of alternative uses of CO2 in use today or in the final stages of development. The hazardous CO2 pipelines are a short term method to capture tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act. The ethanol industry will continue without the pipelines. Pipeline construction will permanently reduce the farmability, productivity, rental, resale, and appraised value of prime farmland.
Livestock	Predator Control	Coyotes are becoming more prevalent in our area because of easy access to food supply and less hunting pressure. My wife talked to our local naturalist and he stated that the pelt values are so small there is no incentive for people to hunt them. The state of Iowa should increase or place a bounty on coyotes that will help reduce numbers.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Private Powerline Height Postings	Private powerline heights should be posted if below a certain threshold.

Taxation and Rural Vitality	Property Abandonment	Cities, towns, municipalities, etc. have requirements for unsightly properties that have fallen into disrepair or been abandoned. Rural areas should impose the same requirements on property that has become a visible eyesore and haven for varmints. In many cases, the property in question belongs to an absentee landowner who has little regard for appearance, health, and safety.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Property Boundaries	With today's technology, it is time to look at Iowa's property boundary laws. When a landowner finds out there is a half acre mistake in the line fence that they have been taxed improperly on and have seen a loss of income from for decades, the ethical thing is to make the correction.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Property Tax Assessment Appeal	Only property owners or their legal representative can appeal a property assessment.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Property Taxes	Property taxes are killing us. New schools, a major remodel, and drainage assessments lead to high taxes.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Property Taxes	The value of our property is going down while our property taxes keep rising to a much larger degree.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Property Taxes	Property taxes are increasing, but gravel roads are not being improved. What are those taxes used for from our farms?
Energy	Protect Non-Participating Residents from Solar & Wind	We should support statewide siting requirements to protect non-participating residents from solar and wind energy plants. For example, 1200 ft distance from a non-participating landowners residence or livestock facility, and 150 ft from the nearest adjacent landowner's property line.
Energy	Protect Productive Farmland	Land over 70 CSR should be protected and not allowed to be converted into solar and wind energy plants. Productive land is Iowa's most valuable resource. Solar and wind companies are taking advantage of counties and local governments that do not have these protections in place. We should support statewide restrictions to enforce this.
Livestock	Protect Working Animals	We support animal & livestock activities including exhibitions, shows, carriage rides, circuses, rodeos, petting zoos and parades. Local communities and governments should not be able to ban legal animal enterprises utilizing working animals.

Taxation and Rural Vitality	Public Notices	Fewer and fewer people read the newspapers. However, all governmental bodies must publish their public notices in a newspaper. This is a considerable expense to school districts, small towns, and large cities alike. In today's world of internet access, the requirement should be that all public notices are to be published online. Then more people have access to the notices and a much less expense to the local government.
Crops and Conservation	Quit Mowing Ditches	Mowing county ditches, while aiming to enhance visibility, comes at a significant ecological cost. Untouched ditches serve as crucial habitat for pollinators and various species struggling to find suitable homes. These areas are vital for pollinators essential to crop production. Mowing disrupts these habitats, adding stress to species already impacted by agricultural chemical use. To support biodiversity and safeguard pollinators, we should reconsider the practice of heavily mowing ditches.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Raise the 55 MPH Speed Limit	Iowa should raise speed limits. Most states with narrow, tree-lined roads have higher speed limits than Iowa. The state is straight and flat, it only makes sense.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Real Estate Taxes	Real estate taxes should pay for infrastructure costs associated with real estate. Education should be equal across the state and not depend on real estate taxes.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Recreational Tax	There should be a recreational tax on all forest reserve and out-of-state-owned land.
Specialty Ag/Other	Regional Ag Response Teams	Create, insure against possible liability, and fund a regional "Ag Response Team" to assist the local fire department and law enforcement agencies in the event of an agricultural accident.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Rural Doctor Incentives	Additional incentives should be provided to encourage doctors to practice in rural areas, especially those who provide specialty services such as OB/Gyn care.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Rural Internet Access	Each year we get a little closer to the goal of affordable and reliable high speed internet access to all rural areas, businesses, and farms. Money has been allocated and spent, and plans promise - however, we are not there yet. The state needs to follow through and accountability is essential to meet this goal. Farm Bureau has been with us along the way. Let's complete the journey.
Education	School Lunches	Schools are serving hamburgers that are not meat - they are actually soy and whole grains.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Semi Weight Limits	Weight limits for ag commodity should be raised year round. Trucks hauling livestock should be allowed an extra 10%.

Taxation and Rural Vitality	Senior Citizen Primary Residence Real Estate Tax	Those over 60 years of age should not be required to pay real estate taxes on their primary residence. For 40 years or more, they have supported the schools, roads, parks, and all other forms of infrastructure. It's time for their relief. From homes & 40 acres to city lots, those over 60 should be relieved 100% of any real estate tax. Retirement proceeds continue to erode and homes are their last sanctuary. Repeal the real estate tax for those 60 years of age.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Senior Citizen Property Taxes	Property taxes for senior citizens should be frozen.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Side By Side Speed Limit	The speed limit of UTVs on state highways is 35 MPH. It should be raised to 55 MPH, so as to not impede the flow of traffic.
Crops and Conservation	Soil Stewardship Should be a Priority	Implementing conservation practices like no-tilling, cover crops, waterways, filter strips, and other erosion prevention are vital for keeping topsoil in place.
Crops and Conservation	Specialty Grain Coverage by the Indemnity Fund	Specialty grains "premiums" should be covered by the Indemnity Fund.
Education	Start of School Year	The current rule is that public schools cannot begin their academic years before August 23. The rule should be changed to "the Monday after the end of the Iowa State Fair" instead of a number like the 23rd so that students are not in school while things like football, volleyball, cross county, and band practices are going on.
Transportation and Infrastructure	State Highways	Our state highways are a mess. They are very rough and usually have a drop off at the edge of the pavement.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	State Supplemental Aid	When the legislature authorizes SSA, that money should come from the states general fund - period. Not the default position of being "assessed to property tax payers and the legislature has graciously paid for it through the general fund to save the property tax payers" that it is now.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Steel Wheel Equipment	In some counties throughout the state, Amish steel wheel equipment is using rural pavement. This tends to tear up the existing asphalt or concrete.
Education	Support Public Education	Thriving rural communities depend on agriculture and strong public education. The long-term impacts of vouchers for private schools hurts rural Iowa. Not supporting our teachers and the education system in this state will create more of the "brain drain" non-urban counties already battle. What has happened over the last two years regarding state support for public education hurts all Iowans.

Taxation and Rural Vitality	Tax Exempt Entities Draining Property Tax Revenue	Large property tax generators are being purchased by tax-exempt entities and being taken off the tax rolls. Many of these are non-profits who are taking advantage of the system by housing businesses in their walls. These entities should not be allowed to have property tax-exempt status if they are making significant profit annually. Rural county incomes are dwindling, and this burden is being put on the farmers.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Taxes, Pipelines, and Windmills	Eminent domain should not be used for the taking of land for windmills and pipelines. Further, addressing property and inheritance taxes on farms to ensure they can stay in families is needed.
Education	Teaching Conditions	Teachers in Iowa are the lowest paid in our area, and their pay must be increased to be competitive. Also, let them teach, there are way too many rules.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Tiered Property Tax Rates for Ag Land	Those who file a 'Schedule F' on land they own & operate should pay a lower property tax rate than those who are in-county residing landlords. Out of county, state, and nation landlords should be taxed at an even higher rate than in-county landlords. Non-farming land owners holding ag land is fueling modern day feudalism and should be discouraged. This is prohibiting the next generation of farmers from getting started and is sending millions, if not billions, of dollars in rent out of our local economy.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	UCC Central Filing	Ag lenders are required under federal law to send notices to any potential buyer of a farm product that the lender has financed the farm product, notifying that buyer of the lender's interest in the products by paper notice. The notice contains the social security number of buyer & represents a risk to personal identifiable information. An electronic central filing system would eliminate that risk, increase transparency and reduce risk to lenders, allowing them to work with more farmers.
Crops and Conservation	Updating Iowa Drainage Policy	Downstream landowners that offer an easement to the upstream landowners requesting to run tile across their ground should not be required to either pay for the upstream landowners drainage tile, or be required to allow surface drainage of subsurface water across their ground. Should the downstream landowner not offer an easement, then current Iowa drainage policy prohibiting the downstream landowner from rejecting the upstream water should apply.

Transportation and Infrastructure	Vehicle Headlights	The headlights on all newly manufactured vehicles should automatically turn on when the vehicle is started and remain on until the vehicle is shut down. Too many people are driving in fog or at night without having their headlights on.
Crops and Conservation	Water & Land Funds	Farm Bureau should support the implementation/use of water and land funds that were passed several years ago.
Crops and Conservation	Water Quality and Storage	We need to build water capacity in the interior instead of being reactionary on the waterways and watersheds in the interior cities to reduce flooding.
Energy	Water Use	Large technology companies are utilizing large amounts of water, and taking advantage of their ability to use this much water at the expense of the citizens of both the county and state.
Speciality Ag/Other	Wild Deer Population	The state's deer population has been hit hard with Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD). Numbers are down and we need to reduce the number of tags available for the 2024 hunting season as a result.
Crops and Conservation	Wild Flower Acres	Farmers who enroll land in government and wildflower programs should not be allowed to let trees, notably thorn trees, grow on this land. If this is not allowed, enforcement should be increased.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	School Bond Referendum	If you live in one school district, but own land in another school district that is seeking a bond to increase property taxes, the property owner should have some kind of say when the referendum affects their property tax.
Livestock	Wild Pigs	Farm Bureau should advocate against the ownership of non-domesticated and non-farm pigs used as game animals, or the transportation of such pigs within the state.
Energy	Wind Turbines	These energy forms disrupt natural weather patterns, are detrimental to livestock growth, and are unsightly in our beautiful landscape. Help discourage the propaganda in our newspapers that the energy companies put out about their supposed energy benefit. Nonsense. Anyone who does their homework will see that they do not add the energy we need.
NATIONAL ISSUES		
Crops and Conservation	Authority for Crop Carbon Intensity Score	There should be a set authority for determining crop carbon intensity scores.

Crops and Conservation	Conservation	Farmers need to do more in the area of conservation. Many do, but others say they will not unless someone else pays for it. We are already providing enough support to farmers through the many programs that are already in place. In good profitable years like 2022 and 2023, more tile is going in the ground. It's like we are talking out both sides of our mouths. Why should we expect more taxpayer support?
Crops and Conservation	Cover Crop Facts, Not Emotion	We should demand real facts about the cost and effectiveness of cover crops. You can't open any ag publication without someone pretending to know.
Crops and Conservation	Crop Insurance Limitations	Crop insurance payments should have limitations based on the quality of ground so that poor quality ground (that should be placed in CRP) is not incentivized to be farmed.
Crops and Conservation	Crop Insurance Subsidy Caps	Crop insurance subsidies should be capped, based on the average farm size of a county. For example if the average farm size of a county is 700 acres, a farm should only be allowed to receive crop insurance subsidies up to that amount. Beyond that a farm would be responsible for paying the full premium on their own. Otherwise, large-scale farms can receive millions in subsidies a year. A majority of insurance subsidies are going to a small subset who do not financially need these.
Crops and Conservation	CRP Contract Consistency	CRP contracts are inconsistent. If contract terms change, the landowner should be notified in writing and grandfathered in.
Crops and Conservation	CRP Payment Rates	CRP Payment Rates should pay the same as Crop Land rental rates using the \$/CSR2 method. This would simplify the process and help encourage conservation.
Crops and Conservation	CRP Payment Rates	CRP payment rates should match pasture rental rates.
Crops and Conservation	Highly Erodible Land	Highly erodible land should allow for minimal till leaving >30% residual or vertically tilled, as no-till is not ideal for corn-on-corn rotations. In a neighboring state, landowners were told that only no-till planting was allowed on H.E.L ground. Farm Bureau does not have policy on this if regulations were to change.
Crops and Conservation	Lowering of the Water Table	More consideration should be given to well siting to prevent the lowering of the water table for existing wells.
Crops and Conservation	Maintain All Conservation Funding	We do not need conservation funds taken to subsidize row crops, which are already subsidized too much. Crop insurance, etc. Our kids deserve to have good soils too!

Crops and Conservation	New WOTUS Rule	We need to thank the EPA for enacting an updated rule which is easy to understand & implement, and move on to other issues as an organization.
Crops and Conservation	Organic Farms	Organic farms should be required to do a better job keeping topsoil in place. Their multi-tillage passes promote soil erosion via both wind and water.
Crops and Conservation	Real Programs to help Beginning Farmers Needed	We need programs that can actually help beginning farmers with large hurdles like land, equipment, and input costs. We need new programs that actually help, not just low interest loans or the traditional "help" that has been done - think of NEW programs. One example would be to allow beginning farmers the opportunity to rent ground that would be going into CRP.
Crops and Conservation	Standardized Basis Months	In our area, the ethanol plants and co-ops have begin going out further and further on what they use as their basis month in order to "protect themselves." Farmers are already price takers. You can sell old crop in June for new crop prices. I propose the standard be set based on a specified day (i.e. end of the third week of the month) and then must go off next trading month.
Crops and Conservation	Wetland Classification Issues	Land being classified as a "wetland" leads to the inability of a farmer to tile and farm their own land.
Energy	CO2 Research	More research should take place to develop additional uses for CO2 gas.
Energy	Electric Grid Vulnerability	Efforts to mitigate the vulnerabilities to our electrical grid (stemming from weather-related occurrences or otherwise) should be government subsidized.
Energy	Energy Research	Keep supporting research for cleaner use of fossil fuels and open up the pipelines. Farmers don't get credit for saving of our soil, energy, and capitalism. Also, make foreign countries get rid of land they have bought here. Research better ways of producing wind energy - huge turbines surely can be replace by smaller less intrusive mechanisms.
Energy	Renewable Energy	Renewable fuels are important, but not to the extent that our livelihoods as stewards of the land are compromised. These items need to be addressed and discussion from all parties affected heard.
Energy	Tax Credit for Residential Solar	There are currently no tax credits for residential solar. There needs to be an incentive for residential property just as there is for farmland.
Energy	Unreliable Electric Grid	"Green energy" is an intermittent, unreliable source that will cause blackouts and huge cost increases as it destroys our farms.

Energy	Wind Power & the National Weather Service	Wind turbines interfere with the National Weather Service (NWS) radars. Right now, the National Weather Service is not consulted on placement of wind turbines. The NWS should be notified of possible placement of new wind turbines.
Livestock	Carbon Intensity of Manure	Farmers should have access to market data when it comes to contract prices for manure to be turned into biogas/renewable natural gas. This input can be very profitable for RNG and green fuels companies and livestock producers should have transparency to their opportunities should they like to participate.
Livestock	Custom Slaughter	Farm Bureau should be in favor of custom slaughter laws, like Amendment #87 (#178) - put forth by Thomas Massie (R-Kentucky). This law would favor small farmers.
Livestock	Federal Fencing Grant Program	There needs to be a better federal fencing grant program. The current program does cost share border fence or help on the cost of cleaning timber to prepare for a new fence.
Livestock	Livestock Indemnity Program	The Livestock Indemnity program needs reviewed and updated, as it is outdated in three ways: advances in technology are not up to date, market prices, and climate control. We need to ask why they do not compensate for the total loss, should producers have to withstand the first 1% mortality.
Livestock	Livestock Tracking	We should oppose livestock tracking and registration. With changes to the way farms are being targeted via the carbon markets, the data that is collected from a registry could be used against farmers for a carbon tax on livestock. The anti-animal activists are trying to make animal protein a cause of greenhouse gas emissions. Corrupt studies give corrupt officials the ammunition they need to target livestock production. Disease outbreaks are not a reason to sacrifice our freedoms.
Livestock	mRNA Vaccines	The government is pushing to vaccinate animals, our food supply, with mRNA vaccines without our consent.
Livestock	Prop. 12 & Ethanol	California should not be able to dictate how livestock in another state are raised, especially given the fact that they aren't mandated to provide the option of ethanol blends to consumers by other, ethanol-producing states. It seems ridiculous that we allow them to make these decisions.

Speciality Ag/Other	Artificial Intelligence	The rise of artificial intelligence should be carefully monitored as to not skew against the American farmers favor.
Speciality Ag/Other	Bank/Farm Credit System Level Taxation	Ag loans originated at banks should not be subject to any higher income tax levels than those paid by the Farm Credit System. This will result in more competitive interest rates for farmers.
Speciality Ag/Other	Day Light Savings Time	The majority (by a long ways) wants to leave the time change one way or the other. Changing is ridiculous.
Speciality Ag/Other	FSA Pre-Approval Process	FSA offices need to have a pre-approval loan process. It is very redundant and burdensome to redo the whole process for each application.
Speciality Ag/Other	Improve Local Staffing at FSA Offices	Additional staffing at local county FSA offices is needed.
Speciality Ag/Other	Irreplaceable AM and FM Radio Signals	Essential public safety broadcasts have been provided to listeners for many decades. Local, national, and world news, as well as farm markets, weather reports, and entertainment are utilized by many. These radio signals do not require streaming or internet availability. There is a push by some automakers to get rid of AM radio in their new vehicles. In an unstable world, let's not throw away a tool we already have. Farm Bureau can help be a voice that lets our needs be known before it is too late. New technology does not need to jeopardize tried, proven, and vital technology.
Speciality Ag/Other	Mobile Butcher	Mobile butcher trailers should be allowed to process animals on farm or at a mutually beneficial location with the end product legal to sell to the public. With the expectation to follow regulations preventing the spread of disease and meeting food safety rules similar to a meat locker or processing plan.
Speciality Ag/Other	Reduce Chemical Use	Cover crops are probably beneficial, but the extra use of chemicals to kill them seems to increase the potential to harm all of us. Also, increased chemical application by airplane has added to the contaminated air. More studies need to cover the harmful effects, and not just the benefits.
Speciality Ag/Other	Representative's Residences	Representatives should be required to actually live within their districts, and enforcement of this should be increased.
Speciality Ag/Other	Term Limits	Change in Washington DC would fix most issues in question. Change would make corruption more difficult and would decrease over-regulation. Those representing us would have to actually represent the people who voted for them instead of corporate interests.

Speciality Ag/Other	U.S. Drought Monitor	Iowa Farm Bureau policy should prioritize more transparency and ground truthing involvement for the U.S. Drought Monitor.
Speciality Ag/Other	Weather Monitoring Stations for Drought & PRF	Iowa Farm Bureau policy should prioritize increasing the number and dispersion of weather monitoring stations and provide input for the U.S. Drought Monitor and rainfall insurance (PRF).
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Inheritance Tax Change Efforts	Farm Bureau should not spend as much time, money, and effort trying to eliminate the death/inheritance tax when the exemption level is so high that only a small percentage of members would actually benefit from any change.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Medicare Advantage Plans	Medicare advantage plans are stripping rural health care facilities of significant resources. Pre-authorizations, insurance claw-backs, lack of unauthorized physicians, nursing homes not accepting plans, and incentive plans create a false security of value of such plans. Agents are incentivized through higher commissions to promote the plans. Rural hospitals across the country are closing or considering dropping advantage insurance plans. IFBF should discontinue support of advantage plans.
Taxation and Rural Vitality	Support ACRE	The farm credit system does not pay state or federal income taxes - unlike community banks in Iowa. The Access to Credit for our Rural Economy Act would make certain agricultural loans tax exempt for community banks, thus allowing them to loan money to ag clients at a reduced interest rate. Without community banks, businesses that support ag would not have local access to capital. Support for ACRE will make community banks competitive, passing the savings onto Iowa farmers.
Transportation and Infrastructure	Easements	Easements should have a sunset, after it has been utilized for the purpose specified. Renegotiations with the land owner should occur at this time to renew and reevaluate the value of the easement. A company should not be able to borrow against the value of the easement resulting in a lien on the property.