

RESOLUTIONS

IOWA FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION

2015

Adopted at the
9th Annual
Summer Policy Conference
September 4, 2014



Dear Farm Bureau Members and Friends,

Grassroots input from across the state is the strength of Farm Bureau, and once again members from across the state of Iowa brought a unified voice to issues that affect agriculture and rural Iowa. The annual policy development process began with farmers across Iowa identifying issues, and then debating these important issues on a county by county basis. In September the voting delegates finalized the year-long process, as final direction was set on both state and national policies. I would like to thank the Resolutions Committee and the voting delegates, whose dedication and work is a vital part of establishing Farm Bureau policy.

Water quality and soil conservation advancements continue to be a focus for Farm Bureau, and members support the collection of information on farmers' adoption of conservation practices. Data that protects privacy and individually identifying information will help to assess progress in priority watersheds and target resources for the biggest impact possible. Members also stated that cover crop incentives should be available to all farmers, with emphasis to land that provide the most environmental benefit or to first time applicants.

Farm Bureau members discussed Iowa's energy transportation facilities, emphasizing that property rights and farmland productivity should be protected when electrical transmission lines or pipelines are proposed. In addition, pipeline construction and maintenance should minimize damage to farmland productivity, conservation practices and tile lines. Farm Bureau members support the growth of domestically produced energy, but encourage transparency so farmers have all the facts before making their individual decisions regarding potential energy transportation facilities.

I would like to thank our 100 County Farm Bureaus for leading in the development and implementation of state and national policy issues. Your participation makes us the largest and most respected grassroots farm organization in the state. If you have not been involved in the policy development process, I would encourage you to participate. Submit an issue for local debate, serve on your county's policy development committee, or fill out your county opinionnaire.

Please take some time to review our new and existing policies. The continued success of Farm Bureau as a grassroots organization depends upon your participation of the development and implementation of the policies that affect Iowa agriculture. Together, we can continue to build on our legislative successes.

Craig Hill
President

FOREWORD

The Iowa Farm Bureau is a Federation of 100 county Farm Bureaus. In 2014, 156,743 member-families paid dues between \$35 and \$55 to belong to their county Farm Bureau.

Numerous legislative, educational and service-to-member programs are provided for the members' benefit.

Farm Bureau is the largest general farm organization in Iowa and in the United States.

The following resolutions on state issues considered at the Annual Summer Policy Conference of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation become effective upon adoption. The adopted resolutions on national issues will be submitted to American Farm Bureau Federation delegates for their consideration at the AFBF annual meeting in January. These policies have been developed through the democratic processes of discussion and debate in local county Farm Bureau meetings and at the state conference.

Calendar year 2015 state legislative activities of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation will be based on the policies outlined in these resolutions and in previously reaffirmed resolutions except as they have been modified or supplanted by later resolutions. Calendar year 2015 national activities of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation will be based on policies adopted by delegates at the 2015 American Farm Bureau Federation convention. Leaders and members are asked to support these policies in a united effort to improve net farm income and the quality of rural life.

*2014 IFBF
Resolutions Committee*

PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU

Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united with the freedom to analyze their problems and formulate action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national and international in its scope and influence and is nonpartisan, nonsectarian and nonsecret in character.

FARM BUREAU BELIEFS

America's unparalleled progress is based on freedom and dignity of the individual, sustained by basic moral and religious concepts.

Economic progress, cultural advancement, ethical and religious principles flourish best where people are free, responsible individuals. Individual freedom and opportunity must not be sacrificed in a quest for guaranteed "security."

We believe in government by legislative and constitutional law, impartially administered, without special privilege.

We believe in the representative form of government – a republic – as provided in our Constitution, in limitations on government power, in maintenance of equal opportunity in the right of each individual to freedom of worship and in freedom of speech, press and peaceful assembly.

Individuals have a moral responsibility to help preserve freedom for future generations by participation in public affairs and by helping to elect candidates who share their fundamental beliefs and principles. People have the right and the responsibility to speak for themselves individually or through organizations of their choice without coercion or government intervention. Property rights are among the

human rights essential to the preservation of individual freedom.

We believe in the right of every person to choose an occupation; to be rewarded according to his/her contribution to society; to save, invest or spend; and to convey his/her property to heirs.

Each person has the responsibility to meet financial obligations incurred.

We believe that legislation and regulations favorable to all sectors of agriculture should be aggressively developed in cooperation with allied groups possessing common goals. We support the right of private organizations to require membership as a prerequisite for member services.

MISSION STATEMENT

**FARM BUREAU IS DEDICATED TO
HELPING FARM FAMILIES PROSPER
AND IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.**

The Opportunity Plan 2013-2015

The Iowa Farm Bureau will be successful when we:

Goal 1:

Ensure organizational relevance and excellence.

Goal 2:

Broaden the influence of Farm Bureau and its members.

Goal 3:

Improve opportunities for farm and rural prosperity.

STATUS OF RESOLUTIONS

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

New 2015 policy is highlighted in bold print throughout this book.

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

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

3 **Agricultural Protection**

4 We support strict criminal and civil penalties
5 for individuals and/or organizations that
6 engage in acts without the owner's consent
7 that cause damage or loss to a livestock or
8 crop operation. Criminal and civil penalties
9 should also apply to individuals who gain
10 access to operations under false pretenses
11 and engage in harmful acts. (2012)

12 **Animal Care**

13 Farmers should utilize industry's best animal
14 care practices. The state should not regulate
15 animal care standards. (2011)

16 **Farmers should continue to be allowed to**
17 **administer prescription drugs and**
18 **perform standard animal husbandry**
19 **practices on their own animals without a**
20 **veterinarian license. (2015)**

21 **Non-veterinarians should be allowed to**
22 **provide standard animal husbandry**
23 **practices including embryo transfer,**
24 **ultrasound or palpation services for a fee**
25 **without being supervised by a licensed**
26 **veterinarian. (2015)**

27 **Animal Disease**

28 We support increased funding for USDA
29 programs, which curtail, control or eradicate
30 livestock diseases. We must also maintain
31 surveillance of those diseases that are
32 controlled or eradicated. We urge continued
33 support for a pseudorabies control and
34 eradication program. (2012)

35 **Food Safety**

36 Only pasteurized milk and milk products should
37 be sold or distributed for human consumption.
38 (2013)

1 **On-Farm Slaughter for Sale**

2 The federal regulatory exemption that allows
3 people to slaughter 1,000 birds of their own
4 raising and sell to consumers should be
5 expanded to include other livestock. (2012)

6 An individual should be allowed to perform or
7 assist in the slaughter/processing of livestock
8 for home consumption, for pay or otherwise.
9 (2012)

10 The state of Iowa should participate in the
11 USDA cooperative inspection program that
12 allows for the interstate shipment of meat and
13 poultry products from eligible state inspected
14 facilities. (2012)

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

17 **Buffer Strips**

18 We support the voluntary use of buffer strips
19 and grass waterways to protect streams, rivers
20 and lakes. (2012)

21 **Cover Crops**

22 **All farmers should be eligible to receive**
23 **cover crop incentives. Priority should be**
24 **given to acres that provide the most**
25 **environmental benefit or first time**
26 **applicants. (2015)**

27 **Drainage Districts**

28 Drainage district project costs should be
29 assigned to landowners by share of benefit.
30 (2014)

31 We support reclassification of drainage
32 districts using updated technology to
33 determine the distribution of assessments to
34 bring them up to date with current land
35 drainage practices/management. (2014)

36 Drainage District Trustees or County
37 Supervisors acting in the capacity of Trustees

1 should notify landowners of a proposed
2 project and estimated costs by certified mail.
3 (2014)

4 **Dredging**

5 The spoils from the Corp's dredging of
6 endangered species mitigation projects
7 should be analyzed for their nutrient
8 contributions to surface waters. (2014)

9 **Flood Control**

10 The Army Corps of Engineers should have
11 the authority to make seasonal management
12 adjustments to the Missouri River Master
13 Manual or the Annual Operation Plan and the
14 Des Moines River Master Manual to minimize
15 flooding impacts to urban and rural areas.
16 These temporary management adjustments
17 should be balanced with long-term
18 agricultural, navigation, transportation and
19 power generation uses of the river. All habitat
20 restoration funds should be shifted to restore
21 levees and other infrastructure. All low water
22 habitat projects should be constructed so they
23 do not interfere with flood control. (2012)

24 Congress should review the Master Manual
25 and place primary emphasis on flood control
26 in the future for the Missouri, Mississippi,
27 Iowa and Des Moines Rivers. (2012)

28 Iowa should remove itself from Missouri River
29 Association of States and Tribes (MORAST)
30 membership. (2012)

31 The State of Iowa should retain the services
32 of a consulting hydrologist to represent
33 agricultural interests. (2012)

34 **Floodplains**

35 We do not support increasing the size of the
36 floodplain beyond the current 100 year
37 configuration, nor support any additional
38 restrictions on agricultural activities in the
39 floodplain beyond current law. (2011)

1 **Natural Resource Funding**

2 We support additional funding for soil
3 conservation and water quality. (2014)

4 **Nutrient Limits**

5 Farm Bureau supports a legally and
6 scientifically defensible state nutrient strategy
7 based on adequately-funded, incentive-
8 based, voluntary soil and water conservation
9 programs and best management practices.
10 The state and federal government should not
11 regulate farmers' use of fertilizer, tillage or
12 tilling practices to address nutrients in surface
13 water or to implement total maximum daily
14 loads. Farmers should work cooperatively
15 with agribusiness, university researchers, the
16 state department of agriculture and other
17 interested stakeholders to minimize nutrient
18 and sediment impacts. (2012)

19 Environmental and cost-share programs can
20 achieve the greatest benefit by targeting the
21 most vulnerable watersheds and farms by
22 implementing the best management
23 practices. (2012)

24 **Public Access**

25 Farm Bureau does not support creation of a
26 state program that pays landowners for public
27 hunting or recreational activity access.
28 However, if such a state program is created, it
29 should include giving landowners, operators
30 and tenants who allow public access protection
31 from lawsuits including ones purporting
32 personal injuries and personal property
33 damage. Landowners, operators and tenants
34 should be compensated for property damage
35 caused by persons who participate in public
36 access programs. (2011)

37 **Public Land Management**

38 The state of Iowa should concentrate more on
39 the management of currently owned state land
40 and reduce the effort to acquire more public
41 land. To justify future public land acquisitions or

1 purchases by federal, state or county agencies,
2 a site specific study should be completed on
3 each project to verify the benefits and needs.
4 (2011)

5 **Resource Enhancement And Protection** 6 **(REAP)**

7 County, state or federal employees who
8 administer REAP should be prohibited from
9 participating in the biennial REAP congress.
10 (2012)

11 REAP formula needs to be changed to allot
12 enough money to maintain and repair all state
13 parks. (2012)

14 More REAP funds should be spent on soil and
15 water conservation. (2012)

16 District soil and water conservation
17 commissions should be given more flexibility to
18 award REAP funds. (2012)

19 **Water Trails**

20 Water trail sponsors should be responsible for
21 injury and property damage claims, litter and
22 refuse clean up, trespassing prevention, and
23 communication with landowners. We do not
24 support additional water trail development
25 until personal property rights and liability
26 issues are resolved. (2014)

27 **Watershed Management Authorities**

28 Watershed Management Authorities should
29 be established with balanced urban and
30 agricultural representation from within that
31 watershed. (2014)

32 All participating local governments should be
33 required to approve the spending of any tax
34 dollars by the Watershed Management
35 Authority. (2014)

1 **Wildlife Management**

2 Permits for harvest of deer and wildlife on a
3 year round basis are important to protect
4 crops and rural property. Implementation of
5 the deer depredation program, including the
6 use of in-season depredation licenses, must
7 be improved to reduce the deer population.
8 (2013)

9 We believe that the individual landowner/tenant
10 is the best person to decide the size of a deer
11 herd to maintain on his land. (2013)

12 Iowans should be able to protect their families
13 and property from predators without the
14 permission of a conservation officer. (2013)

15 Iowa should not adopt wildlife management
16 polices or programs that increase populations of
17 new wildlife predators. (2013)

18 We do not favor the Iowa Department of Natural
19 Resources implementing a hunting season for
20 mountain lions in Iowa. (2011)

21 **CROP PRODUCTION AND**
22 **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

23 **Pesticides**

24 We strongly support the continued safe use of
25 agricultural crop protection compounds. Any
26 use restrictions on atrazine or any other
27 agricultural pesticides should be based only
28 on a transparent Federal Insecticide,
29 Fungicide and Rodenticide Act process that
30 relies on sound science. (2011)

31 **EDUCATION**

32 **Grade Sharing and Consolidation**

33 School districts should be able to continue
34 whole grade sharing. Financial incentives for
35 whole grade sharing should continue to be
36 available from the state. (2012)

1 We are opposed to mandatory efforts to
2 reorganize or consolidate school districts.
3 (2012)

4 Consolidation of school districts should be
5 decided locally. The state should offer school
6 districts incentives to consolidate if the
7 consolidation reduces the reliance on
8 property taxes and enhances educational
9 opportunities. (2011)

10 **Programs and Curriculum**

11 **The State of Iowa, rather than the federal**
12 **government, should set minimum**
13 **standards for all school districts. Local**
14 **school districts should determine the**
15 **curriculum to best meet these standards.**
16 **(2015)**

17 Local school districts should have flexibility to
18 determine programs offered based on the
19 needs of their students and the size of their
20 district. (2011)

21 Local school systems should integrate
22 agricultural information into their current
23 curriculum and the state should work toward
24 establishing curriculum to enhance agricultural
25 education for elementary and middle school
26 students. (2012)

27 **School Start Date**

28 To make school start dates more uniform, fall
29 classes shall begin the week prior to Labor
30 Day and no exemptions shall be allowed.
31 (2011)

32 **School Financing and Aid Formula**

33 We are adamant in our support for increased
34 state aid for schools in order to phase out the
35 reliance on property taxes. To achieve this
36 we support an additional state appropriation,
37 using a portion of the state sales tax, or
38 increasing the state sales tax to replace
39 school property taxes on a dollar-for-dollar
40 basis. An increase in the state sales tax

1 should be used to reduce the uniform school
2 tax levy and/or fund the budget guarantee.
3 (2013)

4 When a school bond referendum contains
5 both a total dollar ballot question and a
6 separate rate question in order to exceed a
7 \$2.70 per thousand levy, both questions must
8 meet the same waiting period for
9 resubmission to the voters. (2012)

10 School districts should not levy additional
11 property taxes to maintain their budgets
12 unless approved by the voters in the district.
13 (2012)

14 Changes in the school finance formula should
15 be designed to reduce the reliance on
16 property taxes. Reduced state appropriations
17 for schools should not result in additional
18 property taxes. (2012)

19 All programs should be financed within the
20 limited budget. Districts should be allowed to
21 exceed those budgets only when authorized
22 by a referendum. Talented and gifted, dropout
23 prevention and special education programs,
24 and additional allowable growth should be
25 funded through the school aid formula
26 (property tax and state aid) or a separate fund
27 using state dollars. (2012)

28 Financing Iowa's system of primary and
29 secondary education involves balancing
30 many interests. Providing high quality public
31 education is important to Iowans, however we
32 must continue to pursue alternatives for
33 adequate and equitable funding regardless of
34 the location of the school. (2011)

35 In developing a new school finance formula,
36 we believe that a greater effort should be
37 made to equalize the distribution of state aid
38 among all districts. Property valuations per
39 student should not be the primary factor in
40 calculating a district's state aid. A per pupil
41 income factor should also be included in
42 making this determination. Other factors to

1 consider include population density,
2 transportation, energy costs, and other
3 unique features within a school district. (2012)

4 A percentage of state appropriated school
5 funds should be allocated to the maintenance
6 of schools. (2012)

7 **State University Funding**

8 The three state universities should contain
9 costs in order to conserve public tax dollars
10 and should generate sources of university
11 revenues other than tuition. (2013)

12 **Teacher Pay and Evaluation**

13 We believe the state must make available
14 real, new and significant state resources to
15 recruit and retain licensed/certified teachers.
16 Reallocation of existing resources within the
17 education community would be insufficient
18 and detrimental to Iowa students. (2011)

19 We believe in retaining local control of
20 decision-making authority and teacher
21 evaluation for pre-K through 12 education.
22 Compensation through school-based awards
23 for meeting district goals should be related to
24 student achievement and decisions on how to
25 allocate any school based compensation
26 should be made locally. Educational
27 standards set at local school district should be
28 exempt from the collective bargaining
29 process. (2011)

30 **School Transportation**

31 School districts should not bus students more
32 than one hour to or from school. (2011)

33 We favor making changes in the formula to
34 factor transportation cost only if there was an
35 offsetting reduction in property taxes. (2011)

1

ENERGY

2 Electric Energy

3 Keeping costs of electrical energy as low as
4 possible is a priority. All sources of energy
5 should be developed to keep future costs
6 reasonable. The United States should continue
7 using coal as a significant energy source to
8 promote continued economic growth. Energy
9 demand can be met by: clean coal, the increase
10 of renewable and nuclear energy sources,
11 innovative new technology and conservation
12 efforts. Other efforts should include accelerated
13 energy exploration, extraction, refinement and
14 distribution for generation of electricity. (2011)

15 Programs that increase the use of renewable
16 sources of energy should be designed to keep
17 costs reasonable and affordable. Incentive
18 programs and initiatives such as feed-in tariffs
19 for distributed generation should be
20 developed to increase use of renewable
21 energy sources and facilitate local ownership
22 of electrical generation. All electrical utilities
23 should be encouraged to generate a
24 percentage of electricity from renewable
25 sources. This percentage should consider
26 consumer costs and the effect any new
27 biomass production will have on the local
28 economy. (2011)

29 Renewable Fuels & Energy

30 Incentives should be provided to promote the
31 production and use of renewable fuels. All
32 government departments and organizations
33 should be encouraged to use renewable fuels
34 in their vehicles when available and practical.
35 (2013)

36 Iowa must take a leadership role in
37 demonstrating to the nation that renewable
38 fuels are viable alternatives in moving
39 towards energy independence. State
40 government should enact policy that provides
41 the largest achievable increase of renewable
42 fuels use. (2011)

1 We support policy that includes: increasing
2 the use of renewable fuels, achieving the
3 highest renewable fuel standard possible,
4 and removing obstacles that prevent the
5 increased usage of higher renewable fuels
6 blends in the marketplace. We support policy
7 requiring all gasoline sold in Iowa to be
8 blended with ethanol at the maximum rate
9 allowed in the standard automotive fleet. We
10 believe the incentives for renewable fuels
11 should apply only to domestically produced
12 fuels. (2011)

13 We believe that any new bio-fuels or
14 renewable energy production facilities that
15 utilize public funding i.e.: Local, state, federal
16 tax deferments or grants etc. must offer a
17 percentage of investment opportunity to local
18 producers to keep gains realized in rural
19 Iowa. (2011)

20 We urge development of state and/or federal
21 incentive programs for ethanol infrastructure
22 needs, i.e. cost sharing of tank and pump
23 installation and rebates on FFV (flexible fuel
24 vehicle) purchases. (2011)

25 **We support incentives to promote the**
26 **production and use of ethanol, soy-diesel**
27 **and other renewable fuels. (2015)**

28 ENVIRONMENTAL & OTHER 29 REGULATIONS

30 **Agency Access to Private Property**

31 Governmental agency personnel should only
32 enter farms with the owner's written consent
33 or a search warrant. (2012)

34 **Air Quality**

35 Voluntary air emission reduction measures
36 should be encouraged through education and
37 outreach efforts in an effort to improve air
38 quality. (2012)

39 The state should not ban all open burning. At a
40 minimum, provisions should exist to allow for

1 burning household trash, yard waste, field and
2 vegetation management, building demolition,
3 disaster and weather debris, structural burn
4 training, farm operation waste and campfires.
5 (2013)

6 **Bottle Deposit Law**

7 We support the current and an expanded bottle
8 deposit law. (2014)

9 **Building Codes & Inspections**

10 State building codes should not apply to new
11 or existing agricultural residences, buildings
12 or structures. People who construct, remodel
13 or repair agricultural residences, buildings
14 and structures should not have to be licensed,
15 or have their work permitted or inspected.
16 (2011)

17 **State electrical inspections on farm**
18 **buildings and structures or licensed**
19 **electrical contractors should not be**
20 **required. (2015)**

21 **Climate Change**

22 Man's affect on climate change is uncertain,
23 and science does not give clear direction for any
24 federal or state policy option. We do not support
25 legislation that includes: mandatory cap and
26 trade provisions; carbon taxes; policies that
27 make America less competitive in the global
28 marketplace; unilateral US actions; or, any
29 regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. We
30 also oppose the EPA's position that CO2 is a
31 pollutant under the 1970 Clean Air Act when no
32 scientific evidence has been shown that it has a
33 direct effect on climate change. (2011)

34 **Confidentiality**

35 Public information about a permit, including the
36 location, a permit holder's contact information or
37 enforcement history should only be available for
38 inspection at an agency's physical office.
39 Government employee summaries of
40 conversations with businesses and

1 observations during inspections should not be
2 publicly available. Information that is made
3 available on the internet should have
4 traceability of inquiry. (2012)

5 FSA, NRCS, DNR, EPC and IDALS should not
6 be allowed to accept anonymous complaints.
7 (2012)

8 **Credible Data/Scientific Evidence**

9 Water quality standards, state water quality
10 reports, impaired waters lists and total
11 maximum daily loads (TMDLs) should be based
12 on credible data. Iowa crop and livestock
13 farmers should be treated equitably and not
14 placed at a competitive disadvantage. (2013)

15 State government should establish a
16 standard definition of acceptable scientific
17 proof before proposing or adopting more
18 restrictive regulations. Government should
19 be required to identify and prove the sources
20 of water quality impairments through
21 appropriate modeling and onsite monitoring
22 before developing a watershed improvement
23 plan. The government must prove a sizeable
24 negative impact on public health or the
25 environment before restricting or prohibiting
26 an activity. (2013)

27 **We oppose additional regulation of the**
28 **livestock industry unless it ensures sound,**
29 **reasonable growth of the livestock industry,**
30 **it does not endanger the viability of the**
31 **independent producer, and it is based on the**
32 **best scientific research available. (2015)**

33 **Health Care**

34 **We believe that mandating a basic package**
35 **of health care services will increase the cost**
36 **of health care. We do not support mandating**
37 **that certain services be included in all health**
38 **care plans, but consumers should have the**
39 **option of purchasing additional coverage.**
40 **(2015)**

1 **Lawmaking Authority and Responsibility**

2 The role of county governments should be
3 thoroughly defined and limited to specific
4 authorities granted by the state. (2013)

5 **The regulation of the livestock industry**
6 **should be uniform across the state so that**
7 **one producer is not at a competitive**
8 **disadvantage to another. The Department of**
9 **Natural Resources and the Environmental**
10 **Protection Commission should be**
11 **encouraged to seek advice and input from**
12 **producers on regulations affecting livestock**
13 **operations. Counties should not be allowed**
14 **to adopt local laws that regulate livestock**
15 **production. (2015)**

16 Regulation of environmental laws, shall be set
17 by state or federal government and not by local
18 governments. Regulations should apply to all
19 stakeholders in a watershed, such as farmers,
20 homeowners, industry, lawn care professionals,
21 golf courses and municipalities. (2013)

22 Iowans should not be assessed criminal or civil
23 penalties for an environmental violation that
24 results from inaccurate information received
25 from a state employee. However, persons with
26 violations should bring their business into
27 compliance with applicable environmental laws
28 when remedies are feasible. (2011)

29 The Legislature's role in providing oversight of
30 the rulemaking process should be expanded.
31 (2011)

32 There should be a two year moratorium on all
33 new state regulations. (2011)

34 The Environmental Protection Commission
35 should be eliminated. (2011)

36 A state agency or appointed commission
37 should not regulate without having specific
38 authority approved by the legislature. Rules
39 implementing specific legislation should be
40 applied equally to similar operations. (2012)

1 Economic impact, compliance costs and
2 alternative approaches must be analyzed and
3 compared when an agency is proposing new
4 rules. (2014)

5 When requirements for voluntary federal
6 programs are more stringent than state law and
7 the resulting difference between the two can be
8 accommodated by farmers, we do not support
9 changing state law to adopt the federal
10 requirements. (2012)

11 The legislative process is the best approach
12 to limit government's authority to regulate
13 agriculture. Amending the constitution may
14 not guarantee agricultural protection. (2014)

15 **Livestock & Commodity Theft**

16 **Mandatory minimum sentences should be**
17 **imposed for felony livestock or**
18 **commodity theft. (2015)**

19 **Livestock Building Site Location**

20 **Location of livestock facilities should be**
21 **subject to a minimum separation distance**
22 **and/or prevailing wind direction from**
23 **neighboring residences and certain public**
24 **use areas. The distance requirement should**
25 **apply to operations with a specific number**
26 **of animal units and allow for a waiver of the**
27 **distance requirement among consenting**
28 **residence owners. A grandfather clause**
29 **should protect existing operations and**
30 **modifications to existing facilities. (2015)**

31 **Manure and Nutrient Management**

32 All stakeholders in watersheds should take
33 responsible and proactive approaches to
34 optimize nutrient and chemical applications and
35 use generally accepted best management
36 practices. (2013)

37 State NRCS policy decisions about nutrient
38 management which have state regulatory
39 impacts should be approved by the NRCS state
40 technical committee. (2012)

1 Farmers should not be required to implement
2 new commercial fertilizer management plans or
3 implement whole farm management plans to
4 address all natural resource concerns on their
5 farms. (2011)

6 Crop nutrient application rates, timing and
7 practices are best managed by farmers and if
8 regulated should be done based on sound
9 science. (2012)

10 State manure management plans and federal
11 nutrient management plans should have
12 coinciding submission deadline of not less than
13 every four (4) years. The updated plans should
14 be made available for periodic DNR review.
15 (2011)

16 Manure management plans should
17 accommodate the nutrient availability in the
18 manure when calculating fertilization rates.
19 Additional research should be conducted to
20 improve the accuracy of the calculation for
21 available nutrients in livestock manure.
22 (2012)

23 All livestock producers should be encouraged
24 to adopt nutrient management plans to
25 ensure utilization of manure as a resource.
26 Achieving this objective will produce fewer
27 odors, less concentration of production, fewer
28 water quality concerns and higher profits for
29 producers. Nutrient management plans
30 should be based on the best scientific
31 information available and should include
32 generally accepted best management
33 practices. (2012)

34 **Oil Spill Prevention**

35 Farms should be exempt from the Oil Spill
36 Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure
37 (SPCC) Program and secondary containment
38 requirements. (2012)

1 **Tile Drainage**

2 Subsurface drainage is a conservation practice
3 that improves crop production, decreases
4 surface water runoff and decreases peak
5 surface runoff rates. Basin-wide floods are
6 largely attributable to extreme precipitation, not
7 subsurface drainage. (2011)

8 Farm Bureau supports voluntary drainage
9 redesigns and installation. Farm Bureau
10 supports continued land grant university
11 drainage research to minimize subsurface
12 nutrient loss and surface soil loss while
13 continuing to improve crop production,
14 demonstration of their effectiveness, and USDA
15 program implementation of optimized drainage
16 systems. (2011)

17 As these tile drainage systems are updated,
18 state and federal regulatory agencies need to
19 balance wetland mitigation requirements with
20 the need for optimized tile drainage for food,
21 fiber and fuel production. Farm Bureau sees no
22 significant justification for additional state or
23 federal regulations associated with tile drainage
24 and, therefore, opposes them. (2011)

25 **Trespass/Hunting Permission**

26 **Trespassing onto private property**
27 **continues to be a problem. Current**
28 **trespassing laws should be more strictly**
29 **enforced. (2015)**

30 **Waters of the State Definition**

31 State government's regulatory jurisdiction
32 should be limited to public lakes, rivers, and
33 aquifers. (2012)

34 **Water Quality**

35 **Information should be collected to**
36 **demonstrate the increased adoption of**
37 **conservation practices to support the**
38 **implementation of the Iowa Nutrient**
39 **Reduction Strategy. The data should be**

1 **supplied voluntarily and protect**
2 **individually identifying information. (2015)**

3 All farmers who invest in water quality
4 protection with new technology, equipment and
5 containment structures should be eligible to
6 receive capped tax incentives. (2013)

7 We support a voluntary, incentive-based state
8 water protection plan that includes these
9 principles: (1) is based on agronomic factors;
10 (2) coordinates state, federal and private
11 resources and chemical review activities; (3)
12 identifies and promotes locally appropriate best
13 management practices (BMPs); (4) provides
14 financial incentives for BMP adoption, such as
15 a tax credit; (5) includes a nutrient (manure)
16 management and sediment delivery reduction
17 educational component; (6) compliments
18 groundwater protection efforts; (7) includes
19 opportunities for coordination with water utilities
20 with interest in source water protection
21 programs; (8) that satisfies all state and federal
22 groundwater and surface water planning
23 requirements; and, (9) provides a "safe harbor"
24 from state and federal environmental
25 enforcement actions. (2014)

26 **We support voluntary approaches to water**
27 **quality protection and improvement. We**
28 **support development of watershed plans**
29 **that encourage education and**
30 **demonstration of proven, voluntary**
31 **agricultural practices that protect water**
32 **quality. (2015)**

33 **We oppose plans that force costly state or**
34 **local regulations on private property owners,**
35 **or that infringe upon property rights. We**
36 **support a coalition of agricultural,**
37 **conservation and public interests in**
38 **developing all local watershed plans. (2015)**

39 The Iowa DNR should not adopt more stringent
40 National Pollution Discharge Elimination
41 System (NPDES) permit requirements than
42 what is required by the federal Clean Water Act.
43 Farmers should not be required to get a NPDES

1 general or individual permit for pesticide
2 applications; these registration issues are
3 covered by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide
4 and Rodenticide Act. (2011)

5 **RISK MANAGEMENT & FARM PROGRAMS**

6 **Agricultural Transaction and Contract** 7 **Sales Risks**

8 **Managing business risks associated with**
9 **making contract sales, priced later sales**
10 **or prepayments for supplies is the**
11 **responsibility of the individuals**
12 **participating in these transactions. No**
13 **new government actions are needed to**
14 **guard against such risks. (2015)**

15 **Beginning Farmers**

16 We support lending programs for beginning
17 farmers that offer lower interest rates and
18 increase capital purchasing ability. (2012)

19 Farm Service Agency beginning farmer loans
20 should not require 3 years of farming
21 participation. (2012)

22 The cap on the total amount available to lend to
23 individuals should be increased. (2012)

24 Additional incentives should be available for
25 current and retired landowners and livestock
26 farmers to offer cropland, machinery, livestock,
27 facilities and other assets at lower rents, leases
28 or partnerships to transfer assets to beginning
29 farmers. (2012)

30 **RURAL VITALITY & DEVELOPMENT**

31 **Agricultural Vitality**

32 Long-term commitment to agricultural
33 research must continue in order to keep Iowa
34 agriculture competitive.

35 Agricultural research efforts in Iowa should
36 emphasize:

- 1) Market development, including value-added and alternative uses of agricultural products.
- 2) Agricultural practices that will be beneficial to the environment.
- 3) Farming practices that will increase agricultural efficiency.
- 4) Agricultural health and safety issues.
- 5) Organic nutrient management and odor control.

An advisory or coordinating council involving producers should have input on the direction and scope of research efforts. (2014)

Annexation

A city should not be able to annex farmland designated as an ag area unless the owner(s) consents. (2012)

A sanitary district should not be able to annex ag land without the landowners' consent. (2012)

Community Planning/Smart Plans

When a community planning committee is formed, it shall include local landowners, agricultural and community leaders, township trustees and local government officials before drafting or adopting community-wide strategic plans. (2015)

Condemnation

The use of eminent domain power for lake development should ensure that only the land necessary for providing a drinking water supply is condemned. (2012)

Cities should not have the power to condemn agricultural land outside of their city limits. (2014)

If cities retain condemnation authority over land located outside their city limits, they should be

1 required to receive approval from the county
2 zoning board and the county board of
3 supervisors before taking private property.
4 (2014)

5 **Fence Law**

6 We support the current Iowa fence law. (2013)

7 Owners at the time of sale or transfer of land,
8 should be encouraged to reach a written
9 agreement regarding their border fences and
10 file them with the county recorder. (2012)

11 **Internet and Access to Technology**

12 A combination of tax incentives, grants, and/or
13 regulations should be used to increase access
14 to high-speed Internet connections for rural
15 America. (2011)

16 **Land Access**

17 Property owners should not be permitted to sell
18 land without having an established access route
19 to a public road. Property owners who may be
20 subject to condemnation to provide access to a
21 landlocked property should be given preference
22 when determining the access route. (2013)

23 **Land Use Planning & Zoning**

24 Farm dwellings should continue to be exempt
25 from county zoning. (2014)

26 Counties should have the option of determining
27 whether county zoning should be adopted. If
28 zoning is enacted, the county should control the
29 location of residential dwellings near agricultural
30 districts as a way to reduce nuisance suits. We
31 oppose any attempt by counties to regulate the
32 use and construction of agricultural buildings,
33 structures or land when used for agricultural
34 purposes. (2011)

35 **Property Rights**

36 Any action by government that significantly
37 diminishes an owner's right to use his property

1 constitutes a taking of that owner's property.
2 The government should provide due process
3 and reasonable compensation for the amount
4 the owner's right has been diminished. We
5 oppose agency regulations which unreasonably
6 encroach on the rights of property owners.
7 (2014)

8 **TAXATION, FINANCING, GOVERNMENT,** 9 **AND ELECTIONS**

10 **County Budgets**

11 County supervisors should set the salaries of
12 county officers. (2014)

13 The budgets of county conservation boards
14 and assessors should be part of the regular
15 county budget under the specific authority of
16 the board of supervisors. (2011)

17 Counties should be allowed to charge cell
18 phone lines at the same rate as land lines for
19 E911 funding. (2011)

20 **Elections**

21 We support more stringent residency
22 requirements for voter registration. An
23 individual should be required to live in a voting
24 precinct for a specified period of time before
25 they are allowed to vote. Voters should prove
26 residency by showing valid photo
27 identification. (2014)

28 Same-day voter registration process should
29 be eliminated to ensure the integrity of
30 elections. (2014)

31 Iowa should not continue to allow straight-
32 ticket voting. (2014)

33 A vacancy in the office of United States
34 Senator should be filled by special election
35 rather than by governor appointment. (2011)

36 We support term limits for all elected public
37 officials at local, state and federal levels; with
38 a limit of 12 consecutive years served. (2011)

1 **Exempt Property**

2 DNR must pay full property and drainage
3 taxes on all DNR land. Penalties for non-
4 payment of property and drainage taxes must
5 be identical to penalties imposed on private
6 citizens and corporations and that they allow
7 drainage tile through their properties. (2011)

8 Farm Bureau supports all ground enrolled in
9 the state forest reserve program be open to
10 public hunting and recreational activities or
11 pay the assessed property taxes. (2011)

12 We strongly feel the need to eliminate the
13 forest reserve exemption in the property tax
14 code. (2013)

15 **Government Advocacy**

16 We recognize the need for government
17 entities to provide information during the
18 legislative process. However, tax dollars
19 should not pay for government lobbyists to
20 advocate changes in the law. Similarly,
21 government officials should not use
22 government work facilities or salaried work-
23 time to influence the outcome of legislation.
24 (2012)

25 **Government Consolidation**

26 Any consolidation of county, state or political
27 subdivision functions, or transfers of
28 responsibility between levels of government
29 should result in greater total savings than
30 costs incurred by the citizens. Rural citizens
31 must be adequately represented in all
32 consolidation discussions and agreements.
33 Major consolidations of county, state or
34 political subdivisions should be determined by
35 dual referendum. (2012)

36 **Legal System**

37 Tort reform should include limits on non-
38 economic damage awards, limits on
39 attorneys' contingency fees and encourage
40 alternatives to litigation. (2014)

1 Nuisance lawsuit damages should be limited. A
2 statute of limitations should be established for
3 the filing of nuisance lawsuits. Attorney's fees,
4 court costs and expenses should be
5 reimbursed to a prevailing defendant in a
6 nuisance lawsuit. (2012)

7 **Mechanics Lien**

8 The central filing system for mechanics liens
9 should be implemented in a manner that
10 minimizes fraud and abuse of the system.
11 (2014)

12 **Property Tax Assessments**

13 We support assessment of agricultural land
14 and buildings on a productivity basis. (2014)

15 The agricultural land assessment process for
16 cropped and non-cropped land should be
17 uniform across the state. (2013)

18 Agricultural land and buildings used in
19 production agriculture should be assessed as
20 agricultural. (2012)

21 **Property Tax Limitation**

22 We urge the legislature to strictly limit annual
23 property tax increases. Counties must hold a
24 local referendum before increasing property
25 taxes above the general basic or rural basic
26 rate limits. (2013)

27 Government provides many services directly
28 related to people or population yet most local
29 governments continue to rely on property
30 taxes to fund programs and services.
31 Government functions should rely on broader
32 tax bases such as sales and income to
33 eliminate the reliance on property taxes for
34 people services. (2012)

35 Emergency fire and medical services should
36 be funded within the current property tax levy
37 limits. Fees for services should only be
38 allowed when property taxes are not
39 sufficient. (2014)

1 **Roadway Projects**

2 Funding for roadway projects should be
3 secured prior to condemnation. (2012)

4 Limiting farmland conversion should be
5 prioritized in new roadway construction. (2012)

6 **State Budget**

7 Establishing long-term debt at the state level
8 is no substitute for sound fiscal responsibility.
9 Long-term debt should not be used to fund
10 current expenditures. (2013)

11 One-time money should not be used for on-
12 going expenses, but instead should be used
13 for one-time expenditures such as
14 infrastructure, property tax relief, emergency
15 programs, or rainy day funds. (2012)

16 **When establishing a budget for state**
17 **spending for agencies and programs, we**
18 **feel that it is important that agriculture,**
19 **conservation, property tax credits, K-12**
20 **and higher education, and public safety**
21 **should be funding priorities. (2015)**

22 **Tax Reform**

23 We support reform of the tax system that
24 reduces the reliance on property taxes for
25 non-property related services. Goals of the
26 reform should also include simplification,
27 reducing administrative costs, and
28 establishing limits for state and local spending
29 authority. School, county and state
30 government must continue to find ways to
31 control spending. (2012)

32 The primary objective of property tax reform
33 should be to reduce property taxes. This can
34 be accomplished by shifting to other funding
35 sources, limiting future growth and limiting the
36 services for which property taxes pay. (2011)

1 **Tax Exemptions, Credits & Incentives**

2 **Federal deductibility should not be**
3 **eliminated. (2015)**

4 We will closely examine any proposals that
5 change the property tax credits and
6 exemptions. Full funding should be provided
7 for ag land and family farm tax credits.
8 Incentives (with a \$200,000 cap) should be
9 given for family farm owned livestock facilities
10 to help revitalize the livestock industry. Tax
11 policy should be changed to encourage
12 investment in ag buildings, grain storage and
13 grain handling facilities. Funding for these
14 incentives should not come at the expense of
15 ag land or family farm tax credit recipients.
16 (2012)

17 All farm equipment used for crop and
18 livestock production should be sales tax
19 exempt, including ATVs. (2012)

20 **State tax policy should be coupled with**
21 **federal tax law changes that provide**
22 **economic benefits for farmers. (2015)**

23 **Tax Increment Financing**

24 TIF revenue as a percent of revenue from the
25 city and county tax levies can not exceed 40%
26 of revenue generated or 35% of total land
27 valuation. (2011)

28 We support a non-renewable sunset of all
29 existing and future TIF districts and projects.
30 (2011)

31 **TRANSPORTATION & RURAL**
32 **INFRASTRUCTURE**

33 **Electric Transmission Lines**

34 Future high voltage electric transmission lines
35 must be set back from all existing buildings and
36 structures. The setback distance should
37 correspond to the size of the high voltage
38 transmission line. (2013)

1 **Energy Facilities (Pipelines, Transmission**
2 **Lines, Etc.)**

3 A project to transport energy (crude oil,
4 electricity, ethanol, natural gas, etc.) is in the
5 public's best interest when it benefits Iowa
6 energy consumers or producers, or improves
7 national energy security. (2014)

8 **Pipeline construction and maintenance**
9 **should minimize damage to agricultural**
10 **land productivity by repairing or replacing**
11 **tile drainage and conservation practices,**
12 **and complying with all environmental and**
13 **conservation regulations. (2015)**

14 **Infrastructure Improvement and**
15 **Maintenance**

16 We support the maintenance and improvement
17 of our transportation infrastructure, including:
18 highways, secondary roads, the lock and dam
19 system, ports and waterways, railroad systems
20 and pipelines. (2014)

21 Secondary roads and bridges should be
22 maintained by counties year-round to support
23 all agricultural traffic. (2014)

24 **Interstate Designation**

25 A divided highway should not be designated as
26 an interstate without a safe and viable
27 alternative route being available for farm
28 equipment, or an allowance for limited travel on
29 an interstate with a restricted permit. (2014)

30 **Reciprocity Agreements**

31 Iowa and its neighbor states should recognize
32 one another's transportation permits, rules
33 and regulations as being legal within an
34 agreed distance between the states' borders.
35 (2011)

1 **Recreational Trails**

2 **We oppose the use of eminent domain to**
3 **acquire property for recreational trails.**
4 **(2015)**

5 **Roadway and Right of Way Management**

6 **The IDOT should not destroy an established**
7 **roadside and place it into a wildflower**
8 **program. (2015)**

9 Landowners should not be prohibited or
10 restricted from mowing road right-of-ways.
11 (2011)

12 **Stray Voltage**

13 An independent advisory program should be
14 formed to assist electric utility service providers
15 and rural electrical users to develop a
16 collaborative effort for identifying stray voltage
17 problems and solutions. (2013)

18 A rural electrical user negatively impacted by
19 stray voltage from the electric distribution and
20 transmission system should be allowed to
21 recover reasonable damages. (2013)

22 **Traffic Safety**

23 We believe the laws of Iowa that encourage
24 school bus safety on public roads are
25 outdated and ineffective. (2012)

26 We strongly support efforts to increase school
27 bus traffic safety by increasing violation fines,
28 license suspension, putting traffic monitoring
29 cameras in/on buses, and reevaluating fines
30 for school zone traffic violations. (2012)

31 **Transfer of Road Jurisdiction**

32 If the legislature passes legislation to allow the
33 Department of Transportation to transfer
34 jurisdiction of roads to cities and counties, the
35 city and county should continue to have final
36 approval on the transfer of the roads. (2014)

1 **Transportation Infrastructure Funding**

2 Additional revenue for Iowa's road infrastructure
3 needs should be generated from an increase in
4 the state fuel tax. (2013)

5 State bonding, increasing property taxes,
6 licensing and registering implements of
7 husbandry, and taxing off-road diesel, ag
8 commodities or farm equipment should not be
9 sources of additional revenue for Iowa's road
10 needs. (2013)

11 The current Road Use Tax Fund distribution
12 formula should be maintained. State allocated
13 Road Use Tax Fund dollars should not be
14 shifted from rural areas of Iowa to population
15 centers. (2013)

16 Registered hybrid and electrical vehicles should
17 contribute to the repair and replacement of Iowa
18 roads. (2013)

19 **Truck License**

20 We support increasing the special farm
21 license ceiling from 32 to 40 tons. (2013)

22 **U.S. DOT Numbers**

23 Farmers who are private, intrastate carriers
24 should not be required to obtain or display U.S.
25 DOT numbers. (2011)

26 **Utilities**

27 An owner of a communication or utility tower
28 should be responsible for the removal and
29 disposal of the tower once its use is
30 discontinued. (2014)

1

MISCELLANEOUS

2

State Commodity Checkoffs

3

We support producer funded commodity
4 checkoff programs to conduct product
5 promotion, research and education activities.
6 (2014)

7

The State checkoff rate caps should be
8 raised. (2014)

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