



2018

**Kentucky
Farm Bureau
Policies**

As adopted by voting delegates of
member county Farm Bureaus at the
98th annual meeting of the
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation

Louisville, Kentucky
December, 2017

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How These Priority Issues Were Decided

Farm Bureau priority issues are the end result of a policy development process that begins at the community and county level and climaxes at the state and national level.

Once the delegates, representing all 120 Kentucky counties, adopt new policy ideas representing 478,541 Farm Bureau member families, the Farm Bureau Board of Directors, elected by the members of Farm Bureau, adopt priority issues for the upcoming year at a meeting of the board upon completion of our annual meeting.

The board of directors examines the policies adopted by the delegates each year and selects those issues that have the likelihood of being pertinent for the next year. While we strive to implement all of our policy, priority issues are ideas that are timely and could have the most impact on the lives of rural Kentuckians.

2018 STATE PRIORITY ISSUES

AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Maintain allocating 50% of the Master Settlement Agreement funds to the Agricultural Development Board, and funds be spent for the purpose of improving the net farm income of individual farmers in production agriculture.
- Support continued funding of the Soil Erosion & Water Quality Cost-Share Program.
- Support an efficient, well-administered and adequately financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture.
- Recommend sufficient funding be made available to maintain a strong grain elevator inspection program for the protection of farmers, and protect the farmer-financed Grain Insurance Program.

TAXATION

- Kentucky's tax code should be reformed based on sound economic principles to create a more competitive business climate.
- Strongly oppose freezing the state real property tax rate.
- Support the provisions of House Bill 44 (KRS 132.010). Revenue from property taxes should continue to be limited to 4% plus new growth. Proposals to exceed 4% should automatically go to the voters.
- Maintain Kentucky's sales tax exemptions for production agriculture.

HIGHWAYS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES

- Support the rural secondary and county road aid programs and continuation of the 22.2% allocation of the state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads.

RURAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Support broadband and high speed internet service being available for the benefit of all Kentuckians.
- Support efforts and incentives to improve all telecommunications in rural Kentucky.

WATER RESOURCES

- Support the Kentucky Water Resources Board and advocate a coordinated effort to manage water resource projects across the Commonwealth.
- State water resource policy and regulations should be based on adequate scientific research data.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- Seek effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop and livestock losses, automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- Oppose any agency exceeding legislative intent in the implementation of regulations.
- Oppose the power of eminent domain being used to take private property for private use.

FORESTRY

- Support forestry initiatives that enhance the economy and create opportunities for woodland owners.

2018 NATIONAL PRIORITY ISSUES

NATIONAL FARM POLICY

- Federal crop insurance programs should be maintained at current levels to provide an effective safety net for agriculture.
- Support crop insurance initiatives to maintain the integrity of crop insurance.
- Support NRCS assistance for the development of additional water resources for irrigation and livestock use.
- Support modifying USDA Rural Development broadband service that meets or exceeds FCC standards.

IMMIGRATION & FARM LABOR REFORM

- Support immigration reform that includes restructuring the H-2A program to streamline the process making it more reliable, economical and simple for farmers to participate.
- Support development of an effective migrant worker program to address labor needs within the livestock industry.

TRADE

- Support fair and open multilateral trade agreements that will open new markets and expand existing markets and expand existing markets for U.S. agricultural products.

REGULATORY REFORM

- Support a thorough regulatory review to ensure regulations do not impose an undue economic burden on any segment of society and the regulatory process is transparent and results achievable.
- All regulations should be based on sound, peer-reviewed scientific data that can be replicated.
- Support congressional oversight of federal agency regulatory actions to ensure rules and regulations do not exceed the intent and authority of federal law.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

- Support changes to current health care law that will stabilize the market, encourage competition that will reduce health care costs and increase consumer choice.
- Support increased access to Association Health Plans.

FISCAL POLICY

- In order to protect the future integrity of our nation's economy it is in our best interest to address budget deficits, which erode our ability to remain fiscally stable with the goal of reaching a balanced budget.
- Federal tax code should be reformed based on sound economic principles to create a more competitive business climate.

WILDLIFE ISSUES

- Support a producer's right to protect livestock and property against nuisance wildlife predation.
- Support a nationwide depredation order, or safe harbor provision, to take black vultures.

How These Policies Were Decided

Farm Bureau policies are the end result of a continuous process of policy development which begins at the community and county level and is climaxed at the state and national level.

The statements of policy presented in this book represent the thinking of 478,541 Farm Bureau member families in 120 counties, who were represented at the annual meeting December 2, 2017.

They are the official policies on state issues of all 120 county Farm Bureaus in Kentucky for 2018.

Kentucky Farm Bureau recommendations on national issues were forwarded to the Resolutions Committee of the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at the American Farm Bureau annual meeting. The official policies of Farm Bureau on national matters are printed in the American Farm Bureau policy booklet.

INDEX

State Priority Issues	5
National Priority Issues	6
Mission Statement	11
Preamble	11

PART I - POLICY STATEMENT

Agriculture's Place in the Economy and Society	12
Agricultural Research	12
Citizenship	14
County Farm Bureaus	14
Economy in Government	13
Education	12
Farmer Legislation	13
Farmer Cooperatives	12
Governmental Farm Programs	13
Health and Safety	13
Nonpartisan Organization	14
Our Democratic System	13
Soil and Water	13

PART II - STATE RESOLUTIONS

Agri-Terrorism	91
Agricultural Inputs	49
Agricultural Experiment Station and Research	15
Agriculture Disaster	91
Alternative Farming Methods	43
Animal Care	27
Annexation	60
Aquaculture	29
Biotechnology	36
Bonded Indebtedness	72
Commodity Promotion	34
Community and Economic Development	59
Conservation Program	41
Constitutional Amendment	95
Courts and Law Enforcement	92
Crime Prevention	94
Dairy	17
Dams and Locks	38
Dog Law	80
Drug Control	94
Education	62
Elections	62
Eminent Domain	60
Energy	80
Environmental Issues	47
Equine	28
Extension Service	16
Farm and Family Credit	89
Farm Labor	78
Farm Service Agency	90
Farm Vehicle License	74
Food Quality and Safety	35

Forage Crops	31
Foreign Investment	59
Forestry	19
Government Officials	61
Grain	21
Health	84
Health Insurance	85
Highways, Roads, and Bridges	72
Home Rule	62
Horticulture Crops	30
Income Taxes	71
Inheritance Taxes	71
Insurance	77
Kentucky Department of Agriculture	87
Kentucky Fairs	87
Labor-Management Relations	79
Land Assessment	69
Land Use Planning	57
Legislative Affairs	61
Liability Issues	75
Line Fences	95
Littering	51
Livestock	23
Livestock and Poultry Disease	24
Marketing and Contracting	36
Mechanics Lien Law	95
Mining	46
Miscellaneous	96
Patriotism	92
Pest and Weed Control	51
Planning and Zoning	58
Pollinator Protection and Apiculture	29
Poultry	28
Private Property Rights	55
Property Taxes	69
Public Relations	91
Radio and Television	92
Railroads	75
Regulatory Agencies and Commissions	95
Regulatory Services	51
Revenue Sharing	72
Right to Farm	57
Rural Communications	83
Rural Electrification	82
Safety	76
Sales and Use Taxes	70
Soybeans	22
Special Taxing Districts	70
Status of Previous Resolutions	96
Stream Restoration	44
Taxation	68
Tobacco	31
Tobacco Settlement Funds	34
Transportation	74
Trespass, Game Laws and Regulations	54
Union Organization of Farmers	80
Unionization of Public Employees	80

Utility Easements	44
Utility Lines and Pipelines	45
Utility Rates and Regulations	83
Waste Management	49
Water Districts/Associations	39
Water Research	38
Water Resource Management	40
Welfare	80
Wetlands	43
Wildlife Management	52

MISSION STATEMENT

- 1.
- 2.
3. Farm Bureau is a voluntary organization of farm families and
4. their allies dedicated to serving as the voice of agriculture by
5. identifying problems, developing solutions and taking actions
6. which will improve net farm income, achieve better economic
7. opportunities and enhance the quality of life for all.
- 8.
- 9.

PREAMBLE

- 10.
- 11.
12. We, the members of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, are
13. proud of our organization and the contribution it has made to our
14. national economy and to our social well-being. Abundant
15. production on our farms is a national asset and we will continue to
16. strive for the attainment of our goal of a well-fed and peaceful world.
17. Strides have been made in increasing our total agricultural
18. output, but volume of production cannot be relied upon as the only
19. means of attaining a high income. A sound national program will
20. provide an income to agriculture which corresponds with the
21. contribution that agriculture makes to the nation. Any federal or
22. state program calling for adjustment in agricultural production
23. must guard against declining incomes that may result from such
24. adjustment.
25. We recognize that efficiency in farming, as in any other
26. productive enterprise, has much bearing on the level of net income
27. and well-being of individual farmers. Progress calls for the adoption
28. of more and better machinery, new and improved varieties of field
29. crops, better bred and fed livestock, better farm management
30. practices and cooperative associations as a means of reducing
31. marketing costs and purchasing of farm supplies. We contend that
32. the conservation of our soil and water resources is essential to the
33. public welfare of all segments of our society, and is, therefore, an
34. obligation of the general public.
35. We wish to reaffirm our belief in the American way of life, with
36. equal opportunity for all and a government of the people, by the
37. people, and for the people.
- 38.
- 39.

PART I POLICY STATEMENT

- 40.
- 41.
42. The laudable objectives of the Kentucky Farm Bureau
43. Federation need to be kept in mind by all Farm Bureau members.
44. Its objectives are: to organize effectively; to promote and protect
45. the interest of Kentucky farmers; to enlarge and ennoble their field
46. of endeavor; to win for them that recognition of their usefulness and
47. respect to which they are justly entitled; to raise standards of
48. farming and rural homemaking throughout our beloved
49. Commonwealth; to establish a high code of ethics among the
50. members of our vocation; to represent farmers in any legitimate
51. manner which may promote their best interest - economically,
52. educationally, socially; to increase the effectiveness of county Farm
53. Bureaus by strengthening their educational and service programs;
54. to strengthen the whole Kentucky Farm Bureau program by
55. unifying the county programs while preserving local initiative; to
56. cooperate with all such agencies - University of Kentucky College
57. of Agriculture, Food and Environment, the U. S. Department of

1. Agriculture, the Extension Service, Career and Technical
 2. Education, the state Department of Agriculture, the Natural
 3. Resources Conservation Service agencies and the Farm Service
 4. Agency, thus advancing the best interests of all people in Kentucky.
 5. In order to better accomplish these purposes, we are guided by the
 6. following principles:

7. 1. Agriculture's Place in the Economy and Society: To promote
 8. the best interest of Kentucky's agriculture and by so doing to serve
 9. the best interest of all of the people, it must be recognized that
 10. agricultural prosperity and rural well-being cannot be gained or
 11. maintained at the detriment of others. On the other hand,
 12. prosperity and well-being of others must not be maintained at the
 13. detriment of agriculture. We will take positive action to keep the
 14. public informed of the rightful place of agriculture in the economy
 15. and society of the country and will cooperate with other organized
 16. groups for the good of all.

17. 2. Farmer Cooperatives: We stand on the proposition that
 18. the development of farmer cooperatives is a democratic process
 19. which may contribute to placing the business of farming on an
 20. economically sound and efficient basis. Farmers in building for
 21. themselves a sound agriculture have the responsibility of getting
 22. their products to the consumer in the most efficient and economical
 23. manner. Efficiency in marketing farm commodities and efficiency in
 24. purchasing farm supplies and providing services, means the
 25. elimination of economic waste, and insofar as cooperatives
 26. contribute to this end they serve the farmer directly and indirectly by
 27. contributing to the general welfare of the consumers. We will help
 28. educate farmers in the development and use of sound
 29. cooperatives.

30. We believe that farmers must take an active role of leadership in
 31. formulating the policies and programs of their cooperatives.

32. We hold that farmers have the inalienable right to enter into
 33. business on a cooperative basis whenever it is wise to do so and
 34. we oppose any legislation that will tend to hamper the development
 35. of sound farmer cooperatives. We particularly object to attempts to
 36. weaken cooperatives through the use of unjust taxes. We will fight
 37. these attempts to weaken cooperatives with all the legitimate
 38. means at our disposal.

39. 3. Education: We maintain that Kentucky can and must have
 40. an adequate system of public education for all the people in the
 41. state. It is our obligation to support legislation to secure sufficient
 42. funds to properly support our public elementary schools, vocational
 43. schools, high schools, colleges and universities. We maintain that
 44. each person has the right to education that is best for them.

45. We maintain that sound educational programs specifically
 46. designed for the training of farmers, farm homemakers and farm
 47. leaders are vital to a sound and progressive agriculture. We,
 48. therefore, staunchly support the programs of the Colleges of
 49. Agriculture, Extension Service, Vocational Agriculture and
 50. Agricultural Education and Career and Technical Education to the
 51. end that these services may be most helpful to farm people
 52. in Kentucky.

53. 4. Agricultural Research: We hold that an adequate program of
 54. agricultural research is fundamental to agricultural progress. Since
 55. the responsibility of conducting and interpreting this work is placed
 56. on the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, it must have
 57. adequate facilities and finances to carry on a progressive program

1. of work. We believe that funds for agricultural research should be
 2. centered at the Experiment Station and oppose other state
 3. agencies being authorized to do duplicating agricultural research.

4. 5. Farm Legislation: It is our responsibility to initiate and/or
 5. actively support proposed legislation designed to promote the best
 6. interests of agriculture and the general public, and to aggressively
 7. oppose the passage of legislation detrimental to agriculture and the
 8. general public.

9. 6. Governmental Farm Programs: We maintain that farmers
 10. must have the opportunity and should actively participate in and be
 11. properly represented in the formulation of any and all governmental
 12. programs to assist farmers which vitally affect the farm economy
 13. and rural society. We further maintain that all such programs must
 14. be efficiently and economically operated, and the farmers must
 15. have a voice in the administration and conduct of these programs.

16. We recommend that a standardized definition of agriculture be
 17. developed and incorporated into statute wherever agriculture is
 18. defined.

19. 7. Health and Safety: We maintain that health and safety of
 20. farm people are vital to the welfare of agriculture and the nation. It
 21. is our obligation to work for sound programs and facilities that would
 22. enable all farm people to have proper sanitation and other
 23. conditions favorable to healthful surroundings such as safe water
 24. supply, adequate diet, and to have access to adequate medical,
 25. dental care, and hospital facilities at a reasonable cost.

26. 8. Soil and Water: Valuable progress has been made in soil
 27. and water conservation, use, need and regulation. Future progress
 28. may well depend upon the degree of correlation of various agencies
 29. and interests working on these problems. We recommend that each
 30. county Farm Bureau work and cooperate with their local
 31. Conservation District and other interests in its county, on a
 32. watershed basis, and act as a unifying agency for bringing them
 33. closer together.

34. We will cooperate with the State Association of Conservation
 35. Districts and Watershed Conservancy Districts and others in
 36. developing a plan to assist county units and individual farmers
 37. in more fully participating in and taking advantage of the total
 38. conservation program.

39. 9. Economy in Government: We expect all tax revenue to be
 40. used wisely for the greatest good to the people. We expect strict
 41. economy at all levels of government.

42. 10. Our Democratic System: With wisdom and foresight, our
 43. forefathers founded a government designed to protect our rights of
 44. life, liberty and property. The Constitution wisely provided for a
 45. three-fold division of authority between the legislative, executive,
 46. and judicial branches of the government and by design the power of
 47. government was diffused among the states by the Bill of Rights.

48. Thus, with freedom established and protected, the initiative of
 49. individuals was encouraged, resulting in the best possible use of
 50. human and natural resources. It is our constant challenge to
 51. maintain this system and the freedoms, the spiritual morality, and
 52. high standard of living it has provided.

53. We maintain our belief in the equality of all persons under the law
 54. and we are opposed to granting special privileges to anyone.

55. The institution of marriage should only be recognized as the
 56. legal union of a man and a woman.

57.

1. We are opposed to any state-supported agency providing
2. benefits to "domestic" partners.
3. We strongly believe in the value of all individuals both born and
4. unborn.

5. We support an effort to eliminate the pornographic menace to the moral fiber of our nation.

7. In order to maintain and improve our capitalistic system and prevent further steps toward socialism, we assert the following beliefs:

9. (a) We are opposed to a monopoly in any form and we believe that the anti-trust laws of this country should be enforced. We believe that the individual search for progress should not be inhibited by false promises of security.

13. (b) We believe that regulation should be based on law and not on directives by people without benefit of law. We further believe that propagandizing of the public by government is dangerous to our future.

17. (c) We believe farm people have the right and are the best qualified to speak for farmers through the organization of their choice without government coercion or intervention. We also believe persons seeking national, state or local offices should state their beliefs with respect to capitalism, socialism, and communism, regardless of party affiliations. Furthermore, if we are to truly have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, secrecy in government must be minimized.

25. (d) We believe that emergency legislation should be repealed and emergency agencies dissolved when the specific emergency is over.

27. (e) We believe that Congress should use restraint in enlarging the powers of the Executive Branch.

29. 11. Citizenship: It is the duty and responsibility of every citizen of the United States to understand our way of life; to support, protect and preserve it; to guard it from without or from within; to make its democratic principles more effective and to teach its principles to our children. To do these things we must be constantly on the alert to ferret out and expose persons, organizations and movements which would destroy our democratic institutions. We must exercise our right to vote by participating in all local, state and national elections. We must assume willingly all the responsibilities and duties that rest upon self-governed free people.

39. 12. Nonpartisan Organization: The Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation is nonpartisan and holds that the actions of all governmental bodies should be directed toward serving the best interests of all of the people rather than serving the interests of any partisan group. All decisions should be considered on the merits of the proposed act rather than on its sponsorship.

45. We believe that the present organizational structure of Kentucky Farm Bureau and its affiliates should be maintained essentially as presently exists and that all members of the governing boards of the affiliates of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation shall be current and active members of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation Board.

COUNTY FARM BUREAUS

55. With the problems facing agriculture and the nation becoming increasingly complex, it is all the more important that every county Farm Bureau organize more effectively. Member participation is the

1. essential factor in the accomplishment of Farm Bureau objectives.
2. Good committee work within the county Farm Bureau provides a desirable means for members to make a worthwhile contribution to effective programs.

5. In order to provide more unification of action, and to enable the Federation to render a greater service and more effective assistance to the counties, we urge county Farm Bureaus to appoint special committees entrusted with the responsibility of initiating and carrying out needed programs of action on such matters as Rural Roads, Rural Industry, Education, Rural Health, Safety, Citizenship, Conservation and Natural Resources, and the more important farm enterprises such as: Tobacco, Livestock, Dairy, Poultry, Forestry and the various commercial crops.

PART II STATE RESOLUTIONS

18. In addition to those things set forth as standing policy of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, the House of Delegates of the Federation in annual meeting, hereby adopts the following statements of position and specific resolutions as related to state issues, and places upon its members, officers and representatives the responsibility of securing proper and adequate action thereon.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AND RESEARCH

29. We urge adequate funding for the agricultural research facilities and the experimental farms in order to develop and maintain an effective research program.

32. We support research that will protect the livestock and equine industries and our economic resources by developing new capabilities to monitor, assess, predict and respond to emerging infectious disease threats. We believe the top priority of any research facility shall be ensuring all the appropriate safeguards are in place to protect the local and regional communities.

38. We urge that agricultural research at the University of Kentucky be fully funded in order to fill all faculty vacancies as soon as possible, and continue to recruit and maintain a high-quality staff.

41. We support additional forage and livestock extension specialists at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

44. We urge the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment to focus research on the major issues facing Kentucky agriculture and make the results of that research available to farmers as rapidly as possible. We also recommend expanding research in the areas of environmental quality, water quality and quantity, agricultural profitability and competitiveness, and alternative crops.

51. We urge the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment to update AGR-1 to more accurately address current crop production practices and technologies that result in higher yields.

55. We are in favor of keeping land grant colleges, the University of Kentucky, and Kentucky State University and state university research farms intact. Should a change or reduction of any

1. existing research farm become necessary, there should be
2. corresponding purchases or addition in order to maintain or expand
3. programs of agricultural research.
4. We encourage enhancement of Agricultural Research and
5. Extension facilities at the University of Kentucky, Princeton, and
6. Robinson stations. We support the Grain and Forage Center of
7. Excellence at the University of Kentucky Research and Education
8. Center at Princeton.
9. We encourage cooperation between the University of Kentucky
10. College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and other state
11. universities to establish joint research, education programs and
12. facilities.
13. We urge commodity research for further expanded use of our
14. products, including producer-financed programs.

EXTENSION SERVICE

- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
19. We support an effective extension educational program of
20. agriculture, family and consumer sciences, 4-H, youth, and
21. community and economic development as embodied in the system
22. of local agents supported by area and state specialists.
23. We recommend that the Cooperative Extension Service intensify
24. its efforts at the local level to focus on the rapid changes taking
25. place in agriculture and to assist producers in adjusting to these
26. conditions such as drought, and low commodity prices.
27. We encourage the Cooperative Extension Service to devote
28. greater resources to production agriculture and expedite the
29. transfer of technology to farmers.
30. We understand the need for the extension program in other
31. areas, however, the extension service's involvement with agriculture
32. programs should remain a priority.
33. We urge Farm Bureau members to serve on extension councils,
34. 4-H councils, homemakers' councils, agriculture councils, and other
35. councils or committees to help plan local programs. Furthermore,
36. we recommend that one of the two members nominated by the
37. area extension councils to serve on the State Extension Council be
38. actively engaged in farming.
39. We recommend the state 4-H Council evaluate and encourage
40. more stringent criteria at the district level to qualify for the state
41. show in order to eliminate horses and/or riders that may pose a
42. safety problem. The horses qualifying for the State Fair show should
43. be shown only in classes for which they qualified at the area level.
44. We recommend that adequate funds be appropriated to bring
45. Kentucky's Cooperative Extension Service back to a competitive
46. position with other states in salary levels. We urge the Kentucky
47. General Assembly to provide funding for a performance-based
48. career ladder for county agents, and for improved training and
49. professional development of agents. This should be supported on
50. recurring General Fund dollars, not using tobacco settlement funds.
51. We recommend that the Kentucky General Assembly fund the
52. Cooperative Extension Service as a line item in the University of
53. Kentucky and the Kentucky State University budgets.
54. We encourage the University of Kentucky Extension Service to
55. fill any extension agent vacancy positions within a maximum of
56. twelve months.
57. We support the county based model for cooperative extension.

1. We recommend that the University of Kentucky College of
2. Agriculture, Food and Environment work more closely with local
3. extension councils to carry out priorities and recommendations of
4. the councils. We support the efforts of local county extension
5. boards to have an equal voice in the appointment and evaluation of
6. agents and assistants in their counties.
7. We recommend that the director operate the extension program
8. in an efficient manner and continually review the operation of the
9. service in order to improve efficiency and to determine if there are
10. ways to eliminate excessive reports and any other nonproductive
11. procedures.
12. We recommend that the funds needed to expand the current
13. farm analysis program at the University of Kentucky be appropriated.
14. We urge county Farm Bureau leaders to be aware of situations
15. relative to future needs of agriculture, home economics and 4-H
16. and plan for increased local support for such extension programs.
17. We oppose any efforts by state or federal government to impose
18. restrictions on extension research or extension field work with
19. producers of any legal commodity.
20. We support educational efforts by the extension service to
21. inform farmers of their rights and recourse under federal marketing
22. protection programs.

DAIRY

- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
27. We support programs that will increase the demand for dairy
28. products. These programs include the serving of real dairy
29. products in all state institutions and parks.
30. We further support the effort to encourage school districts to
31. adopt the Fuel Up To Play 60 program that encourages nutrition and
32. fitness which includes the new look of the School Milk Program that
33. encourages plastic bottle packaging on the meal line.
34. We support the continued availability of flavored milk in school
35. lunch programs.
36. We support the promotion of milk vending and smoothie
37. machines in schools.
38. We support the Junior Dairy Show Program.
39. We support the efforts of the Kentucky Dairy Development
40. Council on behalf of dairy farmers and the entire dairy infrastructure.
41. We encourage cooperation between affiliated agricultural
42. organizations, industries, and dairy farmers to benefit all.
43. We support the efforts of the Milk Commission Board to
44. study Kentucky dairy equity issues, especially items pertaining
45. to the transportation, marketing, and promotion of Kentucky
46. produced milk.
47. Kentucky Farm Bureau supports the advertisement and
48. promotion of the dairy heifer replacement program with the
49. Department of Agriculture.
50. We support the efforts of the American Dairy Association and
51. the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association (SUDIA). These
52. organizations should strive to communicate checkoff dollar usage
53. through an industry-wide newsletter. Dairy checkoff dollars should
54. be utilized in market areas where the milk is sold.
55. We strongly urge that all milk utilized for human fluid consump-
56. tion be pasteurized. We oppose legislation that could lessen public
57. health regulations on fluid milk for human consumption.

1. We will continue to work with the Dairy Products Association
2. of Kentucky and others to improve dairy health regulations. We sup-
3. port the manufactured dairy products industry's efforts for quality
4. improvement and will cooperate in helping develop a sound
5. program that will provide for proper state supervision.
6. We recommend that Dairy Management Incorporated continue
7. research on all dairy products for the purpose of improving quality
8. and consumer acceptance, and expanding new development of
9. dairy products.
10. We recommend a greater effort to ensure that farm inspectors,
11. regulatory officials and other industry professionals are familiar with
12. dairy farming practices and are aware of the practical efforts that
13. implementation of rules and regulations will require.
14. We encourage coordination between the state and regional
15. testing labs in testing for contamination in the milk products. We
16. support the Kentucky Farm Milk Handlers Law which will provide
17. increased services to producers and processors.
18. We support funding of the statewide Uniform Dairy Inspection
19. Program from the Kentucky General Fund. This program should
20. continue to be administered by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and
21. Family Services.
22. We recommend that a study be conducted on marketing milk on
23. a protein content basis as well as fat content basis.
24. We support passage of state or national legislation designed
25. to protect dairy farmers in the event that buyers of milk
26. become insolvent.
27. We support continued dairy research and education conducted
28. in Kentucky through the most effective means possible including,
29. but not limited to, a partnership between the University of Kentucky
30. and Eastern Kentucky University dairy programs.
31. We oppose input from milk handlers in haul rate negotiations
32. between dairy farmers and milk haulers.
33. We encourage cooperative efforts among universities in the
34. southeast in extension, teaching, and research efforts to support
35. and educate the dairy industry.
36. We recommend that adequate funds be allocated to university
37. research projects with the goal of alleviating health issues such as,
38. but not limited to, the digital dermatitis (heelwart) problem in dairy
39. cattle.
40. We support a coalition of the Kentucky Department of
41. Agriculture, the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet, the
42. University of Kentucky and other state universities, the Kentucky
43. Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy and the Kentucky Dairy
44. Development Council to implement a program that maintains
45. the viability of existing dairies while attracting new dairies to the
46. state of Kentucky. We encourage entrepreneurship through the
47. Kentucky Proud Program to further develop value-added dairy
48. production that emphasizes quality and professionalism.
49. We support the development of a federal milk pricing system
50. including, but not limited to supply management, exploring all
51. feasible pricing mechanisms to provide a reasonable rate of return
52. to dairy producers.
53. We support a two-tiered production program that addresses
54. excess production as it influences the price of milk.
55. We urge all dairy cooperatives to pay at or above the federally
56. mandated price for milk.
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1. We support legislation that would provide a reasonable rate of
2. return for dairy producers, processors, and retailers by recovering
3. costs from the marketplace by establishing a minimum price for milk.
4. We oppose inaccurate or misleading labeling of all dairy
5. products.
6. We encourage 100 percent participation in Cooperatives
7. Working Together (CWT) by dairy farmers.
8. We support the Kentucky Hunger Initiative and encourage
9. providing dairy products to those in need.
10. We support maintaining milk as the official beverage of Kentucky.
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FORESTRY

15. Kentucky Farm Bureau recognizes the environmental benefits
16. forest lands provide to the general public, such as clean air and
17. water, wildlife habitat, and conservation of natural beauty, and
18. believes the owners of forest lands should be compensated for
19. continuing to provide these public benefits.
20. We urge cooperation among all forestry related organizations.
21. We recommend that the Kentucky Energy & Environment
22. Cabinet continue to expand and elevate the Division of Forestry, in
23. keeping with the economic and environmental importance of
24. Kentucky's forest resources and the forest industries. Forestry
25. should continue to be recognized as an agricultural enterprise.
26. We recommend that the Division of Forestry increase the
27. number of state foresters in order to reduce the waiting time
28. for forester assistance and increase services provided, with an
29. emphasis in the Appalachian region of Eastern Kentucky for
30. landowner assistance.
31. We support the Forest Conservation Act in conjunction with the
32. Agriculture Water Quality Act (AWQA).
33. We support the Division of Forestry's work in expanding
34. protection from forest fires; assisting woodland owners in
35. management, reforestation, insect disease, and non-native invasive
36. plant control, expanding Kentucky's forest industries.
37. We recommend counties with significant forest resources invest a
38. portion of coal, gas, and oil severance tax monies into woodland man-
39. agement activities for fire trails, timber stand improvement, and con-
40. trolling invasive species that affect our renewable forest resources.
41. We encourage the use of hardwoods such as the American
42. Chestnut tree in the restoration of strip-mined/mountain top removal
43. lands.
44. We encourage the Kentucky General Assembly to establish and
45. fund a Forest Health Task Force, and make it a permanent part of
46. state government. We request the task force publish its mission and
47. submit a public annual report on the status of Kentucky's forest
48. health.
49. We support forest that qualify for an agricultural deferment of
50. property tax should be assessed using an assessment model that is
51. appropriate for forest land.
52. We encourage the establishment of local forestry organizations
53. at the local level.
54. We support the continuation and expansion of collecting and
55. publishing of log price information commensurate with other
56. agricultural commodities.
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1. We support rewards for information leading to the prosecution
2. and conviction for forest arson through the Wildland Fire and Arson
3. Prevention Task Force and the Kentucky Forest Industries
4. Association and the Target Arson Program in conjunction with Farm
5. Bureau's Theft Reward Policy.
6. We recommend adjacent property owners engaged in logging
7. clearly delineate the farm boundaries to prevent accidental
8. encroachment on adjoining property.
9. We urge stricter enforcement of our laws and regulations relative
10. to controlling fires in our forests. We urge vigorous prosecution of
11. those who violate Kentucky's fire laws and regulations.
12. We support the creation and funding of an arson investigation
13. team within the Kentucky Division of Forestry to aggressively
14. investigate all woodland arson.
15. We support expansion of forestry research and natural resource
16. education and extension at the University of Kentucky. We support
17. the efforts of the Department of Agriculture, the Division of Forestry,
18. and the Cooperative Extension Service to continue to provide
19. information used to determine the value of the timber the owner
20. plans to market.
21. We support the Forest Health Research and Education Center
22. housed at the University of Kentucky and established by the
23. University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and the
24. U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station.
25. We support the funding and staffing necessary to continue and
26. expand the work by the University of Kentucky Department of
27. Forestry and Natural Resources and the Kentucky Division of
28. Forestry to conduct annual economic analysis of the forest industry
29. in Kentucky.
30. We recommend additional funding for the Division of Forestry's
31. tree nurseries including the restoration of the American
32. Chestnut tree.
33. We recommend that the University of Kentucky Cooperative
34. Extension Service recruit and locate forestry extension personnel in
35. all areas of Kentucky to assist landowners in forest stewardship
36. management and in utilizing all market facilities and services.
37. We support the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Community
38. and Technical College System, and the Department for Workforce
39. Investment, reinstating a forestry technician program to prepare
40. students as sawyers, kiln operators, lumber graders, other forestry
41. related occupations and value-added wood products training.
42. We support the Kentucky wood industry's efforts to get afford-
43. able workers' compensation rates.
44. We support the Master Logger Program and recommend
45. appropriate funding to maintain the viability of the program.
46. We support the Forestry Best Management Practice Board in
47. amending the Forest Conservation Act to strengthen the bad actor
48. provisions.
49. We support efforts to require the harvesting or removing of trees
50. and woody debris for commercial energy production to use Best
51. Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water quality.
52. We support bonding of commercial loggers. We support the
53. utilization of all scientifically proven forestry practices to achieve
54. sound and sustainable forests.
55. We encourage local prosecutors to recognize theft of timber is
56. not a trespass issue, but a criminal activity, and existing theft laws
57. should be enforced.

1. We support the Kentucky Forest Leadership Program and urge
2. county Farm Bureaus to sponsor students to attend this camp.
3. We urge county Farm Bureaus to assist members in
4. taking advantage of the forestry assistance offered by the
5. Division of Forestry's stewardship program and the stewardship
6. incentive practices.
7. We support an exemption for farmers to burn debris during the
8. established fire seasons.
9. We encourage all members who are timberland owners in
10. Kentucky to have a forest stewardship plan on their land.
11. We strongly encourage and support cost-share programs for all
12. forestry activities on private lands and we encourage the General
13. Assembly to appropriate funds for the Forest Stewardship
14. Incentives Fund.
15. We are opposed to comprehensive legislation that would regulate
16. forest practices on privately owned forest land and recommend that
17. no such action be undertaken by the Kentucky legislature.
18. We oppose mandatory third party certification of Kentucky's for-
est land in order to be eligible for biomass production programs.
19. We recommend that marketable timber and woody debris from
20. highway rights-of-way and utility rights-of-way, oil/gas pipelines and
21. wells be salvaged.
22. We support the collection and dissemination of annual forestry
23. inventory data under the Kentucky Forest Conservation Act by the
24. Division of Forestry. Moreover, the forest resource inventory should
25. provide reliable information on the amount of timber that is available
26. for purchase or use.
27. We support the Cabinet for Economic Development and its
28. efforts to include agriculture and natural resources in their
29. long-range economic development plan.
30. We recommend that the Cabinet for Economic Development
31. intensify its efforts in marketing Kentucky forest products and
32. increasing wood utilization.
33. We support the current effort in the state to promote the expansion
34. of the secondary forest industries, including the Kentucky
35. Department of Agriculture's Value-Added Wood Products Program.
36. We recommend the timberland assessment fee be increased
37. from two cents to five cents per acre, provided that the assessment
38. fee continues to be returned to the Kentucky Division of Forestry for
39. the suppression of fires and for promoting forest health.
40. We commend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for
41. allowing trees grown in Kentucky and forest products made in
42. Kentucky to be designated as Kentucky Proud.
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48. We request that the University of Kentucky intensify its research
49. efforts in the following areas:
50. (1) control of barley yellow dwarf, a virus of small grains;
51. (2) early maturing varieties of wheat in Kentucky;
52. (3) high test weight and high yielding wheat;
53. (4) control of head scab in small grains;
54. (5) production such as grain rye and barley yield traits.
55. We recommend that the University of Kentucky develop public
56. varieties of wheat.
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GRAIN

1. For all commercially marketed seed, we recommend the labeling
2. of the number of seed per pound on small grain seed tags, and the
3. cold germination tests on seed corn tags.
4. We recommend that seed tags for all commodity grains reflect
5. the genetic purity of the bagged crop.
6. When seed companies sell insecticide pre-treated corn seeds,
7. farmers should be able to return the seeds, and be reimbursed for
8. the cost of the seeds.
9. Summaries of Kentucky seed law results should be published
10. annually. These laws should be rigidly enforced.
11. We encourage use of corn starch based products such as
12. biodegradable plastics, calcium magnesium acetate and eco-foam.
13. We recommend that Farm Bureau stress the importance of
14. producers using the best management possible in the operation
15. of harvesting and storing facilities in order to maintain a high
16. quality product.
17. Farmers should be able to choose the date that they lock in LDP
18. rates while grain is in storage at feed mills.
19. Grain quality should not disqualify commodities from loan
20. deficiency payment eligibility if the county has been adversely
21. affected by weather.
22. We encourage grain elevators to pay a premium for low moisture
23. grain.
24. We support the adoption of legislation at the state level that
25. would require grain purchasers to use USDA grading practices.
26. All vacuum probes used in the marketing of grain should be
27. USDA approved. Foreign matter should be removed from a sample
28. of grain before the test weight is derived.
29. We recommend that any genetically engineered grain approved
30. by USDA and FDA not be considered contaminated grain in cargo.
31. We recommend that Farm Bureau continue to monitor and
32. publish methods used in arriving at dockage in grain.
33. We recommend that chemical testing for aflatoxin/vomitoxin be
34. made available to farmers through the University of Kentucky and
35. the Breathitt Veterinary Center laboratories.
36. We recommend that Farm Bureau become more aggressive in
37. promoting a better understanding of marketing alternatives
38. available to farmers.
39. We commend the Kentucky General Assembly for the action
40. taken relative to the grain insurance law and encourage that it
41. continue to be monitored for protection of farmers.
42. Due to the increased value of grain, the grain insurance fund cov-
43. erage should be increased to adequately protect farmers and the
44. cap limit should be increased accordingly.
45. We request the Risk Management Agency (RMA) retain May 31
46. as the final planting date for corn for the entire state of Kentucky.
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51. We urge the University of Kentucky to expand its program in
52. controlling cyst nematode, sudden death syndrome and soybean
53. rust in soybeans through use of either resistant varieties or other
54. methods of control. We encourage the University of Kentucky and
55. the Department of Agriculture to conduct research on slug control
56. and management and further develop deer and insect resistant
57. soybean varieties.

SOYBEANS

1. We recommend that government funding continue for Asian
2. soybean rust sentinel plots across soybean growing areas.
3. We favor the use of a dry matter basis for grading and pricing of
4. soybeans and pricing seed by seed count rather than by weight.
5. We recommend that the Soybean Promotion Board continue
6. funding programs to help develop ways to increase the use of
7. soybeans and also find ways through research to increase the
8. test weight.
9. We urge the universities throughout Kentucky to intensify their
10. research efforts on the expanded use of soybeans for human food.
11. We recommend that the University of Kentucky develop public
12. varieties of soybeans.
13. We encourage the Soybean Promotion Board to continue
14. funding programs to increase the public awareness of soydiesel
15. fuels and soybean byproducts.
16. We request the Risk Management Agency (RMA) move the late
17. planting date for soybeans to June 25.
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22. We support Kentucky's Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program
23. and strongly encourage cattle producers, haulers, handlers, stock-
24. yard employees, and processors to participate.
25. We support the Pork Quality Assurance Plus Program, the Youth
26. Pork Quality Assurance Plus Program, the Swine Welfare
27. Assurance Program, the Trucker Quality Assurance Program, and
28. the Environmental Assurance Program and recommend every
29. swine producer utilize these programs at all levels.
30. We recommend that the Kentucky Farm Bureau and Kentucky's
31. livestock organizations work in conjunction with their national
32. associations to combat negative campaigns regarding meat
33. consumption or production.
34. We will continue to investigate the export market potential for
35. Kentucky livestock and livestock products.
36. We support the veterinary training program established by the
37. Southern Regional Education Board.
38. We support the construction and funding for a livestock educa-
39. tion center on the main University of Kentucky campus to give
40. hands-on educational opportunities to students.
41. We support expansion of the livestock industry as long as new
42. operations meet current environmental regulations by using Best
43. Management Practices (BMPs).
44. We support more education and funding for producers in
45. marketing feeder calves, sheep and goats in large commingled
46. groups.
47. We support development and adoption of livestock identification
48. technology which will enhance the implementation of value-based
49. marketing.
50. We support the establishment and implementation of an animal
51. disease traceability system that will provide support for animal
52. disease control and eradication.
53. An animal disease traceability system should be cost
54. effective, with adequate cost-share among government, industry,
55. and producers.
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LIVESTOCK

1. Any such program must protect producers from liability for acts
2. of others after livestock leaves the producers' hands, including
3. nuisance suits naming everyone who handled particular livestock.
4. An animal disease traceability system should ensure the
5. security of producer information and respect the privacy of
6. producers by only collecting data necessary to establish a
7. trace-back system. We recommend all information collected should
8. be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
9. We recommend that information collected in support of an
10. animal disease traceability system be held by the Kentucky
11. Department of Agriculture and federal government access to this
12. data be limited to an animal health emergency. We support state
13. legislation that would exempt all information collected by the office
14. of the state veterinarian regarding animal health from the open
15. records law.
16. We support the implementation of the Kentucky Department of
17. Agriculture Office of the State Veterinarian requirement that all
18. sheep and goats presented at Kentucky livestock markets must
19. be identified with an official scrapie tag prior to arrival.
20. We urge the Kentucky Farm Bureau, Farm Service Agency
21. (FSA), Kentucky Department of Agriculture, University of Kentucky
22. College of Agriculture Food and Environment, and other state
23. universities, the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, the Kentucky
24. Beef Network, the Kentucky Pork Producers Association, the
25. Kentucky Livestock Association, and the Kentucky Dairy
26. Development Council, the Kentucky Goat Producers Association,
27. and the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association, and the
28. Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office to work together to
29. develop an animal disease traceability system.
30. We support developing a public education campaign conducted
31. by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service
32. for homeowners living adjacent to livestock operations to alert
33. them of activities that could harm livestock, such as dumping yard
34. waste, etc.
35. We oppose mandatory country of origin labeling.
36. We oppose the releasing of any veterinarian information without
37. the owner's knowledge and consent.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY DISEASE

43. We favor an expansion of sound programs to control and/or
44. eradicate communicable diseases in livestock.
45. We recognize the need for feed additives and medication in
46. livestock, poultry, and minor species. We favor careful use and
47. withdrawal restrictions of feed additives and therapeutics. We
48. oppose the banning of such additives and therapeutics without
49. adequate proof of danger.
50. We support the responsible use of antibiotics. We encourage the
51. inclusion of additional consideration of small ruminant producers in
52. the veterinary feed directive rule.
53. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's programs
54. for testing and inspecting livestock for disease in the marketplace.
55. We recommend that Kentucky's health requirements for livestock be
56. coordinated, as nearly as practical, with adjoining states and we
57. encourage the office of state veterinarian to work cooperatively with

1. Kentucky Farm Bureau and state commodity organizations on
2. development and implementation of new regulations.
3. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
4. become part of the state's emergency management team to deal
5. with livestock problems during a natural disaster and national
6. emergency situation.
7. We recommend the establishment of a contingency fund within
8. the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to be used to cover costs
9. involved in combating declared emergency disease outbreaks.
10. We are in favor of state funds being appropriated to fully
11. maintain Kentucky's brucellosis program and when federal funds
12. are available for various segments of the program, the state should
13. be reimbursed.
14. We support education and research to prevent losses in small
15. ruminants due to internal parasites, such as haemonchus
16. contortus.
17. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and its
18. commissioner continue the surveillance monitoring necessary to
19. maintain a brucellosis "free" status for livestock.
20. We support a reinstatement of the calfhood vaccination program
21. and its funding to further control brucellosis.
22. We support the continuation of the educational programs
23. offered by the state diagnostic laboratories in cooperation with the
24. Kentucky State Veterinarian, Kentucky Veterinary Medical
25. Association and University of Kentucky Extension Service to
26. improve awareness of and elimination of endemic and emerging
27. diseases.
28. We support state appropriations necessary to fund voluntary
29. testing and herd certification programs for paratuberculosis.
30. We support continued surveillance testing for pseudorabies and
31. encourage the state legislature to appropriate the necessary funds
32. to maintain such programs.
33. We support the use of tissue and/or fecal sources for natural
34. inoculation against imported diseases for which there are not
35. effective treatments like Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV)
36. and Transmissible Gastro Enteritis (TGE).
37. We encourage more accurate collection of swine serological
38. slaughter trace-backs for pseudorabies. We support first-point
39. testing of breeding animals being marketed in Kentucky for
40. monitoring of pseudorabies. We recognize the importance of the
41. swine industry and its contribution to the economic well-being of
42. American agriculture and we support efforts to increase the number
43. of swine in Kentucky.
44. We support public health officials deferring to the Office of the
45. State Veterinarian when dealing with cases of rabies in farm
46. livestock and the state veterinarian's office develop guidelines for
47. dealing with cases of rabies in farm livestock.
48. We encourage the equine and livestock industries to develop
49. and utilize vaccinations to prevent the spread of West Nile virus. As
50. a further precaution, we recommend that the General Assembly
51. appropriate sufficient funds to expand the state Pest and Weed
52. Control Division's Mosquito Control Program.
53. We recommend that the State Board of Agriculture eliminate all
54. "swine permitted feedlots" for quarantined animals in Kentucky.
55. The state diagnostic laboratories should coordinate their efforts
56. and be operated under the procedures outlined by the state Animal
57. Diagnostic Laboratory Advisory Committee.

1. We request the General Assembly to provide the State
2. Department of Agriculture and the diagnostic laboratories with
3. sufficient space and funds to conduct strong programs of detection
4. and elimination of livestock and poultry disease. We recommend
5. that both Kentucky's diagnostic laboratories be line items in their
6. respective university budgets.
7. We support sufficient funding for both diagnostic laboratories to
8. meet the normal diagnostic needs of the poultry and livestock
9. industries, and for enhancement of their capability to respond to
10. emergencies such as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, West
11. Nile Virus, Scrapie or Avian Influenza outbreaks.
12. We recommend the laboratories be established as separate
13. departments within their respective universities and their directors
14. report directly to said universities. If fees are charged, the income
15. generated should be allowed to benefit the laboratory charging the
16. fee. We recommend that the director of each diagnostic laboratory
17. have experience and expertise in livestock disease.
18. We recommend that farmers be allowed to use the laboratory
19. without prior approval by a veterinarian.
20. We recommend the major mission or priority of the diagnostic
21. laboratories be directed toward diagnostic work associated with
22. livestock.
23. We support additional programs to dispose of dead animals and
24. processing residue. We recommend the state legislature expand
25. funding of programs with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for
26. a statewide dead animal removal program.
27. We further recommend that the University of Kentucky
28. expand research on the feasibility and practicality of composting
29. of livestock.
30. We urge the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the
31. Division of Conservation not reduce the funding available for dead
32. animal removal programs.
33. We encourage cooperative efforts and funding throughout the
34. Commonwealth to address the dead animal removal issue.
35. We oppose any legislation or rule that bans the rendering of any
36. specific parts of ruminant animals.
37. We are encouraged by any systems identifying diseased and
38. non-ambulatory cattle as not being resold. However, we are
39. discouraged by the mis-use and abuse of these systems by traders.
40. We recommend stronger methods for proof and identification of
41. resold cattle.
42. The Kentucky Farm Bureau is opposed to the imposition of
43. unreasonable regulations by individual states affecting the
44. interstate movement of livestock. We urge state veterinarians
45. to work cooperatively with Kentucky market operators to
46. accommodate the issuance of health papers, permits, etc.
47. We support additional funding to ensure that any veterinarian
48. student vacancies offered by our affiliated colleges of veterinary
49. medicine are filled with Kentucky students.
50. In an effort to address the shortage of large animal veterinary
51. services in Kentucky, we support:
52. 1. Incentive programs for veterinarians and veterinary
53. technicians and technologists;
54. 2. Seeking and funding additional slots for Kentucky students
55. at veterinary schools;
56. 3. Updating and modifying the current laws to expand veterinary
57. services to allow veterinary technicians and technologists, in

1. direct consultation with a licensed veterinarian, to have a
2. greater flexibility in providing animal care services;
3. 4. Encouraging the expansion of veterinary mentoring
4. programs;
5. 5. Improved recruiting and awareness efforts for Kentucky youth
6. to take advantage of the veterinary opportunities;
7. 6. Ensuring the pre-veterinary programs in our Kentucky
8. universities have sufficient funding; and
9. 7. Encouraging local communities to design aggressive recruit-
10. ing programs to entice viable veterinary practices to serve the
11. livestock producers of their communities.
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ANIMAL CARE

16. We support the work of the Kentucky Board of Agriculture, the
17. Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission, and the Equine
18. Health and Welfare Council.
19. We support the Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission
20. in their efforts to establish minimum standards in livestock and
21. poultry care.
22. Proper care and welfare of livestock and poultry are essential to
23. the efficient and profitable production of food and fiber. No segment
24. of society has more concern for the well-being of poultry and
25. livestock than the producer. This is best exemplified by the high
26. levels of production and low mortality rates achieved in modern
27. livestock and poultry operations.
28. We recommend producers, haulers, handlers, stockyard
29. employees and processors be educated on the importance of
30. proper care of livestock and poultry.
31. We recommend the education of first responders on livestock
32. rescue and safe handling procedures during emergency situations.
33. We support an aggressive, comprehensive educational program
34. presenting the facts of animal and poultry production to the general
35. public and to school children.
36. We encourage discussion and education of producers and
37. consumers prior to adoption of new production practices that impact
38. animal care and sustainability.
39. We are opposed to the concept of animal rights and oppose the
40. expenditure of public funds to promote the concept of animal rights.
41. We oppose laws or regulations elevating the well-being of animals
42. to a similar status as the rights of people.
43. We support legislation preempting local governments from
44. establishing animal care standards.
45. We oppose legislation that would give animal rights
46. organizations the right to establish standards for the raising,
47. handling, feeding, housing or transportation of livestock, poultry,
48. aquaculture and fur bearing animals. We also oppose any legisla-
49. tion that would pay bounties to complainants.
50. Kentucky Farm Bureau will cooperate with other agricultural-
51. related organizations to address the animal welfare issues.
52. We oppose any regulations concerning the concept of the rights
53. of animals being kept in confinement facilities on the farm.
54. We support the right to humanely and safely harvest horses
55. and livestock.
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POULTRY

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3. We support our poultry farmers and their role in the poultry
4. industry. We encourage the development of poultry and egg mar-
5. keting services and will cooperate with other organizations and
6. agencies in improving and developing markets for poultry and eggs.
7. We support research into the development of sustainable,
8. renewable, agriculturally-produced bedding and litter for the poultry
9. industry.
10. We support research in bedding alternatives, waste and nutrient
11. management, and alternative methods for dead animal disposal.
12. We encourage poultry producers to be environmental stewards.
13. We support poultry research to investigate ammonia production
14. and technology to reduce ammonia levels and emissions in poultry
15. houses.
16. We support the continuation of the federal-state cooperative
17. agreement for surveillance of low-path H5/H7 avian influenza at
18. current levels.
19. We urge companies to justify mandatory modification of build-
20. ings and equipment through research documentation. Any modifi-
21. cation should be a long-term agreement, negotiated in writing,
22. between the grower and company before installation. The length of
23. contracts should adequately protect a grower's investment in build-
24. ings and equipment.
25. We support pay averaging criteria being revised to compensate
26. for company production decisions that influence a farmer/producer's
27. settlement.

EQUINE

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32. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau cooperate with other
33. agencies involved in the equine industry to disseminate
34. information on horse-related activities.
35. We support recognizing equine as livestock and the horse indus-
36. try as an agricultural commodity to remove the disadvantage that
37. currently exists in relation to other livestock. We also recommend
38. production items and services associated with the equine industry
39. be exempt from the sales and use tax. We support development
40. and utilization of equine identification technology.
41. We recommend legislation to develop existing and encourage
42. additional public horse riding trails on state lands and parks.
43. We support programs to promote the trail riding sector of the
44. equine industry.
45. We support preservation of existing horse riding trails which are
46. for non-motorized use on public lands in Kentucky.
47. We support federal funding for the equine industry in dealing with
48. disasters.
49. We support funding for all equine facilities at the Kentucky
50. Exposition Center and the Kentucky Horse Park.
51. We support programs such as the Kentucky Equine Education
52. Program (KEEP) to promote the equine industry in Kentucky.
53. We support programs such as the Kentucky Horse Council
54. (KHC) to promote the equine industry.
55. We support the University of Kentucky's Equine Program and
56. recommend adequate funding for its facilities and programs,
57. on- and off-campus.

1. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
2. restore funding and support the 4-H horse program to the same
3. degree as traditional 4-H livestock programs.
4. We support fair and uniform guidelines and enforcement of horse
5. show inspections and proper training of horse show inspectors.
6. We encourage equine owners to follow American Association of
7. Equine Practitioners (AAEP) core vaccination guidelines for equine
8. health and disease related issues.

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AQUACULTURE

14. We support the aquaculture and aquaponic industry as an alter-
15. native farming method and recommend the continued improvement
16. in government encouragement and assistance to aquaculture.
17. We recognize aquaculture commodities as a viable part of
18. Kentucky's agriculture industry.
19. We oppose propagation fees as part of the permitting process to
20. raise any livestock or livestock product, including aquaculture.
21. We commend and support the Kentucky State University for its lead-
22. ership and vision in developing the aquaculture industry in Kentucky
23. and encourage increased funding in order to promote the industry.
24. We support the efforts of the Kentucky Aquaculture Association Task
25. Force and encourage adequate funding.
26. We support cooperative educational efforts between the Kentucky
27. Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources and the Kentucky Aquaculture
28. Association to promote better understanding of aquaculture regulations
29. and practices.
30. We support the development of paddlefish and sturgeon farming
31. through continued research on captive propagation and husbandry
32. practices. We also support a cooperative effort between paddlefish and
33. sturgeon farms and state and federal agencies. We recommend
34. amending the endangered species act to allow free interstate and inter-
35. national commerce of legitimately grown or harvested paddlefish and
36. sturgeon products.
37. We support all imported fish be held to the same quality standards
38. that is required of U.S. fish products.
39. We support market development for and harvest of invasive, non-
40. native carp species within the state of Kentucky.

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POLLINATOR PROTECTION AND APICULTURE

46. We support monitoring the activities of the Pollinator Working
47. Group in connection with the protection of the monarch butterflies
48. and bees to make sure that agriculture will not be affected in a
49. negative way.
50. We support the enhancement of the honeybee population in
51. Kentucky.
52. We support the four goals of the Kentucky Pollinator Protection
53. Plan which are the use of best management practices, increased
54. pollinator habitat, increased education and outreach and increased
55. communication among stakeholders.
56. We support the development of BMPs that enhance pollinator
57. habitat in both urban and rural areas.

HORTICULTURE CROPS

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3. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau, the University
4. of Kentucky, the Kentucky State University, and the Kentucky
5. Department of Agriculture assist growers in working with wholesale
6. buyers and processors in matters of pricing, food safety, receiving
7. schedules and handling facilities.
8. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in
9. cooperation with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture
10. Food and Environment, Kentucky State University, and the
11. Kentucky Horticulture Council to update and make publicly available
12. the database for the Kentucky Horticultural Products and Services
13. Directory.
14. We urge the Colleges of Agriculture to continue their commit-
15. ment to all areas of horticulture research and the providing of time-
16. ly and current information on production, handling, processing and
17. marketing of the wide array of horticulture products grown
18. in Kentucky.
19. We recommend that the Horticulture Research Farm be main-
20. tained as the primary horticulture facility for research and extension
21. and undergraduate education in central Kentucky because the loca-
22. tion, topography and soil types are extremely suitable for the type of
23. research afforded to the growing horticulture industry. We also urge
24. extensive horticulture crop research at the Eden Shale, Princeton
25. and Quicksand facilities.
26. We recommend that all fruits and vegetables sold on the
27. wholesale and retail markets in Kentucky be labeled as to the point
28. of origin.
29. We support continued efforts and further development of the
30. Arboretum at the University of Kentucky.
31. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and
32. the University of Kentucky make a strong effort to determine out-of-
33. state nurseries that supply disease and insect free strawberry
34. plants, fruit trees, vegetable transplants, etc.
35. We encourage the Agricultural Statistics Service to continue to
36. develop collection and reporting procedures on sales of all horticul-
37. tural products (nursery, greenhouse, fruits, and vegetables).
38. We recommend the enforcement of regulating transient roadside
39. vendors, especially those selling from highway rights-of-way, which
40. are hazardous, do not contribute to the local tax base and compete
41. unfairly with local producers.
42. We further recommend that Farm Bureau publish information
43. pertaining to monitoring and regulation of transient roadside
44. markets and their effect on local producers.
45. We encourage priority being given to Kentucky-grown
46. greenhouse and nursery stock and sod for all state and county
47. funded construction and maintenance projects.
48. Horticulture should be included in the definition of agriculture
49. wherever agriculture is defined in statute.
50. We recommend that the Natural Resource Conservation Service
51. make funding available for high tunnel structures to farmers statewide.
52. We recommend that the University of Kentucky maintain an
53. extension viticulturist and an extension oenologist to work full-time
54. with the Kentucky Wine Industry and to interact with the Kentucky
55. Grape and Wine Council and the Kentucky Vineyard Society.
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FORAGE CROPS

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3. We urge the Agricultural Development Board to maintain the
4. existing forage-related county model programs, and expand these
5. programs to address the needs of Kentucky agriculture.
6. We support the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council in an
7. effort to improve forage production on farms.
8. We commend the University of Kentucky and the USDA
9. Agricultural Research Service Forage-Animal Production Research
10. Unit (FAPRU) in Lexington for establishing and maintaining an
11. internationally recognized forage program. We support funding for
12. continued research and extension in the establishment, production,
13. storage, and marketing of forage crops in Kentucky.
14. We support all Kentucky livestock and forage-related events,
15. such as the Kentucky Grazing schools, the Kentucky Grazing
16. Conference and the Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forage
17. Conference.
18. We recommend that the regulatory services, seed companies
19. and dealers monitor seeds and inoculant supplies in Kentucky to
20. ensure that quality products are available.
21. We recommend that Kentucky Department of Agriculture funding
22. be continued to maintain and improve forage testing and marketing.
23. We encourage farmers who raise forage either for sale or their
24. own use to use the forage testing facilities at the Kentucky
25. Department of Agriculture to monitor the quality of their forage.
26. We favor the continuance of upgrading and tightening hay
27. grading standards.
28. We recommend that forage crops be maintained at maximum
29. levels to conserve soil and preserve water.
30. We urge farmers to consider the use of alfalfa and other forage
31. crops as a means of increasing income and reducing soil erosion.
32. We urge continued research and development on the use of
33. forage crops for alternative fuels.
34. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
35. explore the possibility of harvesting forages from public lands and
36. rights-of-way.
37. We recommend efforts to increase the use of forage crops as a
38. biofuel source.
39. We support the availability of crop insurance for all forage crops
40. and pasture.
41. We support the research, production, processing, commercial-
42. ization and utilization of industrial hemp and that it be regulated by
43. USDA rather than the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
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48. We recommend Kentucky Farm Bureau continue leading a
49. coalition to speak with one voice as we address post-buyout issues
50. in the tobacco industry.
51. For continuity with growers and companies, we encourage
52. multi-year contracts. We encourage tobacco companies announce
53. contract intentions by March 1.
54. We support exploring the possibility of establishing a national
55. checkoff for U.S. Tobacco Export Promotion.
56. We believe that all U.S. Tobacco Export Promotion Committee
57. members should be active tobacco producers.

TOBACCO

1. We support a marketing initiative for tobacco not sold under
2. contract and for other excess tobacco.
3. We recommend that all tobacco be reported on Form 578 to the
4. Farm Service Agency.
5. We support continuing availability of crop insurance for tobacco
6. including fields with an acceptable crop rotation management plan.
7. We also support allowing tobacco to be fully insurable in sod
8. ground.
9. We support a two-tiered crop insurance program for tobacco; the
10. base rate being available for all tobacco with a second tier buy-up
11. level for tobacco grown under contract from a company GAP
12. member in good standing.
13. We support the final planting date for dark tobacco be moved to
14. July 1.
15. We support final harvest date of October 10 for burley tobacco
16. and October 20 for dark tobacco in Kentucky for crop insurance
17. purposes.
18. We support any tobacco graded as no value and receiving an
19. insurance adjustment being required to be destroyed and destruc-
20. tion witnessed by a representative of the insurance company.
21. We support the USDA tobacco advisory committee, or a similar
22. committee representing the tobacco industry being established to
23. represent the new issues facing growers.
24. Because we encourage tobacco companies to limit the use of
25. foreign grown tobacco, we believe that cigarette packs should
26. contain information regarding the percentage of the geographic
27. content by country of the tobacco in the pack.
28. We support the use of peer-reviewed, sound science, as the
29. basis for any regulatory decision.
30. FDA regulation of tobacco should be limited to processing and
31. distribution.
32. We support a Kentucky tobacco grower being placed on any FDA
33. Advisory Boards for developing tobacco regulations.
34. We oppose FDA or any other federal agency regulating tobacco
35. products in a manner that could mandate modifications to
36. components which naturally occur in tobacco leaf used in
37. conventional tobacco products.
38. We oppose the banning of flavorings in tobacco products by any
39. agency.
40. We encourage the FDA to be more transparent and to inform the
41. general public, especially tobacco producers, of upcoming meetings
42. and agendas, and to accept public comments from all interested
43. parties.
44. We believe that smokeless tobacco products should be treated
45. differently in FDA regulations than smoking products.
46. We support smoking policies that accommodate the rights of
47. smokers and nonsmokers. We support current state law restricting
48. the sale of tobacco products to minors, but we oppose delegating
49. this authority to local governments. While we oppose a ban on
50. tobacco advertising or other restrictions on free access to tobacco
51. products for those of a legal age, we recommend that Kentucky
52. Farm Bureau work with allied organizations to curb youth smoking.
53. In order to protect the important tobacco industry of Kentucky, we
54. encourage elected officials to oppose any regulation or tax on
55. tobacco products that would put Kentucky at a competitive
56. disadvantage with surrounding states.
57. We oppose ad valorem taxes on tobacco products.

1. We oppose the sale of e-cigarettes and vapor products to
2. minors, and recommend liquid nicotine products be packaged in
3. childproof containers.
4. We encourage that all substances or ingredients in e-cigarettes
5. or vapor products fall under the same regulatory oversight as
6. domestic or imported tobacco.
7. We support the concept of inspection, labeling, regulation and
8. taxation of vapor products.
9. We urge continued exploration and development of market
10. outlets and new uses for tobacco and we recommend that a
11. coalition of tobacco organizations employ a marketing specialist to
12. sell tobacco in potential markets.
13. We are opposed to federal lawsuits brought by the Department
14. of Justice against tobacco manufacturers.
15. We request that tobacco be graded uniformly.
16. Recognizing that tobacco is a legal crop, we support USDA
17. collecting data and issuing reports on tobacco acreage, production,
18. and prices received by tobacco type. We also support authorizing
19. the Economic Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service
20. (FAS) to collect data and provide market analysis on tobacco.
21. We support the funds necessary to maintain the Tobacco
22. Research and Development Center at an adequate level to carry
23. out their purpose. We urge the Tobacco Research Board to
24. continue to carry out an effective program with adequate revenue
25. provided for this purpose.
26. We support procedures being established to prevent
27. GMO tobacco from being commingled with, or contaminating
28. traditional tobacco.
29. We ask all burley producers to join in the checkoff fund.
30. We recommend that the University of Kentucky continue
31. to develop mechanical methods for the production, harvesting,
32. and curing of tobacco, develop disease resistant varieties, and
33. continue their work with herbicides, insecticides, fungicides
34. and nitrosamines.
35. We support research and education to help farmers comply with
36. new contract requirements as a result of FDA regulations.
37. We support universal Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training.
38. We recommend all tobacco producers participate in a GAP
39. certification program.
40. We support GAP certification training requirements be good for
41. three years rather than requiring annual training.
42. We oppose GAP fees or assessments being the responsibility of
43. the grower.
44. We recommend that GAP compliance must contribute to a
45. tobacco growers improved financial sustainability.
46. We continue to support efforts to restrict and eliminate blue mold
47. including spraying of tobacco transplants with preventive fungicides
48. by plant producers. Producers should then certify their plants as
49. having been sprayed. We also recommend labeling of effective
50. chemicals for use in tobacco greenhouses.
51. We recommend Farm Bureau work with the Extension Service,
52. the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the tobacco
53. companies to develop an informational campaign to promote use
54. of locally grown plants to prevent the spread of blue mold from out-
55. of-state plants.
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1. We recommend the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service
2. include more detailed reports on tobacco which should be broken
3. down to specific types.
4. We recommend that Farm Bureau work toward getting the Risk
5. Management Agency (RMA) to continue to insure dark tobacco in
6. the barns as they have in the past.
7. We support tobacco being included in a Disaster Title of the
8. Farm Bill.

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS

13. We recommend that the Agriculture Development Board funding
14. (50% of Master Settlement Agreement Phase I) and structure
15. be made a permanent part of state government and the
16. current, operational structure remain in the Governor's Office of
17. Agricultural Policy.
18. We support more dollars of Ag Development Funds be spent for
19. the purpose of improving the net farm income of individual farmers
20. in production agriculture.
21. We recommend restoring and maintaining funding for existing
22. agricultural programs and services through the General Fund rather
23. than using Master Settlement Agreement funds.
24. We support the creation of tobacco projects in the County
25. Agricultural Investment Program.
26. We recommend that any Tobacco Settlement funds above the
27. agriculture community's request that are directed toward youth
28. smoking programs be broadened to include alcohol and drugs and
29. be structured with sufficient safeguards and accountability.
30. We support the Kentucky Ag Finance Corporation Infrastructure
31. Loan Program and the Beginning Farmer Loan Program.
32. We recommend no changes in the Master Settlement
33. Agreement and encourage the state of Kentucky to leave the
34. settlement "as is."
35. We request the debt service for state projects be taken from the
36. General Fund rather than from the Agricultural Development Funds.
37. We support the need for increased funding for the rapidly
38. expanding horticulture industry as Tobacco Settlement Funds
39. decrease and recommend the General Assembly finance these
40. programs with General Fund dollars.

COMMODITY PROMOTION

45. We recognize the right of producers to promote increased
46. research, sales and consumption of the commodities they produce
47. and to work together as a group to promote Kentucky agriculture.
48. Therefore, we support the promotional activities of the following
49. Kentucky commodity groups: Corn Growers Association, Soybean
50. Association, Cattlemen's Association, American Dairy Association,
51. Egg Council, Poultry Federation, Pork Producers, Council for Burley
52. Tobacco, Small Grain Growers, Kentucky Aquaculture Association,
53. Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers, Kentucky Forest Industries
54. Association, Sweet Sorghum Producers and Processors
55. Association, the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, the
56. Kentucky Goat Producers Association, the Kentucky Sheep and
57. Goat Development Office, the Kentucky Dairy Development

1. Council, the Kentucky Horticulture Council, and its member
2. associations, the Kentucky Grape and Wine Council, the Kentucky
3. Alternative Livestock Association, the Organic Association of
4. Kentucky, the Kentucky Farmers Market Association, the Kentucky
5. Agritourism Council, the equine industry and the Kentucky State
6. Beekeepers Association.

7. We recommend the Governor's office engage in a multitude of
8. collaborative efforts with the Commissioner of Agriculture and
9. Kentucky Farm Bureau on international trade.

10. We support legislation to authorize any new commodity
11. promotion program if the legislation provides:

12. (1) For mandatory participation with a referendum to be held
13. before initiation of the program;

14. (2) For a referendum to be valid a majority of votes cast must be
15. affirmative;

16. (3) For periodic review and referenda to determine continuation
17. or termination of the program upon petition of 10 percent of the
18. registered producers in the area covered by the program;

19. (4) That collected funds shall be used only for promotion,
20. research, education, and market development as directed by the
21. growers and producers of these products; and

22. (5) That only those persons who contribute monies to the
23. respective programs shall be eligible to serve on the boards which
24. administer such programs.

25. We recommend a refund option for all checkoff programs.

26. We recommend checkoffs be a percentage of net sales, instead
27. of a set rate per head, bushel, or pound with the exception of the
28. current cattle and cotton checkoffs, and information should be made
29. available at the point of sale regarding refunds.

30. Opportunities should be offered to producers with existing
31. promotional programs to approve changes in operation and
32. administration under the guidelines of the existing legislation in
33. order that the declared policy of such legislation may be carried out.

34. Any commission or body created under an agricultural
35. commodity promotion program should be required to provide
36. complete accountability to its producers of the expenditure of
37. funds collected from them, including funds released to any
38. agricultural organization, public agency or private firm for promotion
39. or research purposes.

40. We recommend that the Council for Burley Tobacco strive to
41. include all burley tobacco producing states in the burley checkoff.

42. We support the national program for soybean product promotion
43. and research as established by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation
44. and Trade Act of 1990.

FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY

49. The American food supply is the safest and most abundant in the
50. world. Agricultural chemicals and other technological advances
51. play a major role in maintaining both the quality and quantity of our
52. food supply.

53. We support legislative and regulatory decisions concerning
54. food irradiation that are based on valid research. We support
55. irradiation of food products to control harmful bacteria and
56. pathogens, to extend shelf-life and to reduce dependency on
57. post-harvest treatments.

1. We will monitor initiatives to improve and streamline food safety
2. to ensure that policies and procedures are in place that build trust
3. and reliability in Kentucky Agriculture.
4. We recommend that EPA use an accepted scientific approach
5. (when labeling or relabeling) in formulating and regulating
6. chemicals under the Food Quality Protection Act.
7. We support educating all food handlers on the proper preparation,
8. cooking and serving of food products, including sanitary practices
9. required by state licensing procedures.
10. We recommend that nitrates continue to be used as a meat
11. preservative unless it is proved beyond doubt that the continued use
12. of nitrates will be harmful to human health.
13. We support the state of Kentucky's adoption of the current food
14. codes for all food and convenience stores.
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BIOTECHNOLOGY

19. We support the investment required to make Kentucky a world
20. leader in agricultural biotechnology including: recruitment and
21. incentive programs for new biotechnology industry, and further
22. development of world class facilities and research faculty in the
23. Colleges of Agriculture.
24. We support the expanded use of agricultural products for
25. medical purposes by the biotechnology industry.
26. We support the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO) as
27. a viable option for agriculture production. We believe that current
28. federal approval procedures establish the safety of marketable
29. GMO products and that these approval procedures are stringent
30. and scientifically based.
31. We support research and establishment of internationally
32. accepted levels/percentages for GMO and non-GMO agricultural
33. content.
34. We oppose the production of any GMO product or crop that is not
35. federally approved for human consumption with the exception of
36. crops grown for medicinal or research purposes.
37. We oppose individual states establishing separate policies on
38. GMO labeling.
39. We oppose the federal government's work and promotion of the
40. terminator gene in seed research.
41. We recommend that the term genetically modified organisms
42. (GMO) be changed to genetically enhanced organisms (GEO).
43. We support the use of underground facilities for GMO research.
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48. We support activities and proposals that will bring about
49. increased efficiency in the marketing of agricultural products,
50. domestically and internationally. We encourage all Kentucky stock-
51. yard facilities to incorporate video auctions during livestock sales.
52. We recommend close investigation of all mergers, ownership
53. changes and other trends in the livestock marketing industry for
54. actions that limit competitive marketing for livestock producers.
55. We favor a value based marketing system that allows farmers
56. the flexibility to be legally engaged in value and volume based
57. marketing agreements or contracts.

MARKETING AND CONTRACTING

1. We support expanding the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's
2. Office of Marketing and Product Promotion.
3. We urge county Farm Bureaus to support programs offered
4. by Kentucky Farm Bureau such as the chemical program, Florida
5. fruit program, beef mineral program, and the Certified Roadside
6. Farm Market program.
7. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture offer
8. guidance, information, and financial aid to producers in developing
9. cooperative markets for farm products.
10. We recommend adequate funding for marketing promotion of all
11. Kentucky agricultural products.
12. We encourage the utilization of Kentucky agriculture products by
13. state and county agencies, state funded institutions, public schools
14. and publicly funded projects whenever possible. We also encourage
15. these institutions to contract with local growers when feasible.
16. We support the use of more U.S. red meat, poultry, and fish, as
17. well as other farm products in the school lunch program.
18. We support research to find ways to help small meat processors
19. lower their costs of production to facilitate the growth of Kentucky's
20. direct meat marketing enterprises.
21. We recommend that Kentucky Department of Agriculture funding
22. be continued to maintain and improve forage testing and marketing.
23. We recommend that a statewide wholesale marketing
24. infrastructure be continued and expanded to include the research
25. and development of wholesale marketing, packaging, and process-
26. ing efforts for Kentucky-grown horticulture products.
27. We recommend continued cooperation between the Kentucky
28. Department of Agriculture, the Cabinet for Economic Development,
29. the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, and the Agricultural
30. Development Board in an attempt to promote farmer and roadside
31. markets for the promotion of local grown products in the state with
32. the ultimate goal of having at least one farmer market per county.
33. We support a prompt pay law to protect Kentucky growers.
34. We support legislation protecting agricultural producers in the
35. event of non-payment for their products.
36. We support all state and national efforts to help veterans
37. transition to the agricultural industry.
38. We encourage producers and processors to use a positive
39. approach in identifying their products in Kentucky or the U.S., such
40. as the Kentucky Proud program.
41. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's campaign
42. for promotion of agricultural products, like the Kentucky Proud,
43. Homegrown by Heroes and Appalachia Proud.
44. We recommend continued funding and support for the Kentucky
45. Center for Agriculture and Rural Development and its activities.
46. We oppose any legislation that would adversely affect the ability
47. of farm wineries and small wineries to produce income for the
48. farm family.
49. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky
50. Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky, and Kentucky
51. State University work to expand internet marketing programs which
52. provide listings of available products and services for agriculture
53. commodities.
54. We recommend strengthening labeling and policing at the retail
55. level to maintain the integrity of products certified as organic.
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DAMS AND LOCKS

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3. We recommend that agencies funding watershed projects,
4. including PL566 and PL534 projects and pilot projects, be held
5. responsible for the upgrading of existing structures above regular
6. operation and maintenance. We support sponsoring entities' efforts
7. to maintain watershed structures.
8. We encourage USDA to allow landowners who have wetlands
9. that have been created by dams that were built under PL566 and
10. PL534 projects be allowed to enter them into the Wetlands
11. Conservation Program.
12. We support finding common sense, least cost alternatives for
13. resolving hazardous dams classification issues.
14. We support reducing matching fund levels, and allowing for
15. in-kind contributions from local entities, to maintain state and
16. federal dams.
17. We recommend that flood control or retarding structures be
18. developed as multi-purpose facilities where feasible. In addition to
19. flood control, they should provide benefits such as municipal and
20. industrial water storage, recreational and agricultural development,
21. and/or for the purpose of generating power, etc.
22. We encourage the Division of Water to work with the
23. water conservancy districts and other appropriate authorities to
24. address the funding and development of emergency action plans
25. for high hazard dams that could impact life or property of
26. adjoining landowners.
27. We believe the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Kentucky
28. River Authority should give more consideration to the agricultural
29. land and stream bank erosion below their dams by monitoring land
30. and water conditions below these structures and by adjusting
31. release rates and times.
32. We oppose the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers charging fees to
33. water utilities for water storage, for water withdrawal based on the
34. Corps' loss of revenue, for annual operation and maintenance costs,
35. and for percentage of any major dam repairs.
36. We strongly support the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the
37. Kentucky River Authority's efforts to properly repair and bring up to
38. standard the dams and feasible locks on all Kentucky rivers, and
39. further encourage these entities to then maintain and operate the
40. locks and dams on all Kentucky rivers for the benefit of the people
41. of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
42. We recommend those lakes controlled by the U.S. Army Corps
43. of Engineers be maintained for their primary purpose of flood
44. control, with special consideration given to agricultural activities.
45. We encourage the state to increase its support of river ports.
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50. We encourage the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation
51. Commission, local conservation districts and farm bureau to participate
52. in developing water quality regulations. We request state government to
53. include agricultural representation in the process of developing water
54. quality regulations to include, but not limited to TMDLs.
55. Classifications of the surface and ground waters of the
56. Commonwealth should be based on documented water quality and
57. quantity data. A state program should consider factors such as the

WATER RESEARCH

1. cost of pollution abatement, the needs of agriculture, the needs for
2. growth and the presence of naturally occurring substances.
3. Solving of difficult problems caused by the intrusion of naturally
4. occurring substances should not be at the expense of the estab-
5. lished water users, including agriculture.
6. We support the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act and the
7. Kentucky Water Resources Board. We support research on the
8. BMPs established in the state water quality plan. We support
9. producer development, implementation, and updating of individual
10. agriculture water quality plans.
11. We encourage producers to have their plan certified by a
12. qualified party, and to file their self-certifications and/or plan with the
13. local conservation district.
14. We support voluntary watershed awareness efforts. We recom-
15. mend local communities take an active role in watershed research,
16. education and assessment. We support the use of agricultural
17. water quality plans and best management practices to address
18. water quality issues, using a targeted watershed approach.
19. Using accurate water quality monitoring, water use needs should
20. be addressed through research on the following:
21. (1) The status of surface and groundwater quality in Kentucky;
22. (2) The impacts of agriculture on water quality in Kentucky;
23. (3) The economics and maintenance of water supply structures
24. and transport mechanisms; and
25. (4) The location, quantity and hydrology of groundwater
26. and springs.
27. We support the Energy & Environment Cabinet's efforts to review
28. all impaired streams and reassess their designation based on
29. actual scientific data.
30. We encourage the Agriculture Water Quality Authority (AWQA)
31. to coordinate research among the agencies and evaluate water
32. quality protection models.
33. We support collaborative efforts to conduct water resource
34. research, monitoring and education efforts by state and federal
35. agencies and the universities.
36. We support United States Geological Survey (USGS) efforts to
37. collect data on Kentucky's major waterways that contribute to the
38. Mississippi River Basin.
39. We oppose any voluntary water quality data being used as the
40. sole source on which regulatory decisions are based.
41. We oppose the Division of Water setting TMDLs with data more
42. than three years old.
43. We recommend the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services
44. conduct research on sewage treatment systems and develop
45. low-cost alternatives for areas where septic tanks are inefficient.
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50. When water districts/associations are established, consideration
51. should be given to the communities' future needs, including
52. sufficient facilities to serve all people in the area, adequate
53. size lines for fire protection, and sufficient infrastructure to
54. accommodate industry and agriculture.
55. We oppose any fee for water holding/storage by the U.S. Army
56. Corps of Engineers.
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WATER DISTRICTS/ASSOCIATIONS

1. We recommend that water districts make a farm use rate
2. available for agricultural uses.
3. We encourage local and state legislation that mandates
4. eliminating sewer charges on water used in production agriculture
5. that is never returned to a municipal system. The agricultural
6. definition should include horticulture production including green-
7. houses and nurseries.
8. We recommend that costs for developing sewer lines be
9. established relative to each tap-on. We oppose sewer line
10. development costs being pro-rated on a footage basis as deter-
11. mined by length of line on the individual's property. Landowners in
12. Agricultural Districts shall pay the cost of service connections from
13. the sewer line extension and the one unit share for each service
14. connection to the farming operation.
15. We recommend that any city, town or village that has a
16. central water supply system also have a feasible plan for
17. sewage disposal that meets state approved health standards and
18. passes inspections.
19. We oppose mandatory sewer hook-ups for homes beyond the
20. city limits that have an existing and functioning septic system.

21. **WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

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25. State water resource policy and regulations should be based on
26. adequate scientific research data.
27. Agricultural waste water impoundments and groundwater should
28. be monitored only for demonstration, research projects, or
29. individual water quality plans.
30. We support state and federal legislation that specifically allows a
31. farmer to spread manure on fields at acceptable rates using the
32. most cost effective methods without it being considered a point
33. source discharge under the Kentucky Pollution Discharge
34. Elimination System of the Division of Water and the federal Clean
35. Water Act.
36. We support the Energy & Environment Cabinet's control over the
37. issuing of permits for domestic and industrial spreading of waste.
38. We urge the Governor and the Energy & Environment Cabinet to
39. continue the development and implementation of a comprehensive
40. water resources development plan while giving due consideration to
41. land use planning efforts and future water needs of the state and to
42. assist local government in implementing a water and sewer
43. resource plan in their own community. We urge farmer participation
44. in the water resources planning process and request an agri-
45. cultural representative on all watershed basin teams.
46. We recommend that the Division of Water monitor and inform
47. local communities as to the status of their water resources and be
48. available to provide necessary guidance in the development of an
49. emergency plan. We recommend that during a declaration of a
50. water emergency that water for livestock be listed as a high priority
51. and that water remain available to producers in order to prevent
52. livestock owners from liquidating their herds. We support research,
53. cost-share, technical assistance, and further development of
54. existing programs for on-farm water supplies including irrigation
55. purposes. We support USDA modifying existing cost-share
56. programs to allow for NRCS technical assistance in assessing the
57. long-term availability of water resources and the planning and

1. development of new on-farm water supplies and irrigation systems.
2. We also recommend that during a water emergency, water for com-
3. mercial producers of horticulture crops be listed as high priority, and
4. that water remain available to them.
5. In order to prevent future water supply issues, we believe human
6. consumption and agricultural usage needs should take precedence
7. over environmental issues when creating new or renovating existing
8. water resources.
9. We encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to aggressively pursue
10. opportunities to increase water availability for farms and rural
11. communities.
12. We encourage the use of backflow devices on water supplies.
13. We oppose state regulations on wild and scenic rivers that are
14. more stringent than federal protections.
15. We support moving Clean Water Act Section 319 Non-Point
16. Source Program for agriculture and light construction to the
17. Division of Conservation and silviculture to the Division of Forestry.
18. We support the Kentucky Water Resources Board and its coor-
19. dinated effort to manage water resource projects and programs.
20. We support the University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center
21. of Excellence concept and coordinated research efforts on water
22. resource development and irrigation efficiencies.
23. We support increased monitoring of Kentucky's water resources
24. to observe both quantity and quality of these resources.
25. We recommend the Kentucky Drought Mitigation and Response
26. Plan be updated to include a specific "Agriculture Drought
27. Mitigation" section. We recommend that in addition to the Kentucky
28. Department of Agriculture that the USDA Farm Service Agency and
29. a representative of the farming community be represented on the
30. Kentucky Drought Mitigation Team.
31. We support the development of tax incentives for irrigation and
32. livestock systems development.
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36. **CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

37. We support the Division of Conservation staying a stand-alone
38. agency.
39. We support the bipartisan Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation
40. Commission's authority to employ necessary state personnel
41. and develop appropriate state policy to carry out the state's
42. conservation program. We urge that the federal, state and local
43. units of government provide adequate funds to maintain a sound
44. program, and appropriate technical assistance to implement the
45. program, for the local conservation districts. Conservation districts
46. and watershed conservancy districts should be administered by
47. local elected supervisors and officials.
48. We value partnerships that work together in promoting sound
49. resource conservation practices, and we support increased efforts
50. in planning and implementing such activities.
51. We support at least one full-time NRCS employee being
52. available as a point of contact at all times in each district.
53. We support increased funding for professional NRCS staff at the
54. state level.
55. Conservation programs should be targeted to productive
56. working farmland. We oppose the use of federal conservation
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1. practices on land that is in the process of being developed for non-
2. agricultural use.
3. We support the original concept of a Conservation Reserve
4. Program (CRP) to improve soil and water resources and
5. secondarily, to provide wildlife habitat.
6. Contracts for new and renewal acres enrolled in the program
7. should take into consideration provisions for highly erodible
8. farmland and land retired for water quality programs.
9. We support the original soil concept of the CRP and CREP
10. program to improve soil and water resources. We highly recommend
11. that this be restricted to highly erodible land or land that is not prime
12. row cropland.
13. We support automatic re-enrollment of CRP acres that offer soil,
14. water, and wildlife benefits.
15. We support agricultural districts and recommend the Agricultural
16. District and Conservation Act expand its protections for agricultural
17. lands, as it relates to sewer line extensions. We also support
18. changes to the act to include smaller farms.
19. We support tax breaks for farmers who practice environmentally
20. sound soil conservation techniques.
21. We favor legislation, if necessary, to prevent the dissolution of
22. watershed conservancy districts, as long as contractual
23. commitments exist. We favor keeping all county conservation dis-
24. trict offices open and encourage cooperative efforts by the Division
25. of Conservation, NRCS and FSA to maintain these services.
26. We support FSA and NRCS retaining the administrative function
27. over the programs they currently administer in the Farm Bill.
28. We recommend the revision of the (BMP) KSW4-heavy use area
29. protection, to allow greater use of livestock feeding pads.
30. We support cost-share dollars for animal feeding structures.
31. We support conservation districts' efforts to increase funding to
32. state cost-share back to \$9 million each year in the state budget.
33. We support continuation of General Fund dollars and Kentucky
34. Department of Agriculture dollars to the Kentucky Soil Erosion and
35. Water Quality Cost-Share Program administered by the State
36. Division of Conservation through local conservation districts to help
37. farmers install Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet the
38. requirements of the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act. We
39. support an increase in direct aid to conservation districts for office
40. support and technical assistance for implementation of the
41. Agriculture Water Quality Act. We support a groundwater protection
42. program based on pollution prevention through the use of BMPs.
43. We support continued cooperative efforts between the Soil
44. and Water Commission and the Kentucky Department of Fish
45. and Wildlife with the Revolving Loan Fund to purchase conservation
46. equipment. We also support the use of Revolving Loan Funds to
47. purchase conservation infrastructure.
48. We recommend the use of NRCS funds to aid in the
49. maintenance of streams and waterways such as eliminating debris
50. in order to prevent flooding.
51. We support the soil mapping program and request continued
52. funding for upgrades which will make the soil maps and interpreta-
53. tions available through modern technology, particularly Geographic
54. Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).
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1. We support increased funding for existing farm construction of
2. facilities that meet the state requirements for long-term manure
3. storage. We recommend that end users of animal waste and poul-
4. try litter be eligible for cost-share funding to build storage facilities.
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ALTERNATIVE FARMING METHODS

10. We support all alternative methods of farming, whether livestock,
11. aquaculture or crops, being solely regulated by the Kentucky
12. Department of Agriculture.
13. We support methods of farming that result in:
14. (1) A profit for the farm operator;
15. (2) Enhancement of environmental quality and our natural
16. resource base; and
17. (3) The production of safe food, feed and fiber.
18. We are keenly aware that the means to accomplish these ends
19. may vary from farm operation to farm operation and that no single
20. method of farming will work with every operator.
21. We support:
22. (1) Research aimed at reducing overall inputs needed to sustain
23. profitable farming operations;
24. (2) Efforts to provide information to farmers on proven means of
25. improving the efficiency of inputs; and
26. (3) Efforts to assist agri-tourism and non-traditional farming
27. enterprises particularly in obtaining affordable insurance coverage.
28. We oppose:
29. (1) Any attempt to mandate low input methods of farming; and
30. (2) Requiring low input methods as a condition of participation in
31. government farm programs.
32. We support farmers of privately owned farm raised cervids
33. defined as livestock to be solely regulated by the Kentucky
34. Department of Agriculture. We support removal of the current total
35. ban on cervid importation into the state, and recommend restoration
36. of cervid importation following the Kentucky Chronic Wasting
37. Disease guidelines as regulated by the state veterinarian.
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42. We recommend that tax credits be made available for wetlands
43. preservation. We are opposed to farmers being forced to pay
44. additional taxes for wetlands preservation. However, if a state fund
45. is created for wetlands preservation, we oppose the funds being
46. used with the power of eminent domain.
47. We strongly support the normal farming practices exemption.
48. We support compensation for the lost use of privately-owned
49. land due to wetlands delineation.
50. We support congressional efforts to address the inconsistent
51. interpretations of jurisdictional waters pursuant to Section 404 of
52. the Clean Water Act by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We sup-
53. port limiting the Corps' jurisdiction to the rivers and navigable water
54. resources of the United States.
55. We recommend establishing a process of re-evaluation of
56. wetland determinations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
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WETLANDS

1. We recommend that logging access roads be removed by the
2. logger when logging is completed in wetlands.
3. We support the NRCS as the lead agency for agricultural
4. wetland determinations.
5. We support the Wetland Reserve Program and use of
6. mitigation banks.

STREAM RESTORATION

11. We oppose legislation, regulations or any actions that result in
12. hampering the appropriate application and maintenance of levees,
13. stream channels, and banks, including drainage and maintenance
14. of prior converted wetlands.
15. We support agencies involved in regulating waterways on private
16. property be able to ease regulations in times of disaster so that
17. landowners may effectively clean or clear waterways on their
18. property.
19. We support the landowner's right to manage, maintain and repair
20. existing private dikes and levees.
21. Normal farming practices should be exempt from permits or
22. certification requirements.
23. We recommend landowners be able to remove log jams in
24. existing streams in order to prevent or correct soil erosion, crop loss
25. and changes in normal flow of existing streams. Removal should be
26. accomplished through practical means under advisement from
27. conservation officials in a timely manner and without fear of
28. repercussions or fines by government agencies. We also support
29. allowing state equipment to be used to help unclog creeks
30. and streams.
31. We recommend state and local governments clean and maintain
32. ditches, culverts, and bridges on public rights-of-way to allow for
33. adequate water flow.

UTILITY EASEMENTS

38. All utilities should adhere to their contracts of easements as
39. stated in their original agreement. We will work with soil and water
40. conservation organizations in studying erosion problems and if
41. necessary initiate legislation to solve them.
42. We recommend where possible new power transmission lines
43. utilize existing easements and any new construction be done in a
44. way that will minimize the effect on agricultural activities.
45. We encourage utility and pipeline companies to hold public
46. informational meetings prior to negotiating with property owners for
47. easement rights or starting a new project that would impact multiple
48. landowners.
49. We support efforts to confine utility easements that interfere with
50. farming practices to property lines where feasible.
51. We support utility companies or their subcontractors providing
52. notification prior to entering private agriculture property to perform
53. routine maintenance.
54. When trees are being trimmed on utility rights-of-way we support
55. that the whole tree be trimmed or removed whichever is more
56. feasible.
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1. We recommend that all commercial underground utility lines be
2. marked and identified by the owner of the utility.
3. Since lands taken through easement by utility companies or
4. other deed restrictions are restricted from production, they should
5. be withdrawn from the tax rolls.
6. All subleasing of utility easements should require landowners'
7. consent and compensation.
8. We urge utility companies to use selective herbicides that will not
9. harm cool season grasses to help control erosion when spraying
10. rights-of-way.

UTILITY LINES AND PIPELINES

15. We favor legislation requiring all who construct underground
16. lines in Kentucky to:
17. (1) Lay all utility lines and pipelines at such depth that the top of
18. the line shall be at least 30 inches beneath the surface of the
19. ground, or the road, whichever is lower, and be checked, mapped
20. and maintained;
21. (2) Prepare a diagram showing the location of all utility lines;
22. (3) Replace rocks below plow depth;
23. (4) Place back the top soil to plow depth and re-establish
24. adequate vegetative cover;
25. (5) Leave cropland in tillable condition;
26. (6) Leave in first-class condition drainage systems disrupted
27. by utility lines and pipeline construction; and in cases where
28. disagreements as to what constitutes first-class condition
29. develops, the final decision should be left to the local or nearest
30. conservation district;
31. (7) Adequately compensate property owners for property taken
32. and for damages to remaining property and any subsequent
33. damage thereafter;
34. (8) Salvage marketable timber that is economically feasible; and
35. (9) Be a member of Kentucky811.
36. We recommend prohibiting utility companies from wire flag
37. use and recommend they remove and dispense of all discarded
38. materials.
39. The multi-line rights-of-way agreement, which cheats farmers out
40. of income from pipelines and utility lines, should be eliminated.
41. Property owners should be paid for the damage to the property
42. as a whole rather than the immediate area used by the pipe or
43. utility lines.
44. We urge strict enforcement of the National Electrical Safety
45. Code pertaining to minimum height requirements for utility and
46. telecommunication lines.
47. The oil and gas industry should be held to the same standard
48. regarding landowners as the coal industry, in that all oil and gas
49. activities including roadways and pipelines should be permitted,
50. bonded, and placed under the Energy and Environment Cabinet
51. requiring quarterly inspections and enforcement for violations
52. including civil penalties. Landowner consent must be obtained
53. before any permits are issued.
54. Soil compaction should be considered in any damage claim from
55. construction of a power line or utility. The full costs of removing
56. such compaction and weed control should be covered at local
57. equipment rental rates.

1. We support the appropriate federal and state agencies be given
2. the authority to develop and implement regulations governing the
3. natural gas liquid pipelines being proposed in Kentucky.
4. Repurposing of existing lines should also be included under these
5. regulations.

MINING

10. We strongly support the coal industry because it plays such a
11. critical role in Kentucky's economy.
12. We urge strict enforcement of Kentucky's Strip Mining and
13. Reclamation Act.
14. We support coal mine safety standards that protect Kentucky
15. miners.
16. We recommend that provisions be made in strip mine regulations
17. for salvaging marketable timber. We encourage the development of
18. markets for pulpwood and other small materials removed in the strip
19. mining operations.
20. We oppose uneconomical, unreasonable requirements to return
21. strip-mined land to its original contour when such restoration will not
22. return it to its most productive use.
23. We support investments in research and promotion of ag crops
24. and commodities that can be produced on reclaimed mine land.
25. We support a common sense approach to regulating mountain
26. top removal of coal which recognizes the agricultural and
27. economic development opportunities it can create.
28. We support mining reclamation for agricultural purposes.
29. We are concerned that the Longwall method of mining can be
30. destructive to agricultural land. Therefore, we recommend better
31. enforcement of all mining laws and regulations to protect prime
32. farmland from further destruction.
33. We urge the state to change the way it determines prime
34. farmland by using soil analysis rather than historical use.
35. We support the rural abandoned mine program and the
36. abandoned mine lands program and encourage the government to
37. release the state's full allocation of fees collected from mining
38. operations for the reclaiming of abandoned mines.
39. We support reforestation of surface mined land on non-
40. compacted soils using native species.
41. We support regulatory changes that allow environmentally
42. protective and efficient mining of previously mined areas.
43. We support agencies involved in regulating waterways on
44. private property be able to ease regulations in times of disaster
45. so that landowners may effectively clean or clear waterways on
46. their property.
47. We urge the Kentucky courts and the General Assembly to
48. clarify that coal bed methane is the same as gas found in oil and oil
49. producing zones and is the property of the gas owner. Due to the
50. unknown value and marketability of this gas, owners should be
51. exempt from unmined or unproduced mineral tax.
52. We support establishing a limited Sand and Gravel Operation
53. Permit for off-farm commercial operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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3. We support reasonable environmental protection programs,
4. including air quality protection programs that are based on sound
5. science. We are increasingly fearful of an over-reaction by some
6. preservation groups to the extent that sound farming practices may
7. be jeopardized and farmers cannot economically produce American
8. grown food and fiber to feed and clothe the American population.
9. We, therefore, recommend:
10. (1) the Agriculture Water Quality Authority, working in
11. conjunction with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture,
12. Food and Environment assume an active role in developing Best
13. Management Practices (BMPs) and conducting agricultural pollu-
14. tion research, including analyzing the effectiveness of BMPs; and
15. (2) agriculture be adequately represented on all environmental
16. commissions and other entities that establish air, water, land use
17. and other environmental regulations and standards.
18. A consistent long-term state working lands conservation and
19. environmental policy should be pursued that would:
20. (1) recognize the importance of improving agricultural productiv-
21. ity, while maintaining a productive natural resource base;
22. (2) ensure individual freedoms including the right to own and
23. use private property;
24. (3) balance economic and social costs with real environmental
25. benefits;
26. (4) encourage voluntary, local and incentive-based approaches
27. in which outcomes are well-defined, identifiable, verifiable and
28. realistic;
29. (5) rely on market solutions, performance-based approaches,
30. and/or funding effectiveness in which outcomes are well-defined,
31. identifiable, verifiable and realistic;
32. (6) base decisions on sound, scientific principles and peer-
33. reviewed science;
34. (7) recognize that education and technical assistance are key
35. components needed to achieve conservation and environmental
36. goals and objectives;
37. (8) recognize farmers as stewards to the land and protectors of
38. the environment;
39. (9) use agricultural water quality plans as the basis for
40. environmental quality compliance; and
41. (10) minimize potential loss of acres from fencing restrictions
42. adjoining waterways, creeks, ponds and lakes.
43. We support amending state law to give the Agriculture Water
44. Quality Authority direct oversight and approval authority of any state
45. environmental regulations and/or permit programs potentially
46. affecting agricultural operations.
47. We urge the Energy & Environment Cabinet to:
48. (1) give more attention to effective sewage treatment and solid
49. waste disposal;
50. (2) develop laws and regulations pertaining to the disposal of
51. agricultural waste based on sound technical data and require that
52. cost and benefit consideration be given;
53. (3) create a separate permit classification for on-farm livestock
54. truck washes;
55. (4) assist local governments in establishing programs for
56. recycling and proper disposal of items such as tires, batteries and
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1. motor oils, plastic (such as hay wrappings, baler twine and greenhouse covers) and Styrofoam (such as tobacco float trays); and
3. (5) consult with the Agriculture Water Quality Authority in its quest for 404 certification jurisdiction.
5. We support additional oversight and auditing of the Petroleum Storage Tank Assurance Fund to prevent excessive charges.
7. We support farmers being compensated for farming practices that put carbon back into the soil.
9. We support the development and the voluntary implementation of both Water Quality Trading Programs and Carbon Credit Trading Programs.
12. We support the "Rinse and Return" program and the Department of Agriculture's efforts in agriculture chemical collection.
14. We oppose legislation that would hold a farmer or commercial agriculture applicator liable for chemicals found in groundwater if the chemicals were used according to label recommendations or EPA standards.
18. We oppose holding the current landowner responsible for the actions of the previous owner. We are strongly opposed to legislation extending citizen's right to sue when they are not directly affected by the condition.
22. We oppose the implementation of state and local policies as substitutes for validly enacted laws and regulations. We oppose the enactment of regulations that go beyond the intent and authority of state and federal laws.
26. We support the USDA-ARS research projects on forage and animal manure nutrients management at the University of Kentucky and Western Kentucky University, and encourage producers to participate in these projects.
30. We support using livestock and poultry manure nutrients as a viable, sound nutrient source and soil amendment option. Any proposed law or regulation which would restrict a farmer's nutrient management practice shall only be implemented if consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed at the state level with the cooperation and assistance from the land grant institutions with considerations given for local conditions. Government cost-share funding should be made available to producers for construction of manure handling facilities to correct existing problems.
39. We are opposed to any regulations which require joint liability as a part of any permitting process. We support agriculture integration as a viable option of farmers who voluntarily choose to partner with corporate entities. We expect those who own or operate such agricultural facilities to do so responsibly to ensure the protection of water and air quality and quality of life for local citizens.
45. We recommend a site-specific evaluation of appropriate Best Management Practices for a particular livestock confinement operation and site-specific interpretation of regulations.
48. We support conserving Kentucky's biodiversity through voluntary efforts.
50. The United Nations should not be given any authority or regulatory power over the natural resources of the United States.
52. We support discouraging the EPA from enforcing air quality standards and implementing a new national ambient air quality standard for particulate matter until scientists determine the health and economic consequences of their actions.
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1. We oppose:
2. (1) mandatory air quality standards for ozone, greenhouse gases, and particulate matter on farmers and agricultural businesses;
5. (2) emission control rules for farming practices, farm equipment, cotton gins, grain handling facilities, etc., and urge EPA to reevaluate the imposition of standards on farm and ranch equipment and other non-highway use machinery;
9. (3) mandatory cap and trade regulations that will increase energy costs in Kentucky by penalizing coal-based energy generation; and
12. (4) EPA regulations on wood burning stoves.
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WASTE MANAGEMENT

17. We encourage incentives for the recycling of waste and strongly support research to find packages and containers utilizing renewable agricultural and forestry resources that are biodegradable.
19. We urge actions that would increase availability of recycling services in rural areas.
20. We strongly encourage the University of Kentucky to conduct research that would result in methods for recycling discarded net wrap, haylage wrap, silage/grain bags, and styrofoam.
22. We urge Kentucky landfills to accept agricultural wastes, and dead animals at a reasonable fee, to prevent improper disposal.
23. We encourage research on high temperature incineration as a possible replacement for landfills.
24. County Farm Bureaus should work with fiscal courts to develop and implement waste collection programs. We believe that adequate and appropriate funding to the counties should be provided in any statewide solid waste collection legislation.
25. We recommend that agencies and organizations work together to encourage composting and other means including bio-fermentation to deal effectively with both on-farm and processing animal waste.
26. We recommend market research be conducted by the University of Kentucky to identify markets for sheep and goat byproducts, to reduce the volume of offal generated at Kentucky processing plants.
27. We support the implementation and funding of a Tire Amnesty Program every two years and efforts to protect and ensure the integrity of the program.
28. We believe the cost of administering trash pickup should be limited. We do not believe the administrative costs should exceed actual trash pickup costs.
29. When salvage yards are established, we recommend that the facilities be located a reasonable distance from flood plains, lakes, streams and other waterways.
30. We support tighter control on landfills to avoid the dumping of dangerous chemicals.
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AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

55. We are opposed to rules and regulations that prohibit farmers' reasonable use of agricultural pesticides, fertilizer and chemicals.
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1. We oppose legislation that defines any crop management
2. practice as point source pollution.
3. We oppose legislation that forbids the use of any agricultural
4. input that has a federal label and established tolerance for certain
5. usages.
6. We recommend the establishment and continuance of studies
7. designed to test the effects of varying levels of persistent and
8. short-residual pesticides.
9. We support a "beneficial insects" category in USDA's competitive
10. grants program.
11. We recommend that colleges and universities in Kentucky:
12. (1) strengthen their research, implementation and education of
13. farmers on integrated crop management;
14. (2) continue recommending short-residual materials as a
15. substitute for persistent pesticides where advisable;
16. (3) strive to educate the public of the proper use of all
17. agricultural inputs;
18. (4) support programs to inform and educate the public of the
19. benefits of agricultural chemicals and animal health aids; and
20. (5) participate in the generation of data (IR-4 Program) for the
21. registration of pesticides for "minor-use" crops.
22. We encourage legislation that would require registration of
23. soil-plant amendments ("miracle" plant growth products) with
24. Regulatory Services and gives the director of the Experiment
25. Station authority to require manufacturers/distributors of such
26. products to furnish acceptable data for evaluating the product
27. under conditions applicable to those of Kentucky as a basis
28. for registration.
29. We support the concept that farmers should be able to buy
30. insecticides, pesticides and veterinary supplies at farm supply
31. stores or other outlets. We are opposed to any move to make
32. the use of subtherapeutic drugs in livestock feed available on a
33. prescription basis only. We oppose attempts by the Food and Drug
34. Administration (FDA) and USDA to restrict veterinarians from extra-
35. label usage of prescription drugs.
36. We oppose the elimination of methyl bromide from the list of
37. labeled chemicals until a substitute can be developed.
38. Atrazine is a critically important product to Kentucky agriculture.
39. Any regulatory re-evaluation should adhere to a transparent and
40. systematic process as outlined by FIFRA, allowing producer input to
41. ensure a high quality science based conclusion. This same trans-
42. parent and systematic process should be followed for all pesticides.
43. We oppose hazardous industrial and radioactive waste being
44. mixed with fertilizer.
45. We encourage fertilizer retailers to sell phosphorus-free fertilizer
46. for homeowners who don't need it according to soil test.
47. We support improved training programs on the proper handling
48. and safe use of pesticides. We will work with the University of
49. Kentucky, the Department of Agriculture and other agencies in
50. assisting agriculture producers in the implementation of the Worker
51. Protection Standard Act. We believe that the private pesticide
52. applicator training and certification program should be periodically
53. reviewed to ensure they are a sound and effective source of
54. training and information.
55. We support legislation requiring chemicals be available in
56. reusable or recyclable containers. We also support containers be
57. made biodegradable when possible. We encourage manufacturers

1. to utilize chemicals in dissolvable packaging and urge the industry
2. to promote this technology whenever possible.
3. We support elimination of KRS statutes that require commercial
4. pesticide applicator license holders to be charged a dealer fee to
5. apply incidental amounts of pesticides.
6. We support expedited approval of emergency labeling of chemi-
7. cals to fight crop losses from diseases such as soybean rust.
8. We encourage quarries to continue grinding quality agricultural
9. lime.

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REGULATORY SERVICES

14. We support the programs provided by Regulatory Services at the
15. University of Kentucky and encourage increased public reporting of
16. the various analyses.
17. We encourage farmers to take advantage of the analyses of bulk
18. lime, fertilizer, feed, and animal waste.
19. We recommend strict enforcement of Kentucky's lime law.

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LITTERING

24. We support enactment of beverage container deposit legislation.
25. We favor strict enforcement of laws regarding littering of
26. highways and private property adjoining highways. We urge all
27. citizens to cooperate with enforcement of present littering laws. We
28. urge the broadcast and print media to call the littering problem to the
29. public's attention.
30. We recommend that the size and number of signs pertaining
31. to roadside dumping be increased and include the penalty
32. for violation.
33. When landowners discover and report illegal dumping on their
34. land, we recommend that the landowner not be held responsible for
35. cleanup of the illegal dumping.
36. We encourage farmers to police their own operations in properly
37. disposing of the containers from farming operations and the
38. cleaning of farm machinery.
39. We recommend that all garbage trucks be enclosed to
40. avoid littering.

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PEST AND WEED CONTROL

45. We urgently request highway departments, railroad companies,
46. industries and all owners of public or private land adjacent to
47. farmland to cooperate with farmers in the control of Johnson grass,
48. nodding thistle, multiflora rose, honeysuckle, kudzu, water hemlock
49. and poisonous hemlock, and other noxious weeds.
50. We urge the Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with the
51. University of Kentucky Extension Service to ensure that native
52. grasses they are promoting are managed so as not to interfere with
53. nearby farming operations.
54. We oppose the use of non-native invasive landscape varieties of
55. plants that are spreading uncontrollably and negatively impacting
56. agriculture.

57.

1. For federal, state and local highway departments, we
2. recommend appropriations be made to carry out the noxious
3. weed program.
4. We encourage continued and adequate funding for the
5. Kentucky Department of Agriculture's noxious weed program on
6. agriculture land.
7. We support strict enforcement of noxious weed laws on all
8. public and private property.
9. We urge state and county highway departments to spray for
10. Johnson grass, nodding thistle and other noxious weeds before they
11. go to seed in accordance with pesticide application guidelines.
12. We support the allocation of funds for counties to control noxious
13. weeds on county rights-of-way.
14. We encourage state and local road departments to use caution
15. when spraying rights-of-way near agriculture production.
16. In the control of Johnson grass and other noxious weeds, we
17. suggest state and county highway departments take special
18. precautions to rinse or air spray equipment before moving from
19. contaminated rights-of-way to non-contaminated areas.
20. We request that wild sunflower, wild cucumber, poisonous
21. hemlock, mare's tail, and black nightshade be listed as noxious
22. weeds.
23. We are opposed to noxious weed seed being sold as bird feed
24. unless it has been treated so that it will not germinate.
25. We recommend increased efforts in eradicating disease carrying
26. insects, corn borer, and Japanese Beetle.
27. We support the immediate establishment of a Boll Weevil
28. Eradication Program in Kentucky.
29. We support the use of waiver forms with landowners to relieve
30. applicators of liability arising from thorough, effective use of
31. herbicides or other control options.
32. We support the use of livestock grazing and browsing as a viable
33. tool to improve resource conditions and to control weeds and/or
34. other vegetation.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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39. We recommend that Farm Bureau be represented in any
40. decision-making process involving wildlife hunting restrictions and
41. population control, and for the protection of animal health.
42. We support effective wildlife management that will reduce the
43. wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop loss,
44. automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life.
45. We support a year-round hunting season for crows.
46. We urge research be conducted on the amount of crop damage
47. done by government-controlled wildlife in order to help find a
48. solution to this problem. We recommend that the state establish
49. procedures for controlling wildlife pests such as beaver, black bear,
50. deer, turkey, coyote, raccoon, etc., which are proving to be destruc-
51. tive in certain areas of the state. We encourage more liberal deer,
52. elk, turkey, duck, geese, and black bear hunting seasons to control
53. rapidly expanding populations.
54. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Fish and
55. Wildlife provide extra elk tag allotments for purchase to the
56. "counties of release", and that extra consideration be given to local
- 57.

1. residents. We also recommend a nuisance provision be provided for
2. farmers in production agriculture, specifically for elk.
3. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife to
4. develop solutions to alleviate the problems that black bears cause
5. farmers by increasing the number of bears harvested and
6. depredation permits.
7. We encourage the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
8. to develop programs to increase the doe harvest. We support the
9. harvest of doe during modern gun season in zones where it is
10. currently not allowed. We further recommend that landowners
11. require deer hunters to harvest a doe before a buck can be taken.
12. We support the Hunters for the Hungry Program. We urge the
13. Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife to allow landowners with
14. nuisance permits to donate the wildlife to the Hunters for the Hungry
15. Program or a local food bank.
16. We support all wildlife trapped by nuisance trappers being
17. destroyed and not relocated.
18. We support Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and USDA APHIS Wildlife
19. Services work to eradicate feral hogs. We also support landowners
20. expanding their means of control by allowing:
21. (1) The issuance of permits to landowners, to be used by them
22. or their designee to hunt at night;
23. (2) The use of night vision, thermal imaging and electronic calls;
24. (3) The use of dogs for hunting; and
25. (4) The continuation of trapping.
26. We are opposed to the releasing of all wolves, bears, elk,
27. hogs, venomous snakes, mountain lions, beavers and coyotes any-
28. where in the state of Kentucky. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife
29. Department should not be permitted to release any animals in a
30. county until they have secured approval from the county fiscal court.
31. We recommend a public hearing be held and a census be
32. conducted before nuisance wildlife can be released in areas and
33. that controls and limits should be placed on animals released.
34. We support the right of an individual to protect livestock,
35. property, and human life against wildlife. We support establishing
36. an indemnity fund to pay for any and all damages caused by wildlife
37. in Kentucky and establishing a grievance committee to review and
38. award claims with a majority of members being private landowners.
39. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
40. Resources provide a cost-share to all bee farmers to purchase an
41. electric fence to protect their beehives.
42. We support developing conservation agreements for the
43. protection of species in lieu of endangered species listings.
44. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Fish and
45. Wildlife Resources be responsible for damages caused by actions,
46. or the prevention of certain actions, which prohibit landowners from
47. making improvements to or maintaining their land.
48. We recommend the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife
49. Services keep the East Fork Clarks River and its tributaries, (that lie
50. within the boundaries of the National Wildlife Refuge), free of snags
51. and other obstacles to prevent flooding and other problems that
52. could affect other landowners.
53. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the
54. Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources work together
55. to ensure sound health practices for wild cervids to prevent any
56. disease for humans, livestock, or wildlife. We support cervids for
57. any operations being allowed into the state only from disease-free

1. areas. We oppose the private possession or interstate commerce of
2. native or exotic fish and wildlife which could change the local
3. ecosystem or which carry any disease presently under a state
4. eradication program.
5. We oppose any effort to restrict the intrastate movement of
6. domesticated deer and elk in Kentucky.
7. We support funding for USDA wildlife services technicians to
8. address nuisance wildlife issues.
9. We encourage a more readily available permit process for
10. nuisance wildlife such as the American black vulture.
11. We support removal of the black vulture from protected status
12. and elimination of permit fees.
13. We support the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife efforts
14. to restore the quail population and encourage the voluntary
15. participation in the quail restoration program.
16. Due to the potential risk of high path avian influenza, which can
17. be carried by migratory birds, we recommend the Kentucky
18. Department of Fish and Wildlife develop and allow practices that
19. would relocate and/or eliminate migratory bird populations that pose
20. a direct threat to the poultry industry in Kentucky.
21. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife to
22. enact regulations to prevent the release of pen-raised quail during
23. the breeding season.
24. We believe the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
25. enforcement officers should have probable cause that a game law
26. has been broken before they are allowed to enter upon private
27. property.

TRESPASS, GAME LAWS AND REGULATIONS

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- 32.
33. We urge strict enforcement of the law requiring permission to
34. enter property for the purpose of hunting, fishing, trapping or
35. digging ginseng. We also urge strict enforcement of laws relating to
36. hunting, fishing and trapping. We recommend that the Kentucky
37. Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources implement proactive
38. programs to educate landowners about the liability protection
39. offered by the statute. We further recommend the Kentucky
40. Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources continue to build
41. partnerships with Kentucky Farm Bureau for the purpose of
42. encouraging better hunter/landowner relations, and to increase
43. respect among hunters and anglers for landowners' property and
44. private property rights. We urge the League of Kentucky Sportsmen
45. to continue to encourage its members to be careful and show
46. respect for livestock, fencing and other farm property.
47. We recommend that Kentucky's law be changed to provide that
48. trespassing shall constitute a criminal offense subject to a
49. reasonable fine and/or other punishment. We recommend there be
50. a stricter penalty for person(s) destroying farm property, such as
51. cutting fences or trees, and other damages. We support requiring
52. all hunting and fishing licenses to be declared invalid unless the
53. license holder has written permission from the landowner. We
54. support Kentucky law that protects landowners from the negligent
55. or criminal actions committed by hunters who are guests of
56. the landowner.
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1. We support a public education effort concerning the harmful
2. effects of lawn and landscape refuse on livestock.
3. We recommend enforcing laws to prohibit ATV operators,
4. riders of horses, and other individuals from using private property
5. without owner's permission; penalties should be sufficient to
6. discourage this practice. We favor legislation to make it unlawful for
7. anyone, including the driver of the vehicle, commercial wrecker
8. service and state or local police to remove a vehicle that has
9. damaged private property, except in emergencies, unless the owner
10. of the property or his representative has been notified.
11. We support the current hunter orange clothing requirements to
12. ensure the safety of all hunters and trappers.
13. We favor a paint color, as an alternative to signs, being used on
14. farm fences, trees, etc., for identifying posted property.
15. We recommend that Kentucky adopt a trespassing law to
16. identify property lines using paint instead of signs that are used as
17. markers to let the public know they are on private property.
18. We recommend that the Department of Fish and Wildlife
19. Resources publicize and send to each county Farm Bureau
20. information pertaining to the selection of commission members
21. and encourage farmers and landowners to actively participate in
22. the process.
23. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
24. Resources publish the procedure necessary for a landowner to
25. obtain additional deer and turkey tags. We recommend that
26. action be taken to alleviate damage caused by overpopulation of
27. wildlife on state parks, nature preserves and public areas, and that
28. the hunting season quotas be extended in those zones where
29. deemed necessary.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

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34. We believe in the American capitalistic, private, competitive
35. enterprise system in which property is privately owned, privately
36. managed and operated for profit and individual satisfaction. Any
37. erosion of that right weakens all other rights guaranteed to
38. individuals by the Constitution.
39. We support protection of private property rights from eminent
40. domain actions for any reason other than public use.
41. We oppose any legislation that would allow public access to or
42. through private property without permission of the property owner
43. or authorized agent. We oppose scientific or archeological activity
44. being conducted on private land without written permission from,
45. and compensation to, the landowner.
46. Any laws or regulations regarding upkeep of cemeteries on
47. private lands should be fair to the landowner.
48. We call for review of all regulations that encroach on the rights of
49. agricultural property owners.
50. We support the elimination of the Kentucky law that gives an
51. individual a permanent easement across the landowner's property
52. after 7 years of uninterrupted use.
53. We believe that any government action that diminishes an
54. owner's right to use his property constitutes a taking of that owner's
55. property. Therefore, government should provide due process and
56. compensation to the exact degree that an owner's right to use his
57. property has been diminished by the government action.

1. Furthermore, we believe that the only just basis for compensation in
2. such cases is fair market value.
3. We oppose government entities and railroads cutting off ingress
4. and egress which would cause a parcel of land to be landlocked.
5. We believe business owners should have the exclusive right to
6. prohibit tobacco use in their private business. We are adamantly
7. opposed to any level of government or agency mandating that
8. businesses prohibit tobacco use.
9. We support individual businesses right to make decisions based
10. on religious convictions.
11. When regulations or legislation regarding wild and scenic rivers
12. and/or rare, threatened or endangered species alter agricultural
13. practices, agricultural producers should be compensated for the
14. cost of these altered agricultural practices.
15. We support a landowner's ability to have their property surveyed
16. at any time to establish property boundaries without encumbrance.
17. We support surveying all excepted property from existing deed to
18. establish proper boundaries.
19. We support the rights of individual farmers to voluntarily sell the
20. development rights of their farms.
21. We encourage the General Assembly to increase funding for
22. the PACE Program in order for the state to receive the maximum
23. federal funds available.
24. When a government agency demands a flood control structure
25. developed under the direction of KRS 151.250 be removed, they
26. must present proof that the removal of this structure would eliminate
27. the flood problem. Should the courts force the removal of these flood
28. control structures, the funding for their removal should be used from
29. the agency that forced the removal.
30. We recommend anyone, group or organization that video tapes
31. or records images on a farm with the intent of using them in an anti-
32. farming or animal welfare campaign, without the permission of the
33. land/farm owner, be charged with a criminal offense and subject to
34. a reasonable fine and/or other punishment.
35. **Unmanned Aircraft Systems**
36. We support:
37. (1) The use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for commercial
38. purposes (i.e., agriculture, forestry, and other natural resource use);
39. (2) Requiring the operator of the UAS to gain the written
40. consent of the landowner and/or farm operator if the UAS will be
41. surveying or gathering data above private property;
42. (3) Allowing landlords and tenants to fly over their fields for any
43. reason without being considered commercial activity;
44. (4) The FAA developing reasonable certification and safety
45. training requirements for the operation of UAS; and
46. (5) The use of safety features to notify manned aircraft that a
47. UAS is in the vicinity.
48. We oppose:
49. (1) A federal or state agency using UAS for the purpose of
50. regulatory enforcement, litigation and as a sole source for natural
51. resource inventories used in planning efforts;
52. (2) FAA regulations of UAS as aircraft; and
53. (3) FAA regulations that require a pilot's license and third-class
54. medical certification to operate a UAS.
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RIGHT TO FARM

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- 2.
3. We support responsible actions designed to permit and protect
4. the privilege and the rights of farmers to produce without undue or
5. unreasonable restrictions, regulations or harassment from the
6. public or private sectors. We support actions to ensure that farmers
7. be protected from undue liability and nuisance suits.
- 8.

LAND USE PLANNING

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12. We believe that any state land use planning initiatives should
13. respect local control and private property rights, and not contain any
14. mandates from state or regional entities. We believe this can only
15. be accomplished through new incentives for local governments.
16. We support reforms which will provide greater protection to
17. surface landowners from broad form deeds.
18. We are strongly opposed to the taking of prime farmland for the
19. purpose of wildlife refuges.
20. We support the USDA program providing for the identification
21. and retention of prime and unique agricultural land in Kentucky and
22. the use of such information by local officials in the decision-making
23. process to determine future use of such land.
24. We support the retention of these prime and unique agricultural
25. lands to the maximum extent possible to ensure the capacity for
26. food and fiber production. We recommend the re-establishment and
27. full utilization of the Interagency Farmland Advisory Committee with
28. regards to all state transportation projects.
29. We strongly support the concept of compensation for loss of land
30. or land uses. Before the land use planning maps are adopted they
31. should be reviewed by local agricultural groups.
32. We recommend that state funds be made available to assist
33. counties in developing a land use policy and a comprehensive plan
34. to protect their agricultural base. Such policy and plans should take
35. into consideration land, water, forest and other natural resources
36. within their capabilities. We support such programs only if the land
37. use decisions and controls are left at the local level and/or regional
38. level with local representation.
39. In addition to the above, we recommend the following:
40. (1) A definition of small farms should coincide with the same
41. criteria used with agricultural assessment. We recommend that
42. after a tract of land is divided into two sections of 10 acres or less,
43. it should be subject to planning and zoning review;
44. (2) Location of all rights-of-way such as utilities or pipelines
45. should not interfere with agricultural prime farmland; and
46. (3) The development of less desirable land for non-agricultural
47. land use should be encouraged.
48. We support and promote the development of agricultural districts
49. and recommend additional protection incentives to encourage
50. farmers to form agricultural districts.
51. We oppose arbitrary zoning of green space areas for farms
52. adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas, residential, commercial
53. or business zoned property.
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PLANNING AND ZONING

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- 2.
3. We hold to the principle of planning and zoning being
4. locally administered through locally established planning and
5. zoning commissions.
6. We further oppose any legislation that will allow the creation of
7. regional boards that may result in the loss of the present home rule
8. authority over local areas and/or the control of rural areas by urban
9. dominated boards, unless approved by the fiscal courts of each
10. county involved.
11. We urge county Farm Bureau leaders to familiarize themselves
12. with Kentucky's planning and zoning law, and be more aggressive in
13. working with their fiscal courts, planning and zoning commissions
14. when planning county-wide zoning.
15. Agriculture interests should be protected when a merged
16. government takes effect in any county in the state.
17. We encourage planning and zoning boards to include farm
18. representation as well as an active farmer member of the board of
19. supervisors of the conservation district in the area, and the same
20. principle apply in regard to regional planning commissions.
21. We support planning efforts that consider the needs of
22. agriculture for the future which allow for both the continuation of
23. normal farming practices and residential and/or commercial
24. development of agriculture property and recognize Kentucky Proud
25. and agritourism as agricultural ventures.
26. We support the present law which prohibits regulation or
27. requirement of permits for farm buildings and will oppose any
28. attempt to repeal it.
29. We recommend that planning and zoning regulations for
30. developers be strengthened and enforced to prevent and control
31. erosion and flooding.
32. We urge landowners, land purchasers and developers to become
33. familiar with the Federal Flood Control Zoning Act and
34. its limitations of flood insurance on structures in flood plains.
35. We support boundary fencing by the developers of residential,
36. commercial or industrial development adjoining agricultural
37. property.
38. Residential and commercial developments adjacent to agricultur-
39. al land often disrupt farming operations and present safety
40. hazards to people and livestock; therefore, we urge establishment of
41. regulations requiring buffer zones between such properties at the
42. expense of the developers and require that such buffer zones be in
43. place before infrastructure is developed.
44. We recommend that when a person establishes or expands an
45. agricultural business within the laws acceptable to the planning and
46. zoning regulations of the community, he should not be forced out of
47. business by new regulations.
48. We recommend the owners be compensated for the monetary
49. losses of development rights when major changes occur in zoning
50. laws affecting the building lots size in agriculture areas.
51. We believe all division and sale of farm land that results in multi-
52. ple housing tracts should be subject to review by local planning and
53. zoning boards (where such boards exist). The use of the so-called
54. ag exemption under KRS 100.111 (22) by creating resulting tracts of
55. slightly more than five acres is being misapplied.
56. We support continuing the current exemption for agriculture build-
57. ings and dwellings under the uniform building and electrical codes.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. We support rural economic development efforts to attract new
5. agricultural biotechnology and processing plants and expand
6. existing local industry, including production agriculture, that
7. compliments and adds value to Kentucky-produced agricultural
8. commodities. This support should be through existing government
9. bodies, community organizations and institutions, including the
10. University of Kentucky, working together in identifying the
11. relationship of agriculture and rural development.
12. The Cabinet for Economic Development should be encouraged
13. to provide incentives for the establishment of tobacco industries that
14. expand the market for leaf.
15. We believe that if any government entity sells goods in
16. competition with private industry, that they be required to sell at
17. current market prices.
18. We urge the Cabinet for Economic Development to develop
19. incentives and programs for the establishment of agribusinesses
20. based on job generation, economic impact and/or the use of
21. Kentucky-produced agricultural commodities.
22. We recommend that the Cabinet for Economic Development
23. place extra time and effort in locating processing plants or
24. establishing cooperative processing plants in Kentucky for
25. agricultural commodities.
26. We support the continued education on and promotion of
27. programs in the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation and sup-
28. port its continued growth and financial support.
29. We encourage coordination of efforts of county and regional
30. economic development foundations. We urge local Farm Bureaus
31. to become involved with these groups.
32. We support the strengthening of the entrepreneurial and
33. leadership development activities of the Agriculture Development
34. Board, the Agricultural Finance Corporation, the University of
35. Kentucky, Kentucky State University and all regional universities, the
36. Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the Kentucky Center for
37. Agricultural and Rural Development.
38. We recommend one staff member of the Economic Development
39. Cabinet work solely with agriculture issues.
40. We recommend that the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet
41. provide support for agritourism activities.
42. We support legislative initiatives to amend the Kentucky Cultural
43. and Recreational Signage Program to provide additional signage
44. components designed to increase awareness of farm destination
45. agritourism enterprises.
46. We support the Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) initia-
47. tive and its efforts that continue to look for additional options to build
48. the cattle market in eastern Kentucky, including but not limited to
49. expanding opportunities for cattle on reclaimed mine land.
- 50.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

- 51.
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54. We favor strict enforcement of the laws requiring registration,
55. disclosures and report of holdings and purchases of land by foreign
56. entities. We feel there should be no preferential tax treatment and
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1. that all tax loopholes including property, production and capital
2. gains be closed.

ANNEXATION

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7. We encourage strict enforcement of annexation laws to protect
8. the interests of rural people.
9. We oppose annexation of any property without providing all
10. public services to that owner.
11. We recommend that affected property owners be notified by
12. certified return receipt mail at least 60 days before a public hearing
13. is held and before final annexation or incorporation can be
14. consummated there must be an approval of two-thirds of the
15. affected property owners. We are opposed to mandatory spot
16. annexation. We also recommend that any challenges in court be
17. heard by a jury.
18. Any legislation providing new guidelines for establishing county
19. wide urban government should require approval by the voters in
20. both the incorporated and unincorporated areas.

EMINENT DOMAIN

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25. We recommend that Kentucky laws dealing with eminent domain
26. be amended to provide that the power of eminent domain could not
27. be used for parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, riding and
28. hiking trails, other recreational projects, sludge or waste disposal
29. projects. We favor repeal of the law which gives the Kentucky
30. Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources the right of eminent
31. domain.
32. We oppose the power of eminent domain being used to take
33. private property for private use.
34. We oppose the principle of giving credit to the acquiring agency
35. for potential value of remaining acreage when paying for land
36. acquired under eminent domain. In cases where private property is
37. taken, we support prompt, just and adequate compensation. In
38. cases of partial takings of real property, depreciation in the value
39. of any remaining real property should be recognized, and
40. compensation paid for any damages which result.
41. Any entity using eminent domain to seize private property for
42. public use shall reimburse the landowner the costs of private
43. engineering, consulting studies, and appraisal fees needed to fairly
44. determine land value.
45. We support an exclusion from all taxes for land and improve-
46. ments sold through an act of eminent domain or the threat thereof.
47. In situations where eminent domain is used to acquire land,
48. provisions should be made whereby the landowner shall have
49. access to any of his property divided by the eminent domain action.
50. We recommend that the owner of land acquired under eminent
51. domain be reimbursed adequately to facilitate replacement or
52. relocation. If property taken under eminent domain is not used for
53. the purpose for which it was secured within 5 years, the original
54. owner should have an opportunity to purchase it back at the price
55. received less damages.
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1. We recommend the establishment of a time limit in which court
2. decisions shall be made on contested condemnation procedures,
3. not to exceed nine months.
4. We believe that officials of each county are best prepared to
5. control the activities and development within their county through
6. planning, zoning and other means.
7. We further oppose any legislation that will allow the creation of
8. regional boards that may result in the loss of the present home rule
9. authority over local areas and/or the control of rural areas by urban
10. dominated boards, unless approved by the fiscal courts of each
11. county involved.
12. We support protecting the rights of Kentucky's landowners when
13. dealing with regional planning issues and eminent domain laws.
14. We recommend that when eminent domain condemnation takes
15. private property, the value received for the condemned land should
16. not be considered in tax assessment for the balance of the land.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

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21. Rural areas of Kentucky must be adequately represented in the
22. state legislature. A system similar to that used for the U.S. Congress
23. where only one house is apportioned by population would accom-
24. plish this and be fair to everyone. We recommend that any revision
25. of Kentucky's Constitution provide for this.
26. Inasmuch as the Supreme Court has held that state legislative
27. districts may have considerable variance in population, we
28. recommend that the General Assembly, where possible, restore
29. legislative district lines to coincide with county lines.
30. Elected officials who are convicted of a felony associated with
31. public service, or who resign to avoid prosecution, should lose all
32. government retirement benefits.
33. We support legislative oversight of state regulations.
34. We strongly encourage the Kentucky General Assembly to pass
35. a budget within the allotted time the Constitution allows them to
36. meet, making the state budget the priority of the legislative session.
37. We request the Kentucky General Assembly to decrease spend-
38. ing where possible instead of raising taxes.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
43. We will oppose any efforts to change the procedure for selection
44. of county officials, including property valuation administrators.
45. Property valuation administrators and property evaluation
46. personnel salaries should not be indexed or earmarked from
47. property tax values, and their salaries should be based on what
48. other county officials are paid.
49. We are opposed to any change that would require county judge
50. executives to be attorneys.
51. We recommend staggered terms for members of the city and
52. county governing bodies.
53. We oppose officials of county government using taxpayers'
54. money to lobby for additional taxes.
55. We are in favor of strict enforcement of a code of ethics for all
56. elected and appointed government officials.
- 57.

HOME RULE

- 1.
- 2.
3. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau study any proposals
4. to change the Home Rule Law and take such action as deemed
5. advisable to protect the rural areas of Kentucky.
6. We recommend that each county Farm Bureau appoint a
7. committee to attend fiscal court meetings and report back to the
8. county Farm Bureau Board of Directors.
9. We recommend that self-governing privileges of cities be
10. confined to matters within their boundaries. Any authority including
11. zoning beyond the corporate limits and into unincorporated areas
12. should be limited to matters other than taxation and regulations;
13. require expressed permission of the fiscal court; and not include any
14. authority the fiscal court does not already possess.
15. We oppose any local ordinance that is more restrictive than state
16. regulations governing agricultural operations.
- 17.

ELECTIONS

- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
21. Kentucky Farm Bureau urges county Farm Bureaus to conduct
22. voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns on a regular
23. basis. We encourage Farm Bureau members to become actively
24. engaged in the campaigns of candidates whose policy positions
25. reflect Farm Bureau's ideals.
26. We support all registered voters showing photo identification
27. when reporting to the polling place to receive a ballot.
28. We support the public distribution of voting records and policy
29. position statements and how candidate positions compare with
30. Farm Bureau policy.
31. We oppose any action designed to permit college students
32. who are not legal residents of the college community to vote in local
33. elections.
34. We recommend all registered voters of the county be allowed to
35. vote in elections conducted by a city for alcohol referendum.
36. We oppose the use of public funds and franking privileges in the
37. financing of political campaigns.
38. We oppose the concept of centralized voting.
39. We recommend general voting hours be extended to coincide
40. with absentee voting in the county clerk's office during general office
41. hours within 7 days prior to any election.
42. We recommend that any wet/dry election be held on the next
43. scheduled election day. If not possible, then the individuals seeking
44. the special election should be required to cover the cost rather than
45. the county.
- 46.

EDUCATION

- 47.
- 48.
- 49.
50. We recommend the teaching of basic moral values, basic eco-
51. nomics and responsibilities of living in a democratic society at all
52. levels of education.
53. We support "Financial Literacy" being included in Kentucky
54. school curriculum at all appropriate levels.
55. We favor public school courses on the structure and function of
56. democratic government. However, students should not be subjected
57. to indoctrination for political purposes.

1. Elementary and Secondary

2. We recommend cross curriculum support for the teaching of
3. reading, mathematics, writing, science, and social studies. We
4. recommend providing innovative classroom strategies focusing on
5. the basic skills which are included in the common core standards
6. guidelines. We recommend providing programs for those who need
7. remedial assistance and/or for those needing advanced challenges.
8. We urge the Kentucky Department of Education to abide by the
9. guidelines set forth in the individual education plans for Kentucky
10. students for state assessments.
11. We support changes to the testing system that reflect the
12. yearly education improvement of the child while also evaluating the
13. school. We recommend the Kentucky Occupational Skills Standards
14. Assessment (KOSSA) testing window and industry certification
15. be aligned with the state testing window. We support exploring
16. alternative ways of calculating test scores of special needs students
17. that would stay within the parameter of the No Child Left Behind
18. guidelines.
19. We recommend the Department of Education adopt a uniform
20. grading scale to be used across the Commonwealth concerning
21. grade point averages.
22. We encourage efficient use of school funds and urge the General
23. Assembly to continue its efforts to achieve this goal. We support the
24. state appropriation of adequate funds for teachers' salaries.
25. We urge more emphasis be placed on collaboration between
26. postsecondary schools, elementary and secondary schools to
27. improve teacher education and recruitment.
28. We support local school districts' control in setting compensation
29. criteria, considering needs and ability while operating within the
30. state salary structure.
31. We support lowering the classroom student-to-teacher ratio
32. while maintaining adequate staffing of schools.
33. We recommend maintaining a percentage of the General Fund
34. to go to elementary and secondary education at an equal or higher
35. level than the 1990-1991 funding level.
36. We encourage and support funding the free textbook structure
37. for elementary and middle schools and when state funds are not
38. available we recommend local school boards be encouraged to buy
39. such books that are needed.
40. We favor reducing the cost of new educational facilities by
41. eliminating features not essential to a sound education program.
42. Local school boards should consider renovation whenever practical
43. rather than new construction. The state should consider the county
44. growth rate when approving the size of new construction for
45. schools; as well as review the justification for new construction ver-
46. sus renovation prior to approving a bond sale for new construction.
47. We favor the present method of selecting county school
48. superintendents and county school board members. We encourage
49. Farm Bureau members to be active in this process.
50. We support local school districts in providing professional
51. development and/or workshops to improve teaching methods of
52. new and ineffective teachers.
53. A teacher effectiveness rating should be designed and used as
54. a means of removing ineffective teachers.
55. We support the original intent of teacher tenure to protect
56. teachers against political abuse. However, tenure should be
- 57.

1. reformed so that it cannot be used to unduly protect incompetent
2. teachers.
3. We challenge school principals and superintendents to be more
4. responsible in the evaluation of teachers and administrators.
5. We strongly oppose teacher strikes. We oppose legislation that
6. mandates collective bargaining for public school employees.
7. We recommend that local boards of education consider keeping
8. schools for grades K-5, 6-8, 9-12 in neighborhood locations.
9. We recognize that boards of education have the responsibility for
10. developing the school calendar. We urge county Farm Bureau
11. boards to work with local boards of education in developing the
12. school calendar. We further recommend all school districts that
13. service area career or technical centers to coordinate their
14. calendars to support all programs at those centers.
15. We recommend that when a student needs to attend an
16. adjoining school district, the county Farm Bureau work with the local
17. school boards to obtain approval of a reciprocal agreement.
18. We support adequate state funding for staffing and facilities for
19. the state agency children's programs and for district-operated day
20. treatment and alternative programs.
21. We support the school board's efforts to establish district wide
22. discipline codes and the efforts of site based councils to implement
23. instructional strategies or appropriate techniques to ensure the
24. safety of students and staff while ensuring a conducive learning
25. environment.
26. We encourage the local school districts to support participation
27. in the state fair activities and/or 4-H, FFA, and other youth
28. educational opportunities and not penalize students for their
29. absence. We support the Kentucky Farm Bureau working with the
30. Kentucky Department of Education to enforce the state statute
31. allowing students to attend and/or participate in Kentucky State Fair
32. activities. We further encourage schools to value the State Fair for
33. the educational opportunities it offers and incorporate it as a
34. learning experience in their curriculum.
35. We oppose schools declaring themselves gender neutral.
36. Alternative lifestyles should not be taught in public schools.
37. We support "Agriculture in the Classroom" and encourage school
38. districts to implement this program in their curriculum and
39. encourage administrators to support professional development
40. training concerning "Agriculture in the Classroom." We support
41. teaching the concepts of the food and fiber system for the
42. enhancement of the current Kentucky Core Academic Standards.
43. We support implementation of agriculture education programs
44. within practical living career studies classes particularly at the
45. middle schools.
46. We encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Department
47. of Agriculture, and the Kentucky Department of Education to work
48. together to develop K-12 agriculture education curriculum and
49. resources for use by agritourism and farm operators in facilitating
50. school tours.
51. We urge schools to incorporate into the curriculum conservation
52. and environmental education. We urge that agriculture interests be
53. given fair consideration in environmental matters and that farmers
54. be recognized as leaders among environmentalists.
55. We support the continued utilization of Project Food, Land and
56. People resources for learning as the most recommended curriculum
57. toward the enhancement of environmental and agricultural literacy.

1. We favor increased emphasis on teaching of respect for law and
2. order, and recommend maximum use of law enforcement officials
3. and other appropriate public officials in this type of instruction. We
4. support safe school programs that are comprehensive in nature
5. from pre-school through grade 12. We encourage continuation of
6. these services for all students from agencies which are charged
7. with preventive intervention on behalf of public school age children.
8. We favor continuing cursive writing instruction in our school
9. systems.
10. We recommend that instructional CPR courses be made
11. available in grades six through twelve.
12. We support a physical activity as part of the school curriculum for
13. grades K-12.
14. We favor inclusion of the study of the Bible in the curriculum of
15. world religions.
16. We believe teachers should devote some time to spiritual
17. meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag at the beginning
18. of each school day. We believe that the use of prayer should be
19. allowed at school functions.
20. We support legislation that would allow the inclusion of the Ten
21. Commandments in historical documents displays.
22. We support the selection process for school principals that
23. includes a requirement for a meaningful screening of candidates by
24. the local superintendent.
25. We suggest caution and exercise of good judgment in offering
26. sex education courses and recommend that parents be consulted in
27. this matter.
28. Extracurricular activities should be limited to those times when
29. they will least interfere with regular instruction.
30. We support "High Schools That Work" and other initiatives
31. which provide for the integration of academics with career/
32. technical education.
33. We urge our public schools to develop more effective "drop out"
34. prevention programs. We support the placement of a guidance
35. counselor at each elementary school.
36. We support the use of licensed social workers within the school
37. system.
38. We support the concept that individuals under 18 years of age
39. must be enrolled in a certified school and maintain passing grades
40. in 50% of their classes or be a graduate to keep their driver's
41. license.
42. We urge a stronger program of career guidance in the later years
43. of elementary schools and continuing through postsecondary
44. programs. We encourage all school districts to implement an
45. advising system to provide individualized career guidance and
46. academic counseling for all students which includes parent/
47. guardian participation to ensure preparation for postsecondary
48. education and workforce. We encourage local school districts
49. require 25% of continuing education hours for counselors be in the
50. area of career and technical education (CTE) for grades 5-12. We
51. further recommend that sufficient clerical help be provided so that
52. counselors can spend more time with their students.
53. We urge the Kentucky Department of Education to continue to
54. support and seek funding for effective programs for the gifted and
55. talented students.
- 56.
- 57.

1. We encourage the local schools to provide a driver's training
2. program, with emphasis on driver's attention, and that it be funded
3. by the state.
4. We support having an educational page in the driver's education
5. manual and curriculum in driver's education classes pertaining to
6. wide or slow moving vehicles on public roadways.
7. **Career & Technical Education**
8. We support all school districts in providing more equitable
9. access to career and technical education based on workforce
10. development needs.
11. We recommend that an adequate and equitable level of funding and
12. state staffing be permanently established for all areas of career and
13. technical education.
14. We continue to support a strong up-to-date program of
15. agriculture education and family consumer sciences at the
16. elementary, secondary, postsecondary, adult and continuing levels.
17. We urge county Farm Bureaus to assume leadership in encouraging
18. students to enroll in these and other career and technical education
19. programs as a means of preparing themselves for a career. We
20. recommend students pursue all career opportunities available in the
21. agriculture field.
22. We recommend:
23. (1) County Farm Bureaus to work with local school boards and
24. local site-based councils to ensure that each county has an
25. adequate agricultural education program, FFA chapters and
26. 4-H clubs;
27. (2) An agriculture teacher be employed in every county in
28. Kentucky.
29. (3) That teachers of agriculture education continue to be
30. employed on a 240-day basis;
31. (4) That agricultural education teachers be diligent in planning
32. and providing an effective instructional program and FFA leadership
33. development activities for each student which is reviewed
34. and supervised by local administrators. We favor the inclusion of
35. an agriculture economics, agriculture biology, and agriculture
36. mathematics courses in high school agriculture programs. We
37. further favor these courses being accepted in their respective
38. discipline in high school graduation requirements. We favor the
39. inclusion of an agriculture unit in the basic biology course taught in
40. both middle schools and high schools in Kentucky; and
41. (5) We support a long range goal for agricultural education to
42. help create new programs in communities not yet served by
43. agricultural education and FFA and ensure the quality and
44. high performance of current programs providing personal,
45. academic, and career education in agriculture. We support an
46. increase in federal funding and necessary personnel to advance
47. the initiative.
48. We strongly support more integration of career and technical
49. education by development of a joint curriculum combining academic
50. and career instruction in the classroom. School administrators
51. and school councils should work more closely together to
52. accomplish this.
53. We support the statewide implementation of the Career
54. and Technical Education legislation and encourage the full
55. implementation of workforce education and development programs
56. which are designed to combine secondary and postsecondary edu-
57. cational programs.

1. We urge the leaders of the community college system and career
2. and technical education to coordinate their programs in such a
3. manner as to better utilize their finances, faculty and facilities.
4. We support the implementation of an annual funding stream and
5. the continued procurement of funds as needed for the renovation
6. and improvement of the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center
7. in Hardinsburg and 4-H camps.
8. We strongly support reauthorization and appropriation of funding
9. of the Carl D. Perkins Act which provides federal funding for career
10. and technical education.
11. **Postsecondary Education**
12. We support the implementation of the Kentucky Community and
13. Technical College System (KCTCS). We recognize the need to
14. establish a working relationship with all state universities.
15. State financed colleges should accept all credit-hours obtained
16. at any other state financed college.
17. We suggest parallel course requirements for equal degrees.
18. Kentucky's statutes state that three members of the Board of
19. Trustees of the University of Kentucky shall be agriculturally
20. oriented. We urge the Governor to continue the appointment of an
21. active full-time farmer to the Board of Trustees of the University of
22. Kentucky. We recommend that an individual with an agricultural
23. interest be appointed to the Board of Regents of each of the
24. regional universities that confer Ag degrees.
25. We recommend that qualified individuals with an agricultural
26. interest be appointed to the Kentucky Board of Education and the
27. Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education.
28. We believe that greater attention should be given to career and
29. technical education programs in the elementary, middle, secondary
30. and postsecondary schools. These programs should prepare
31. students for employment and postsecondary education. Adult and
32. continuing education should be available to the people on the basis
33. of their needs.
34. We support the development of more vocational training
35. programs for displaced farmers and farm related workers.
36. We encourage the Council on Postsecondary Education to care-
37. fully review any tuition increase proposal for state-funded
38. universities to ensure the proposal is justified and does not place an
39. undue financial burden on students.
40. We oppose colleges and universities denying students the
41. full value of scholarships earned and oppose caps on reimburse-
42. ments from scholarships.
43. We endorse the concept of preparation for the workforce by
44. improving Kentucky's education system and preparing students for
45. a career for which they are best suited. We support centralized
46. testing for online college courses.
47. We support agricultural workforce development through state
48. funding for agriculture technology programs such as the Kentucky
49. Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) programs to
50. seek competent and skilled agriculture workers for modern
51. farming operations. We support the Adult Agriculture Upgrade
52. Program offered through KCTCS.
53. **General Education Policy**
54. We support the continued development of the state educational
55. television system. We appreciate Kentucky Educational Television's
56. interest in the programming needs of the agricultural public of
57. Kentucky. Farm Bureau supports the general equivalency degree

1. now being offered by KET and urges county Farm Bureaus to assist
2. in publicizing this service.
3. We believe that since locally elected Boards of Education are
4. accountable for the effectiveness of local schools, our schools
5. should be operated within the general policy provisions and district
6. goals adopted by local boards.
7. We support additional and enhanced technology that provides
8. immediate feedback and real-time interaction with teachers and
9. students.
10. We support local boards of education establishing a professional
11. dress code for educators.
12. We recommend the legislature review the requirements and
13. criteria for home schooling. Any guidelines should be conducive to
14. traditional values, should not infringe on basic parental rights, and
15. should only address instruction of core subjects.
16. We believe that statutory models and all alternative models
17. for school site-based council composition should ensure equal
18. representation of parents and employees. We support strengthening
19. community governance of public education by local boards of
20. education, who are elected by all citizens. This gives all taxpayers
21. a voice in the expenditures of tax dollars and the policies which
22. govern the schools of the district.
23. We oppose addictive games of chance (poker, blackjack, etc.)
24. being held on school property.
25. **Career Awareness & Preparation**
26. We recommend that Farm Bureau continue to inform young
27. people of the many rewarding career opportunities in agriculture.
28. Furthermore, we encourage young people to consider their career
29. opportunities early in their formal education and structure their
30. education to allow them to meet their career goals.
31. We support programs that reduce barriers to success for
32. students and prepare them for college and career readiness.
33. We support dual-credit courses, including agriculture classes,
34. being offered to high school students.

TAXATION

- 35.
- 36.
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39. Kentucky's tax policies should be based on public need and
40. sound economic principles. Kentucky taxes should be apportioned
41. equitably among the citizens.
42. We recommend that state, county, local governments, special
43. taxing districts and school districts look at every possible way to
44. save money before raising taxes.
45. We oppose unfunded mandates on local government.
46. If county fiscal courts or city governments vote to raise taxes in
47. excess of 4 percent, the citizens in that county or city should be
48. allowed to vote on the proposed tax, via a referendum, before it
49. is assessed.
50. We oppose legislation that would require licensing of farm
51. machinery and equipment and recommend that new farm
52. equipment be exempt from inventory taxes.
53. We recommend that the appropriate state agency enforce tax
54. collection on highway diesel fuel.
55. We oppose severance taxes on renewable resources.
56. We believe health insurance premiums should be exempt from
57. premium taxes.

1. We support the creation of tax relief for farmers who are retiring
2. or leaving production agriculture and are transferring farmland to
3. individuals who will continue in production agriculture.
4. We are opposed to the state legislature allowing district school
5. boards to pass a non-recallable or forgivable school tax (e.g.,
6. nickel or dime) without a community referendum.
7. We recommend that only elected officials have the authority to
8. increase or create new taxes. In addition, we strongly urge all
9. entities with the ability to increase taxes to be accountable for the
10. expenditures of tax dollars to the citizens.
11. We support allowing fiscal courts the flexibility to lower a tax rate
12. submitted by a special taxing district.
13. We encourage the development of a centralized filing system of
14. all local business and payroll taxes.

LAND ASSESSMENT

- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
19. We urge the Department of Revenue and county assessing
20. authorities to comply with the principles of the Farmland
21. Assessment Amendment and use new technology such as Global
22. Positioning Systems (GPS) to obtain the most accurate surveying
23. information.
24. Landowners should be permitted to use Global Positioning
25. Systems (GPS) to obtain accurate surveying information.
26. We believe the Department of Revenue should not override
27. an elected county official's assessment of residential and farm
28. properties unless proof of mistakes are publicly given.
29. We encourage equitable regional farmland and forest land
30. assessments.
31. We support the agricultural land definition and assessment
32. process that is currently in place.
33. We recommend when property is being transferred into a
34. revocable trust of the current owners the assessed value may be
35. used or the value statements may be omitted from the deed.

PROPERTY TAXES

- 36.
- 37.
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- 39.
40. To prosper in a modern economy, property taxes should be
41. gradually phased downward in favor of broad base sources
42. of revenue.
43. We strongly oppose freezing the state real property tax rate.
44. We recommend that local officials' authority to increase revenue
45. from property taxes be confined to 4 percent plus new growth. Any
46. proposal to increase revenue more than that formula should
47. automatically be decided by a voter referendum.
48. We recommend that property taxes collected for school
49. purposes be levied and administered locally. We also recommend
50. that the sheriff, county attorney, and Department of Revenue be
51. more diligent in collecting delinquent taxes and urge property
52. valuation administrators to ensure that taxes are collected on
53. mobile homes and other tangible property.
54. We believe that churches should be allowed to exempt church
55. buildings, parsonages, or other property used from property
56. taxes, but should be taxed on property owned or used for
57. commercial profit.

1. We oppose farm structures being assessed at values higher than
2. their farm value.
3. For farms not raising tobacco, tobacco barns should be
4. exempted from property taxes.
5. We oppose taxing farm equipment with property taxes.
6. We oppose greenhouses being taxed as permanent structures.
7. We recommend that when a farm happens to end up in the
8. middle of commercial development, its tax assessment rate should
9. not be changed from agriculture.
10. We support using University of Kentucky's farm analysis rental
11. data on tax assessment.
12. We recommend that public utility companies be taxed equitably
13. with other similarly situated property owners.
14. If a farm is annexed into a city, the city shall provide services
15. equal to others in that city. If the services are not provided, the city
16. taxes on the property shall be adjusted.
17. We support strict regulatory control of selling unpaid property
18. tax bills.

SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS

23. We oppose taxation by petition.
24. We recommend the repeal of the annual fee requirement for
25. special purpose governmental entities.
26. We support more stringent rules for the establishment of special
27. taxing districts and the selection of its directors. We recommend that
28. before any special taxing district is formed that it be placed on the
29. ballot for the affected people to vote on.
30. We also believe that members of the taxing board should be
31. property holders.
32. The county judge executive should ensure that detailed maps of
33. fire taxing districts are provided.
34. We recommend that legislation be enacted to allow fire
35. departments to continue to participate in charitable community
36. projects. We recommend that the funds resulting from the
37. Kentucky insurance premium surcharge be more equitably
38. distributed for the benefit of volunteer fire departments.
39. We recommend the fire tax rate should be 25% of normal rate
40. on farmland and full rate on buildings and improvements.
41. No taxing district should be allowed to increase taxes more than
42. 4 percent without recall, and that local taxing boards be required to
43. clarify expenditures of all funds collected annually through some
44. public information vehicle.
45. We encourage the General Assembly to develop statewide
46. uniform guidelines, annual training and oversight rules for taxes
47. and fees implemented by special taxing districts.

SALES AND USE TAXES

52. We believe that a broad-base sales and use tax is the fairest plan
53. for financing government, while maintaining current agricultural
54. exemptions for all taxing jurisdictions.
55. We recommend that all farm production items including
56. veterinary medicine and vaccines, electricity, sawdust and wood
57. shavings, all livestock and poultry bedding, LP gas, and natural gas

1. be exempt from sales and use tax. We recommend removing the
2. sales tax on bumper trailers for agricultural use.
3. We support a card identification system for qualified farmers for
4. sales and use tax exemptions.
5. We oppose adding sales tax to food items and prescription drugs.
6. We support the permanent extension of a motor vehicle usage
7. tax trade-in credit on a new vehicle.
8. Kentucky horse farms should receive the same sales tax
9. exemption that all other Kentucky farms receive.
10. Agriculture cannot pass along its increases in production expens-
11. es; therefore to keep our agriculture community viable, we need to
12. keep our Kentucky agriculture sales tax exemption intact.
13. We support restoring the sales and use tax vendor's compensa-
14. tion back to the pre-2013 level.
15. We urge the Kentucky Department of Revenue to utilize auditors
16. with agricultural knowledge when performing agricultural audits.
17. We recommend that freight, being a service and not a tangible
18. item, always be considered non-taxable.

INHERITANCE TAXES

23. We thank the General Assembly for eliminating Class A
24. beneficiaries from Kentucky's inheritance tax and recommend the
25. exemption be extended to Class B and C beneficiaries.
26. We recommend the removal of the requirement that farm value
27. exceed 50% of the fair cash value of the estate for the agricultural
28. use evaluation in computing the inheritance taxes.
29. We support the permanent repeal of Kentucky's estate and
30. inheritance tax.

INCOME TAXES

35. We recommend reinstatement of the federal income tax
36. deduction on state income tax returns.
37. We recommend the repeal of the tax on interest income and
38. recommend the exclusion of taxes on dividend income earned
39. with full exclusion of anyone over the age of 62.
40. We oppose mandatory withholding of state taxes from
41. agriculture employees.
42. We believe necessary college expenses for parents supporting
43. their children at fully or partially state or federally funded
44. universities should be tax exempt.
45. We believe an option transaction for agriculture marketing should
46. be treated the same as a hedge transaction for tax purposes.
47. We support an exclusion from all taxes for the sale of
48. agricultural land that remains in production.
49. We support Kentucky's depreciation schedule conforming with
50. the federal depreciation schedule including Section 179 rules and
51. regulations.
52. We support an exclusion from all taxes for the transfer of a
53. business, including farms, between parent and children.

REVENUE SHARING

- 1.
- 2.
3. We recommend that any revenue sharing proposals be closely
4. examined to protect rural citizens.
5. Rural areas and programs such as conservation, rural road
6. improvements and increased water lines, should receive their fair
7. share of federal revenue sharing funds.
8. Coal/gas producing counties should receive a greater share of
9. coal severance taxes and should be permitted to use it for repairing
10. roads and bridges and/or water projects.

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

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- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
15. We recommend that the state of Kentucky conduct a thorough
16. investigation before approving additional bonds so that the state's
17. bonded indebtedness is not over-extended and that the general
18. fund and the road fund is not jeopardized.
19. We recommend that all bond issues that are to be financed by a
20. tax increase be presented to a vote of the people and that a two-
21. thirds majority vote be required for approval.

HIGHWAYS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES

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- 26.
27. We recommend continuation of the 22.2 percent allocation of the
28. state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads, and increasing county
29. road aid funds to the point that all rural roads can have a
30. hard surface.
31. We support revenue options that ensure adequate financing for
32. transportation infrastructure maintenance which take into account
33. increased construction costs, improved fuel efficiency, and electric
34. vehicles which currently pay no fuel tax.
35. We support amending KRS 138.210 to specify the motor fuels
36. excise tax does not decrease by more than 10 percent under the
37. average wholesale price in any fiscal year.
38. We support measures that would prohibit all levels of govern-
39. ment from enacting weight limit restrictions, other than where the
40. safety of bridges is a concern, that would hamper the ability of agri-
41. culture to produce and deliver their products to market.
42. We oppose requiring loggers to bond roads to remove timber
43. from private land.
44. We support the 10% weight exemption on farm trucks and trucks
45. servicing farms hauling agriculture products, similar to the same
46. benefits currently given to the transportation of primary forest
47. products.
48. We support 97,000 pound gross weight for six axles on state and
49. federal highways.
50. Furthermore, necessary action should be taken to assure that all
51. road fund money is spent as originally intended and is used
52. effectively by local jurisdictions.
53. We recommend that a policy be adopted regarding farm-to-
54. market roads using the same concept with weight and dimension
55. and that consideration be given to farm machinery when widening
56. these roads. We recommend county and state highway engineers
57. to consider agriculture use in the design phase of road planning. We

1. support the efforts to upgrade all bridges and all county, state and
2. federal roads. We recommend that a better job be done in main-
3. taining rural coal-haul roads.
4. We support legislation requiring the taking of equal amounts of
5. property from each side of the road when widening of the roads is
6. planned. Furthermore, we recommend that property owners be fully
7. informed when rights-of-way negotiations are taking place.
8. We recommend that county Farm Bureaus work with county
9. officials and the rural highway department in determining where
10. rural highway funds should be used.
11. We urge that consideration be given to the construction of
12. crossroads, underpasses or overpasses to allow the passage of
13. livestock and vehicles when a farm is divided.
14. We request the Highway Department to refrain from seeding
15. rights-of-way with Bermuda grass.
16. We are opposed to fertilizing highway rights-of-way except when
17. reseeding.
18. We recommend better markings for all dangerous intersections
19. on rural highways using caution lights and rumble strips. We
20. also recommend that all state and county roads be striped
21. where feasible.
22. We recommend that all paved public roads be white-striped on
23. the shoulder.
24. We support the state using raised pavement markers in the
25. center of the road on state highways.
26. We encourage transportation officials to ease restrictions on farm
27. equipment access to multi-lane and/or limited access
28. roadways.
29. We recommend that new surfaces laid upon old roads be
30. accompanied by a comparable buildup of the shoulders. We also
31. urge the guidelines, center and outside, be painted on blacktop
32. roads and minimum width standards be maintained.
33. Asphalt strip patching should be done in a manner that will not
34. alter a vehicle's direction or result in vehicle over correction.
35. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Transportation to
36. install and maintain all road signs and markers at least six feet
37. where possible from the pavement edges so that large farm
38. equipment can travel easier and safer on all public roads.
39. We further recommend that reflectors be installed on the ends of
40. all culverts and bridges and that paved highway markers be
41. installed in the center of the roads.
42. We recommend that all county roads be a minimum of 18 feet
43. wide where feasible.
44. We support policy that all highway rights-of-ways be mowed
45. completely at least three times and the first mowing be completed
46. before the seed head formation of noxious weeds. We urge the state
47. highway department to more closely supervise contract mowers.
48. We recommend that highways be kept clean and that limbs
49. are pruned in a timely manner.
50. We support enforcement of laws requiring complete roadside
51. cleanup and removal of roadside debris from accident scenes.
52. We recommend all respective entities work together in highway
53. planning so as to maximize development of Kentucky water
54. resources through use of highway fills and dams.
55. We recommend that bona fide farm equipment and operations be
56. exempt from the beautification laws and/or regulations.
- 57.

1. We urge exemption of ad valorem taxes on commercial vehicles
2. to encourage licensing trucks in Kentucky.
3. We recommend that the speed limit on four lane, partially
4. controlled access highways, be raised to 65 mph with exceptions for
5. congested areas.
6. We recommend that all farm machinery and equipment driven on
7. public roads have rubber tires, including horse drawn buggies.
8. We support legislation to have scooters, bicycles and horse
9. drawn equipment display slow moving vehicle signs (SMVs) and/or
10. be adequately illuminated when ridden off private property.
11. We encourage a statewide system for removal of animal remains
12. from highways and disposal through composting or other approved
13. methods.
14. We urge the development of regulations that would make riding
15. bicycles on roads safer for all.

FARM VEHICLE LICENSE

20. We recommend the reduction of license costs on vehicles
21. involved in the practice of moving soil conservation equipment.
22. We oppose mandatory licensing of farm trailers.
23. We suggest the creation of a farm truck tag for larger farm trucks.
24. Furthermore, the license tag fee should be prorated per pound in
25. accordance with the 38,000 pound farm tag.
26. We favor prorating the cost of a farm truck license when
27. purchased in the middle of the license year.
28. We favor the continuation of the exemption up to the 80 thousand
29. pound weight limit on Kentucky's roads for trucks transporting items
30. of agriculture commodities, to and from the farm.
31. We support legislation that, for the purpose of vehicle enforce-
32. ment, farm trucks and farm truck-trailer combinations, licensed with
33. the 38,000 pound farm tag shall not be considered commercial
34. vehicles when used for agricultural purposes.
35. We recommend reciprocity agreements with adjoining states, to
36. allow operations of licensed Kentucky farm trucks without the
37. required purchase of fuel permits or additional licenses. We also
38. recommend that Kentucky weight limits and regulations be honored
39. in such cases.

TRANSPORTATION

44. We support the exempt commodity provision of the Motor
45. Transportation Act and oppose any effort to regulate the
46. transportation of agricultural commodities or supplies.
47. We support legislation that clearly defines the right of farmers to
48. transport their products to market and to move their equipment by
49. the most economically feasible method.
50. We encourage the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
51. and the Department of Transportation to use uniform enforcement
52. policies across the state.
53. We support a review of the trucking regulations including a
54. suggested escalating fine system for overweight trucks.
55. We recommend that the state regulations on width of trailers be
56. changed to 102" on all state and local highways. Trailers that are
57. sold currently don't comply with the old regulations of 96".

1. We oppose road tractors pulling any more than two trailers.
2. We support changes to Kentucky's Transportation Cabinet
3. laws and regulations which conflict with long term practices of
4. agriculture; such as the requirement when hauling grain that it be
5. 100% owned by the landowner, which prevents trucking of grain
6. and/or livestock in a swap work environment where no cash
7. exchanges hands.
8. We recommend the maximum driving and on-time-duty-
9. exemption for agriculture purposes be increased to a 200 air-mile
10. radius.
11. We recommend that farm trucks that travel 7,500 miles per year
12. or less be exempt from annual vehicle inspections; but inspected
13. every three years.
14. We support a waiver for drivers DOT restrictions in disaster
15. situations.
16. We recommend that farm trucks have a year-round exemption on
17. log book entries.
18. We support the extension of non-CDL farmers to travel anywhere
19. within the Commonwealth from the farm to the market.
20. We support an exemption from the Department of Transportation
21. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's 30 minute break
22. period for livestock haulers in consideration of animal welfare.
23. We support the soldiers to semis initiative to get more qualified
24. CDL drivers in the workforce and support a similar initiative be
25. enacted for coal miners.

RAILROADS

30. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau assist property
31. owners in obtaining title to abandoned railroad easements adjacent
32. to their property.
33. We are opposed to the abandoned Rails to Trails Program unless
34. all affected property owners are in agreement with the project.
35. We support crossing arms at all public railroad crossings.
36. We support increasing the fine for railroad companies that
37. obstruct a highway, street or navigable stream.

LIABILITY ISSUES

42. We believe that many awards in personal injury cases are
43. excessive and have resulted in higher insurance premiums.
44. We support tort reform to include, but not be limited to, a cap on
45. the amount of damages, such as a maximum of \$250,000, that can
46. be awarded for non-economic loss. Tort reform should also limit
47. attorney's fees paid from the awards.
48. If a plaintiff files a class action lawsuit or civil lawsuit and loses,
49. the plaintiff should reimburse any court expenses and attorney fees
50. incurred by the defendant.
51. We urge state legislation be enacted to require individuals or
52. groups who seek injunctions to reimburse the defendants for all
53. court costs, legal fees, losses and costs arising from such actions
54. that are eventually shown to be unfounded or are overturned in a
55. court of law. We support a requirement that court jurisdiction for
56. regulatory actions and lawsuits stay within the county where the
57. alleged offense occurred.

1. We support legislation to exempt the contract grower from
2. product liability issues.
3. Landowners should be protected from any trespassers, hunters,
4. and criminal offenders seeking liability damages.
5. We encourage the adoption of anti-disparagement legislation
6. that provides a legal cause of action against those individuals,
7. groups or government bodies who make disparaging statements
8. against agricultural products, farm animals, and/or production
9. without scientific proof.
10. We favor legislation that would require a car owner, law
11. enforcement officer or wrecker operator be liable for damages to
12. private property or damages caused by livestock getting out as a
13. result of an auto accident, if landowner is not notified immediately.
- 14.

SAFETY

- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
18. We encourage programs that promote the proper use of farm
19. machinery.
20. We encourage all local media to promote educational
21. programs in helping to make the public aware of safety
22. consideration year round with special emphasis during planting and
23. harvesting seasons.
24. We strongly support and encourage the continuation and expan-
25. sion of the Department of Agriculture safety programs. We nationally
26. recognize the benefits of the safety programs and encourage the
27. General Assembly to provide adequate funding.
28. We encourage county Farm Bureaus to explore the possibility of
29. organizing local fire protection associations. We favor legislation
30. that would require railroads to eliminate excessive weed growth,
31. installation of flashers at crossings with obstructed views and
32. prompt repair of rough crossings.
33. We encourage the proper use of hazard lights and escorts when
34. moving farm equipment.
35. We strongly urge that police flag wrecked cars so that other
36. motorists will know that the wreck has been worked.
37. We recommend that all mailboxes be placed a reasonable
38. distance from the edge of roads and not directly across from other
39. obstructions to accommodate farm implements where feasible.
40. We support legislation requiring headlights being illuminated if
41. windshield wipers are in use.
42. We encourage the wearing of safety gear when staffing road
43. blocks for the purpose of solicitation.
44. We oppose unreasonable interruptions and enforcement of
45. occupational safety and health regulations when they deal with
46. farming practices.
47. We recommend that businesses with ten or less employees be
48. exempt from occupational safety and health regulations.
49. We recommend that entities involved in safety education
50. programs cooperate and support each other, and that Farm Bureau
51. support all safety educational programs.
52. Due to the increased number of injuries and deaths with ATV
53. usage, we recommend more emphasis be put on education,
54. training and enforcement of legislation for all ages.
55. Dealers who sell ATVs should be required to provide all
56. purchasers with basic safety instructions and materials for
57. comprehensive ATV safety usage.

1. We strongly support enforcement of all ATV laws for protection of
2. the ATV riders and the public.
3. We recommend the continued promotion of rollover protection
4. structures and seat belts by all groups and associations involved in
5. farm safety.
6. We recommend that all addresses should be properly marked
7. and displayed on houses and mailboxes.
8. We encourage the use of "dry hydrants" as a way of improving
9. fire protection in rural areas.
10. We recommend water districts and 911 coordinators work
11. together to assign all fire hydrants and dry hydrants a physical
12. address to assist fire departments in responding to 911 calls.
13. We recommend the laws be enforced on tinting of motor
14. vehicle glass.
15. Guard rails should, if practical, be recessed from the edge of
16. the traveling lane an adequate distance, no less than 3 feet, to
17. allow disabled vehicles and farm equipment a safe area from
18. moving traffic.
19. We support having questions on the Kentucky driver's license
20. test pertaining to what actions motorists should take when
21. approaching wide or slow moving vehicles on public roadways.
22. We recommend that all state and local driver's education
23. classes include a section dealing with driver awareness when
24. approaching farm equipment on roadways.
25. We strongly urge Kentucky Farm Bureau to work with appropriate
26. agencies, such as the National Safety Council, to encourage the
27. automobile industry and the consumer products industries to
28. develop standardization on all car seats and booster seats and
29. methods of installation and operation.
30. We support educational efforts to prevent the death of children
31. left in unattended vehicles and encourage research for the
32. development of safety features to prevent these incidents.
33. We strongly support and encourage the Department of
34. Agriculture to continue and expand their safety programs.
35. We recommend all tractor kill switches be marked by a sticker or
36. other means.
37. We support a statewide public education safety campaign
38. to discourage the practice of texting and cell phone usage while
39. driving.
40. We oppose using slow moving vehicle signs on anything other
41. than slow moving vehicles.
- 42.
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- 45.

INSURANCE

46. We recommend that all insurance remain a free enterprise with
47. minimum state regulations and that it continue to be a service that
48. may be purchased in accordance with the needs of the public.
49. We oppose further federal regulatory expansion into the
50. insurance industry.
51. We are against federal no-fault automobile insurance. We
52. strongly feel the best interests of society will be served if such
53. legislation continues under the supervision and control of state
54. legislatures rather than Congress.
55. We support eliminating fraud and abuse in Kentucky's Workers'
56. Compensation Law and encourage continuing review of the law to
57. prevent further abuse and fraud.

1. We oppose any state operated funds being used for the payment
2. of workers' compensation claims or claims on behalf of the
3. irresponsible motorist.
4. We support the continuation of agriculture being exempt from the
5. workers' compensation law.
6. We oppose H-2A employers being required to carry workers
7. compensation insurance on all employees that are not engaged in
8. like work. We also oppose premium payments based on anything
9. other than wages paid to workers.
10. We support legislation requiring all institutions selling insurance
11. to provide written consumer disclosure and other consumer
12. protections as specified in current state insurance regulations.
13. We oppose the stacking of vehicle insurance coverage.
14. We oppose any undue or unjust rate increases in vehicle
15. insurance on farm pick-ups or sport utility vehicles.
16. We strongly recommend the vehicle insurance liability law be
17. enforced. Uninsured motorists should be required to surrender
18. license plates to local authorities.
19. We support establishing a schedule, as it relates to charges for
20. PIP coverages, similar to that of worker's compensation.
21. We support immediate enactment of Federal Natural Disaster
22. Protection Legislation, with special emphasis for earthquake loss, to
23. form a workable partnership between the federal government and
24. the private insurance industry.
25. We oppose a private cause of action under the Unfair Claims
26. Settlement Practices Act.
27. We favor increasing the quarterly limit of workers compensation
28. exemptions to small businesses and farmers, due to the increases
29. of hourly wages and expenses.

FARM LABOR

34. We recommend Kentucky Farm Bureau assist federal and state
35. agencies and private entities in disseminating information,
36. evaluating and implementing the use of migrant labor.
37. We encourage the development of a standardized, expedited
38. system within the U.S. consulate's offices for processing and
39. verification of H-2A workers.
40. We strongly urge the Department of Labor to approve joint
41. contracts among farmers for the H-2A labor program.
42. We support the use of the agricultural prevailing wage rate rather
43. than the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) in the H-2A program.
44. We oppose providing farm workers with private rights-of-action
45. or rights-to-sue under the H-2A program.
46. Federal H-2A program users should not be subject to Migrant
47. and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA)
48. jurisdiction. Necessary action should be taken to deter frivolous
49. lawsuits against farm labor employers. In the event of a lawsuit,
50. court jurisdiction should fall within the state and/or county where the
51. alleged violation occurred.
52. We recommend that Farm Bureau work closely in cooperation
53. with the Office of Training and Employment in accumulating data for
54. the yearly prevailing wage.
55. We recommend that an exemption for agriculture be added to the
56. Kentucky Seventh Day Labor Law (KRS 337.050).
- 57.

1. We recommend that, before making an H-2A referral, the State
2. Department of Employment Services be required to conduct
3. employment eligibility verification.
4. We support a meaningful agricultural temporary worker program
5. and encourage the following reforms:
6. — a new agriculture visa that is portable (at-will) or by contract
7. and that also deals with ag sectors, including livestock, that need
8. year-round workers;
9. — required reimbursement being paid at the 50 percent point of
10. the contract;
11. — a streamlined system to receive workers;
12. — a change from the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) to the
13. agricultural prevailing wage rate; and
14. — staggered dates of worker entry under a single contract.
15. We recognize the importance of guest worker visa reform and
16. believe all immigration issues should be addressed at the federal level.
17. We support amending the Federal Migrant Seasonal Labor Act
18. and the H-2A Act to require that court jurisdiction fall within the state
19. and/or county where the alleged violation occurred.
20. Understanding farm labor skills vary by commodity, we urge
21. exploration of potential state and local workforce investment areas
22. to help meet Kentucky's agricultural labor needs.
23. We recommend all farmers markets be covered under the
24. agricultural workers exemption and not be required to carry
25. workers' compensation insurance or pay overtime.
26. We support:
27. (1) Retention of the present family farm exemption from the child
28. labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regardless
29. of business structure where family members are owners;
30. (2) Enforcement of federal child labor laws designed to prevent
31. underage children from working in all industries;
32. (3) Existing FLSA provisions, which specify and provide
33. opportunities for young people of the proper age to perform certain
34. agriculture jobs; and
35. (4) The family farm exemption in the Migrant and Seasonal
36. Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA) and oppose any efforts
37. to restrict its application.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

43. We recommend that steps be taken to eliminate abuse in the
44. collection of unemployment compensation claims. We support the
45. enactment of right-to-work legislation.
46. We oppose an increase in the minimum hourly wage.
47. We recommend that the federal prevailing wage law be repealed
48. when dealing with government contracts.
49. We support a return to the \$1 million project level before the
50. prevailing wage law is triggered, and support indexing the level
51. for inflation.
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UNIONIZATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

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- 3.
4. We strongly oppose any mandate that would require any
5. government entities to recognize and collectively bargain with
6. employee unions.
7. Furthermore, we oppose public employees being permitted to
8. strike, organize work stoppages or slow-downs.
- 9.

UNION ORGANIZATION OF FARMERS

- 10.
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- 13.
14. We oppose unionization of farmers and farm laborers.
- 15.

WELFARE

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19. We urge the Legislative Research Commission to study the
20. entire welfare program and make recommendations for any
21. changes needed to correct welfare abuses and ineligible recipients.
22. We also urge strong penalties when fraud is identified.
23. We support the idea that those who receive SSI, food stamps,
24. housing, or other government welfare payments should have to
25. submit to random drug testing.
26. Persons on strike should not be eligible for food stamps, surplus
27. commodities or unemployment compensation.
28. We support amending the public assistance and welfare pro-
29. gram to allow the participants to do part time work and earn up to
30. \$6,000 per year without any penalty or loss of benefits.
- 31.

DOG LAW

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35. We urge the Farm Bureau leadership to work with fiscal courts
36. and local dog law enforcement agencies to:
37. (1) See that the laws are strongly enforced; and
38. (2) Arrange with veterinarians and other appropriate persons to
39. sell dog tags.
40. We recommend an increase in dog tag licensing fees and
41. recommend that a portion of the increase go to the fund to pay
42. farmers for loss of livestock. We recommend that a substantial
43. effort be required by a county before funds can be collected for
44. livestock from the livestock fund.
45. We favor amending the law to designate county dog wardens as
46. peace officers for the purpose of enforcing the dog law only.
47. We oppose any effort to transfer dog law enforcement
48. from the Department of Agriculture to any other department of
49. state government.
- 50.

ENERGY

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54. We support government and industry working together to
55. develop all possible sources of energy to alter U.S. dependence on
56. other nations for energy resources.
- 57.

1. We support further development of solar, geothermal, biofuels,
2. wind, and other sources of energy and recommend that special
3. emphasis be given to converting to expanded use of coal including
4. gasification, liquefaction and alcohol production.
5. We support providing incentive programs and tax relief for
6. fuel-graded alcohol. We also support use of coal gasification
7. technology to produce nitrogen based fertilizers.
8. We will publicly and aggressively promote the use of biofuels
9. and support legislation that promotes biofuels usage. We
10. recommend aggressively combating anti-renewable fuels and anti-
11. biofuels campaigns.
12. We recommend that if any oxygenate is needed to meet clean air
13. requirements that it be ethanol.
14. We recommend that all state vehicles use ethanol blends and
15. biodiesel when available.
16. We recommend that all gasoline engine vehicles purchased by
17. state government be able to use e85 fuel when available.
18. We encourage expanded research for the use of ethanol for coal
19. desulfurization.
20. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau aggressively
21. promote the required use of biodiesel throughout the state
22. of Kentucky.
23. We recommend that all diesel and gasoline offered for sale in
24. Kentucky contain a blend of biofuels or ethanol and urge increased
25. availability of e85 fuel. We support efforts to promote biofuel usage
26. by visible and identifiable signage.
27. We support quality testing of biofuels by the Kentucky
28. Department of Agriculture, in a cost-effective manner.
29. We urge top priority be given to agriculture when fuel rationing
30. occurs. We favor rationing programs be based on current annual
31. needs rather than a monthly basis.
32. We encourage economic incentives for farm owners to purchase
33. their own fuel storage and propane tanks.
34. Energy is an important input to agriculture, and in times of short-
35. age or other emergencies the state should implement an energy
36. emergency response plan to facilitate transportation and delivery of
37. fuel, propane and electricity.
38. We recommend that biofuels be taken into consideration when
39. fuel rationing occurs.
40. We support:
41. (1) continued research and development to expand production
42. of renewable fuels from agricultural commodities, further reducing
43. America's dependence on foreign oil;
44. (2) establishment of state incentives to support increased
45. production and use of agricultural-based fuels;
46. (3) the use and conversion of waste products for expanded
47. forms of energy;
48. (4) tax incentives for the usage of alternative forms of energy;
49. (5) state incentives and programs to promote energy efficiency
50. and conservation on farms;
51. (6) implementation of a state and national energy policy;
52. (7) University research on alternative fuels; and
53. (8) University research on processing and transporting biomass
54. products.
55. We support the Kentucky Biomass Initiative to research the use
56. of switchgrass and other forage crops for commercial electrical
57. generation and residential heating.

1. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
2. and the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet recognize that
3. renewable energy and energy efficiency are economic drivers for
4. our farms, rural communities and businesses and encourage these
5. agencies to develop and support initiatives of the same. We further
6. recommend these agencies collaborate with the Kentucky
7. Department for Energy Development and Independence.
8. We support the goals of 25 X '25 which are: by the year 2025
9. America's farms, ranches, and forests will provide twenty-five
10. percent of the total energy consumed in the United States without
11. sacrificing the production of safe, abundant and affordable food,
12. feed, and fiber.
13. We encourage enhanced education and demonstration efforts
14. on energy efficiency in the homes, farms and businesses of
15. Kentucky.
16. We oppose the establishment of new city-owned electric systems
17. to serve new or expanded electric loads because of the obvious neg-
18. ative impact this would have on the electric rates of residential and
19. commercial customers of the electric utility currently providing service.
20. We support the use of wood, wood pellets, wood biomass, and
21. wood products as a source of renewable energy.
22. We oppose climate change legislation that establishes mandatory
23. cap and trade provisions which would lead to higher energy costs and
24. negative impacts on the agricultural economy.
25. Fracking should not be permitted on current oil and gas leases
26. without notifying landowners and renegotiating the lease with the
27. landowners.
28. We encourage state government to return to agriculture a portion
29. of any settlement funds from energy distributors and suppliers due to
30. unfair practices and unfulfilled contracts.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

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35. Rural electric cooperatives serve thinly populated areas which
36. produce a low return on investments, thus, we support continuation
37. of an adequate program for securing necessary finances, their right
38. to generate and transmit power and their territorial integrity.
39. Every safeguard should be taken to ensure that control of rural
40. electric cooperatives remains with the members. We further
41. support the continued existence of the territorial law which
42. establishes the boundary lines relative to the service provided by
43. electric utilities for residential, commercial and industrial customers.
44. We recommend in areas where electrical rates are higher for
45. farming operations than residential rates, that these be adjusted to
46. the lowest rate possible.
47. We recommend the Public Service Commission encourage
48. utilities to develop a new rate classification specifically designed for
49. farms to address seasonal peak demand charges.
50. We oppose mandated retail deregulation of electricity through
51. legislative or regulatory action at the federal and/or state level.
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RURAL COMMUNICATIONS

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- 2.
3. We support expanded and improved cellular phone coverage
4. throughout Kentucky, but want safeguards to protect and maintain
5. landline service for those who do not want wireless.
6. We urge the Public Service Commission to study the service
7. being offered to all telephone users in rural areas and to encourage
8. the companies to upgrade the service to compare with that in
9. urban areas.
10. We support toll-free county-wide telephone service.
11. We are opposed to mandatory measured service.
12. We are opposed to the present overlay district system as
13. proposed by the Public Service Commission.
14. We are encouraged by the progress that has been made and the
15. attention that has been given to increasing affordable broadband
16. and high speed internet in all rural areas, and we urge continuation
17. of this effort because there is an urgent need.
18. We support all efforts and incentives to improve all telecommu-
19. nications in rural Kentucky.
20. We support efforts to provide affordable broadband and high
21. speed internet service to all rural areas of Kentucky through
22. improved access to, and prompt and efficient use of, all available
23. federal and state funding opportunities.
24. We strongly oppose free cell phones being funded by the
25. federal government with the exception of those provided for the
26. elderly.

UTILITY RATES AND REGULATIONS

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32. We encourage the Public Service Commission to monitor and
33. investigate the activities and operating costs of utilities to ensure
34. that the rates approved are fair and equitable, particularly as this
35. relates to the fuel adjustment clause.
36. We recommend the Public Service Commission encourage
37. utilities to develop a new rate classification specifically designed for
38. farms to address seasonal peak demand charges.
39. We recommend that customer meter charges be kept to a
40. minimum for farm operations.
41. We oppose municipal water utilities raising water rates only on
42. rural water districts, water associations, and small cities to pay for
43. expanding their water plants.
44. Steps should be taken to maintain Kentucky's favorable utility
45. rates. Construction of new power generating facilities and
46. associated infrastructures should not be allowed to adversely affect
47. Kentucky consumers and specifically rural customers.
48. We encourage all electric utility providers to monitor and
49. maintain rates at levels below the national average to attract and
50. retain commercial and industrial customers.
51. We recommend there be rural representation on the Public
52. Service Commission.
53. We support the procedure in which Public Service Commission
54. members are appointed by the Governor and not elected.
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HEALTH

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3. Due to the abuse of disability programs, we believe they should
4. be more closely monitored by health care providers.
5. We support:
6. (1) The development and implementation of programs to
7. provide incentives for consumers to practice wellness and
8. disease prevention;
9. (2) Efforts of Kentucky's cancer and disease research programs.
10. (3) A personal file added to an individual driver's license, similar
11. to the organ donor's list currently used. This file should upon a
12. voluntary basis include medication alerts, immediate family contact
13. information, and/or other needed important data that could be used
14. at the time of an accident or medical emergency;
15. (4) Efforts of medical schools to train additional qualified
16. family physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and
17. other qualified health care professionals who intend to practice
18. medicine in rural areas;
19. (5) Residency programs to provide postgraduate family
20. physician training away from major metropolitan-based medical
21. training centers;
22. (6) All programs which support efforts to eradicate sexually
23. transmitted diseases;
24. (7) Closer working relationships between organizations of
25. primary care providers, medical societies and health agencies and
26. the Board of Education;
27. (8) Education of primary care providers, teachers, and other
28. health professionals to include the clinical application of sound
29. nutritional principles; and
30. (9) The Certificate of Need Board being more diligent in
31. their work in approving hospital expansions, including hospice and
32. home health, concerning facilities and services.
33. We oppose:
34. (1) Legislation or regulations that would jeopardize present
35. volunteer emergency medical technician (EMT) systems; and
36. (2) Guidelines that would close the obstetric wards in hospitals
37. that do not meet annual requirements for number of births.
38. We urge county Farm Bureaus to support and participate with
39. community health clinics, free clinics and rural health programs
40. such as bloodmobiles, mobile X-ray units, dental and cancer clinics
41. and ambulance service.
42. We believe the disability programs are too lenient and should be
43. monitored closely by the health care providers. Both the patient and
44. health care providers should be held accountable. A system to reg-
45. ulate the program should be in place.
46. We support the county health departments and recommend they
47. be used to their full potential.
48. We urge the passage of legislation that provides that the
49. membership of county health boards include at least one farmer.
50. We encourage timely domestic production of critical health
51. vaccines as a policy of national security.
52. We urge continuing research and development of a human
53. vaccine for any strain of influenza or other communicable disease.
54. We support Advanced Life Support Systems (ALSS) being
55. available in all Kentucky counties.
- 56.
- 57.

1. We urge the development of a secure electronic medical records
2. system, such as the E-Health Network, to increase the efficiency of
3. healthcare delivery.
4. We support the location of a Veterans Administration long-term
5. care facility in southeast Kentucky; one that will provide care to
6. veterans who are unable to care for themselves.
- 7.

HEALTH INSURANCE

- 10.
11. We support health care insurance reform and encourage the
12. Kentucky General Assembly to continue to address this issue.
13. We support being able to modify coverages, such as increasing
14. deductibles, without losing the status of legacy or grandfathered
15. health insurance policies.
16. We recommend that all insurance remain a free enterprise with
17. minimum state regulations and that it continue to be a service that
18. may be purchased in accordance with the needs of the public.
19. We support changes in Kentucky's health insurance laws that
20. will stabilize the market, encourage competition and increase
21. consumer choice.
22. We believe that all health care providers should be allowed to set
23. their own individual rates for health care services. However, we
24. recommend legislation that would require individual providers
25. to charge consistent fees for like services.
26. We encourage continued transparency by health insurance
27. providers on costs and coverages to ensure competitive pricing
28. and service.
29. We recommend that the state rate all medical services, facilities,
30. and equipment. This would enable consumers and health care
31. providers to determine the most cost effective service of
32. comparable quality.
33. We reaffirm our support for state and federal legislation that
34. would increase the flexibility for individuals to benefit from
35. Association Health Plans.
36. Associations should be able to provide adequate health
37. insurance. We oppose any action that would impede that ability.
38. We support the creation of additional tax incentives for self-
39. employed and small business owners that purchase health
40. insurance for their employees.
41. We are opposed to requiring employers to provide health
42. insurance. Employers who choose to provide health insurance
43. benefits for full-time employees should not be required to provide
44. seasonal and part-time employees with health insurance throughout
45. the calendar year of their employment.
46. Future health care policy changes should embrace the following
47. principles:
48. (1) Promotion of personal wellness, fitness and preventive care
49. as basic health goals;
50. (2) Minimal government intervention in decisions between
51. providers and receivers of health care;
52. (3) Tax policies that encourage individuals to prepare for future
53. health care needs such as making long-term care insurance
54. premiums 100% tax deductible;
55. (4) Direct government financial assistance to providers for those
56. who are economically unable to pay for health care needs;
- 57.

1. (5) Government programs like Medicare and Medicaid properly
2. compensate providers;
3. (6) Protect the right of patients to choose health care providers
4. and methods of treatment; and
5. (7) Ensure that health care providers, not insurance companies,
6. determine patient treatment.
7. We support comprehensive affordable health care for all U.S.
8. citizens.
9. We support:
10. (1) Every possible effort to affect cost management while
11. providing accessible high quality health care;
12. (2) A law that would limit health care costs to no more than the
13. level of federal cost of living increases and furthermore, recommend
14. that hospitals be required to reveal their pricing structures;
15. (3) The development of legislation that will lead to changing our
16. present health care delivery system through the following:
17. (A) Cost incentive/rewards (providers, insurance companies
18. and consumers);
19. (B) Protection against monopolies; and
20. (C) Periodic review of regulations.
21. (4) Efforts to eliminate or significantly reduce cost shifting from
22. Medicaid and Medicare to individuals and third-party payers;
23. (5) The reduction of government mandates which require
24. certain provisions be included in all health insurance policies;
25. (6) Greater use of non-physician providers, such as physician's
26. assistants, nurse practitioners and midwives, to help improve the
27. distribution of health care;
28. (7) Economic incentives at state and local levels to encourage
29. primary care providers to practice in rural areas and the restoration
30. of equitable Medicare payments to rural hospitals and primary
31. care providers;
32. (8) Government policies that provide incentives for medical and
33. mental health services in rural areas;
34. (9) Privately funded optional care delivery systems such as
35. health maintenance organizations;
36. (10) Efforts to reduce medical malpractice insurance costs;
37. (11) Third-party payer recognition for payment of outpatient
38. treatment and preventive measures; and
39. (12) Government incentives to the private sector for providing
40. long-term health care.
41. We oppose:
42. (1) Government interference with private enterprise by
43. subsidizing professional medical services;
44. (2) The practice of charging for medical services solely on the
45. ability to pay; and
46. (3) Compulsory national and/or state health insurance.
47. We encourage strict oversight of Medicare and Medicaid
48. programs with the intent of reducing fraud and to decrease health
49. care costs.
50. We encourage individuals to seek a high deductible and/or
51. co-payment plan as a way of reducing overall health insurance
52. premiums.
53. We support and encourage the use of health savings accounts
54. as an opportunity to lower health insurance costs and be able to
55. contribute after age 65 as long as you continue to work.
56. We support action by the Kentucky General Assembly that will
57. ensure that patients in nursing homes receive quality care including

1. sufficient, better trained front-line care givers and a statewide
2. system to help consumers find available beds.
3. We support the use of KASPER (Kentucky All Scheduled
4. Prescription Electronic Reporting) to assist health care providers in
5. monitoring narcotic prescriptions and support the cooperation of
6. surrounding states that have similar programs.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

KENTUCKY FAIRS

10. We support the State Fair Board and management in their efforts
11. to make the State Fair the pride of Kentucky's agriculture, industry
12. and natural resources. We encourage the Kentucky State Fair
13. Board be composed of a minimum of fifty percent voting members
14. who are active members in agriculture leadership. We support
15. funding for the expansion facilities at the Kentucky Exposition
16. Center. We urge the Kentucky General Assembly to assume the
17. remaining debt service on capital expenditures at the Kentucky
18. Exposition Center and for the funding to be taken from the general
19. fund. We will cooperate with all interest groups in efforts to maintain
20. an educational State Fair free from political interference with
21. continuity of competent management.
22. We urge county Farm Bureaus to support and participate in their
23. local fairs and to encourage good local entries to participate in the
24. State Fair.
25. We support state funds for the continued upgrading of county fairs
26. and encourage the legislature to reinstate and fund the County Fair
27. Building Program.
28. All requirements for participating in all shows and fairs should be
29. strictly adhered to and all entries should be visually inspected and
30. certified before unloading.
31. We support fair and uniform guidelines and enforcement of
32. animal livestock inspections for shows and fairs and support proper
33. training for inspectors.
- 34.
- 35.
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KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

40. We support an efficient, well-administered and adequately
41. financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture. We support the
42. Kentucky Department of Agriculture be primarily financed by
43. dedicated sources of revenue, and recommend an increase in the
44. budget's baseline to bring the marketing and promotion budget in
45. line with other states.
46. We support adequate funding for all 4-H and FFA livestock
47. shows.
48. We support the current equal distribution of proceeds generated
49. by the voluntary \$10 donation made when renewing Kentucky farm
50. license plates to the Kentucky FFA, Kentucky 4-H, and Kentucky
51. Proud and we encourage county clerks to promote participation.
52. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's efforts to
53. continue to provide organic certification program services and to
54. maintain and promote the standards of the national organic
55. program.
- 56.
- 57.

1. We recommend that the State Board of Agriculture consist
2. of commodity specific members and at least one member
3. representing Farm Bureau.
4. We are concerned about the number of state appointed
5. boards and commissions representing agriculture. Efforts should
6. be made to consolidate the work of these groups into one mission
7. for agriculture.
8. We recommend that a more adequate training program be
9. developed for inspectors responsible for testing equipment, grading,
10. checking moisture meters and scales. We further recommend the
11. licensing of all moisture meter operators and we endorse a unified
12. system of measuring moisture content in grain, soybeans and
13. tobacco at all purchasing stations.
14. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to create
15. procedures for the sanitizing of testing equipment, including probes,
16. instruments, grinders and containers, between the gatherings of
17. grain samples.
18. We urge the Department to provide strict inspection of all scales
19. used in buying and selling agricultural products.
20. We recommend the Department continue to work with the
21. Cabinet for Economic Development and others in seeking
22. market opportunities for Kentucky commodities domestically and
23. internationally.
24. We recommend that the National Agricultural Statistics Service
25. include more detailed reports on horticultural crops. We recommend
26. improving the efficiency and conversion to computerization of market
27. data collection and utilize a more producer friendly schedule for the
28. data collection.
29. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
30. continue to employ an equine specialist to work jointly with the
31. Cabinet for Economic Development and the Tourism, Arts and
32. Heritage Cabinet to foster and develop both domestic and foreign
33. markets.
34. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's and the
35. Kentucky Tourism Arts and Heritage Cabinet's efforts to promote
36. Agri-tourism in the Commonwealth with city and county level
37. tourism groups.
38. We recommend that century and older farms be certified and
39. recognized in Kentucky.
40. We recommend equine inventory data be included in the
41. Kentucky Agricultural Statistics book.
42. We recommend the annual survey of Kentucky livestock num-
43. bers include sheep and goats, and that the state statistician work
44. with the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association and the
45. Kentucky Goat Producers Association to assist with the design of
46. this survey.
47. We recommend the annual survey of Kentucky livestock
48. numbers include privately-owned, farm-raised cervids.
49. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's efforts to
50. support and promote the privately-owned, farm-raised cervid
51. industry.
52. We recommend that data on the poultry industry be combined to
53. include broiler, layers, eggs, and the breeder industry in the
54. Kentucky Agricultural Statistics book.
55. We recommend continued funding for the Kentucky Department
56. of Agriculture to employ horticulture/aquaculture marketing
57. specialists to better communicate marketing opportunities to

1. producers and to identify local Kentucky agriculture products for
2. wholesale buyers.
3. We support providing the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
4. with sufficient resources to fund increased enforcement of organic
5. standards.
6. We recommend establishment of poultry, equine and woodland
7. specialists in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.
8. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and
9. both state diagnostic laboratories employ poultry veterinarians to
10. ensure the health of avian species.
11. We urge the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to amend
12. their existing regulations pertaining to Pullorum Typhoid testing to
13. conform with federal guidelines.
14. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Division
15. of Environmental Services to be more consistent in their inspections
16. of agricultural operations.
17. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to
18. support the Kentucky Hay Marketing initiative.
19. We urge the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to fully staff the
20. hay testing program to ensure quality forages throughout the
21. Commonwealth.
22. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture fully
23. staff their market news positions.
24. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's efforts to
25. monitor proper harvesting and sales of ginseng.
26. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's efforts to
27. strengthen industrial hemp production in the state of Kentucky.
28. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture enter
29. into reciprocal agreements, or establish legal documents, with other
30. state's governing agencies to establish a Boll Weevil Eradication
31. Program, and to allow out-of-state commercial agricultural chemical
32. applicators the ability to operate in Kentucky.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.

FARM AND FAMILY CREDIT

37. We favor continuation of adequate agriculture credit at the
38. lowest possible cost.
39. We believe farmers should be able to access credit from
40. available equity, rather than having credit access based on
41. cash flow.
42. We continue to support the cooperative associations in the Farm
43. Credit System (FCS) now completely farmer-owned. We oppose
44. any restructuring of the Farm Credit System which would replace
45. farmer-elected members of system boards or grant commercial
46. banks access to money procured by virtue of the agency status
47. enjoyed by the FCS or otherwise threaten the viability of the
48. system. We support legislation that would prohibit Farm Credit
49. Banks from exiting the Farm Credit System.
50. We recommend that efforts be made to establish a method of
51. financing farms through the use of local, state, federal or other funds
52. that would enable young people to start farming.
53. We urge our farmer-members to be aware of special financial
54. schemes that require "up-front" fees.
55. We support the Farm Service Agency (FSA) assisting farmers
56. who cannot qualify for other financing.
- 57.

1. We recommend federal funding for low income housing as
2. presently administered by the Housing and Urban Development
3. Agency and Rural Economic Community Development (RECD) be
4. discontinued.
5. We support the continuation of guaranteed and insured loan
6. programs of RECD. Adequate funding should be provided to meet
7. the legitimate needs of eligible farm families including those which
8. are either partnerships or corporations. Adequate, competent coun-
9. seling and supervision should be available to all borrowers.
10. We recommend RECD expedite the processing of loans to
11. farmers allowing them ample time to make farming decisions before
12. planting season. We further recommend providing loans that will be
13. sufficient to carry out farming operations for a full year or rejecting
14. the loan.
15. We support uniform anti-predatory lending standards for
16. mortgage companies and consumer lenders.
17. We recommend medical liabilities not be listed as a derogatory
18. on a credit report.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

23. We discourage the closing of local Farm Service Agency offices.
24. However, if offices are combined, we urge the USDA to allow
25. farmers to only have to travel to adjoining counties that maintain an
26. adequate workforce.
27. We recommend that USDA fund FSA in a manner that lets them
28. be timely with their services.
29. We encourage streamlining of the FSA lending process,
30. including formulation of partnerships with other lending institutions
31. to simplify the process for applicants.
32. We support utilizing FSA's data and assistance for Premise ID
33. Registration.
34. We encourage FSA to allow authorized insurance personnel
35. to obtain any necessary producer information forms free of charge
36. from their office.
37. We support a change in FSA regulations to accept certified
38. printed scale weights.
39. We urge eligible producers to participate in local FSA committee
40. elections.
41. We recommend that to be eligible for any FSA committee, the
42. candidate must be actively engaged in agriculture production.
43. We urge local FSA committees to assist cooperating landowners
44. in the utilization of the forestry incentive programs for tree planting
45. and timber stand improvement.
46. Federally certified disaster years should be omitted from county
47. FSA yield calculations.
48. We recommend that the local FSA office display a discount
49. schedule to ensure that each producer in the loan program realizes
50. the cost that he can expect to incur.
51. We recommend that endophyte-free fescue be considered when
52. FSA cost-shares in pasture renovation.
53. We suggest that FSA require the establishment of irrigated yields
54. for farmers who irrigate their crops.
55. We request that FSA, NRCS and the Division of Water
56. collectively provide cost-share information for waste handling
57. facilities to producers when construction permits are issued.

1. We ask that Kentucky law be changed to allow a parent to sign
2. documents that would be legally binding upon their minor children.
3. We support extending office hours of local FSA offices during
4. peak sign-up periods.
5. We are opposed to the open office concept at USDA service
6. centers as being defined as removing walls and having all the
7. agencies in one big room.
8. We oppose mandatory consolidation of farm serial numbers.
9. We oppose compliance status of one farm affecting the ability to
10. receive benefits on another farm.

AGRI-TERRORISM

15. In order to ensure national security, we recommend that all
16. farmers adopt biosecurity measures and work with agri-terrorism
17. officials whenever necessary.
18. We condemn acts of terrorism and support the protection of our
19. people, resources, and industry.
20. We encourage a coordinated plan of prevention and remediation
21. between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and other
22. emergency management organizations in response to acts of
23. terrorism. We encourage the University of Kentucky Extension
24. Service to conduct educational/awareness programs on
25. Agri-terrorism.
26. We support the appointment of an oversight committee capable of
27. investigating bio-level three and four labs, and their effect on
28. agriculture. This committee would be comprised of community
29. members and professionals, and would be funded by state
30. government and completely independent of Homeland Security.

AGRICULTURE DISASTER

35. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau work with Congress
36. to provide an appropriation which would be used to trigger National
37. Farm Disaster Programs when the Secretary of Agriculture declares
38. an area a disaster.
39. We support emergency legislation to allow farmers to receive
40. cost-share monies in a timely manner for obtaining and maintaining
41. agriculture water supplies, including pond cleanout.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

46. In an effort to improve the public image of agriculture and Farm
47. Bureau, we will work to:
48. (1) Build and communicate a better image of agriculture and to
49. stress its importance to the well-being of the American consumer;
50. (2) Create and communicate better understanding between rural
51. and urban people;
52. (3) Emphasize the marked difference between benefits going
53. directly to farmers and those of benefit to the general public;
54. (4) Inform the public that food is affordable and a great value,
55. and that farmers receive a small share of the price paid for food;
- 56.
- 57.

1. (5) Familiarize the public with the importance of the businesses
2. serving agriculture and their contributions to the growth of the
3. national economy; and
4. (6) Conduct an aggressive communication program to promote
5. growth in Farm Bureau membership and commercial services.
6. We endorse the National Farm-City Program and urge county
7. Farm Bureaus to participate in such activities.
8. We recommend that information regarding the environmental
9. effects of insecticides, pesticides, feed additives, etc., be
10. disseminated to the general public through non-farm publications
11. and on radio and television.
12. We support building and maintaining a Kentucky Agricultural
13. Heritage Center with primary funding from General Fund dollars
14. and private sources.
15. We discourage government officials and media from naming
16. diseases after livestock commodities such as "swine flu" due to its
17. negative financial impact.
18. We oppose media bias and encourage the media to be fair and
19. balanced in their reporting.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
24. We recommend that the radio and television stations continue to
25. provide agriculture programs.
26. We strongly oppose anti-farming propaganda in children's books,
27. videos and television.
28. We support Kentucky Farm Bureau's continued promotion of
29. Kentucky agriculture on RFD-TV and KET.
30. We recognize the value of Bluegrass & Backroads in enhancing
31. the understanding of agriculture in Kentucky and we encourage local
32. TV stations to utilize this valuable resource in a favorable time slot.
33. We encourage the viewing of Bluegrass & Backroads, and other
34. educational programming, be used in the classroom to enhance the
35. understanding of all aspects of agriculture production.

PATRIOTISM

- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
40. We recommend that the American flag be properly displayed
41. at all state and district Farm Bureau meetings and by farmers on
42. their farms.
43. We recommend that it be a crime to desecrate the American flag.
44. We recommend that the words, "Under God" remain in the
45. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and the words "In God We Trust"
46. remain on our nation's currency.
47. We support our armed forces defending our freedom.

COURTS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- 48.
- 49.
- 50.
- 51.
- 52.
53. We believe in the principle that the government should protect
54. the rights of life, liberty and property, and we support a strong law
55. enforcement and first responders policy.
56. We support law enforcement agencies and believe they should
57. be equipped with safety items for their officers, including but not

1. limited to, bullet resistant glass and hands free communication
2. devices to limit distractions while on duty.
3. We support efforts and laws to strengthen the sanctity of
4. families.
5. We urge the courts to be more diligent in dealing with those who
6. violate the law. Furthermore, we support swift action by the courts
7. including dealing with juveniles who violate the law and believe that the
8. names of juveniles who commit felony offenses should be made public.
9. We recommend that small claims court actions be increased to
10. \$5,000 to reflect modern financial conditions.
11. We support parents being held more responsible for cases of
12. vandalism and destruction by juveniles.
13. We urge strict enforcement of our anti-pornography laws with
14. harsher penalties imposed when children are involved.
15. We support the segregation of juvenile offenders from
16. adult criminals.
17. We recommend a prompt and thorough trial by jury in all cases
18. where indictments have been returned by a grand jury. We believe
19. that "plea bargaining" should be used only when guilt is acknowl-
20. edged and a minimum penalty has been fixed by statute.
21. We support legislation to increase the penalties of speeding and
22. reckless driving that result in an auto accident.
23. We support capital punishment.
24. We oppose release of sex offenders on shock probation.
25. We recommend strict and more careful consideration of the use
26. of shock probation.
27. We oppose the enactment of gun control laws, but propose that
28. mandatory sentences be given in crimes involving the use of firearms.
29. We support the rights of individuals to protect their property.
30. We support prosecution of individuals that are proven guilty of
31. price gouging.
32. We support the sheriff's office becoming more involved in law
33. enforcement and that the responsibility of tax collection be handled
34. by personnel in his/her office.
35. We recommend that there be more rural law enforcement officers.
36. We feel that existing laws dealing with criminal acts by reason of
37. insanity should provide for proper criminal punishment.
38. We believe that non-violent prisoners should be worked while
39. serving in county detainment facilities and should be closely super-
40. vised while engaged in the work.
41. We recommend stronger punishment for drunken drivers
42. and/or drug offenders, especially repeat offenders, and more rigid
43. enforcement by both the law enforcement agencies and judges.
44. We recommend that authority be given to confiscate vehicles
45. and property when an individual is convicted of drunk driving or
46. drug-related charges.
47. We support family courts in Kentucky.
48. We recommend that persons stealing or destroying county road
49. signs be punished to the maximum extent of the law.
50. We support states' rights to determine citizenship of anyone in
51. violation of the law.
52. We recommend the state legislature enact comprehensive
53. forfeiture reform by requiring that individuals be convicted of a crime
54. before their property is seized and ensure that any forfeiture
55. proceeds go to the general fund to be allocated by our elected
56. representatives.
- 57.

CRIME PREVENTION

- 1.
- 2.
3. We support the state police and local law enforcement agencies
4. in the fight against crime.
5. We oppose any violent crime targeting a first responder with the
6. offender prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
7. We support recyclers and consignors to record the name,
8. address, and obtain a copy of a photo ID of individuals who bring in
9. recyclables to discourage the recycling of stolen equipment. All
10. farm equipment should be held for a period of five days by recyclers
11. before processing.
12. We encourage and support activities on the part of extension
13. homemakers' organizations, Farm Bureau women and other groups
14. developing programs associated with rural crime prevention.
15. We recommend that an educational program be developed
16. for our schools regarding the danger of child abuse and how to
17. recognize and guard against such.
18. We recommend that rural crime prevention programs, including
19. DNA kits for children, be continued by the state and county Farm
20. Bureaus and that all members be encouraged to participate.
21. We urge the Career and Technical Education and the FFA
22. Chapters to implement the rural crime prevention program and
23. develop model programs with county Farm Bureaus.
- 24.

DRUG CONTROL

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28. We pledge our cooperation to organizations in their efforts to
29. curb drug and alcohol abuse.
30. We are strongly opposed to any efforts to legalize narcotic and
31. recreational marijuana.
32. We support more stringent laws to deal with drug offenders. We
33. also support educational programs designed for students that would
34. teach them the harmful effects of drug use, including prescription
35. drug abuse.
36. We recommend that innocent property owners not have their
37. property seized or encumbered with federal tax liens when illegal
38. drug activity is found on their property.
39. We recommend the Task Force on Drugs become aware of the
40. destructive ability that their helicopters and equipment are having
41. on property. Innocent landowners should be compensated for their
42. loss or damage.
43. We recommend that every effort be made to eradicate
44. marijuana from all land in Kentucky.
45. We recommend that street value not be given out on a drug raid
46. or destroyed marijuana crop.
47. We support the efforts of the partnerships for a Drug
48. Free Community Program and encourage Farm Bureau members
49. to participate.
50. We encourage the use of additives in anhydrous ammonia to
51. prevent its theft from farms and suppliers for use in making
52. methamphetamine.
53. We support the use of seized drug money to help clean up
54. methamphetamine contamination on private property.
55. We strongly support increased funding for the state's drug task
56. forces.
- 57.

1. We strongly support pain management clinics be subject to
2. increased regulatory scrutiny.
3. We support a rigorous evaluation of the needle exchange
4. program in Kentucky.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

MECHANICS LIEN LAW

9. We urge the state and county Farm Bureaus to inform the
10. membership about the provisions of the Kentucky Mechanics Lien
11. Law and the advisability of farmers protecting themselves against
12. having to pay the same bill twice for services and materials.
13. We support a modification of the statutory liens statute to specif-
14. ically list hay sold as an inclusive in the persons who may apply an
15. agister's lien on farm animals and property.
- 16.

REGULATORY AGENCIES AND COMMISSIONS

- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
21. We recommend that the state legislature provide specific guide-
22. lines and restraints on the agencies that are to administer the laws
23. and are given the power to adopt rules and regulations.
24. We oppose state regulations that are more stringent than federal.
25. Any new regulation should not restrict expansion or sale of
26. existing agricultural operations.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.

LINE FENCES

31. We support the Kentucky line fence law which allows an owner
32. of agriculture property to file an amendment in district court
33. requiring the construction or the replacement or repair of a
34. boundary line fence. We also support the provision of language
35. which allows the district court flexibility in determining what type of
36. fence is to be used.
37. We support amending the Kentucky fence law to award
38. reasonable attorney fees and court costs to the prevailing party in
39. the event of litigation required to resolve a fencing dispute.
40. We support that developers be required to build a boundary
41. fence when a residential, commercial or industrial development
42. adjoins farm property.
43. We support the provision in the line fence law that says each
44. landowner shall stand in the center of his boundary line facing each
45. other, and each shall be responsible to build and maintain that
46. portion of fence to his right.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.
- 50.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

51. We oppose a change in the Constitution which would allow
52. residents to get proposed changes in the Constitution on a ballot by
53. obtaining signatures from any percentage of the state voters.
54. We are opposed to annual regular sessions of the Kentucky
55. General Assembly; however, we recognize the need for the
56. General Assembly to have greater control over the enactment
- 57.

1. and implementation of regulations, appointment oversight, and
2. budget revisions.
3. We support the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture being
4. a cabinet post whether elected or appointed.
5. We recommend the office of Constable be abolished.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
10. We recommend that charitable and nonprofit organizations be
11. exempted from laws that require an auctioneer to be licensed. We
12. support attorney's fees on foreclosures of real property being
13. limited only to hourly fees and expenses, as opposed to a
14. percentage of the total indebtedness.
15. We oppose mandating that an attorney be present at real
16. estate closings.
17. We recommend that regulations on unsolicited spam on Internet
18. Services be put in force similar as to "No Call List" on phones.
19. We support asking the phone company to make larger print
20. directories.
21. We encourage the General Assembly, universities and local
22. communities to use caution when considering making changes to,
23. or removal of items of historic significance.
24. We oppose any government mandate that forces school districts
25. to provide transgender bathrooms.
26. We oppose any infringement or additional restrictions on our
27. right to bear arms.
28. We oppose the continuation of state pension fund diversions and
29. recommend the state legislature take the necessary actions to
30. stabilize and create sustainability in the Kentucky Employees
31. Retirement System (non-hazardous) and the Kentucky Teachers
32. Retirement System.

STATUS OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
38. It is our policy to keep our resolutions as current as possible
39. without specifically restating all details of continuing policies every
40. year. We therefore reaffirm resolutions passed at the four (4)
41. previous meetings, except insofar as they have been dropped,
42. fulfilled, modified or supplemented by later resolutions.

2017

State Resolutions Committee Members

Eddie Melton, Chair

Vickie Bryant	Maurice Heard	Kenneth Rice
Caleb Ragland	Scott Davis	Scott Barnes
Penny Fleming	Josh Martin	Rob McClanahan
Doug Hall	P.J. Milburn	Randall Wood
Gerry Hayden	Mark Kinsey	Norwood Caudill
Bill Holbrook	Gary Chaplin	Berkley Mark
Kevin Cashman	Wes Hargis	Don Miniard
Mitchel Logsdon	Jerry Durham	Mark Smith



"Voice of Kentucky Agriculture"