2019

Kentucky Farm Bureau Policies

As adopted by voting delegates of member county Farm Bureaus at the 99th annual meeting of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation

Louisville, Kentucky
December, 2018
Officers

President
Mark Haney, Nancy

First Vice President
Eddie Melton, Sebree

Second Vice President
Sharon Furches, Murray

Executive Vice President
Drew Graham, Winchester
2019 KFBF
Board of Directors

Glenn Howell ........................................ Fulton
Sharon Furches .................................. Murray
Kelly Thurman ..................................... Livermore
Eddie Melton ....................................... Sebree
Mary Kate Kordes ................................. Central City
Larry Thomas ...................................... Elizabethtown
Pat Henderson ..................................... Irvington
Ray Allan Mackey ................................ Elizabethtown
Jay Coleman ....................................... Cave City
Larry Clark ......................................... Greensburg
Scott Travis ....................................... Cox's Creek
Randy Chrisman ................................. Lawrenceburg
Joe Paul Mattingly ............................... Raywick
David Chappell .................................. Owenton
Mark Kinsey ....................................... Crittenden
Mark Haney ....................................... Nancy
Kim McCoy ......................................... Burkesville
Victor Rextroat ................................... Russell Springs
David L. Campbell ................................ Stanford
Terry Lawson ..................................... Mt. Vernon
Alex Barnett ...................................... Cynthiana
Shane Wiseman ................................... Winchester
David McGlone ................................... Grayson
Carroll Amyx ..................................... Campton
Cloyce Hinkle ..................................... Artemus
Don Miniard ....................................... Bledsoe
Marshall Coyle .................................. Owingsville
Vickie Bryant ..................................... Tompkinsville
Tyler Ferguson ................................... Flat Gap
Roger Fannin ...................................... Harlan
Dr. Nancy Cox .................................... Lexington
Brandon Davis ..................................... Frankfort
Greg Drake II ..................................... Bowling Green

STATE STAFF

Drew Graham, Executive Vice President
Rachel Thomas, Executive Assistant
Sara Stivers, Senior Administrative Assistant
Phil Dowdle, Director, Accounting & Finance
Jeff Harper, Director, Public Affairs Division
Kyle Kelly, Director, Local Affairs
L. Joe Calhoun, Director, Commodity Division
Edward V. McQueen, Director, Market Information
Frank McCall, Commodity Specialist
B. Todd Bright, Director, Communication Division
Billy Toombs, Communication Support Coordinator
Tim Thomsberry, Editor, Kentucky Farm Bureau News
Matt Hilton, Director, Studios
Austin Anderson, Assistant Director, Studios
Michael Corrigan, Studio Production Specialist
Thomas M. Logue, Director, Operations Division
Katherine Fugala, Director, Travel & Events
Kelli Jolly, Assistant Director, Travel & Events
Dave Metzger, Director, Membership Systems & Support Services
Kim Stowe, Assistant Director, Membership Systems
Adam Rayburn, Assistant Director, Support Services
Billy Thomas, Building Maintenance Supervisor
Matthew W. Ingram, Director, Organization Division & Assistant to the Executive Vice President
David D. Johnson, Director, Member Services
Scott Christmas, Director, Ag Education & Women's Program
Jackson Tolle, Director, Young Farmer Programs
David Davis, Area 1 Program Director
Tony Holloway, Area 2 Program Director
Stacy Spies, Area 3 Program Director
Joseph Rogan, Area 4 Program Director
D. Mark Lyle, Area 5 Program Director
Brad Wilkerson, Area 6 Program Director
Jeremy Roy, Area 7 Program Director
Julia Rollins, Area 8 Program Director
George Hinesman, Area 9 Program Director
Michael W. Tobin, Area 10 Program Director
John Sparrow, Executive Vice President & CEO,
KFB Mutual Insurance Company
Jena Stone, Vice President, Accounting & Finance and Treasurer
Greg Kosse, General Counsel
Dee Riley, Vice President, Information Technology
Jeffrey L. Koch, Vice President, Product & Risk Management
Nicki McMahon, Vice President, Human Resources & Support Services
Robert Payne, Vice President, Claims
Chuck Osborne, Vice President, Agency Support & Marketing
Ken Wilson, Director, Agency Support & Marketing
Eric Parker, District 1 Agency Support & Marketing Manager
Jessica Sullivan, District 2 Agency Support & Marketing Manager
Austin Morrow, District 3 Agency Support & Marketing Manager
Ryan Menden, District 4 Agency Support & Marketing Manager
Tony Turner, District 5 Agency Support & Marketing Manager
Chris French, District 6 Agency Support & Marketing Manager
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 473,148 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.

2019 STATE PRIORITY ISSUES

AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
- Maintain allocating 60% 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 and Water Quality Cost-Share Program.
- Support an efficient, well-administered and adequately financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture.
- Support the modernization of the Grain Insurance Fund to adequately protect current and future Kentucky grain producers.

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 DEVELOPMENT
- Support efforts that will retain and attract new business and industry to rural areas of Kentucky.
- 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.

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.
2019 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 programs to increase access to broadband service that meets or exceeds FCC standards.

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

INFRASTRUCTURE
• Support maintenance and improvement of transportation infrastructure, including rural highways, lock and dam systems, riverports, and railroads.

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.

IMMIGRATION AND 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.

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.

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 473,148 Farm Bureau member families in 120 counties, who were represented at the annual meeting December 1, 2018.

They are the official policies on state issues of all 120 county Farm Bureaus in Kentucky for 2019.

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.
MISSION STATEMENT

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

PREAMBLE

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

PART I POLICY STATEMENT

1. The laudable objectives of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation need to be kept in mind by all Farm Bureau members. Its objectives are: to organize effectively; to promote and protect the interest of Kentucky farmers; to enlarge and enable their field of endeavor; to win for them that recognition of their usefulness and respect to which they are justly entitled; to raise standards of farming and rural homemaking throughout our beloved Commonwealth; to establish a high code of ethics among the members of our vocation; to represent farmers in any legitimate manner which may promote their best interest — economically, educationally, socially; to increase the effectiveness of county Farm Bureaus by strengthening their educational and service programs; to strengthen the whole Kentucky Farm Bureau program by unifying the county programs while preserving local initiative; to cooperate with all such agencies - University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, the U.S. Department of
1. Agriculture, the Extension Service, Career and Technical Education, the state Department of Agriculture, the Natural Resources Conservation Service agencies and the Farm Service Agency, thus advancing the best interests of all people in Kentucky.

In order to better accomplish these purposes, we are guided by the following principles:

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

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

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

82. Hold that farmers have the inalienable right to enter into business on a cooperative basis whenever it is wise and proper and oppose any legislation that will tend to hamper the development of sound farmer cooperatives. We particularly object to attempts to weaken cooperatives through the use of unjust taxes. We will fight these attempts to weaken cooperatives with all the legitimate means at our disposal.

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

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

4. Agricultural Research: We hold that an adequate program of agricultural research is fundamental to agricultural progress. Since the responsibility of conducting and interpreting this work is placed on the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, it must have adequate facilities and finances to carry on a progressive program of work. We believe that funds for agricultural research should be centered at the Experiment Station and oppose other state agencies being authorized to duplicate agricultural research.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

55. The institution of marriage should only be recognized as the legal union of a man and a woman.
1. We are opposed to any state-supported agency providing
benefits to "domestic" partners.
2. We strongly believe in the value of all individuals both born and
unborn.
3. We support an effort to eliminate the pornographic menace to
the moral fiber of our nation.
4. In order to maintain and improve our capitalist system and prevent
further steps toward socialism, we assert the following beliefs:
(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 for progress should not be
inhibited by false promises of security.
(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.
(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,
sincerity in government must be minimized.
(d) We believe that emergency legislation should be repealed and
emergency agencies dissolved when the specific emergency is over.
(e) We believe that Congress should use restraint in enlarging
the powers of the Executive Branch.
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.
12. Nonpartisan Organization: The Kentucky Farm Bureau
Federation is nonpartisan and holds that the actions of all govern-
mental 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.
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

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
3. desirable means for members to make a worthwhile contribution to
4. effective programs.
5. In order to provide more unification of action, and to enable the
6. Federation to render a greater service and more effective
7. assistance to the counties, we urge county Farm Bureaus to appoint
8. special committees entrusted with the responsibility of initiating and
9. 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
19. Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, the House of Delegates of the
20. Federation in annual meeting, hereby adopts the following
21. resolutions, and places upon its members, officers and representatives
22. the responsibility of securing proper and adequate action thereon.

AGRICULTURAL experiment
station and research

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

We support research that will protect the livestock and equine
industries and our economic resources by developing new capabil-
ities 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.

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.

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

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 alterna-
tive crops.

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.

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. 
15. 
16. EXTENSION SERVICE 
17. 18. We support an effective extension educational program of 19. agriculture, family and consumer sciences, 4-H, youth, and 20. community and economic development as embodied in the system 21. of local agents supported by area and state specialists. 22. We recommend that the Cooperative Extension Service intensify 23. its efforts at the local level to focus on the rapid changes taking 24. place in agriculture and to assist producers in a timely manner in 25. adjusting to these conditions such as drought, and low commodity 26. 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 that stringent criteria at the district level to qualify for the state show in order 40. to eliminate horses and riders that may pose a safety problem. The 41. horses qualifying for the State Fair show should be shown only in 42. classes for which they qualified at the area level. 43. We recommend that adequate funds be appropriated to bring 44. Kentucky’s Cooperative Extension Service back to a competitive 45. position with other states in salary levels. We urge the Kentucky 46. General Assembly to provide funding for a performance-based 47. career ladder for county agents, and for improved training and 48. professional development of agents. This should be supported on 49. recurring General Fund dollars, not using tobacco settlement funds. 50. We recommend that the Kentucky General Assembly fund the 51. Cooperative Extension Service as a line item in the University of 52. Kentucky and the Kentucky State University budgets. 53. We encourage the University of Kentucky Extension Service to 54. fill any extension agent vacancy positions within a maximum of 55. twelve months. 56. We support the county based model for cooperative extension. 57. We recommend that the University of Kentucky College of 58. Agriculture, Food and Environment work more closely with local 59. extension councils to carry out priorities and recommendations of 60. the councils. We support the efforts of local county extension 61. boards to have an equal voice in the appointment and evaluation of 62. agents and assistants in their counties. We 63. recommend that the director operate the extension program 64. in an efficient manner and continually review the operation of the 65. service in order to improve efficiency and to determine if there are 66. ways to eliminate excessive reports and any other nonproductive 67. procedures. 68. We recommend that the funds needed to expand the current 69. farm analysis program at the University of Kentucky be appropriated. 70. We urge county Farm Bureau leaders to be aware of situations 71. relative to future needs of agriculture, home economics and 4-H 72. and plan for increased local support for such extension programs. 73. We oppose any efforts by state or federal government to impose 74. restrictions on extension research or extension field work with 75. producers of any legal commodity. 76. We support educational efforts by the extension service to 77. inform farmers of their rights and recourse under federal marketing 78. protection programs. 
79. 
80. DAIRY 
81. 82. We support programs that will increase the demand for dairy 83. products. These programs include the serving of real dairy 84. products in all state institutions and parks. 85. We further support the effort to encourage school districts to 86. adopt the Fuel Up To Play 60 program that encourages nutrition and 87. fitness which includes the new look of the School Milk Program that 88. encourages plastic bottle packaging on the meal line. 89. We support schools offering all pasteurized fluid milk and milk 90. products, including whole milk and flavored milk, as part of the 91. school lunch program without losing federal subsidies. 92. We support the promotion of milk vending and smoothie 93. machines in schools. 94. We support the Junior Dairy Show Program. 95. We support the efforts of the Kentucky Dairy Development 96. Council on behalf of dairy farmers and the entire dairy infrastructure. 97. We encourage cooperation between affiliated agricultural 98. organizations, industries, and dairy farmers to benefit all. 99. We support the efforts of the American Dairy Association and 100. the Dairy Alliance. These organizations should strive to communi- 101. cate checkoff dollar usage through an industry-wide newsletter. 102. Dairy checkoff dollars should be utilized in market areas where the 103. milk is sold. 104. We strongly urge that all milk utilized for human fluid consump- 105. tion be pasteurized. We oppose legislation that could lessen public 106. health regulations on fluid milk for human consumption. 107. We will continue to work with the Dairy Products Association 108. of Kentucky and others to improve dairy health regulations. We 109. support the manufactured dairy products industry’s efforts for qual- 110. ity improvement and will cooperate in helping develop a sound 111. program that will provide for proper state supervision.
1. We recommend that Dairy Management Incorporated continue research on all dairy products for the purpose of improving quality and consumer acceptance, and expanding new development of dairy products.
2. We recommend a greater effort to ensure that farm inspectors, regulatory officials, and other industry professionals are familiar with dairy farming practices and are aware of the practical efforts that implementation of rules and regulations will require.
3. We encourage coordination between the state and regional testing labs in testing for contamination in the milk products. We support the Kentucky Farm Milk Handlers Law which will provide increased services to producers and processors.
4. We support funding of the statewide Uniform Dairy Inspection Program from the Kentucky General Fund. This program should continue to be administered by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.
5. We recommend that a study be conducted on marketing milk on a protein content basis as well as fat content basis.
6. We support passage of state or national legislation designed to protect dairy farmers in the event that buyers of milk become insolvent.
7. We support continued dairy research and education conducted in Kentucky through the most effective means possible, including, but not limited to, a partnership between the University of Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky University dairy programs.
8. We oppose input from milk handlers in haul rate negotiations between dairy farmers and milk haulers.
9. We encourage cooperative efforts among universities in the southeast in extension, teaching, and research efforts to support and educate the dairy industry.
10. We recommend that adequate funds be allocated to university research projects with the goal of alleviating health issues such as, but not limited to, the digital dermatitis (heel wart) problem in dairy cattle.
11. We support a coalition of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet, the University of Kentucky and other state universities, the Kentucky Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy and the Kentucky Dairy Development Council to implement a program that maintains the viability of existing dairies while attracting new dairies to the state of Kentucky.
12. We encourage entrepreneurship through the Kentucky Proud Program to further develop value-added dairy production that emphasizes quality and professionalism.
13. We support the development of a federal milk pricing system including, but not limited to, the supply management, exploring all feasible pricing mechanisms to provide a reasonable rate of return to dairy producers.
14. We support a two-tiered production program that addresses excess production as it influences the price of milk.
15. We urge all dairy cooperatives to pay at or above the federally mandated price for milk.
16. We support legislation that would provide a reasonable rate of return for dairy producers, processors, and retailers by recovering costs from the marketplace by establishing a minimum price for milk.
17. We oppose inaccurate or misleading labeling of all dairy products.

FORESTRY

10. Kentucky Farm Bureau recognizes the environmental benefits forest lands provide to the general public, such as clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and conservation of natural beauty, and believes the owners of forest lands should be compensated for continuing to provide these public benefits.
11. We urge cooperation among all forestry related organizations.
12. We recommend that the Kentucky Energy & Environment Cabinet expand and elevate the Division of Forestry, in keeping with the economic and environmental importance of Kentucky's forest resources and the forest industries. Forestry should continue to be recognized as an agricultural enterprise.
13. We recommend that the Division of Forestry increase the number of state foresters in order to reduce the waiting time for forester assistance and increase services provided, with an emphasis in the Appalachian region of Eastern Kentucky for landowner assistance.
14. We support the Forest Conservation Act in conjunction with the Agriculture Water Quality Act (AWQA).
15. We support the Division of Forestry's work in expanding protection from forest fires; assisting woodland owners in management, reforestation, insect disease, and non-native invasive plant control, expanding Kentucky's forest industries.
16. We recommend counties with significant forest resources invest a portion of coal, gas, and oil severance tax monies into woodland management activities for fire trails, timber stand improvement, and controlling invasive species that affect our renewable forest resources.
17. We encourage the use of hardwoods such as the American chestnut in the restoration of strip-mined/mountain top removal lands.
18. We encourage the Kentucky General Assembly to establish and fund a Forest Health Task Force, and make it a permanent part of the state government. We request the task force publish its mission and submit a public annual report on the status of Kentucky's forest health.
19. We support forest that qualify for an agricultural deferment of property tax should be assessed using an assessment model that is appropriate for forest land.
20. We encourage the establishment of local forestry organizations at the local level.
21. We support the continuation and expansion of collecting and publishing of log price information commensurate with other agricultural commodities.
22. We support rewards for information leading to the prosecution and conviction for forest arson through the Wildland Fire and Arson Prevention Task Force and the Kentucky Forest Industries Association and the Target Arson Program in conjunction with Farm Bureau's Theft Reward Policy.
1. We urge county Farm Bureaus to assist members in
2. taking advantage of the forestry assistance offered by the
3. Division of Forestry’s stewardship program and the stewardship
4. incentive practices.
5. We support an exemption for farmers to burn debris during the
6. established fire seasons.
7. We encourage all members who are timberland owners in
8. Kentucky to have a forest stewardship plan on their land.
9. We strongly encourage and support cost-share programs for all
10. forestry activities on private lands and we encourage the General
11. Assembly to appropriate funds for the Forest Stewardship
12. Incentives Fund.
13. We are opposed to comprehensive legislation that would regulate
14. forest practices on privately owned forest land and recommend that
15. no such action be undertaken by the Kentucky legislature.
16. We oppose mandatory third party certification of Kentucky’s for-
17. est land in order to be eligible for biomass production programs.
18. We recommend that marketable timber and woody debris from
19. highway rights-of-way and utility rights-of-way, oil/gas pipelines and
20. wells be salvaged.
21. We support the collection and dissemination of annual forestry
22. inventory data under the Kentucky Forest Conservation Act by the
23. Division of Forestry. Moreover, the forest resource inventory should
24. provide reliable information on the amount of timber that is available
25. for purchase or use.
26. We support the Cabinet for Economic Development and its
27. efforts to include agriculture and natural resources in their
28. long-range economic development plan.
29. We recommend that the Cabinet for Economic Development
30. intensify its efforts in marketing Kentucky forest products and
31. increasing wood utilization.
32. We support the current effort in the state to promote the expansion
33. of the secondary forest industries, including the Kentucky
34. Department of Agriculture’s Value-Added Wood Products Program.
35. We recommend the timberland assessment fee be increased
36. from two cents to five cents per acre, provided that the assessment
37. fee continue to be returned to the Kentucky Division of Forestry for
38. the suppression of fires and for promoting forest health.
39. We commend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for
40. allowing trees grown in Kentucky and forest products made in
41. Kentucky to be designated as Kentucky Proud.

GRAIN

We request that the University of Kentucky intensify its research
efforts in the following areas:
1. control of barley yellow dwarf, a virus of small grains;
2. early maturing varieties of wheat in Kentucky;
3. high test weight and high yielding wheat;
4. control of head scab in small grains;
5. production such as grain rye and barley yield traits.
6. We recommend that the University of Kentucky develop public
7. varieties of wheat.
8. For all commercially marketed seed, we recommend the labeling
9. of the number of seed per pound on small grain seed tags, and the
10. cold germination tests on seed corn tags.
1. We recommend that seed tags for all commodity grains reflect the genetic purity of the bagged crop.
2. When seed companies sell inoculicide pre-treated corn seeds, farmers should be able to return the seeds, and be reimbursed for the cost of the seeds.
3. Summaries of Kentucky seed law results should be published annually. These laws should be rigidly enforced.
4. We encourage use of corn starch based products such as biodegradable plastics, calcium magnesium acetate and eco-foam.
5. We recommend that feedlots stress the importance of new producers using the best management possible in the operation of harvesting and storing silage in order to maintain a high quality product.
6. Farmers should be able to choose the date that they lock in the LDP rates while grain is in storage at feed mills.
7. Grain quality should not disqualify commodities from loan deficiency payment eligibility if the county has been adversely affected by weather.
8. We encourage grain elevators to pay a premium for low moisture grain.
9. We support the adoption of legislation at the state level that would require grain purchasers to use USDA grading practices.
10. All vacuum probes used in the marketing of grain should be USDA approved. Foreign matter should be removed from a sample of grain before the test weight is derived.
11. We recommend that any genetically engineered grain approved by USDA and FDA not be considered contaminated grain in cargo.
12. We recommend that Farm Bureau continue to monitor and publish methods used in arriving at dockage in grain.
13. We recommend that chemical testing for aflatoxin/vomitoxin be made available to farmers through the University of Kentucky and the Breathitt Veterinary Center laboratories.
14. We recommend that Farm Bureau become more aggressive in promoting a better understanding of marketing alternatives available to farmers.
15. We recommend the Kentucky General Assembly for the action taken relative to the grain insurance law and encourage that it continue to be monitored for protection of farmers.
16. We support modernizing and updating the Grain Insurance Fund law to more adequately protect current and future Kentucky grain producers.
17. Due to the increased value of grain, the grain insurance fund coverage should be increased to adequately protect farmers.
18. The cap limit should be increased accordingly.
19. We request the Risk Management Agency (RMA) retain May 31 as the final planting date for corn for the entire state of Kentucky.
20. We support efforts to strengthen industrial hemp production for seed in the state of Kentucky.

SOYBEANS

21. We urge the University of Kentucky to expand its program in controlling cyst nematode, sudden death syndrome and soybean rust in soybeans through use of either resistant varieties or other methods of control. We encourage the University of Kentucky and the Department of Agriculture to conduct research on slug control and management and further develop deer and insect resistant soybean varieties.
22. We recommend that government funding continue for Asian soybean rust sentinel plots across soybean growing areas.
23. We favor the use of a dry matter basis for grading and pricing of soybeans and pricing seed by seed count rather than by weight.
24. We recommend that the Soybean Promotion Board continue funding programs to help develop ways to increase the use of soybeans and also find ways through research to increase the test weight.
25. We urge the universities throughout Kentucky to intensify their research efforts on the expanded use of soybeans for human food.
26. We recommend that the University of Kentucky develop public varieties of soybeans.
27. We encourage the Soybean Promotion Board to continue funding programs to increase the public awareness of soybean fuels and soybean byproducts.
28. We request the Risk Management Agency (RMA) move the late planting date for soybeans to June 25.

LIVESTOCK

29. We support Kentucky's Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program and strongly encourage cattle producers, haulers, handlers, stockyard employees, and processors to participate.
30. We support the Pork Quality Assurance Plus Program, the Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus Program, the Swine Welfare Assurance Program, the Trucker Quality Assurance Program, and the Environmental Assurance Program and recommend every swine producer utilize these programs at all levels.
31. We recommend that the Kentucky Farm Bureau and Kentucky's livestock organizations work in conjunction with their national associations to combat negative campaigns regarding meat consumption or production.
32. We will continue to investigate the export market potential for Kentucky livestock and livestock products.
33. We support the veterinary training program established by the Southern Regional Education Board.
34. We support the construction and funding for a livestock education center on the main University of Kentucky campus to give hands-on educational opportunities to students.
35. We support expansion of the livestock industry as long as new operations meet current environmental regulations by using Best Management Practices (BMPs).
36. We support more education and funding for producers in marketing feeder calves, sheep and goats in large commingled groups.
37. We support development and adoption of livestock identification technology which will enhance the implementation of value-based marketing.
38. We support the establishment and implementation of an animal disease traceability system that will provide support for animal disease control and eradication.
39. An animal disease traceability system should be cost effective, with adequate cost-share among government, industry, and producers.
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. A veterinarian may report an abusive or negligent situation with
37. the owner’s prior knowledge.

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
58. Kentucky Farm Bureau and state commodity organizations on
59. development and implementation of new regulations.
60. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
61. become part of the state’s emergency management team to deal
62. with livestock problems during a natural disaster and national
63. emergency situation.
64. We recommend the establishment of a contingency fund within
65. the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to be used to cover costs
66. involved in combating declared emergency disease outbreaks.
67. We are in favor of state funds being appropriated to fully
68. maintain Kentucky’s brucellosis program and when federal funds
69. are available for various segments of the program, the state should
70. be reimbursed.
71. We support education and research to prevent losses in small
72. ruminants due to internal parasites, such as haemonchus
73. contortus.
74. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and its
75. commissioner continue the surveillance monitoring necessary to
76. maintain a brucellosis “free” status for livestock.
77. We support a reinstatement of the castration vaccination program
78. and its funding to further control brucellosis.
79. We support the continuation of the educational programs
80. offered by the state diagnostic laboratories in cooperation with the
81. Kentucky State Veterinarian, Kentucky Veterinary Medical
82. Association and University of Kentucky Extension Service to
83. improve awareness of and elimination of endemic and emerging
84. diseases.
85. We support state appropriations necessary to fund voluntary
86. testing and herd certification programs for paratuberculosis.
87. We support continued surveillance testing for pseudorabies and
88. encourage the state legislature to appropriate the necessary funds
89. to maintain such programs.
90. We support continued research regarding the correlation of
91. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and cattle.
92. We support the use of tissue and/or fecal sources for natural
93. inoculation against imported diseases for which there are not
94. effective treatments like Poroine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV)
95. and Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE).
96. We encourage more accurate collection of swine serological
97. slaughter trace-backs for pseudorabies. We support first-point
98. testing of breeding animals being marketed in Kentucky for
99. monitoring of pseudorabies. We recognize the importance of the
100. swine industry and its contribution to the economic well-being of
101. American agriculture and we support efforts to increase the number
102. of swine in Kentucky.
103. We support public health officials deferring to the Office of the
104. State Veterinarian when dealing with cases of rabies in farm
105. livestock and the state veterinarian’s office develop guidelines for
106. dealing with cases of rabies in farm livestock.
107. We encourage the equine and livestock industries to develop
108. and utilize vaccinations to prevent the spread of vector borne
109. diseases. As a further precaution, we recommend that the General
110. Assembly appropriate sufficient funds to expand the state Pest and
111. Weed Control Division’s Mosquito Control Program.
112. We recommend that the State Board of Agriculture eliminate all
113. “swine permitted feedlots” for quarantined animals in Kentucky.
1. The state diagnostic laboratories should coordinate their efforts
2. and be operated under the procedures outlined by the state Animal
3. Diagnostic Laboratory Advisory Committee.
4. We request the General Assembly to provide the State
5. Department of Agriculture and the diagnostic laboratories with
6. sufficient space and funds to conduct strong programs of detection
7. and elimination of livestock and poultry disease. We recommend
8. that both Kentucky’s diagnostic laboratories be line items in their
9. respective university budgets.
10. We support sufficient funding for both diagnostic laboratories
11. as mandated programs to meet the normal diagnostic needs of the
12. poultry and livestock industries, and for enhancement of their capa-
13. city to respond to emergencies such as Bovine Spongiform
14. Encephalopathy, West Nile Virus, Scrapie or Avian Influenza
15. outbreaks.
16. We recommend the laboratories be established as separate
17. departments within their respective universities and their directors
18. report directly to said universities. If fees are charged, the income
19. generated should be allowed to benefit the laboratory charging the
20. fee. We recommend that the director of each diagnostic laboratory
21. have experience and expertise in livestock disease.
22. We recommend that farmers be allowed to use the laboratory
23. without prior approval by a veterinarian.
24. We recommend the major mission or priority of the diagnostic
25. laboratories be directed toward diagnostic work associated with
26. livestock.
27. We support additional programs to dispose of dead animals and
28. processing residue. We recommend the state legislature expand
29. funding of programs with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for
30. a statewide dead animal removal program.
31. We further recommend that the University of Kentucky
32. expand research on the feasibility and practicality of composting
33. livestock.
34. We urge the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the
35. Division of Conservation not reduce the funding available for dead
36. animal removal programs.
37. We encourage cooperative efforts and funding throughout the
38. Commonwealth to address the dead animal removal issue.
39. We oppose any legislation or rule that bans the rendering of any
40. specific parts of ruminant animals.
41. We are encouraged by any systems identifying diseased and
42. non-ambulatory cattle as not being resold. However, we are
43. discouraged by the mis-use and abuse of these systems by traders.
44. We recommend stronger methods for proof and identification of
45. resold cattle.
46. The Kentucky Farm Bureau is opposed to the imposition of
47. unreasonable regulations by individual states affecting the
48. interstate movement of livestock. We urge state veterinarians
49. to work cooperatively with Kentucky market operators to
50. accommodate the issuance of health papers, permits, etc.
51. We support the compartmentation and secure food plans to
52. protect movement and exports of the livestock and poultry
53. industries during disease incidents.
54. We support additional funding to ensure that any veterinarian
55. student vacancies offered by our affiliated colleges of veterinary
56. medicine are filled with Kentucky students.
57.

1. In an effort to address the shortage of large animal veterinary
2. services in Kentucky, we support:
3. 1. Incentive programs for veterinarians and veterinary
4. technicians and technologists;
5. 2. Seeking and funding additional slots for Kentucky students
6. at veterinary schools;
7. 3. Updating and modifying the current laws to expand veterinary
8. services to allow veterinary technicians and technologists, in
9. direct consultation with a licensed veterinarian, to have a
10. greater flexibility in providing animal care services;
11. 4. Encouraging the expansion of veterinary mentoring
12. programs;
13. 5. Improved recruiting and awareness efforts for Kentucky youth
14. to take advantage of the veterinary opportunities;
15. 6. Ensuring the pre-veterinary programs in our Kentucky
16. universities have sufficient funding; and
17. 7. Encouraging local communities to design aggressive recruit-
18. ing programs to entice viable veterinary practices to serve the
19. livestock producers of their communities.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.
50.
51.
52.
53.
54.
55.
56.
57.

ANIMAL CARE

We support the work of the Kentucky Board of Agriculture, the
Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission, and the Equine
Health and Welfare Council.
We support the Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission
in their efforts to establish minimum standards for the raising,
handling, feeding, housing or transportation of livestock, poultry,
aquaculture and fur bearing animals.
Proper care and welfare of livestock and poultry are essential to
the efficient and profitable production of food and fiber. No segment
of society has more concern for the well-being of poultry and
livestock than the producer. This is best exemplified by the high
levels of production and low mortality rates achieved in modern
livestock and poultry operations.
We recommend producers, haulers, handlers, stockyard
employees and processors be educated on the importance of
proper care of livestock and poultry.
We recommend the education of first responders on livestock
rescue and safe handling procedures during emergency situations.
We support an aggressive, comprehensive educational program
presenting the facts of animal and poultry production to the general
public and to school children.
We encourage discussion and education of producers and
consumers prior to adoption of new production practices that impact
animal care and sustainability.
We support legislation prompting local governments from
establishing animal care standards.
Kentucky Farm Bureau will cooperate with other agricultural-
related organizations to address the animal welfare issues.
We support the right to humanely and safely harvest horses
and livestock.

26

27
POULTRY

1. We support our poultry farmers and their role in the poultry industry. We encourage the development of poultry and egg marketing services and will cooperate with other organizations and agencies in improving and developing markets for poultry and eggs.
2. We support research into the development of sustainable, renewable, agriculturally-produced bedding and litter for the poultry industry.
3. We support research in bedding alternatives, waste and nutrient management, and alternative methods for dead animal disposal.
4. We encourage poultry producers to be environmental stewards.
5. We support poultry research to investigate ammonia production and technology to reduce ammonia levels and emissions in poultry houses.
6. We support the continued implementation of the federal-state cooperative agreement for surveillance of low-path H5N1 avian influenza at current levels.
7. We urge companies to justify mandatory modification of buildings and equipment through research documentation. Any modification should be a long-term agreement negotiated in writing, between the grower and company before installation. The length of contracts should adequately protect the grower's investment in buildings and equipment.
8. We support pay averaging criteria being revised to compensate for company production decisions that influence a farmer/producer's settlement.
9. We support the relocation of the University of Kentucky poultry research facility to allow the facility to conduct relevant research to meet the need of the ever-changing poultry industry.

EQUINE

10. We support the use of equine for transportation, recreation, tourism and business.
11. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau cooperate with other agencies involved in the equine industry to disseminate information on horse-related activities.
12. We support recognizing equine as livestock and the horse industry as an agricultural commodity to remove the disadvantage that currently exists in relation to other livestock. We also recommend production items and services associated with the equine industry be exempt from the sales and use tax. We support development and utilization of equine identification technology.
13. We recommend legislation to develop and encourage additional public horse riding trails on state lands and parks.
14. We support programs to promote the trail riding sector of the equine industry.
15. We support preservation of existing horse riding trails which are for non-motorized use on public lands in Kentucky.
16. We support federal funding for equine industry in dealing with disasters.
17. We support funding for all equine facilities at the Kentucky Exposition Center and the Kentucky Horse Park.
18. We support programs such as the Kentucky Equine Education Program (KEEP) to promote the equine industry in Kentucky.

AQUACULTURE

19. We support the aquaculture and aquaponic industry as an alternative farming method and recommend the continued improvement in government encouragement and assistance to aquaculture.
20. We recommend aquaculture commodities as a viable part of Kentucky's agriculture industry.
21. We oppose propagation fees as part of the permitting process to raise any livestock or livestock product, including aquaculture.
22. We commend and support the Kentucky State University for its leadership and vision in developing the aquaculture industry in Kentucky and encourage increased funding in order to promote the industry.
23. We support the efforts of the Kentucky Aquaculture Association Task Force and encourage adequate funding.
24. We support cooperative educational efforts between the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources and the Kentucky Aquaculture Association to promote better understanding of aquaculture regulations and practices.
25. We support the development of paddlefish and sturgeon farming through continued research on captive propagation and husbandry practices. We also support a cooperative effort between paddlefish and sturgeon farms and state and federal agencies. We recommend amending the endangered species act to allow free interstate and international commerce of legitimately grown or harvested paddlefish and sturgeon products.
26. We support all imported fish be held to the same quality standards that are required of U.S. fish products.

POLLINATOR PROTECTION AND APICULTURE

27. We support monitoring the activities of the Pollinator Working Group in connection with the protection of the monarch butterflies and bees to make sure that agriculture will not be affected in a negative way.
28. We support the enhancement of the honeybee population in Kentucky.
29. We support the four goals of the Kentucky Pollinator Protection Program which are the use of best management practices, increased...
1. pollinator habitat, increased education and outreach and increased communication among stakeholders.
2. We support the development of BMPs that enhance pollinator habitat in both urban and rural areas.
3. We recognize the ecological importance of pollinators and the necessity to judiciously utilize crop protection products to protect against loss of crop yield. We support the coexistence of crops and pollinators and urge that any pollinator risk assessment required for registration or regulation of crop protection products be based on field-relevant, sound scientific data.
4. We support expedited approval of emergency labeling of chemical treatments for beekeepers fighting colony collapse issues.

HORTICULTURE CROPS

17. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau, the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky State University, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture assist growers in working with wholesale buyers and processors in matters of pricing, food safety, receiving schedules and handling facilities.
18. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Kentucky State University, and the Kentucky Horticulture Council to update and make publicly available the database for the Kentucky Horticultural Products and Services Directory.
19. We urge the Colleges of Agriculture to continue their commitment to all areas of horticulture research and the providing of timely and current information on production, handling, processing and marketing of the wide array of horticulture products grown in Kentucky.
20. We recommend that the University of Kentucky Horticulture Research Farm be maintained as the primary horticulture facility for research and extension and undergraduate education in central Kentucky because the location, topography and soil types are extremely suitable for the type of research afforded to the growing horticulture industry. We also urge extensive horticulture crop research at the Princeton and Quicksand facilities.
21. We recommend that all fruits and vegetables sold on the wholesale and retail markets in Kentucky be labeled as to the point of origin.
22. We support continued efforts and further development of the Arboretum at the University of Kentucky.
23. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the University of Kentucky make a strong effort to determine cut-of-state nurseries that supply disease and insect free strawberry plants, fruit trees, vegetable transplants, etc.
24. We encourage the Agricultural Statistics Service to continue to develop collection and reporting procedures on sales of all horticultural products (nursery, greenhouse, fruits, and vegetables).
25. We recommend the enforcement of regulating transient roadside vendors, especially those selling from highway rights-of-way, which are hazardous, do not contribute to the local tax base and compete unfairly with local producers.
26. We further recommend that Farm Bureau publish information pertaining to monitoring and regulation of transient roadside markets and their effect on local producers.
27. We encourage priority being given to Kentucky-grown greenhouse and nursery stock and sod for all state and county funded construction and maintenance projects.
28. Horticulture should be included in the definition of agriculture wherever agriculture is defined in statute.
29. We recommend that the Natural Resource Conservation Service make funding available for high tunnel structures to farmers statewide.
30. We recommend that the University of Kentucky maintain an extension viticulturist and an extension enologist to work full-time with the Kentucky Wine Industry and to interact with the Kentucky Grape and Wine Council.
31. We recommend a tiered permitting cost for companies registering crop protective agents used only on specialty crops.

FORAGE CROPS

32. We urge the Agricultural Development Board to maintain the existing forage-related County Agricultural Investment Program, and expand these programs to address the needs of Kentucky agriculture.
33. We support the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council in an effort to improve forage production on farms.
34. We commend the University of Kentucky and the USDA Agricultural Research Service Forage-Animal Production Research Unit (FAPRU) in Lexington for establishing and maintaining an internationally recognized forage program. We support funding for continued research and extension in the establishment, production, storage, and marketing of forage crops in Kentucky.
35. We support all Kentucky livestock and forage-related events, such as the Kentucky Grazing schools, the Kentucky Grazing Conference and the Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference.
36. We recommend that the regulatory services, seed companies and dealers monitor seeds and inoculant supplies in Kentucky to ensure that quality products are available.
37. We recommend that Kentucky Department of Agriculture funding be increased to maintain and improve forage testing.
38. We encourage farmers who raise forage either for sale or their own use to use the forage testing facilities at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to monitor the quality of their forage.
39. We favor the continuance of upgrading and tightening hay grading standards.
40. We recommend that forage crops be maintained at maximum levels to conserve soil and preserve water.
41. We urge farmers to consider the use of alfalfa and other forage crops as a means of increasing income and reducing soil erosion.
42. We urge continued research and development on the use of forage crops for alternative fuels.
43. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture explore the possibility of harvesting forages from public lands and rights-of-way.
44. We recommend efforts to increase the use of forage crops as a biofuel source.
1. We support the availability of crop insurance for all forage crops and pasture.
2. We support the research, production, processing, commercialization, marketing, and utilization of industrial hemp and that it be regulated by USDA rather than the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

TOBACCO

11. We recommend Kentucky Farm Bureau continue leading a coalition to speak with one voice as we address post-buyout issues in the tobacco industry.
14. For continuity with growers and companies, we encourage multi-year contracts. We encourage tobacco companies announce contract intentions by February 1.
17. We support exploring the possibility of establishing a national checkoff for U.S. Tobacco Export Promotion.
19. We believe that all U.S. Tobacco Export Promotion Committee members should be active tobacco producers.
21. We support a marketing initiative for tobacco not sold under contract and for other excess tobacco.
23. We recommend that all tobacco be reported on Form 578 to the Farm Service Agency.
25. We support continuing availability of crop insurance for tobacco, including fields with an acceptable crop rotation management plan.
27. We also support allowing tobacco to be fully insurable in sod ground.
29. We support a two-tiered crop insurance program for tobacco, the base rate being available for all tobacco with a second tier buy-up level for tobacco grown under contract from a company GAP member in good standing.
31. We support the final planting date for dark tobacco be moved to July 1.
35. We support final harvest date of October 10 for burley tobacco and October 20 for dark tobacco in Kentucky for crop insurance purposes.
36. We support any tobacco graded as no value and receiving an insurance adjustment being required to be destroyed and destructed witnessed by a representative of the insurance company.
41. We support the USDA tobacco advisory committee, or a similar committee representing the tobacco industry being established to represent the new issues facing growers.
44. Because we encourage tobacco companies to limit the use of foreign grown tobacco, we believe that cigarette packs should contain information regarding the percentage of the geographic content by country of the tobacco in the pack.
46. We support the use of peer-reviewed, sound science, as the basis for any regulatory decision.
50. We oppose FDA or any other federal agency regulating tobacco products in a manner that could mandate modifications to components which naturally occur in tobacco leaf used in conventional tobacco products.
51. We oppose the banning of flavorings in tobacco products by any agency.
54. We encourage the FDA to be more transparent and to inform the general public, especially tobacco producers, of upcoming meetings and agendas, and to accept public comments from all interested parties.
57. We believe that smokeless tobacco products should be treated differently in FDA regulations than smoking products.
59. We support smoking policies that accommodate the rights of smokers and nonsmokers. We support current state law restricting the sale of tobacco products to minors, but we oppose delegating this authority to local governments. While we oppose a ban on tobacco advertising or other restrictions on free access to tobacco products for those of a legal age, we recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau work with allied organizations to curb youth smoking.
61. In order to protect the important tobacco industry of Kentucky, we encourage elected officials to oppose any regulation or tax on tobacco products that would put Kentucky at a competitive disadvantage with surrounding states.
63. We oppose ad valorem taxes on tobacco products.
65. We oppose the sale of e-cigarettes and vapor products to minors, and recommend liquid nicotine products be packaged in childproof containers.
68. We encourage that all substances or ingredients in e-cigarettes or vapor products fall under the same regulatory oversight as domestic or imported tobacco.
70. We support the concept of inspection, labeling, regulation, and taxation of vapor products.
72. We urge continued exploration and development of market outlets and new uses for tobacco and we recommend that a coalition of tobacco organizations employ a marketing specialist to sell tobacco in potential markets.
73. We are opposed to federal lawsuits brought by the Department of Justice against tobacco manufacturers.
75. We request that tobacco be graded uniformly.
76. Recognizing that tobacco is a legal crop, we support USDA collecting data and issuing reports on tobacco acreage, production, and prices received by tobacco type. We also support authorizing the Economic Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to collect data and provide market analysis on tobacco.
77. We support the funds necessary to maintain the Tobacco Research and Development Center at an adequate level to carry out their purpose. We urge the Tobacco Research Board to continue to carry out an effective program with adequate revenue provided for this purpose.
78. We support procedures being established to prevent GMO tobacco from being commingled with, or contaminating traditional tobacco.
79. We ask all burley producers to join in the checkoff fund.
80. We recommend that the University of Kentucky continue to develop methods for the production, harvesting, and curing of tobacco, develop disease resistant varieties, and continue their work with herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and nitroamines.
82. We support research and education to help farmers comply with new contract requirements as a result of FDA regulations.
84. We support universal Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training.
1. We recommend all tobacco producers participate in a GAP certification program.
2. We support GAP certification training requirements be good for three years rather than requiring annual training.
3. We oppose GAP fees or assessments being the responsibility of the grower.
4. We recommend GAP compliance must contribute to a tobacco growers improved financial sustainability.
5. We continue to support efforts to restrict and eliminate blue mold including spraying of tobacco transplants with preventive fungicides by plant producers. Producers should then certify their plants as having been sprayed. We also recommend labeling of effective chemicals for use in tobacco greenhouses.
6. We recommend Farm Bureau work with the Extension Service, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the tobacco companies to develop an informational campaign to promote use of locally grown plants to prevent the spread of blue mold from out-of-state plants.
7. We recommend the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service includes more detailed reports on tobacco which should be broken down to specific types.
8. We recommend that Farm Bureau work toward getting the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to continue to insure dark tobacco in the barns as they have in the past.
9. We support tobacco being included in a Disaster Title of the Farm Bill.

**TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

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

**COMMODITY PROMOTION**

19. We recognize the right of farmers to promote increased research, sales and consumption of the commodities they produce and work together as a group to promote Kentucky agriculture.
20. Therefore, we support the promotional activities of the following Kentucky commodity groups: Corn Growers Association, Soybean Association, Cattlemen's Association, American Dairy Association, Egg Council, Poultry Federation, Pork Producers, Council for Burley Tobacco, Small Grain Growers, Kentucky Aquaculture Association, Kentucky Beef and Wool Producers, Kentucky Forest Industries Association, Sweet Sorghum Producers and Processors Association, the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, the Kentucky Goat Producers Association, the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office, the Kentucky Dairy Development Council, the Kentucky Horticulture Council, and the Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin and Indiana Milk Producers Associations.
21. We support the Governor's office engage in a multitude of collaborative efforts with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Kentucky Farm Bureau on international trade.
22. We support legislation to authorize any new commodity promotion program if the legislation provides:
   1. (1) For mandatory participation with a referendum to be held before initiation of the program;
   2. (2) For a referendum to be valid a majority of votes cast must be affirmative;
   3. (3) For periodic review and referenda to determine continuation or termination of the program upon petition of 10 percent of the registered producers in the area covered by the program;
   4. (4) That collected funds shall be used only for promotion, research, education, and market development as directed by the growers and producers of these products; and
   5. (5) That only those persons who contribute monies to the respective programs shall be eligible to serve on the boards which administer such programs.
23. We recommend a refund option for all checkoff programs.
24. We recommend checkoffs be a percentage of net sales, instead of a set rate per head, bushel, or pound with the exception of the current cattle and cotton checkoffs, and information should be made available at the point of sale regarding refunds.
25. Opportunities should be offered to producers with existing promotional programs to approve changes in operation and administration under the guidelines of the existing legislation in order that the declared policy of such legislation may be carried out.
26. Any commission or body created under an agricultural commodity promotion program should be required to provide complete accountability to its producers of the expenditure of funds collected from them, including funds released to any...
1. We oppose individual states establishing separate policies on GMO labeling.
2. We oppose the federal government's work and promotion of the terminator gene in seed research.
3. We recommend that the term genetically modified organisms (GMO) be changed to genetically enhanced organisms (GEO).
4. We support the use of underground facilities for GMO research.

MARKETING AND CONTRACTING

11. We support activities and proposals that will bring about increased efficiency in the marketing of agricultural products, domestically and internationally. We encourage all Kentucky stock-yard facilities to incorporate video auctions during livestock sales.
12. We recommend close investigation of all mergers, ownership changes and other trends in the livestock marketing industry for actions that limit competitive marketing for livestock producers.
13. We favor a value-based marketing system that allows farmers the flexibility to be legally engaged in value and volume based marketing agreements or contracts.
14. We encourage producers to seek value-added sales by networking with other processors, processors, and retailers to improve net farm income.
15. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Office of Marketing and Product Promotion.
16. We urge county Farm Bureaus to support programs offered by Kentucky Farm Bureau such as the chemical program, Florida fruit program, beef mineral program, and the Certified Roadside Farm Market program.
17. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture provide leadership, information, and financial aid to producers in developing cooperative markets for farm products.
18. We recommend adequate funding for marketing promotion of all Kentucky agricultural products.
19. We encourage the utilization of Kentucky agriculture products by state and county agencies, state funded institutions, public schools, and publicly funded projects whenever possible. We also encourage those institutions to contract with local growers when feasible.
20. We support the use of more U.S. red meat, poultry, and fish, as well as other farm products in the school lunch program.
21. We support research to find ways to help small meat processors lower their costs of production to facilitate the growth of Kentucky's direct meat marketing enterprises.
22. We recommend that Kentucky Department of Agriculture funding be increased to maintain and improve forage testing and marketing.
23. We recommend that a statewide wholesale marketing infrastructure be continued and expanded to include the research and development of wholesale marketing, packaging, and processing efforts for Kentucky-grown horticulture products.
24. We recommend continued cooperation between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Cabinet for Economic Development, the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, and the Agricultural Development Board in an attempt to promote farmer and roadside markets for the promotion of local grown products in the state with the ultimate goal of having at least one farmer market per county.
25. We support a prompt pay law to protect Kentucky growers.
1. We support legislation protecting agricultural producers in the event of non-payment for their products.
2. We support all state and national efforts to help veterans transition to the agricultural industry.
3. We encourage producers and processors to use a positive approach in identifying their products in Kentucky or the U.S., such as the Kentucky Proud program.
4. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s campaign for promoting agricultural products, like the Kentucky Proud, Homegrown by Heroes, and Appalachia Proud.
5. We recommend continued funding and support for the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development and its activities.
6. We oppose any legislation that would adversely affect the ability of farm wineries and small wineries to produce income for the farm family.
7. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky, and Kentucky State University work to expand internet marketing programs which provide listings of available products and services for agriculture commodities.
8. We recommend strengthening labeling and policing at the retail level to maintain the integrity of products certified as organic.
9. We support legislation that would prohibit the misrepresentation of a product as meat that is not derived from harvested production of livestock, poultry or aquaculture.

**DAMS AND LOCKS**

10. We recommend that agencies funding watershed projects, including PL656 and PL534 projects and pilot projects, be held responsible for the upgrading of existing structures above regular operation and maintenance. We support sponsoring entities’ efforts to maintain watershed structures.
11. We encourage USDA to allow landowners who have wetlands that have been created by dams that were built under PL656 and PL534 projects be allowed to enter them into the Wetlands Conservation Program.
12. We support finding common sense, least cost alternatives for resolving hazardous dams classification issues.
13. We support reducing matching fund levels, and allowing for in-kind contributions from local entities, to maintain state and federal dams.
14. We recommend that flood control or retarding structures be developed as multi-purpose facilities where feasible. In addition to flood control, they should provide benefits such as recreational and agricultural development, and for the purpose of generating power, etc.
15. We encourage the Division of Water to work with the water conservancy districts and other appropriate authorities to address the funding and development of emergency action plans for high hazard dams that could impact life or property of adjoining landowners.
16. We believe the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Kentucky River Authority should give more consideration to the agricultural land and stream bank erosion below their dams by monitoring land and water conditions below these structures and by adjusting release rates and times.
17. We oppose the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers charging fees to water utilities for water storage, for water withdrawal based on the Corps’ loss of revenue, for annual operation and maintenance costs, and for percentage of any major dam repairs.
18. We strongly support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Kentucky River Authority’s efforts to properly repair and bring up to standard the dams and feasible locks on all Kentucky rivers, and further encourage these entities to then maintain and operate the locks and dams on all Kentucky rivers for the benefit of the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
19. We recommend those lakes controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be maintained for their primary purpose of flood control, with special consideration given to agricultural activities.
20. We support an increase in the Kentucky Riverport Improvement Program and/or adequate funding to maintain riverports.

**WATER RESEARCH**

21. We encourage the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission, local conservation districts and farm bureaus to participate in developing water quality regulations. We request state government to include agricultural representation in the process of developing water quality regulations to include, but not limited to TMDLs.
22. We support the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act and the Kentucky Water Resources Board. We support research on the BMPs established in the state water quality plans.
23. We support producer development, implementation, and updating of individual agriculture water quality plans.
24. We encourage producers to have their own certified water users, including agriculture, perform their own sprinkler certification and/or plan for the local conservation district.
25. We encourage voluntary watershed awareness efforts. We recommend local communities take an active role in watershed research, education and assessment. We support the use of agricultural water quality plans and best management practices to address water quality issues, using a targeted watershed approach.
26. We use accurate water quality monitoring, water use needs should be addressed through research on the following:
27. (1) The status of surface and groundwater quality in Kentucky;
28. (2) The impacts of agriculture on water quality in Kentucky;
29. (3) The economics and maintenance of water supply structures and transport mechanisms; and
30. (4) The location, quantity and hydrology of groundwater and springs.
WATER DISTRICTS/ASSOCIATIONS

When water districts/associations are established, consideration should be given to the communities' future needs, including sufficient facilities to serve all people in the area, adequately sized lines for fire protection, and sufficient infrastructure to accommodate industry and agriculture. We recommend that water districts make a wholesale rate available for agricultural uses that exceeds 50,000 gallons per month. We encourage local and state legislation that mandates eliminating sewer charges on water used in production agriculture that is never returned to a municipal system. The agricultural definition should include horticulture production including greenhouses and nurseries. We recommend that costs for developing sewer lines be established relative to each tap-on. We oppose sewer line development costs being pro-rated on a footage basis or determined by length of line on the individual's property. Landowners in Agricultural Districts shall pay the cost of service connections from the water line extension and the one unit share for each service connection to the farming operation. We recommend that any city, town, or village that has a central water supply system also have a feasible plan for sewage disposal that meets state approved health standards and passes inspections. We oppose mandatory sewer hook-ups for farmsteads beyond the city limits that have an existing and functioning septic system.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

State water resource policy and regulations should be based on adequate scientific research data. Agricultural waste water impoundments and groundwater should be monitored only for demonstration, research projects, or individual water quality plans. We support state and federal legislation that specifically allows a farmer to spread manure on fields at acceptable rates using the most cost effective methods without it being considered a point source discharge under the Kentucky Pollution Discharge Elimination System of the Division of Water and the federal Clean Water Act. We support the Energy & Environment Cabinet's control over the issuing of permits for domestic and industrial spreading of waste. We urge the Governor and the Energy & Environment Cabinet to continue the development and implementation of a comprehensive water resources development plan while giving due consideration to land use planning efforts and future water needs of the state and to assist local government in implementing a water and sewer resource plan in their own community. We urge farmer participation in the water resources planning process and request an agricultural representative on all watershed basin teams. We recommend that the Division of Water monitor and inform local communities as to the status of their water resources and be available to provide necessary guidance in the development of an emergency plan. We recommend that during a declaration of a water emergency that water for livestock be listed as a high priority and that water remain available to producers in order to prevent livestock owners from liquidating their herds. We support research, cost-share, technical assistance, and further development of existing programs for on-farm water supplies including irrigation purposes. We support USDA modifying existing cost-share programs to allow for NRCS technical assistance in assessing the long-term availability of water resources and the planning and development of new on-farm water supplies and irrigation systems. We also recommend that during a water emergency, water for commercial producers of horticulture crops be listed as high priority and that water remain available to them. In order to prevent future water supply issues, we believe human consumption and agricultural usage needs should take precedence over environmental issues when creating new or renovating existing water resources. We encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to aggressively pursue opportunities to increase water availability for farms and rural communities. We encourage the use of backflow devices on water supplies. We oppose state regulations on wild and scenic rivers that are more stringent than federal protections. We support moving Clean Water Act Section 319 Non-Point Source Program for agriculture and light construction to the Division of Conservation and Silviculture to the Division of Forestry. We support the Kentucky Water Resources Board and its coordinated effort to manage water resource projects and programs. We support the University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center of Excellence concept and coordinated research efforts on water resource development and irrigation efficiencies.
1. We support increased monitoring of Kentucky's water resources to observe both quantity and quality of these resources.
2. We support further expansion of the Kentucky Mesonet Program.
3. We recommend the Kentucky Drought Mitigation and Response Plan be updated to include a specific "Agriculture Drought Mitigation" section. We recommend that in addition to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture that the USDA Farm Service Agency and a representative of the farming community be represented on the Kentucky Drought Mitigation Team.
4. We support the development of tax incentives for irrigation and livestock systems development.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

16. We support the Division of Conservation staying a stand-alone agency.
17. We recommend the Division of Conservation continue to assist conservation districts with financial oversight and preparation for audits.
18. We support the bipartisan Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission's authority to employ necessary personnel and develop appropriate state policies to carry out the state's conservation program. We urge that the federal, state and local units of government provide adequate funds to maintain a sound program, and appropriate technical assistance to implement the program, for the local conservation districts. Conservation districts and watershed conservancy districts should be administered by local elected supervisors and officials.
19. We value partnerships that work together in promoting sound resource conservation practices, and we support increased efforts in planning and implementing such activities.
20. We support at least one full-time NRCS employee being available as a point of contact at all times in each district.
21. We support increased funding for professional NRCS staff at the state and county level to assist producers with state and federal conservation programs in a more timely manner.
22. Conservation programs should be targeted to productive working farmland. We oppose the use of federal conservation practices on land that is in the process of being developed for non-agricultural use.
23. We support the original concept of a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to improve soil and water resources and, secondarily, to provide wildlife habitat.
24. Contracts for new and renewal acres enrolled in the program should take into consideration provisions for highly erodible farmland and land retired for water quality programs.
25. We support the original soil concept of the CRP and CREP program to improve soil and water resources. We highly recommend that this be restricted to highly erodible land or land that is not prime row crop land.
26. We support automatic re-enrollment of CRP acres that offer soil, water, and wildlife benefits.
27. We support agricultural districts and recommend the Agricultural District and Conservation Act expand its protections for agricultural lands, as it relates to sewer line extensions. We also support changes to the act to include smaller farms.

ALTERNATIVE FARMING METHODS

47. We support all alternative methods of farming, whether livestock, aquaculture or crops, being solely regulated by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.
48. We support methods of farming that result in:
49. (1) A profit for the farm operator;
50. (2) Enhancement of environmental quality and our natural resource base; and
51. (3) The production of safe food, feed and fiber.
52. We are keenly aware that the means to accomplish these ends may vary from farm operation to farm operation and that no single method of farming will work with every operator.
53. We support cost-share dollars for animal feeding structures.
54. We support conservation districts' efforts to increase funding to state cost-share back to $9 million each year in the state budget.
55. We support continuation of General Fund dollars and Kentucky Department of Agriculture to the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share Program administered by the State Division of Conservation through local conservation districts to help farmers install Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet the requirements of the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act.
56. We support an increase in direct aid to conservation districts for office support and technical assistance for implementation of the Agriculture Water Quality Act. We support a groundwater protection program based on pollution prevention through the use of BMPs.
57. We support continued cooperative efforts between the Soil and Water Commission and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife with the Revolving Loan Fund to purchase conservation equipment. We also support the use of Revolving Loan Funds to purchase conservation infrastructure.
58. We recommend the use of NRCS funds to aid in the maintenance of streams and waterways such as eliminating debris in order to prevent flooding.
59. We support the soil mapping program and request continued funding for upgrades which will make the soil maps and interpretations available through modern technology, particularly Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).
60. We support increased funding for existing farm construction facilities that meet the state requirements for long-term manure storage. We recommend that end users of animal waste and poultry litter be eligible for cost-share funding to build storage facilities.
61. We support increased monitoring of Kentucky's water resources to observe both quantity and quality of these resources.
1. We support:
2. (1) Research aimed at reducing overall inputs needed to sustain
3. profitable farming operations;
4. (2) Efforts to provide information to farmers on proven means of
5. improving the efficiency of inputs;
6. (3) Efforts to assist agritourism and non-traditional farming
7. enterprises particularly in obtaining affordable insurance coverage;
8. and
9. (4) Efforts to encourage use of bird boxes and bat houses to
10. increase natural controls of harmful insect pests.
11. We oppose:
12. (1) Any attempt to mandate low input methods of farming; and
13. (2) Requiring low input methods as a condition of participation in
14. government farm programs.
15. We support farmers of privately owned farm raised cervids
16. defined as livestock to be solely regulated by the Kentucky
17. Department of Agriculture. We support removal of the current total
18. ban on cervid importation into the state, and recommend restoration
19. of cervid importation following the Kentucky Chronic Wasting
20. Disease guidelines as regulated by the state veterinarian.
21. 
22. WETLANDS
23. 25. We recommend that tax credits be made available for wetlands
26. preservation. We are opposed to farmers being forced to pay
27. additional taxes for wetlands preservation. However, if a state fund
28. is created for wetlands preservation, we oppose the funds being
29. used with the power of eminent domain.
30. 30. We strongly support the normal farming practices exemption.
31. 31. We support compensation for the lost use of privately-owned
32. land due to wetlands delineation.
33. 33. We support congressional efforts to address the inconsistent
34. interpretations of jurisdictional waters pursuant to Section 404 of
35. the Clean Water Act by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We sup-
36. port limiting the Corps' jurisdiction to the rivers and navigable water
37. resources of the United States.
38. 38. We recommend establishing a process of re-evaluation
39. of wetland determinations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
40. 40. We recommend that logging access roads be removed by the
41. logger when logging is completed in wetlands.
42. 42. We support the NRCM as the lead agency for agricultural
43. wetland determinations.
44. 44. We support the Wetland Reserve Program and use of
45. mitigation banks.
46. 46. STREAM RESTORATION
49. 50. We oppose legislation, regulations or any actions that result in
51. hampering the appropriate application and maintenance of levees,
52. stream channels, and banks, including drainage and maintenance
53. of prior converted wetlands.
54. We support agencies involved in regulating waterways on private
55. property be able to ease regulations in times of disaster so that
56. landowners may effectively clean or clear waterways on their
57. property.
58. 
59. UTILITY EASEMENTS
60. 60. All utilities should adhere to their contracts of easements as
61. stated in their original agreement. We will work with soil and water
62. conservation organizations in studying erosion problems and if
63. necessary initiate legislation to solve them.
64. 64. We recommend where possible new power transmission lines
65. utilize existing easements and any new construction be done in a
66. way that will minimize the effect on agricultural activities.
67. 67. We encourage utility and pipeline companies to hold public
68. informational meetings prior to negotiating with property owners for
69. easement rights or starting a new project that would impact multiple
70. landowners.
71. 71. We support efforts to confine utility easements that interfere with
72. farming practices to property lines where feasible.
73. 73. We support utility companies or their subcontractors providing
74. notification prior to entering private agriculture property to perform
75. routine maintenance.
76. 76. When trees are being trimmed on utility rights-of-way we support
77. that the whole tree be trimmed or removed whichever is more
78. feasible.
79. 79. We recommend that all commercial underground utility lines be
80. marked and identified by the owner of the utility.
81. 81. Since lands taken through easement by utility companies or
82. other deed restrictions are restricted from production, they should
83. be withdrawn from the tax rolls.
84. 84. All subleasing of utility easements should require landowners'
85. consent and compensation.
86. 86. We urge utility companies to use selective herbicides that will not
87. harm cool season grasses to help control erosion when spraying
88. rights-of-way.
89. UTILITY LINES AND PIPELINES
92. 92. We favor legislation requiring all who construct underground
93. lines in Kentucky to:
94. (1) Lay all utility lines and pipelines at such depth that the top of
95. the line shall be at least 30 inches beneath the surface of the
96. 
97. 
98. 
99. 
100.
1. ground, or the road, whichever is lower, and be checked, mapped
2. and maintained;
3. (2) Prepare a diagram showing the location of all utility lines;
4. (3) Replace rock below plow depth;
5. (4) Place back the top soil to plow depth and re-establish
6. adequate vegetative cover;
7. (5) Leave cropland in tillable condition;
8. (6) Leave in first-class condition drainage systems disrupted
9. by utility lines and pipeline construction; and in cases where
10. disagreements as to what constitutes first-class condition
11. develops, the final decision should be left to the local or nearest
12. conservation district;
13. (7) Adequately compensate property owners for property taken
14. and for damages to remaining property and any subsequent
15. damage thereafter;
16. (8) Salvage marketable timber that is economically feasible; and
17. (9) Be a member of Kentucky811.
18. We recommend prohibiting utility companies from wire flag
19. use and recommend they remove and dispense of all discarded
20. materials.
21. The multi-line rights-of-way agreement, which cheats farmers out
22. of income from pipelines and utility lines, should be eliminated.
23. Property owners should be paid for the damage to the property
24. as a whole rather than the immediate area used by the pipe or
25. utility lines.
26. We urge strict enforcement of the National Electrical Safety
27. Code pertaining to minimum height requirements for utility and
28. telecommunication lines.
29. The oil and gas industry should be held to the same standard
30. regarding landowners as the coal industry. In that all oil and gas
31. activities including roadways and pipelines should be permitted,
32. bonded, and placed under the Energy and Environment Cabinet
33. requiring quarterly inspections and certification for violations
34. including civil penalties. Landowner consent must be obtained
35. before any permits are issued.
36. Soil compaction should be considered in any damage claim from
37. construction of a power line or utility. The full costs of removing
38. such compaction and weed control should be covered at local
39. equipment rental rates.
40. We support the appropriate federal and state agencies be given
41. the authority to develop and implement regulations governing the
42. natural gas liquid pipelines being proposed in Kentucky.
43. Repurposing of existing lines should also be included under these
44. regulations.

**MINING**

45. We strongly support the coal industry because it plays such a
46. critical role in Kentucky’s economy.
47. We support funding research to develop alternative uses of coal.
48. We urge strict enforcement of Kentucky’s Surface Mining Control
49. and Reclamation Act.
50. We support coal mine safety standards that protect Kentucky
51. miners.
52. We recommend that provisions be made in strip mine regulations
53. for salvaging marketable timber. We encourage the development of
54. markets for pulpwod and other small materials removed in the strip
55. mining operations.
56. We oppose uneconomical, unreasonable requirements to return
57. strip mined land to its original contour when such restoration will not
58. return it to its most productive use.
59. We support investments in research and promotion of ag crops
60. and commodities that can be produced on reclaimed mine land.
61. We support a common sense approach to regulating mountain
62. top removal of coal which recognizes the agricultural and
63. economic development opportunities it can create.
64. We support incentive programs, including an early bond release
65. for reclaimed coal mines to be used for agriculture.
66. We support mining reclamation for agricultural purposes.
67. We are concerned that the Longwall method of mining can be
68. destructive to agricultural land. Therefore, we recommend better
69. enforcement of all mining laws and regulations to protect prime
70. farmland from further destruction.
71. We urge the state to change the way it determines prime
72. farmland by using soil analysis rather than historical use.
73. We support the rural abandoned mine program and the
74. abandoned mine lands program and encourage the government to
75. release the state’s full allocation of fees collected from mining
76. operations for the reclaiming of abandoned mines.
77. We support reforestation of surface mined land on non-compact soils using native species.
78. We support regulatory changes that allow environmentally
79. protective and efficient mining of previously mined areas.
80. We support agencies involved in regulating waterways on
81. private property be able to ease regulations in times of disaster
82. so that landowners may effectively clean or clear waterways on
83. their property.
84. We urge the Kentucky courts and the General Assembly to
85. clarify that coal bed methane is the same as gas found in oil and oil
86. producing zones and is the property of the gas owner. Due to the
87. unknown value and marketability of this gas, owners should be
88. exempt from unmined or unproduced mineral tax.
89. We support establishing a limited Sand and Gravel Operation
90. Permit for off-farm commercial operations.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

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

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

12. We are opposed to rules and regulations that prohibit farmers' reasonable use of agricultural pesticides, fertilizer and chemicals.
13. We oppose legislation that defines any crop management practice as point source pollution.
14. We oppose legislation that forbids the use of any agricultural input that has a federal label and established tolerance for certain uses.
15. We recommend the establishment and continuation of studies designed to test the effects of varying levels of persistent and short-residual pesticides.
16. We support a "beneficial insects" category in USDA's competitive grants program.
17. We recommend that colleges and universities in Kentucky:
   (1) strengthen their research, implementation and education of farmers on integrated crop management;
   (2) continue recommending short-residual materials as a substitute for persistent pesticides where advisable;
   (3) strive to educate the public of the proper use of all agricultural inputs;
   (4) support programs to inform and educate the public of the benefits of agricultural chemicals and animal health aids; and

REGULATORY SERVICES

18. (5) participate in the generation of data (IR-4 Program) for the registration of pesticides for "minor-use" crops.
19. We encourage regulation that would require registration of soil-plant amendments ("miracle" plant growth products) with Regulatory Services and give the director of the Experiment Station authority to require manufacturers/distributors of such products to furnish acceptable data for evaluating the product under conditions applicable to those of Kentucky as a basis for registration.
20. We support the concept that farmers should be able to buy insecticides, pesticides and veterinary supplies at farm supply stores or other outlets. We are opposed to any move to make the use of subtherapeutic drugs in livestock feed available on a prescription basis only. We oppose attempts by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and USDA to restrict veterinarians from extra-label usage of prescription drugs.
21. We oppose the elimination of methyl bromide from the list of labeled chemicals until a substitute can be developed.
22. Atrazine is a critically important product to Kentucky agriculture. Any regulatory re-evaluation should adhere to a transparent and systematic process as outlined by FIFRA, allowing producer input to ensure a high quality science based conclusion. This same transparent systematic process should be followed for all pesticides.
23. We oppose hazardous industrial and radioactive waste being mixed with fertilizer.
24. We encourage fertilizer retailers to sell phosphorus-free fertilizer for homeowners who don't need it according to soil test.
25. We support improved training programs on the proper handling and safe use of pesticides. We will work with the University of Kentucky, the Department of Agriculture and other agencies in assisting agriculture producers in the implementation of the Worker Protection Standard Act. We believe that the private pesticide applicator training and certification program should be periodically reviewed to ensure they are a sound and effective source of training and information.
26. We support legislation requiring chemicals be available in reusable or recyclable containers. We also support containers be made biodegradable when possible. We encourage manufacturers to utilize chemicals in disposable packaging and urge the industry to promote this technology whenever possible.
27. We support elimination of KRS statutes that require commercial pesticide applicator license holders to be charged a dealer fee to apply incidental amounts of pesticides.
28. We support expedited approval of emergency labeling of chemicals to fight crop losses from diseases such as soybean rust.
29. We encourage quarries to continue grinding quality agricultural lime.
30. We encourage farmers to take advantage of the analyses of bulk lime, fertilizer, feed, and animal waste.
31. We recommend strict enforcement of Kentucky's lime law.
LITTERING

1. We are opposed to noxious weed seed being sold as bird feed unless it has been treated so that it will not germinate.
2. We recommend increased efforts in eradicating disease carrying insects, corn borer, Japanese Beetle, aphids, etc.
3. We support the use of wafer forms with landowners to relieve application of liability arising from thorough, effective use of herbicides or other control options.
4. We support the use of livestock grazing and browsing as a viable tool to improve resource conditions and to control weeds and/or other vegetation.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

15. We urge that Farm Bureau be represented in any decision-making process involving wildlife hunting restrictions and population control, and for the protection of animal health.
16. We support effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop loss, automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life.
17. We support a year-round hunting season for crows.
18. We urge research be conducted on the amount of crop damage done by government-controlled wildlife in order to help find a solution to this problem. We recommend that the state establish procedures for controlling wildlife pests such as beavers, black bear, deer, turkey, coyote, raccoon, etc., which are proving to be destruc
tive in certain areas of the state. We encourage more liberal deer, elk, turkey, duck, goose, and black bear hunting seasons to control rapidly expanding populations.
19. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife provide extra elk tag allotments for purchase to the "counties of release", and that extra consideration be given to local residents. We also recommend a nuisance provision be provided for farmers in production agriculture, specifically for elk.
20. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop solutions to alleviate the problems that black bears cause farmers by increasing the number of bears harvested and obtaining permits.
21. We encourage the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to develop programs to increase the doe harvest. We support the harvest of doe during modern gun season in zones where it is currently not allowed. We further recommend that landowners require deer hunters to harvest a doe before a buck can be taken.
22. We support the Hunters for the Hungry Program. We urge the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife to allow landowners with nuisance permits to donate the wildlife to the Hunters for the Hungry Program or a local food bank.
23. We support all wildlife trapped by nuisance trappers being destroyed and not relocated.
24. We support Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and USDA APHIS Wildlife Service work to eradicate feral hogs. We also support landowners expanding their means of control by allowing:
25. (1) The issuance of permits to landowners, to be used by them or their designee to hunt at night;
26. (2) The use of night vision, thermal imaging, and electronic calls;
27. (3) The use of dogs for hunting; and

PEST AND WEED CONTROL

23. We urgently request highway departments, railroad companies, industries, and all owners of public or private land adjacent to farmland to cooperate with farmers in the control of Johnson grass, nodding thistle, muli-flora rose, honeysuckle, kudzu, water hemlock and poisonoso
24. We urge the Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with the University of Kentucky Extension Service to ensure that native grasses they are promoting are managed so as not to interfere with nearby farming operations.
25. We oppose the use of non-native invasive landscape varieties of plants that are spreading uncontrollably and negatively impacting agriculture.
26. For federal, state and local highway departments, we recommend appropriations be made to carry out the noxious weed program.
27. We encourage continued and adequate funding for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's noxious weed program on agriculture land.
28. We support strict enforcement of noxious weed laws on all public and private property.
29. We urge state and county highway departments to spray for Johnson grass, nodding thistle and other noxious weeds before they go to seed in accordance with pesticide application guidelines.
30. We support the allocation of funds for counties to control noxious weeds on county rights-of-way.
31. We encourage state and local road departments to use caution when spraying rights-of-way near agriculture production.
32. In the control of Johnson grass and other noxious weeds, we suggest state and county highway departments take special precautions to rinse or air spray equipment before moving from contaminated rights-of-way to non-contaminated areas.
33. We request that wild sunflower, wild cucumber, poisono
34. hemp, marestail, black nightshade, Palmer amaranth and water hemp be listed as noxious weeds.
TRESPASS, GAME LAWS AND REGULATIONS

We urge strict enforcement of the law requiring permission to enter property for the purpose of hunting, fishing, trapping or digging ginseng. We also urge strict enforcement of laws relating to hunting, fishing and trapping. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources implement proactive programs to educate landowners about the liability protection offered by the statute. We further recommend that the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources continue to build partnerships with Kentucky Farm Bureau for the purpose of encouraging better hunter/landowner relations, and to increase respect among hunters and anglers for landowners' property and private property rights. We urge the League of Kentucky Sportsmen to continue to encourage its members to be careful and show respect for livestock, fencing and other farm property.

We recommend that Kentucky's law be changed to provide that trespassing shall constitute a criminal offense subject to a reasonable fine and/or other punishment. We recommend there be a stricter penalty for person(s) destroying farm property, such as cutting fences or trees, and other damages. We support requiring all hunting and fishing licenses to be declared invalid unless the license holder has written permission from the landowner. We support Kentucky law that protects landowners from the negligent or criminal actions committed by hunters who are guests of the landowner.

We support a public education effort concerning the harmful effects of lawn and landscape refuse on livestock.

We recommend enforcing laws to prohibit ATV operators, riders of horses, and other individuals from using private property without owner's permission; penalties should be sufficient to discourage this practice. We favor legislation to make it unlawful for anyone, including the driver of the vehicle, commercial wrecker service and state or local police to remove a vehicle that has damaged private property, except in emergencies, unless the owner of the property or his representative has been notified.

We support the current hunter orange clothing requirements to ensure the safety of all hunters and trappers.

We recommend that the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources publicize and send to each county Farm Bureau information pertaining to the selection of commission members and encourage farmers and landowners to actively participate in the process.

We recommend the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources publish the procedure necessary for a landowner to obtain additional deer and turkey tags. We recommend that action be taken to alleviate damage caused by overpopulation of wildlife on state parks, nature preserves and public areas, and that the hunting season quotas be extended in those zones where deemed necessary.
PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

1. We believe in the American capitalist, private, competitive enterprise system in which property is privately owned, privately managed and operated for profit and individual satisfaction. Any 6. evasion of that right weakens all other rights guaranteed to 7. individuals by the Constitution.
8. We support protection of private property rights from eminent 9. domain actions for any reason other than public use.
10. We oppose any legislation that would allow public access to or 11. through private property without permission of the property owner or 12. authorized agent. We oppose scientific or archeological activity 13. being conducted on private land without written permission from, 14. and compensation to, the landowner.
15. Any laws or regulations regarding upkeep of cemeteries on 16. private lands should be fair to the landowner.
17. We call for review of all regulations that encroach on the rights of 18. agricultural property owners.
19. We support the elimination of the Kentucky law that gives an 20. individual a permanent easement across the landowner’s property 21. after 7 years of uninterrupted use.
22. We believe that any government action that diminishes an 23. owner’s right to use his property constitutes a taking of that owner’s 24. property. Therefore, government should provide due process and 25. compensation to the extent that an owner’s right to use his 26. property has been diminished by the government action.
27. Furthermore, we believe that the only just basis for compensation in 28. such cases is fair market value.
29. We oppose government entities and railroads cutting off ingress 30. and egress which would cause a parcel of land to be landlocked.
31. We believe business owners should have the exclusive right to 32. prohibit tobacco use in their private business. We are adamantly 33. opposed to any level of government or agency mandating that 34. businesses prohibit tobacco use.
35. We support individual businesses right to make decisions based 36. on religious convictions.
37. When regulations or legislation regarding wild and scenic rivers 38. and/or rare, threatened or endangered species alter agricultural 39. practices, agricultural producers should be compensated for the 40. cost of these altered agricultural practices.
41. We support the landowner’s ability to have their property surveyed 42. at any time to establish property boundaries without encumbrance.
43. We support surveying all excepted property from existing deed 44. to establish proper boundaries.
45. We support the rights of individual farmers to voluntarily sell the 46. development rights of their farms.
47. We encourage the General Assembly to increase funding for 48. the PACE Program in order for the state to receive the maximum 49. federal funds available.
50. When a government agency demands a flood control structure 51. developed under the direction of KRS 131.250 be removed, they 52. must present proof that the removal of this structure would eliminate 53. the flood problem. Should the courts force the removal of these flood 54. control structures, the funding for their removal should be used from 55. the agency that forced the removal.
56. We recommend anyone, group or organization that video tapes 57. or records images on a farm with the intent of using them in an anti-

1. farming or animal welfare campaign, without the permission of the 2. land/farm owner, be charged with a criminal offense and subject to 3. a reasonable fine and/or other punishment.
4. Unmanned Aircraft Systems
5. We support:
6. (1) The use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for commercial 7. purposes (i.e., agriculture, forestry, and other natural resource use);
8. (2) Requiring the operator of the UAS to gain the written 9. consent of the landowner and/or farm operator if the UAS will be 10. surveying or gathering data above private property;
11. (3) Allowing landlords and tenants to fly over their fields for any 12. reason without being considered commercial activity;
13. (4) The FAA developing reasonable certification and safety 14. training requirements for the operation of UAS; and
15. (5) The use of safety features to notify manned aircraft that a 16. UAS is in the vicinity.
17. We oppose:
18. (1) A federal or state agency using UAS for the purpose of 19. regulatory enforcement, litigation and as a sole source for natural 20. resource inventories used in planning efforts;
21. (2) FAA regulations of UAS as aircraft; and
22. (3) FAA regulations that require a pilot’s license and third-class 23. medical certification to operate a UAS.

RIGHT TO FARM

28. We support responsible actions designed to permit and protect 29. the privilege and the rights of farmers to produce without undue or 30. unreasonable restrictions, regulations or harassment from the 31. public or private sectors. We support action to ensure that farmers 32. be protected from undue liability and nuisance suits.

LAND USE PLANNING

37. We believe that any state land use planning initiatives should 38. respect local control and private property rights, and not contain any 39. mandates from state or regional entities. We believe this can only 40. be accomplished through new incentives for local governments.
41. We support reforms which will provide greater protection to 42. surface landowners from federal land deeds.
43. We are strongly opposed to the taking of prime farmland for the 44. purpose of wildlife refuges.
45. We support the USDA program providing for the identification 46. and retention of prime and unique agricultural land in Kentucky and 47. the use of such information by local officials in the decision-making 48. process to determine future use of such land.
49. We support the retention of these prime and unique agricultural 50. lands to the maximum extent possible to ensure the capacity for 51. food and fiber production. We recommend the re-establishment and 52. full utilization of the Interagency Farmland Advisory Committee with 53. regards to all state transportation projects.
54. We strongly support the concept of compensation for loss of land 55. or land uses. Before the land use planning maps are adopted they 56. should be reviewed by local agricultural groups.
1. We recommend that state funds be made available to assist 2. counties in developing a land use policy and a comprehensive plan 3. to protect their agricultural base. Such policy and plans should take 4. into consideration land, water, forest and other natural resources 5. within their capabilities. We support such programs only if the land 6. use decisions and controls are left at the local level and/or regional 7. level with local representation.
8. In addition to the above, we recommend the following:
9. (1) A definition of small farms should coincide with the same 10. criteria used with agricultural assessment. We recommend that 11. after a tract of land is divided into two sections of 10 acres or less, 12. it should be subject to planning and zoning review;
13. (2) Location of all rights-of-way such as utilities or pipelines 14. should not interfere with agricultural prime farmland; and 15. (3) The development of less desirable land for non-agricultural 16. land use should be encouraged.
17. We support and promote the development of agricultural districts 18. and recommend additional protection incentives to encourage 19. farmers to form agricultural districts.
20. We oppose arbitrary zoning of green space areas for farms 21. adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas, residential, commercial 22. or business zoned property.

PLANNING AND ZONING

27. We hold to the principle of planning and zoning being 28. locally administered through locally established planning and 29. zoning commissions.
30. We further oppose any legislation that will allow the creation of 31. regional boards that may result in the loss of the present home rule 32. authority over local areas and/or the control of rural areas by urban 33. dominated boards, unless approved by the fiscal courts of each 34. county involved.
35. We urge county Farm Bureau leaders to familiarize themselves 36. with Kentucky’s planning and zoning law, and be more aggressive in 37. working with their fiscal courts, planning and zoning commissions 38. when planning county-wide zoning.
39. Agriculture Interests should be protected when a merged 40. government takes effect in any county in the state.
41. We encourage planning and zoning boards to include farm 42. representation as well as an active farmer member of the board of 43. supervisors of the conservation district in the area, and the same 44. principle apply in regard to regional planning commissions.
45. We support planning efforts that consider the needs of 46. agriculture for the future which allow for both the continuation of 47. normal farming practices and residential and/or commercial 48. development of agriculture property and recognize Kentucky Proud 49. and agitourism as agricultural ventures.
50. We support the present law which prohibits regulation or 51. requirement of permits for farm buildings and will oppose any 52. attempt to repeal it.
53. We recommend that planning and zoning regulations for 54. developers be strengthened and enforced to prevent and control 55. erosion and flooding.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

56. We urge the Cabinet for Economic Development to 57. become familiar with the Federal Flood Control Zoning Act and 58. its limitations of flood insurance on structures in flood plains.
59. We support boundary fencing by the developers of residential, 60. commercial or industrial development adjoining agricultural 61. property.
62. Residential and commercial developments adjacent to agricul- 63. tural land often disrupt farming operations and present safety 64. hazards to people and livestock; therefore, we urge establishment of 65. regulations requiring buffer zones between such properties at the 66. expense of the developers and require that such buffer zones be in 67. place before infrastructure is developed.
68. We recommend that when a person establishes or expands an 69. agricultural business within the laws acceptable to the planning and 70. zoning regulations of the community, he should not be forced out of 71. business by new regulations.
72. We recommend the owners be compensated for the monetary 73. losses of development rights when major changes occur in zoning 74. laws affecting the building lots size in agriculture areas.
75. We believe all division and sale of farm land that results in multi- 76. ple housing tracts should be subject to review by local planning and 77. zoning boards (where such boards exist). The use of the so-called 78. use exemption under KRS 100.111 (22) by creating resulting tracts 79. of slightly more than five acres is being misapplied.
80. We support continuing the current exemption for agriculture 81. buildings and dwellings under the uniform building and electrical 82. codes.

83. We support rural economic development efforts to attract new 84. agricultural biotechnology and processing plants and expand 85. existing local industry, including production agriculture, that 86. compliments and adds value to Kentucky-produced agricultural 87. commodities. This support should be through existing government 88. bodies, community organizations and institutions, including the 89. University of Kentucky, working together in identifying the 90. relationship of agriculture and rural development.
91. The Cabinet for Economic Development should be encouraged 92. to provide incentives for the establishment of tobacco industries that 93. expend the market for leaf.
94. We believe that if any government entity sells goods in 95. competition with private industry, they are required to sell at 96. current market prices.
97. We urge the Cabinet for Economic Development to develop 98. incentives and programs for the establishment of agribusinesses 99. based on job generation, economic impact and/or the use of 100. Kentucky-produced agricultural commodities.
101. We recommend that the Cabinet for Economic Development 102. place extra time and effort in locating processing plants or 103. establishing cooperative processing plants in Kentucky for 104. agricultural commodities.
105. We support the continued education on and promotion of 106. programs in the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation and sup- 107. port its continued growth and financial support.
FOREIGN INVESTMENT

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

ANNEXATION

We encourage strict enforcement of annexation laws to protect the interests of rural people.

We oppose annexation of any property without providing all public services to that owner.

We recommend that property owners are notified by certified return receipt mail at least 60 days before a public hearing is held and before final annexation or incorporation can be consummated. There must be an approval of two-thirds of the affected property owners. We are opposed to mandatory spot annexation. We also recommend that any challenges in court be heard by a jury.

Any legislation providing new guidelines for establishing countywide urban government should require approval by the voters in both incorporated and unincorporated areas.

EMINENT DOMAIN

We recommend that Kentucky laws dealing with eminent domain be amended to provide that the power of eminent domain could not be used for parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, riding and hiking trails, other recreational projects, sludge or waste disposal projects. We favor repeal of the law which gives the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources the right of eminent domain.

We oppose the power of eminent domain being used to take private property for private use.

We oppose the principle of giving credit to the acquiring agency for potential future real estate value. We favor the acquisition of land under eminent domain in a manner where the property is taken, we support prompt, just and adequate compensation. In cases where partial takings of real property, the acquisition of land has the purpose of which it was secured within 5 years, the original owner should have an opportunity to purchase it back at the price received less damages.

We recommend the establishment of a time limit in which court decisions shall be made on contested condemnation procedures, not to exceed nine months.

We believe that officials of each county are best prepared to control the activities and development within their county through planning, zoning, and other means.

We further oppose any legislation that will allow the creation of regional boards that may result in the loss of the present home rule authority over local areas and the control of rural areas by urban dominated boards, unless approved by the fiscal courts of each county involved.

We support protecting the rights of Kentucky's landowners when dealing with regional planning issues and eminent domain laws.

We recommend that when eminent domain condemnation takes private property, the value received for the condemned land should not be considered in tax assessment for the balance of the land.

LEGAL AFFAIRS

Rural areas of Kentucky must be adequately represented in the state legislature. A system similar to that used for the U.S. Congress, where only one house is apportioned by population would accomplish this and be fair to everyone. We recommend that any revision of Kentucky's Constitution provide for this.

Inasmuch as the Supreme Court has held that state legislative districts may have considerable variance in population, we recommend that the General Assembly, where possible, restore legislative district lines to coincide with county lines.
1. We support the public distribution of voting records and policy position statements and how candidate positions compare with Farm Bureau policy.
2. We oppose any action designed to permit college students who are not legal residents of the college community to vote in local elections.
3. We request the Kentucky General Assembly to decrease spending where possible instead of raising taxes.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

We will oppose any efforts to change the procedure for selection of county officials, including property valuation administrators. Property valuation administrators and property evaluators should not be indexed or earmarked from property tax values, and their salaries should be based on what other county officials are paid.

HOME RULE

We recommend the Kentucky Farm Bureau study any proposals to change the Home Rule Law and take such action as deemed advisable to protect the rural areas of Kentucky.

ELECTIONS

Kentucky Farm Bureau urges county Farm Bureaus to conduct voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns on a regular basis. We encourage Farm Bureau members to become actively engaged in the campaigns of candidates whose policy positions reflect Farm Bureau’s ideals.

We support all registered voters showing photo identification when reporting to the polling place to receive a ballot.

EDUCATION

We recommend the teaching of basic moral values, basic economics and responsibilities of living in a democratic society at all levels of education.

We support financial literacy and Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, Mathematics (STEAM) to be included in Kentucky school curriculum at all appropriate levels.

We favor public schools on the structure and function of democratic government. However, students should not be subjected to indoctrination for political purposes.

Elementary and Secondary

We recommend cross-curriculum support for the teaching of reading, mathematics, writing, science, and social studies. We recommend providing innovative classroom strategies focusing on the basic skills which are included in the common core standards. We recommend providing programs for those who need remedial assistance and for those needing advanced challenges.

We urge the Kentucky Department of Education to abide by the guidelines set forth in the individual education plans for Kentucky students for state assessments.

We support changes to the testing system that reflect the yearly education improvement of the child while also evaluating the school. We recommend the Kentucky End-of-Program Assessment testing window and industry certification be aligned with the state testing window. We support exploring alternative ways of calculating test scores of special needs students that would stay within the parameters of the Every Student Succeeds guidelines.

We recommend the Department of Education adopt a uniform grading scale to be used across the Commonwealth concerning grade point averages.

We encourage efficient use of school funds and urge the General Assembly to continue its efforts to achieve this goal. We support the state appropriation of adequate funds for teachers’ salaries and benefits.
1. We urge more emphasis be placed on collaboration between postsecondary schools, elementary and secondary schools to improve teacher education, recruitment, and retention.

2. We support local school districts' control in setting compensation criteria, considering needs and ability while operating within the state salary structure.

3. We support lowering the classroom student-to-teacher ratio while maintaining adequate staffing of schools.

4. We recommend maintaining a percentage of the General Fund to go to elementary and secondary education at an equal or higher level than the 1990-1991 funding level.

5. We encourage and support funding the free textbook structure for elementary and middle schools and when state funds are not available we recommend local school boards be encouraged to buy such books that are needed.

6. We favor reducing the cost of new educational facilities by eliminating features not essential to a sound education program.

7. Local school boards should consider renovation whenever practical rather than new construction. The state should consider the county growth rate when approving the size of new construction for schools; as well as review the justification for new construction versus renovation prior to approving a bond sale for new construction.

8. We favor the present method of selecting county school superintendents and county school board members. We encourage Farm Bureau members to be active in this process.

9. We support local school districts in providing professional development and workshops to improve teaching methods of new and ineffective teachers.

10. A teacher effectiveness rating should be designed and used as a means of removing ineffective teachers.

11. We support the original intent of teacher tenure to protect teachers against political abuse. However, tenure should be reformed so that it cannot be used to unduly protect incompetent teachers.

12. We challenge school principals and superintendents to be more responsible in the evaluation of teachers and administrators.

13. We strongly oppose teacher strikes. We oppose legislation that mandates collective bargaining for public school employees.

14. We recommend that local boards of education consider keeping schools for grades K-5, 6-8, 9-12 in neighborhood locations.

15. We recognize that boards of education have the responsibility for developing the school calendar. We urge county Farm Bureau boards to work with local boards of education in developing the school calendar. We further recommend all school districts that service area career or technical centers to coordinate their calendars to support all programs at those centers.

16. We recommend that when a student needs to attend an adjoining school district, the county Farm Bureau work with the local school boards to obtain approval of a reciprocal agreement.

17. We support adequate state funding for staffing and facilities for the state agency children's programs and for district-operated day treatment and alternative programs.

18. We support the school board's efforts to establish district-wide discipline codes and the efforts of site based councils to implement instructional strategies or appropriate techniques to ensure the safety of students and staff while ensuring a conducive learning environment.

19. We encourage the local school districts to support participation in the state fair activities and/or 4-H, FFA, and other youth educational opportunities and not penalize students for their absence. We support the Kentucky Farm Bureau working with the Kentucky Department of Education to enforce the state statute allowing students to attend and/or participate in Kentucky State Fair activities. We further encourage schools to value the State Fair for the educational opportunities it offers and incorporate it as a learning experience in their curriculum.

20. We oppose schools declaring themselves gender neutral.

21. Alternative lifestyles should not be taught in public schools.

22. We support "Agriculture in the Classroom" and encourage school districts to implement this program in their curriculum and encourage administrators to support professional development training concerning "Agriculture in the Classroom." We support teaching the concepts of the food and fiber system for the enhancement of the current Kentucky Core Academic Standards.

23. We support implementation of agriculture education programs within practical living career studies classes and clarification on different concepts related to agriculture.

24. We encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the Kentucky Department of Education to work together to develop K-12 agriculture education curriculum and resources for use by agitourism and farm operators in facilitating school tours.

25. We urge schools to incorporate into the curriculum conservation and environmental education. We urge that agriculture interests be given fair consideration in environmental matters and that farmers be recognized as leaders among environmentalists.

26. We support the continued utilization of Project Food, Land and People resources for learning as the most recommended curriculum toward the enhancement of environmental and agricultural literacy.

27. We favor increased emphasis on teaching of respect for law and order, and recommend maximum use of law enforcement officials and other appropriate public officials in this type of instruction. We support safe school programs that are comprehensive in nature from pre-school through grade 12. We encourage continuation of these services for all students from agencies which are charged with preventive intervention on behalf of public school age children.

28. We favor continuing cursive writing instruction in our school systems.

29. We recommend that instructional CPRI courses be made available in grades six through twelve.

30. We support a physical activity as part of the school curriculum for grades K-12.

31. We favor inclusion of the study of the Bible in the curriculum of world religions.

32. We believe teachers should devote some time to spiritual meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag at the beginning of each school day. We believe that the use of prayer should be allowed at school functions.

33. We support legislation that would allow the inclusion of the Ten Commandments in historical documents displays.

34. We support the selection process for school principals that includes a requirement for a meaningful screening of candidates by the local superintendent.
1. We suggest caution and exercise of good judgment in offering
2. sex education courses and recommend that parents be consulted in
3. this matter.
4. Extracurricular activities should be limited to those times when
5. they will least interfere with regular instruction.
6. We support "High Schools That Work" and other initiatives
7. which provide for the integration of academics with career/
8. technical education.
9. We urge our public schools to develop more effective "drop-out
10. prevention programs. We support the placement of a guidance
11. counselor at each elementary school.
12. We support the use of licensed social workers within the school
13. system.
14. We support the concept that individuals under 18 years of age
15. must be enrolled in a certified school and maintain passing grades
16. in 50% of their classes or be a graduate to keep their driver's
17. license.
18. We urge a stronger program of career guidance in the later years
19. of elementary schools and continuing through postsecondary
20. programs. We encourage all school districts to implement an
21. advising system to provide individualized career guidance and
22. academic counseling for all students which includes parent/
23. guardian participation to ensure preparation for postsecondary
24. education and workforce. We encourage local school districts
25. require 25% of continuing education hours for counselors to be in the
26. area of career and technical education (CTE) for grades 5-12. We
27. further recommend that sufficient clerical help be provided so that
28. counselors can spend more time with their students.
29. We urge the Kentucky Department of Education to continue to
30. support and seek funding for effective programs for the gifted and
31. talented students.
32. We encourage the local schools to provide a driver's training
33. program, with emphasis on driver's attention, and that it be funded
34. by the state.
35. We support having an educational page in the driver's education
36. manual and curriculum in driver's education classes pertaining to
37. wide or slow moving vehicles on public roadways.

Career & Technical Education
38. We support all school districts in providing more equitable
39. access to career and technical education based on workforce
40. development needs.
41. We recommend that an adequate and equitable level of funding and
42. staff be established for all areas of career and
43. technical education.
44. We continue to support a strong up-to-date program of
45. agriculture education and family consumer sciences at the
46. elementary, secondary, postsecondary, adult and continuing levels.
47. We urge county Farm Bureaus to assume leadership in encouraging
48. students to enroll in these and other career and technical education
49. programs as a means of preparing themselves for a career. We
50. recommend students pursue all career opportunities available in the
51. agriculture field.
52. We recommend:
53. (1) County Farm Bureaus to work with local school boards and
54. local site-based councils to ensure that each county has an
55. adequate agricultural education program, FFA chapters and
56. 4-H clubs;
1. **Career Awareness & Preparation**

   - We recommend that Farm Bureau continue to inform young people of the many rewarding career opportunities in agriculture.
   - Furthermore, we encourage young people to consider their career opportunities early in their formal education and structure their education to allow them to meet their career goals.
   - We support programs that reduce barriers to success for students and prepare them for college and career readiness.
   - We support dual-credit courses, including agriculture classes, being offered to high school students.

2. **TAXATION**

   - Kentucky's tax policies should be based on public need and sound economic principles. Kentucky taxes should be apportioned equitably among the citizens.
   - We recommend that state, county, local governments, special taxing districts and school districts look at every possible way to save money before raising taxes.
   - We oppose unfunded mandates on local government.
   - If county fiscal courts or city councils vote to raise taxes in excess of 4 percent, the citizens in that county or city should be allowed to vote on the proposed tax, via a referendum, before it is assessed.
   - We oppose legislation that would require licensing of farm machinery and equipment and recommend that new farm equipment be exempt from inventory taxes.
   - We recommend that the appropriate state agency enforce tax collection on highway diesel fuel.
   - We oppose severance taxes on renewable resources.
   - We believe health insurance premiums should be exempt from premium taxes.
   - We support the creation of tax relief for farmers who are retiring or leaving production agriculture and are transferring farmland to individuals who will continue in production agriculture.
   - We are opposed to the state legislature allowing district school boards to pass a non-recallable or forgivable school tax (e.g., nickel or dime) without a community referendum.
   - We recommend that only elected officials have the authority to increase or create new taxes. In addition, we strongly urge all entities with the ability to increase taxes to be accountable for the expenditures of tax dollars to the citizens.
   - We support allowing fiscal courts the flexibility to lower a tax rate submitted by a special taxing district.
   - We encourage the development of a centralized filing system of all local business and payroll taxes.

3. **LAND ASSESSMENT**

   - We urge the Department of Revenue and county assessing authorities to comply with the principles of the Farmland Assessment Amendment and use new technology such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to obtain the most accurate surveying information.

4. **General Education Policy**

   - We support the continued development of the state educational television system. We appreciate Kentucky Educational Television's interest in the programming needs of the agricultural public of Kentucky.
   - Farm Bureau supports the general equivalency degree now being offered by KET and urges county Farm Bureaus to assist in publicizing this service.
   - We believe that since locally elected Boards of Education are accountable for the effectiveness of local schools, our schools should be operated within the general policy provisions and district goals adopted by local boards.
   - We support additional and enhanced technology that provides immediate feedback and real-time interaction with teachers and students.
   - We support local boards of education establishing a professional dress code for educators.
   - We recommend the legislature review the requirements and criteria for home schooling. Any guidelines should be conducive to traditional values, should not infringe on basic parental rights, and should only address instruction of core subjects.
   - We believe that statutory models and all alternative models for school site-based council composition should ensure equal representation of parents and employees. We support strengthening community governance of public education by local boards of education, who are elected by all citizens. This gives all taxpayers a voice in the expenditures of tax dollars and the policies which govern the schools of the district.
   - We oppose addictive games of chance (poker, blackjack, etc.) being held on school property.
1. Landowners should be permitted to use Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to obtain accurate surveying information.
2. We believe that the Department of Revenue should not override an elected county official's assessment of residential and farm properties unless proof of mistakes are publicly given.
3. We encourage equitable regional farmland and forest land assessments.
4. We support the agricultural land definition and assessment process that is currently in place.
5. We recommend when property is being transferred into a revocable trust of the current owners the assessed value may be used or the value statements may be omitted from the deed.

**PROPERTY TAXES**

16. To prosper in a modern economy, property taxes should be gradually phased downward in favor of broad base sources of revenue.
17. We strongly oppose freezing the state real property tax rate.
18. We recommend that local officials' authority to increase revenue from property taxes be continued to 4 percent plus new growth. Any proposal to increase revenue more than that formula should be decided by a voter referendum.
19. We recommend that property taxes collected for school purposes be levied and administered locally. We also recommend that the sheriff, county attorney, and Department of Revenue be more diligent in collecting delinquent taxes and urge property valuation administrators to ensure that taxes are collected on mobile homes and other tangible property.
20. We believe that churches should be allowed to exempt church buildings, parsonages, or other property used from property taxes, but should be taxed on property owned or used for commercial profit.
21. We oppose farm structures being assessed at values higher than their farm value.
22. For farms not raising tobacco, tobacco barns should be exempted from property taxes.
23. We oppose taxing farm equipment with property taxes.
24. We oppose greenhouses being taxed as permanent structures.
25. We recommend that when a farm happens to and up in the middle of commercial development, its tax assessment rate should not be changed from agriculture.
26. We support using University of Kentucky's farm analysis rental data on tax assessment.
27. We recommend that public utility companies be taxed equitably with other similarly situated property owners.
28. If a farm is annexed into a city, the city shall provide services equal to others in that city. If the services are not provided, the city taxes on the property shall be adjusted.
29. We support strict regulatory control of selling unpaid property tax bills.

**SALES AND USE TAXES**

30. We believe that a broad-base sales and use tax is the fairest plan for financing government, while maintaining current agricultural exemptions for all taxing jurisdictions.
31. We recommend that all farm production items and services, including veterinary medicine and vaccines, electricity, sawdust and lime, wood shavings, all livestock and poultry bedding, LP gas, and natural gas be exempt from sales and use tax. We recommend removing the sales tax on bumper trailers for agricultural use.
32. We support a card identification system for qualified farmers for sales and use tax exemptions.
33. We oppose adding sales tax to food items and prescription drugs.
34. We encourage sales tax not be imposed on nonprofit or charitable organizations.
35. We support the permanent extension of a motor vehicle usage tax trade-in credit on a new vehicle.
36. Kentucky horse farms should receive the same sales tax exemption that all other Kentucky farms receive.
37. Agriculture cannot pass along its increases in production expenses; therefore to keep our agriculture community viable, we need to keep our Kentucky agriculture sales tax exemption intact.
38. We support restoring the sales and use tax vendor's compensation to the pre-2013 level.
39. We urge the Kentucky Department of Revenue to utilize auditors with agricultural knowledge when performing agricultural audits.
40. We recommend that freight, being a service and not a tangible item, always be considered non-taxable.
INHERITANCE TAXES

1. We thank the General Assembly for eliminating Class A beneficiaries from Kentucky's inheritance tax and recommend the exemption be extended to Class B and C beneficiaries.
2. We recommend the removal of the requirement that farm value exceed 50% of the total cash value of the estate for the agricultural use evaluation in computing the inheritance taxes.
3. We support the permanent repeal of Kentucky's estate and inheritance tax.

INCOME TAXES

4. We recommend reinstatement of the federal income tax deduction on state income tax returns.
5. We recommend the repeal of the tax on interest income and recommend the exclusion of taxes on dividend income earned with full exclusion of anyone over the age of 62.
6. We oppose mandatory withholding of state taxes from agriculture employees.
7. We believe necessary college expenses for parents supporting their children at fully or partially state or federally funded universities should be tax exempt.
8. We believe an option transaction for agriculture marketing should be treated the same as a hedge transaction for tax purposes.
9. We support an exclusion from all taxes for the sale of agricultural land that remains in production.
10. We support Kentucky's depreciation schedule conforming with the federal depreciation schedule including Section 179 rules and regulations.
11. We support an exclusion from all taxes for the transfer of a business, including farms, between parent and children.

REVENUE SHARING

12. We recommend that any revenue sharing proposals be closely examined to protect rural citizens.
13. Rural areas and programs, such as conservation, rural road improvements, and increased water lines, should receive their fair share of federal revenue sharing funds.
14. Coalfields producing counties should receive a greater share of coal severance taxes and should be permitted to use it for repairing roads and bridges and/or water projects.

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

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

HIGHWAYS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES

17. We recommend continuation of the 22.2% percent allocation of the state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads, and increasing county road aid funds to the point that all rural roads can have a hard surface.
18. We support revenue options that ensure adequate financing for transportation infrastructure maintenance which take into account increased construction costs, improved fuel efficiency, and electric vehicles which currently pay no fuel tax.
19. We support amending KRS 138.210 to specify the motor fuel tax.
20. We support the Ohio River Bridge.
21. We recommend that 10% weight exemption be on farm trucks and trucks servicing farms hauling agriculture products, similar to the same benefits currently given to the transportation of primary forest products.
22. We support 97,000 pound gross weight for six axles on state and federal highways.
23. We support the Ohio River Bridge.
24. Furthermore, necessary action should be taken to assure that all road fund money is spent as originally intended and is used effectively by local jurisdictions.
25. We support the Ohio River Bridge.
26. We recommend that a policy be adopted regarding farm-to-market roads using the same concept with weight and dimension and that consideration be given to farm machinery when widening these roads. We recommend county and state highway engineers to consider agriculture use in the design phase of road and bridge planning. We support the efforts to upgrade all bridges and all county, state and federal roads. We recommend that a better job be done in maintaining rural coal-haul roads.
27. We support legislation requiring the taking of equal amounts of property from each side of the road when widening of the roads is planned. Furthermore, we recommend that property owners be fully informed when rights-of-way negotiations are taking place.
28. We recommend that county Farm Bureaus work with county officials and the rural highway department in determining where rural highway funds should be used.
29. We urge that consideration be given to the construction of crossover roads, underpasses or overpasses to allow the passage of livestock and vehicles when a farm is divided.
30. We request the Highway Department to refrain from seeding rights-of-way with Bermuda grass.
31. We are opposed to sterilizing highway rights-of-way except when reseeding.
32. We recommend better markings for all dangerous intersections on rural highways using caution lights and rumble strips. We also recommend that all state and county roads be striped where feasible.
FARM VEHICLE LICENSE

1. We recommend that all paved public roads be white-striped on the shoulder.
2. We support the state using raised pavement markers in the center of the road on state highways.
3. We encourage transportation officials to ease restrictions on farm equipment access to multi-lane and/or limited access roadways.
4. We recommend that new surfaces laid upon old roads be accompanied by a comparable buildup of the shoulders. We also urge the guidelines, center and outside, to be painted on blacktop.
5. We urge the state to install and maintain all road signs and markers at least six feet where possible from the pavement edges so that large farm equipment can travel easier and safer on all public roads.
6. We urge the state to install the end of all culverts and bridges that paved highway markers be installed in the center of the roads.
7. We recommend that all county roads be a minimum of 18 feet wide where feasible.
8. We support the policy that all highway rights-of-ways be mowed completely at least three times and the first mowing be completed before the seed head formation of noxious weeds. We urge the state highway department to more closely supervise contract mowers.
9. We recommend that highways be kept clean and that limbs are pruned in a timely manner.
10. We support enforcement of laws requiring complete roadside cleanup and removal of roadside debris from accident scenes.
11. We recommend that all respective entities work together in highway planning so as to maximize development of Kentucky water resources through use of highway fill and dams.
12. We recommend that bona fide farm equipment and operations be exempt from the beautification laws and/or regulations.
13. We urge exemption of ad valorem taxes on commercial vehicles to encourage licensing trucks in Kentucky.
14. We recommend that the speed limit on four lane, partially controlled access highways, be raised to 65 mph with exceptions for congested areas.
15. We recommend that all farm machinery and equipment driven on public roads have rubber tires, including horse drawn buggies.
16. We support legislation to have scooters, bicycles and horse drawn equipment display slow moving vehicle signs (SMVs) and/or be adequately illuminated when ridden or operated on private property.
17. We encourage a statewide system for removal of animal remains from highways and disposal through composting or other approved methods.
18. We urge the development of regulations that would make riding bicycles on state roads safer for all.

TRANSPORTATION

19. We support the exempt commodity provision of the Motor Transportation Act and oppose any effort to regulate the transportation of agricultural commodities or supplies.
20. We support legislation that clearly defines the right of farmers to transport their products to market and to move their equipment by the most economical feasible method.
21. We encourage the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and the Department of Transportation to use uniform enforcement policies across the state.
22. We support a review of the trucking regulations including a suggested escalating fine system for overweight trucks.
23. We recommend that the state regulations on width of trailers be changed to 102" on all state and local highways. Trailers that are sold currently don't comply with the old regulations of 96".
24. We oppose road tractors pulling any more than two trailers.
25. We support changes to Kentucky’s Transportation Cabinet laws and regulations which conflict with long term practices of agriculture, such as the requirement when hauling grain that it be 100% owned by the landowner, which prevents trucking of grain and/or livestock in a swap work environment where no cash exchanges hands.
26. We recommend the maximum driving and on-time-duty-exemption for agriculture purposes be increased to a 200 air-mile radius.
27. We recommend that farm trucks that travel 7,500 miles per year or less be exempt from annual vehicle inspections; but inspected every three years.
28. We support a waiver for drivers DOT restrictions in disaster situations.
29. We recommend that farm trucks have a year-round exemption on log book entries.
1. We support the extension of non-CDL farmers to travel anywhere
within the Commonwealth from the farm to the market.
3. We support an exemption from the Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's 30 minute break
period for livestock haulers in consideration of animal welfare.
6. We support the soldiers to semis initiative to get more qualified
CDL drivers in the workforce and support a similar initiative be
enacted for coal miners.
9.

**RAILROADS**

13. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau assist property
owners in obtaining title to abandoned railroad easements adjacent
to their property.
16. We support crossings arms at all public railroad crossings.
19. We support increasing the fine for railroad companies that
obstruct a highway, street or navigable stream.

**LIABILITY ISSUES**

25. We believe that many awards in personal injury cases are
excessive and have resulted in higher insurance premiums.
27. We support tort reform to include, but not be limited to, a cap on
the amount of damages, such as a maximum of $250,000, that can
be awarded for non-economic loss. Tort reform should also limit
attorney's fees paid from the awards.
31. If a plaintiff files a class action lawsuit or class lawsuit and loses,
the plaintiff should reimburse any court expenses and attorney fees
incurred by the defendant.
34. We urge state legislation be enacted to require individuals or
groups who seek injunctions to reimburse the defendants for all
court costs, legal fees, losses and costs arising from such actions
that are eventually shown to be unfounded or are overturned in a
court of law. We support a requirement that court jurisdiction for
regulatory actions and lawsuits stay within the county where the
alleged offense occurred.
41. We support legislation to exempt the contract grower from
product liability issues.
43. Landowners should be protected from any trespassers, hunters,
and criminal offenders seeking liability damages.
45. We encourage the adoption of anti-disparagement legislation
that provides a legal cause of action against those individuals,
groups or government bodies who make disparaging statements
against agricultural products, farm animals, and/or production
without scientifc proof.
50. We support legislation that would require a car owner, law
enforcement officer or wrecker operator be liable for damages to
private property or damages caused by livestock getting out as a
result of an auto accident, if landowner is not notified immediately.

**SAFETY**

3. We encourage programs that promote the proper use of farm
machinery.
5. We encourage all local media to promote educational
programs in helping to make the public aware of safety
consideration year round with special emphasis during planting and
harvesting seasons.
9. We strongly support and encourage the continuation and expa-
sion of the Department of Agriculture safety programs. We nationally
recognize the benefits of the safety programs and encourage the
General Assembly to provide adequate funding.
13. We encourage county Farm Bureaus to explore the possibility of
organizing local fire protection associations. We favor legislation
that would require railroads to eliminate excessive weed growth,
installation of flashers at crossings with obstructed views and
prompt repair of rough crossings.
17. We encourage the proper use of hazard lights and escorts when
moving farm equipment.
20. We strongly urge that police flag wrecked cars so that other
motorists will know that the wreck has been worked.
22. We recommend that all mailboxes be placed a reasonable
distance from the edge of roads and not directly across from other
obstructions to accommodate farm implements where feasible.
25. We support legislation requiring headlights be illuminated if
windshield wipers are in use.
27. We encourage the wearing of safety gear when staffing road
blocks for the purpose of solicitation.
29. We oppose unreasonable interruptions and enforcement of
occupational safety and health regulations when they deal with
farming practices.
32. We recommend that businesses with ten or less employees be
exempt from occupational safety and health regulations.
34. We recommend that entities involved in safety education
programs cooperate and support each other, and that Farm Bureau
support all safety educational programs.
37. Due to the increased number of injuries and deaths with ATV
usage, we recommend more emphasis be put on education,
training and enforcement of legislation for all ages.
41. Dealers who sell ATVs should be required to provide all
purchasers with basic safety instructions and materials for
comprehensive ATV safety usage.
43. We strongly support enforcement of all ATV laws for protection of
the ATV riders and the public.
45. We recommend the continued promotion of rollover protection
structures and seat belts by all groups and associations involved in
farm safety.
47. We recommend that all addresses should be property marked
and displayed on houses and mailboxes.
50. We encourage the use of "dry hydrants" as a way of improving
fire protection in rural areas.
52. We recommend water districts and 911 coordinators work
together to assign all fire hydrants and dry hydrants a physical
address to assist fire departments in responding to 911 calls.
55. We recommend the laws be enforced on tinting of motor
vehicle glass.
1. We oppose the stacking of vehicle insurance coverage.
2. We oppose any undue or unjust rate increases in vehicle
3. insurance on farm pick-ups or sport utility vehicles.
4. We strongly recommend the vehicle insurance liability law be
5. enforced. Uninsured motorists should be required to surrender
6. license plates to local authorities.
7. We support establishing a schedule, as it relates to changes for
8. PIP coverages, similar to that of worker's compensation.
9. We support immediate enactment of Federal Natural Disaster
10. Protection Legislation, with special emphasis for earthquake and
11. flood loss, to form a workable partnership between the federal gov-
12. ernment and the private insurance industry.
13. We oppose a private cause of action under the Unfair Claims
15. We favor increasing the quarterly limit of workers' compensation
16. exemptions to small businesses and farmers, due to the increases
17. of hourly wages and expenses.

FARM LABOR

We recommend Kentucky Farm Bureau assist federal and state
agencies and private entities in disseminating information,
evaluating and implementing the use of migrant labor.
We encourage the development of a standardized, expedited
system within the U.S. consulate's offices for processing and
verification of H-2A workers.
We strongly urge the Department of Labor to approve joint
contracts among farmers for the H-2A labor program.
We support the use of the agricultural prevailing wage rate rather
than the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) in the H-2A program.
We oppose providing farm workers with private rights-of-action or
rights-to-sue under the H-2A program.
Federal H-2A program users should not be subject to Migrant
and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA)
jurisdiction. Necessary action should be taken to deter frivolous
lawsuits against farm labor employers. In the event of a lawsuit,
court jurisdiction should fall within the state and/or county where the
alleged violation occurred.
We recommend that Farm Bureau work closely in cooperation
with the Office of Training and Employment in accumulating data for
the yearly prevailing wage.
We recommend that an exemption for agriculture be added to the
Kentucky Seventh Day Labor Law (KRS 337.050).
We recommend that, before making an H-2A referral, the State
Department of Employment Services be required to conduct
employment eligibility verification.
We support a meaningful agricultural temporary worker program
and encourage the following reforms:
- a new agriculture visa that is portable (at-will) or by contract
- that also deals with ag sectors, including livestock, that need
year-round workers;
- required reimbursement being paid at the 50 percent point of
the contract;
- a streamlined system to receive workers;
- a change from the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) to the
agricultural prevailing wage rate; and

INSURANCE

34. We recommend that all insurance remain a free enterprise with
35. minimum state regulations and that it continue to be a service that
36. may be purchased in accordance with the needs of the public.
37. We oppose further federal regulatory expansion into the
38. insurance industry.
39. We are against federal no-fault automobile insurance. We
40. strongly feel the best interests of society will be served if such
41. legislation continues under the supervision and control of state
42. legislatures rather than Congress.
43. We support eliminating fraud and abuse in Kentucky's Workers'
44. Compensation Law and encourage continuing review of the law to
45. prevent further abuse and fraud.
46. We oppose any state operated funds being used for the payment
47. of workers' compensation claims or claims on behalf of the
48. irresponsible motorist.
49. We support the continuation of agriculture being exempt from the
50. workers' compensation law.
51. We oppose H-2A employers being required to carry workers
52. compensation insurance on all employees that are not engaged in
53. like work. We also oppose premium payments based on anything
54. other than wages paid to workers.
55. We support legislation requiring all institutions selling insurance
56. to provide written consumer disclosure and other consumer
57. protections as specified in current state insurance regulations.

87

78
WELFARE

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

DOG LAW

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

ENERGY

We support government and industry working together to develop all possible sources of energy to alter U.S. dependence on other nations for energy resources. We support further development of solar, geothermal, biofuels, wind, and other sources of energy and recommend that special emphasis be given to converting to expanded use of coal including gasification, liquefaction and alcohol production. We support providing incentive programs and tax relief for fuel-graded alcohol. We also support use of coal gasification technology to produce nitrogen based fertilizers. We will publicly and aggressively promote the use of biofuels and support legislation that promotes biofuels usage. We recommend aggressively combating anti-renewable fuels and anti-biofuels campaigns. We recommend that if any oxygenate is needed to meet clean air requirements that it be ethanol. We recommend that all state vehicles use ethanol blends and biodiesel when available. We recommend that all gasoline engine vehicles purchased by state government be able to use 85% fuel when available.
1. We encourage expanded research for the use of ethanol for coal
development.
2. We recommend that the Kentucky Farm Bureau aggressively
promote the use of biodiesel throughout the state
of Kentucky.
3. We recommend that all diesel and gasoline be offered for sale in
Kentucky contain a blend of biofuels or ethanol and urine increased
availability of e85 fuel. We support efforts to promote biofuel usage
by visible and identifiable signage.
4. We support quality testing of biofuels by the Kentucky
Department of Agriculture, in a cost-effective manner.
5. We urge top priority be given to agriculture when fuel rationing
occurs. We favor rationing programs be based on current annual
needs rather than any monthly basis.
6. We encourage economic incentives for farmers to purchase
their own fuel storage and propane tanks.
7. Energy is an important input to agriculture, and in times of short-
age or other emergencies the state should implement an energy
response plan to facilitate transportation and delivery of
fuel, propane and electricity.
8. We recommend that biofuels be taken into consideration when
fuel rationing occurs.
9. We support:
   (1) continued research and development to expand production
   of renewable fuels from agricultural commodities, further reducing
   America's dependence on foreign oil;
   (2) establishment of state incentives to support increased
   production and use of agricultural-based fuels;
   (3) the use and conversion of waste products for expanded
   forms of energy;
   (4) tax incentives for the usage of alternative forms of energy;
   (5) state incentives and programs to promote energy efficiency
   and conservation on farms;
   (6) implementation of a state and national energy policy;
   (7) university research on alternative fuels; and
   (8) university research on processing and transporting biomass
   products.
10. We support the Kentucky Biomass Initiative to research the use
of switchgrass and other forage crops for commercial electrical
generation and residential heating.
11. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
and the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet recognize that
renewable energy and energy efficiency are economic drivers for
our farms, rural communities and businesses and encourage these
agencies to develop and support initiatives of the same. We further
recommend these agencies collaborate with the Kentucky
Department for Energy Development and Independence.
12. We support the goals of 25 X 25 which are by the year 2025
America's farms, ranches, and forests will provide twenty-five
percent of the total energy consumed in the United States without
sacrificing the production of safe, abundant and affordable food,
feed, and fiber.
13. We encourage enhanced education and demonstration efforts
on energy efficiency in the homes, farms and businesses of
Kentucky.
14. We oppose the establishment of new city-owned electric systems
7 to serve new or expanded electric loads because of the obvious
negative impact this would have on the electric rates of residential and
commercial customers of the electric utility currently providing service.
15. We support the use of wood, wood pellets, wood biomass, and
wood products as a source of renewable energy.
16. We oppose climate change legislation that establishes mandatory
cap and trade provisions which would lead to higher energy costs and
negative impacts on the agricultural economy.
17. Fracking should not be permitted on current oil and gas leases
without notifying landowners and renegotiating the lease with the
landowners.
18. We encourage state government to return to agriculture a portion
of any settlement funds from energy distributors and suppliers due to
unfair practices and unfulfilled contracts.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

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

RURAL COMMUNICATIONS

We support expanded and improved cellular phone coverage
throughout Kentucky, but want safeguards to protect and maintain
landline service for those who do not want wireless.
We urge the Public Service Commission to study the service
being offered to all telephone users in rural areas and to encourage
the companies to upgrade the service to compare with that in
urban areas.
We support toll-free county-wide telephone service.
We are opposed to mandatory measured service.
We are opposed to the present overlay district system as
proposed by the Public Service Commission.
We are encouraged by the progress that has been made and the
attention that has been given to increasing affordable broadband
and high-speed internet in all rural areas, and we urge continuation
of this effort because there is an urgent need.
We support all efforts and incentives to improve all telecommu-
nications in rural Kentucky.
We support efforts to provide affordable broadband, high speed
internet, and precision ag service to all rural areas of Kentucky.
1. We encourage the Public Service Commission to monitor and investigate the activities and operating costs of utilities to ensure that the rates approved are fair and equitable, particularly as this relates to the fuel adjustment clause.
2. We encourage the Public Service Commission to develop a new rate classification specifically designed for rural water districts, and small cities to pay for expanding their water plants.
3. Steps should be taken to maintain Kentucky's favorable utility rates. Construction of new power generating facilities and associated infrastructures should not be allowed to adversely affect Kentucky consumers and specifically rural customers.
4. We encourage all electric utility providers to monitor and maintain rates at levels below the national average to attract and retain commercial and industrial customers.
5. We recommend there be representation on the Public Service Commission by which Public Service Commission members are appointed by the Governor and not elected.

HEALTH

We support:
1. The development and implementation of programs to provide incentives for consumers to practice wellness and disease prevention;
2. Efforts of Kentucky's cancer and disease research programs;
3. A personal file added to an individual driver's license, similar to the organ donor's list currently used. This file should upon a voluntary basis include medication alerts, immediate family contact information, and/or other needed important data that could be used at the time of an accident or medical emergency;
4. Efforts of medical schools to train additional qualified family physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other qualified health care professionals who intend to practice medicine in rural areas;
5. Residency programs to provide postgraduate family physician training away from major metropolitan-based medical training centers;
6. All programs which support efforts to eradicate sexually transmitted diseases;
7. Closer working relationships between organizations of primary care providers, medical societies and health agencies and the Board of Education;
8. Education of primary care providers, teachers, and other health professionals to include the clinical application of sound nutritional principles; and
9. The Certificate of Need Board being more diligent in their work in approving hospital expansions, including hospice, home health, and long-term care, concerning facilities and services.

We oppose:
1. Legislation or regulations that would jeopardize present volunteer emergency medical technician (EMT) systems; and
2. Guidelines that would close the obstetric wards in hospitals that do not meet annual requirements for number of births.

We believe the disability programs are too lenient and should be monitored closely by the health care providers. Both the patient and health care providers should be held accountable. A system to regulate the program should be in place.
We support the county health departments and recommend they be used to their full potential.
We urge the passage of legislation that provides that the membership of county health boards include at least one farmer.
We encourage timely domestic production of critical health vaccines as a policy of national security.
We urge continuing research and development of a human vaccine for any strain of influenza or other communicable disease.
We support Advanced Life Support Systems (ALSS) being available in all Kentucky counties.
We urge the development of a secure electronic medical records system, such as the E-Health Network, to increase the efficiency of healthcare delivery.
We support the location of a Veterans Administration long-term care facility in southeast Kentucky; one that will provide care to veterans who are unable to care for themselves.
We support a dedicated suicide hotline for farmers and agricultural workers, and encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to promote its availability.

HEALTH INSURANCE

We support health care insurance reform and encourage the Kentucky General Assembly to continue to address this issue.
We support being able to modify coverages, such as increasing deductibles, without losing the status of legacy or grandfathered health insurance policies.
We recommend that all insurance remain a free enterprise with minimum state regulations and that it continue to be a service that may be purchased in accordance with the needs of the public.
1. We support changes in Kentucky's health insurance laws that will stabilize the market, encourage competition and increase
2. consumer choice.
3. We believe that all health care providers should be allowed to set
4. their own individual rates for health care services. However, we
5. recommend legislation that would require individual providers
6. to charge consistent fees for like services.
7. We encourage continued transparency by health insurance
8. providers on costs and coverages to ensure competitive pricing
9. and service.
10. We recommend that the state rate all medical services, facilities,
11. and equipment. This would enable consumers and health care
12. providers to determine the most cost effective service of
13. comparable quality.
14. We reaffirm our support for state and federal legislation that
15. would increase the flexibility for individuals to benefit from
17. Associations should be able to provide adequate health
18. insurance. We oppose any action that would impede that ability.
19. We support the creation of additional tax incentives for self-
20. employed and small business owners that purchase health
21. insurance for their employees.
22. We are opposed to requiring employers to provide health
23. insurance. Employers who choose to provide health insurance
24. benefits for full-time employees should not be required to provide
25. seasonal and part-time employees with health insurance throughout
26. the calendar year of their employment.
27. Future health care policy changes should embrace the following
28. principles:
29. (1) Promotion of personal wellness, fitness and preventive care
30. as basic health goals;
31. (2) Minimal government intervention in decisions between
32. providers and receivers of health care;
33. (3) Tax policies that encourage individuals to prepare for future
34. health care needs such as making long-term care insurance
35. premiums 100% tax deductible;
36. (4) Direct government financial assistance to providers for those
37. who are economically unable to pay for health care needs;
38. (5) Government programs like Medicare and Medicaid properly
39. compensate providers;
40. (6) Protect the right of patients to choose health care providers
41. and methods of treatment; and
42. (7) Ensure that health care providers, not insurance companies,
43. determine patient treatment.
44. We support comprehensive affordable health care for all U.S.
45. citizens.
46. We support:
47. (1) Every possible effort to affect cost management while
48. providing accessible high quality health care;
49. (2) A law that would limit health care costs to no more than the
50. level of federal cost of living increases and furthermore, recommend
51. that hospitals be required to reveal their pricing structures;
52. (3) The development of legislation that will lead to changing our
53. present health care delivery system through the following:
54. (A) Cost incentive/rewards (providers, insurance companies
55. and consumers);
56. (B) Protection against monopolies; and

(C) Periodic review of regulations.

2. (4) Efforts to eliminate or significantly reduce cost shifting from
3. Medicaid and Medicare to individuals and third-party payers;
4. (5) The reduction of government mandates which require
5. certain provisions be included in all health insurance policies;
6. (6) Greater use of non-physician providers, such as physician's
7. assistants, nurse practitioners and midwives, to help improve the
8. distribution of health care;
9. (7) Economic incentives at state and local levels to encourage
10. primary care providers to practice in rural areas and the restoration
11. of equitable Medicare payments to rural hospitals and primary
12. care providers;
13. (8) Government policies that provide incentives for medical and
14. mental health services in rural areas;
15. (9) Private funded optional care delivery systems such as
16. health maintenance organizations;
17. (10) Efforts to reduce medical malpractice insurance costs;
18. (11) Third-party payer recognition for payment of outpatient
19. treatment and preventive measures; and
20. (12) Government incentives to the private sector for providing
21. long-term health care.
22. We oppose:
23. (1) Government interference with private enterprise by
24. subsidizing professional medical services;
25. (2) The practice of charging for medical services solely on the
26. ability to pay; and
27. (3) Compulsory national and/or state health insurance.
28. We encourage strict oversight of Medicare and Medicaid
29. programs with the intent of reducing fraud and to decrease health
30. care costs.
31. We encourage individuals to seek a high deductible and/or
32. co-payment plan as a way of reducing overall health insurance
33. premiums.
34. We support and encourage the use of health savings accounts
35. as an opportunity to lower health insurance costs and be able to
36. contribute after age 65 as long as you continue to work.
37. We support action by the Kentucky General Assembly that will
38. ensure that patients in nursing homes receive quality care including
39. sufficient, better trained front-line care givers and a statewide
40. system to help consumers find available beds.
41. We support the use of KASPER (Kentucky All Scheduled
42. Prescription Electronic Reporting) to assist health care providers in
43. monitoring narcotic prescriptions and support the cooperation of
44. surrounding states that have similar programs.

KENTUCKY FAIRS

We support the State Fair Board and management in their efforts
48. to make the State Fair the price of Kentucky's agriculture, industry
49. and natural resources. We encourage the Kentucky State Fair
50. Board be composed of a minimum of fifty percent voting members
51. who are active members in agriculture leadership. We support
52. funding for the expansion and maintenance of facilities at the
53. Kentucky Exposition Center. We urge the Kentucky General
54. Assembly to assume the remaining debt service on capital expen-
55. ditures at the Kentucky Exposition Center and for the funding to be
1. We urge the Department to provide strict inspection of all scales used in buying and selling agricultural products.
2. We recommend the Department continue to work with the Cabinet for Economic Development and others in seeking market opportunities for Kentucky commodities domestically and internationally.
3. We recommend that the National Agricultural Statistics Service include more detailed reports on horticultural crops. We recommend improving the efficiency and conversion to computerization of market data collection and utilize a more producer-friendly schedule for the data collection.
4. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture continue to employ an equine specialist to work jointly with the Cabinet for Economic Development and the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet to foster and develop both domestic and foreign markets.
5. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s and the Kentucky Tourism Arts and Heritage Cabinet’s efforts to promote Agri-tourism in the Commonwealth with city and county level tourism groups.
6. We recommend that century and older farms be certified and recognized in Kentucky.
7. We recommend equine inventory data be included in the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics book.
8. We recommend the annual survey of Kentucky livestock numbers include sheep and goats, and that the state statistician work with the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association and the Kentucky Goat Producers Association to assist with the design of this survey.
9. We recommend the annual survey of Kentucky livestock numbers include privately-owned, farm-raised cervids.
10. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s efforts to support and promote the privately-owned, farm-raised cervid industry.
11. We recommend that data on the poultry industry be combined to include broiler, layers, eggs, and the breeder industry in the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics book.
12. We recommend continued funding for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to employ horticulture/aquaculture marketing specialists to better communicate marketing opportunities to producers and to identify local Kentucky agriculture products for wholesale buyers.
13. We support providing the Kentucky Department of Agriculture with sufficient resources to fund increased enforcement of organic standards.
14. We recommend establishment of poultry, equine and woodland specialists in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.
15. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and both state diagnostic laboratories employ poultry veterinarians to ensure the health of avian species.
16. We urge the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to amend their existing regulations pertaining to Pullorum Typhoid testing to conform with federal guidelines.
17. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Division of Environmental Services to be more consistent in their inspections of agricultural operations.

---

1. taken from the general fund. We will cooperate with all interest groups in efforts to maintain an educational State Fair free from political interference. For efficiency and effectiveness, we support the Kentucky State Fair Board in maintaining its independence as a state agency, as provided in KRS 247.
2. We urge county Farm Bureaus to support and participate in their local fairs and to encourage good local entries to participate in the State Fair.
3. We support state funds for the continued upgrading of county fairs and encourage the legislature to reinstate and fund the County Fair Building Program.
4. All requirements for participating in all shows and fairs should be strictly adhered to and all entries should be visually inspected and certified before unloading.
5. We support fair and uniform guidelines and enforcement of animal livestock inspections for shows and fairs and support proper training for inspectors.

---

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

We support an efficient, well-administered and adequately financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture be primarily financed by dedicated sources of revenue, and recommend an increase in the budget's baseline to bring the marketing and promotion budget in line with other states.

We support adequate funding for all 4-H and FFA livestock shows.

We support the current equal distribution of proceeds generated by the voluntary $10 donation made when renewing Kentucky farm license plates to the Kentucky FFA, Kentucky 4-H, and Kentucky Proud. We encourage county clerks to promote participation.

We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s efforts to continue to provide organic certification program services and to maintain and promote the standards of the national organic program.

We recommend that the State Board of Agriculture consist of commodity specific members and at least one member representing Farm Bureau.

We are concerned about the number of state appointed boards and commissions representing agriculture. Efforts should be made to consolidate the work of these groups into one mission for agriculture.

We recommend that a more adequate training program be developed for inspectors responsible for testing equipment, grading, checking moisture meters and scales. We further recommend the licensing of all moisture meter operators and we endorse a unified system of measuring moisture content in grain, soybeans and tobacco at all purchasing stations.

We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to create procedures for the sanitizing of testing equipment, including probes, instruments, grinders and containers, between the gatherings of grain samples.

---

88
1. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to support the Kentucky Hay Marketing initiative.

2. We urge the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to fully staff the hay testing program to ensure quality forages throughout the Commonwealth.

3. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture fully staff their market news positions.

4. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's efforts to monitor proper harvesting and sales of ginseng.

5. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's efforts to strengthen industrial hemp production in the state of Kentucky.

6. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture enter into reciprocal agreements, establish legal documents, with other state governing agencies to establish a Bolt Weed Eradication Program, and to allow out-of-state commercial agricultural chemical applicators the ability to operate in Kentucky.

7. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture as the Commonwealth's primary agency for implementation of the produce safety rule of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

8. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to use science-based information when formulating regulations dealing with crop production.

9. We believe that all Kentucky farmers should be under the same regulations set by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

10. We favor continuation of adequate agriculture credit at the lowest possible cost.

11. We believe farmers should be able to access credit from available equity, rather than having credit access based on cash flow.

12. We continue to support the cooperative associations in the Farm Credit System (FCS) now completely farmer-owned. We oppose any restructuring of the Farm Credit System which would replace farmer-elected members of system boards or grant commercial banks access to money procured by virtue of the agency status enjoyed by the FCS or otherwise threaten the viability of the system. We support legislation that would prohibit Farm Credit Banks from exiting the Farm Credit System.

13. We recommend that efforts be made to establish a method of financing farms through the use of local, state, federal or other funds that would enable young people to start farming.

14. We urge our farmer-members to be aware of special financial schemes that require "up-front" fees.

15. We support the Farm Service Agency (FSA) assisting farmers who cannot qualify for other financing.

16. We recommend federal funding for low income housing as presently administered by the Housing and Urban Development Agency and Rural Economic Community Development (RECD) be discontinued.

17. We support the continuation of guaranteed and insured loan programs of RECD. Adequate funding should be provided to meet the legitimate needs of eligible farm families including those which are either partnerships or corporations. Adequate, competent counseling and supervision should be available to all borrowers.

18. We recommend RECD expedite the processing of loans to farmers allowing them ample time to make farming decisions before planting season. We further recommend providing loans that will be sufficient to carry out farming operations for a full year or rejecting the loan.

19. We support uniform anti-predatory lending standards for mortgage companies and consumer lenders.

20. We recommend medical liabilities not be listed as a derogatory on a credit report.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

We discourage the closing of local Farm Service Agency offices. However, if offices are combined, we urge the USDA to allow farmers to only have to travel to adjoining counties that maintain an adequate workforce.

We recommend that USDA fund FSA in a manner that lets them be timely with their services.

We encourage streamlining of the FSA lending process, including formulation of partnerships with other lending institutions to simplify the process for applicants.

We support utilizing FSA's data and assistance for Premise ID Registration.

We encourage FSA to allow authorized insurance personnel to obtain any necessary producer information forms free of charge from their office.

We support a change in FSA regulations to accept certified printed scale weights.

We urge eligible producers to participate in local FSA committee elections.

We recommend that to be eligible for any FSA committee, the candidate must be actively engaged in agriculture production.

We urge local FSA committees to assist cooperating landowners in the utilization of the forestry incentive programs for tree planting and timber stand improvement.

Federally certified disaster years should be omitted from county FSA yield calculations.

We recommend that the local FSA office display a discount schedule to ensure that each producer in the loan program realizes the cost that he can expect to incur.

We recommend that endophyte-free tassel be considered when FSA cost-shares in pasture renovation.

We suggest that FSA require the establishment of irrigated yields for farmers who irrigate their crops.

We request that FSA, NRCS and the Division of Water collectively provide cost-share information for waste handling facilities to producers when construction permits are issued.

We ask that Kentucky law be changed to allow a parent to sign documents that would be legally binding upon their minor children.

We support extending office hours of local FSA offices during peak sign-up periods.

We are opposed to the open office concept at USDA service centers as being defined as removing walls and having all the agencies in one big room.
1. We oppose mandatory consolidation of farm serial numbers.
2. We oppose compliance status of one farm affecting the ability to receive benefits on another farm.

AGRI-TERRORISM

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

AGRICULTURE DISASTER

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS

34. In an effort to improve the public image of agriculture and Farm Bureau, we will work to:
35. (1) Build and communicate a better image of agriculture and to stress its importance to the well-being of the American consumer;
36. (2) Create and communicate better understanding between rural and urban people;
37. (3) Emphasize the marked difference between benefits going directly to farmers and those of benefit to the general public;
38. (4) Inform the public that food is affordable and a great value, and that farmers receive a small share of the price paid for food;
39. (5) Familiarize the public with the importance of the businesses serving agriculture and their contributions to the growth of the national economy;
40. (6) Conduct an aggressive communication program to promote growth in Farm Bureau membership and commercial services.
41. We endorse the National Farm-City Program and urge county Farm Bureaus to participate in such activities.
42. We recommend that information regarding the environmental effects of insecticides, pesticides, feed additives, etc., be disseminated to the general public through non-farm publications and on radio and television.
43. We support building and maintaining a Kentucky Agricultural Heritage Center with primary funding from General Fund dollars and private sources.
44. We discourage government officials and media from naming diseases after livestock commodities such as "swine flu" due to its negative financial impact.
45. We oppose media bias and encourage the media to be fair and objective in their reporting.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

11. We recommend that the radio and television stations continue to provide agriculture programs.
12. We strongly oppose anti-farming propaganda in children's books, videos and television.
13. We support Kentucky Farm Bureau's continued promotion of Kentucky agriculture on RFD-TV and KET.
14. We recognize the value of KFB Studios Productions in enhancing the understanding of agriculture in Kentucky and we encourage local TV stations to utilize this valuable resource in a favorable time slot.
15. We encourage the viewing of KFB Studios Productions, and other educational programming, be used in the classroom to enhance the understanding of all aspects of agriculture production.

PATRIOTISM

20. We recommend that the American flag be properly displayed at all state and district Farm Bureau meetings and by farmers on their farms.
21. We recommend that it be a crime to desecrate the American flag.
22. We recommend that the words, "Under God" remain in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and the words "In God We Trust" remain on our nation's currency.
23. We support our armed forces defending our freedom.
24. We support the preservation of all historical markers and monuments in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

COURTS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

34. We believe in the principle that the government should protect the rights of life, liberty and property, and we support a strong law enforcement and first responders policy.
35. We support law enforcement agencies and believe they should be equipped with safety items for their officers, including but not limited to, bullet resistant glass and hands free communication devices to limit distractions while on duty.
36. We support efforts and laws to strengthen the sanctity of families.
37. We urge the courts to be more diligent in dealing with those who violate the law. Furthermore, we support swift action by the courts.
CRIME PREVENTION

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

DRUG CONTROL

1. We pledge our cooperation to organizations in their efforts to curb drug and alcohol abuse.
2. We are strongly opposed to any efforts to legalize narcotic and recreational marijuana.
3. We support more stringent laws to deal with drug offenders. We also support educational programs designed for students that would teach them the harmful effects of drug use, including prescription drug abuse.
4. We recommend that innocent property owners not have their property seized or encumbered with federal tax liens when illegal drug activity is found on their property.
5. We recommend the Task Force on Drugs become aware of the destructive ability that their helicopters and equipment are having on property. Innocent landowners should be compensated for their loss or damage.
6. We recommend that every effort be made to eradicate marijuana from all land in Kentucky.
7. We recommend that street value not be given out on a drug raid or destroyed marijuana crop.
8. We support the efforts of the partnerships for a Drug Free Community Program and encourage Farm Bureau members to participate.
9. We encourage the use of additives in anhydrous ammonia to prevent its theft from farms and suppliers for use in making methamphetamine.
10. We support the use of seized drug money to help clean up methamphetamine contamination on private property.
11. We strongly support increased funding for the state’s drug task forces.
1. We strongly support pain management clinics be subject to increased regulatory scrutiny.
2. We support a rigorous evaluation of the needle exchange program in Kentucky.

MECHANICS LIEN LAW

3. We urge the state and county Farm Bureaus to inform the membership about the provisions of the Kentucky Mechanics Lien Law and the advisability of farmers protecting themselves against having to pay the same bill twice for services and materials.
4. We support a modification of the statutory lien statute to specifically list hay sold as an inclusive in the persons who may apply an agist’s lien on farm animals and property.

REGULATORY AGENCIES AND COMMISSIONS

5. We recommend that the state legislature provide specific guidelines and restrictions on the agencies that are to administer the laws and are given the power to adopt rules and regulations.
6. We oppose state regulations that are more stringent than federal. Any new regulation should not restrict expansion or sale of existing agricultural operations.

LINE FENCES

7. We support the Kentucky line fence law which allows an owner of agriculture property to file an amendment in district court requiring the construction or the replacement or repair of a boundary line fence. We also support the provision of language which allows the district court flexibility in determining what type of fence is to be used.
8. We support amending the Kentucky fence law to award reasonable attorney fees and court costs to the prevailing party in the event of litigation required to resolve a fencing dispute.
9. We support that developers be required to build a boundary fence when a residential, commercial or industrial development adjoins farm property.
10. We support the provision in the line fence law that says each landowner shall stand in the center of his boundary line facing each other, and each shall be responsible to build and maintain that portion of fence to his right.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

11. We oppose a change in the Constitution which would allow residents to get proposed changes in the Constitution on a ballot by obtaining signatures from any percentage of the state voters.
12. We are opposed to annual regular sessions of the Kentucky General Assembly; however, we recognize the need for the General Assembly to have greater control over the enactment of implementation of regulations, appointment oversight, and budget revisions.
13. We support the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture being a cabinet post whether elected or appointed.
14. We recommend the office of Constable be abolished.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

STATUS OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

23. It is our policy to keep our resolutions as current as possible without specifically restating all details of continuing policies every year. We therefore reaffirm resolutions passed at the four (4) previous meetings, except as otherwise stated. Resolutions have been dropped, fulfilled, modified or supplemented by later resolutions.
2018
State Resolutions Committee
Members

Eddie Melton, Chair

Vickie Bryant
Tyler Ferguson
Penny Fleming
Doug Hall
Gerry Hayden
Bill Holbrook
Kevin Cashman
Mitchel Logsdon
Maurice Heard
Scott Davis
P.J. Milburn
Sam Lafferty

Mark Kinsey
Gary Chaplin
Wes Hargis
Jerry Durham
Kenneth Rice
Scott Barnes
Rob McClanahan
Randall Wood
Berkley Mark
Ray Sammons
Larry Clay
Holden Williams
NOTES