



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

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How These Priority Issues Were Decided

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

Once the delegates, representing all 120 Kentucky counties, adopt new policy ideas representing 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 50% of the Master Settlement Agreement funds to the Agricultural Development Board, and funds be spent for the purpose of improving the net farm income of individual farmers in production agriculture.
- Support continued funding of the Soil Erosion 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.

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

PREAMBLE

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

PART I POLICY STATEMENT

- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
42. The laudable objectives of the Kentucky Farm Bureau
43. Federation need to be kept in mind by all Farm Bureau members.
44. Its objectives are: to organize effectively; to promote and protect
45. the interest of Kentucky farmers; to enlarge and ennoble their field
46. of endeavor; to win for them that recognition of their usefulness and
47. respect to which they are justly entitled; to raise standards of
48. farming and rural homemaking throughout our beloved
49. Commonwealth; to establish a high code of ethics among the
50. members of our vocation; to represent farmers in any legitimate
51. manner which may promote their best interest - economically,
52. educationally, socially; to increase the effectiveness of county Farm
53. Bureaus by strengthening their educational and service programs;
54. to strengthen the whole Kentucky Farm Bureau program by
55. unifying the county programs while preserving local initiative; to
56. cooperate with all such agencies - University of Kentucky College
57. of Agriculture, Food and Environment, the U. S. Department of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. of work. We believe that funds for agricultural research should be
2. centered at the Experiment Station and oppose other state
3. agencies being authorized to do duplicating agricultural research.
4. 5. Farm Legislation: It is our responsibility to initiate and/or
5. actively support proposed legislation designed to promote the best
6. interests of agriculture and the general public, and to aggressively
7. oppose the passage of legislation detrimental to agriculture and the
8. general public.

9. 6. Governmental Farm Programs: We maintain that farmers
10. must have the opportunity and should actively participate in and be
11. properly represented in the formulation of any and all governmental
12. programs to assist farmers which vitally affect the farm economy
13. and rural society. We further maintain that all such programs must
14. be efficiently and economically operated, and the farmers must
15. have a voice in the administration and conduct of these programs.
16. We recommend that a standardized definition of agriculture be
17. developed and incorporated into statute wherever agriculture is
18. defined.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

57.

1. We are opposed to any state-supported agency providing
2. benefits to "domestic" partners.

3. We strongly believe in the value of all individuals both born and
4. unborn.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COUNTY FARM BUREAUS

55. With the problems facing agriculture and the nation becoming
56. increasingly complex, it is all the more important that every county
57. 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
10. Roads, Rural Industry, Education, Rural Health, Safety, Citizenship,
11. Conservation and Natural Resources, and the more important farm
12. enterprises such as: Tobacco, Livestock, Dairy, Poultry, Forestry
13. and the various commercial crops.

PART II STATE RESOLUTIONS

14.
15.
16.
17.
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. statements of position and specific resolutions as related to state
22. issues, and places upon its members, officers and representatives
23. the responsibility of securing proper and adequate action thereon.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AND RESEARCH

24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29. We urge adequate funding for the agricultural research facilities
30. and the experimental farms in order to develop and maintain an
31. effective research program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXTENSION SERVICE

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

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

DAIRY

28. We support programs that will increase the demand for dairy
29. products. These programs include the serving of real dairy
30. products in all state institutions and parks.
31. We further support the effort to encourage school districts to
32. adopt the Fuel Up to Play 60 program that encourages nutrition and
33. fitness which includes the new look of the School Milk Program that
34. encourages plastic bottle packaging on the meal line.
35. We support schools offering all pasteurized fluid milk and milk
36. products, including whole milk and flavored milk, as part of the
37. school lunch program without losing federal subsidies.
38. We support the promotion of milk vending and smoothie
39. machines in schools.
40. We support the Junior Dairy Show Program.
41. We support the efforts of the Kentucky Dairy Development
42. Council on behalf of dairy farmers and the entire dairy infrastructure.
43. We encourage cooperation between affiliated agricultural
44. organizations, industries, and dairy farmers to benefit all.
45. We support the efforts of the American Dairy Association and
46. the Dairy Alliance. These organizations should strive to communi-
47. cate checkoff dollar usage through an industry-wide newsletter.
48. Dairy checkoff dollars should be utilized in market areas where the
49. milk is sold.
50. We strongly urge that all milk utilized for human fluid consump-
51. tion be pasteurized. We oppose legislation that could lessen public
52. health regulations on fluid milk for human consumption.
53. We will continue to work with the Dairy Products Association
54. of Kentucky and others to improve dairy health regulations. We
55. support the manufactured dairy products industry's efforts for qual-
56. ity improvement and will cooperate in helping develop a sound
57. program that will provide for proper state supervision.

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

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

1. We recommend that seed tags for all commodity grains reflect
2. the genetic purity of the bagged crop.
3. When seed companies sell insecticide pre-treated corn seeds,
4. farmers should be able to return the seeds, and be reimbursed for
5. the cost of the seeds.
6. Summaries of Kentucky seed law results should be published
7. annually. These laws should be rigidly enforced.
8. We encourage use of corn starch based products such as
9. biodegradable plastics, calcium magnesium acetate and eco-foam.
10. We recommend that Farm Bureau stress the importance of
11. producers using the best management possible in the operation
12. of harvesting and storing facilities in order to maintain a high
13. quality product.
14. Farmers should be able to choose the date that they lock in LDP
15. rates while grain is in storage at feed mills.
16. Grain quality should not disqualify commodities from loan
17. deficiency payment eligibility if the county has been adversely
18. affected by weather.
19. We encourage grain elevators to pay a premium for low moisture
20. grain.
21. We support the adoption of legislation at the state level that
22. would require grain purchasers to use USDA grading practices.
23. All vacuum probes used in the marketing of grain should be
24. USDA approved. Foreign matter should be removed from a sample
25. of grain before the test weight is derived.
26. We recommend that any genetically engineered grain approved
27. by USDA and FDA not be considered contaminated grain in cargo.
28. We recommend that Farm Bureau continue to monitor and
29. publish methods used in arriving at dockage in grain.
30. We recommend that chemical testing for aflatoxin/vomitoxin be
31. made available to farmers through the University of Kentucky and
32. the Breathitt Veterinary Center laboratories.
33. We recommend that Farm Bureau become more aggressive in
34. promoting a better understanding of marketing alternatives
35. available to farmers.
36. We commend the Kentucky General Assembly for the action
37. taken relative to the grain insurance law and encourage that it
38. continue to be monitored for protection of farmers.
39. We support modernizing and updating the Grain Insurance Fund
40. law to more adequately protect current and future Kentucky grain
41. producers.
42. Due to the increased value of grain, the grain insurance fund
43. coverage should be increased to adequately protect farmers and
44. the cap limit should be increased accordingly.
45. We request the Risk Management Agency (RMA) retain May 31
46. as the final planting date for corn for the entire state of Kentucky.
47. We support efforts to strengthen industrial hemp production for
48. seed in the state of Kentucky.
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SOYBEANS

53. We urge the University of Kentucky to expand its program in
54. controlling cyst nematode, sudden death syndrome and soybean
55. rust in soybeans through use of either resistant varieties or other
56. methods of control. We encourage the University of Kentucky and
57. the Department of Agriculture to conduct research on slug control

1. and management and further develop deer and insect resistant
2. soybean varieties.
3. We recommend that government funding continue for Asian
4. soybean rust sentinel plots across soybean growing areas.
5. We favor the use of a dry matter basis for grading and pricing of
6. soybeans and pricing seed by seed count rather than by weight.
7. We recommend that the Soybean Promotion Board continue
8. funding programs to help develop ways to increase the use of
9. soybeans and also find ways through research to increase the
10. test weight.
11. We urge the universities throughout Kentucky to intensify their
12. research efforts on the expanded use of soybeans for human food.
13. We recommend that the University of Kentucky develop public
14. varieties of soybeans.
15. We encourage the Soybean Promotion Board to continue
16. funding programs to increase the public awareness of soydiesel
17. fuels and soybean byproducts.
18. We request the Risk Management Agency (RMA) move the late
19. planting date for soybeans to June 25.
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LIVESTOCK

24. We support Kentucky's Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program
25. and strongly encourage cattle producers, haulers, handlers, stock-
26. yard employees, and processors to participate.
27. We support the Pork Quality Assurance Plus Program, the Youth
28. Pork Quality Assurance Plus Program, the Swine Welfare
29. Assurance Program, the Trucker Quality Assurance Program, and
30. the Environmental Assurance Program and recommend every
31. swine producer utilize these programs at all levels.
32. We recommend that the Kentucky Farm Bureau and Kentucky's
33. livestock organizations work in conjunction with their national
34. associations to combat negative campaigns regarding meat
35. consumption or production.
36. We will continue to investigate the export market potential for
37. Kentucky livestock and livestock products.
38. We support the veterinary training program established by the
39. Southern Regional Education Board.
40. We support the construction and funding for a livestock educa-
41. tion center on the main University of Kentucky campus to give
42. hands-on educational opportunities to students.
43. We support expansion of the livestock industry as long as new
44. operations meet current environmental regulations by using Best
45. Management Practices (BMPs).
46. We support more education and funding for producers in
47. marketing feeder calves, sheep and goats in large commingled
48. groups.
49. We support development and adoption of livestock identification
50. technology which will enhance the implementation of value-based
51. marketing.
52. We support the establishment and implementation of an animal
53. disease traceability system that will provide support for animal
54. disease control and eradication.
55. An animal disease traceability system should be cost
56. effective, with adequate cost-share among government, industry,
57. 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

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

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

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

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

1. We support programs such as the Kentucky Horse Council
2. (KHC) to promote the equine industry.
3. We support the University of Kentucky's Equine Program and
4. recommend adequate funding for its facilities and programs,
5. on- and off-campus.
6. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
7. restore funding and support the 4-H horse program to the same
8. degree as traditional 4-H livestock programs.
9. We support fair and uniform guidelines and enforcement of horse
10. show inspections and proper training of horse show inspectors.
11. We encourage equine owners to follow American Association of
12. Equine Practitioners (AAEP) core vaccination guidelines for equine
13. health and disease related issues.
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AQUACULTURE

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

49. We support monitoring the activities of the Pollinator Working
50. Group in connection with the protection of the monarch butterflies
51. and bees to make sure that agriculture will not be affected in a
52. negative way.
53. We support the enhancement of the honeybee population in
54. Kentucky.
55. We support the four goals of the Kentucky Pollinator Protection
56. Plan which are the use of best management practices, increased
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1. pollinator habitat, increased education and outreach and increased
2. communication among stakeholders.
3. We support the development of BMPs that enhance pollinator
4. habitat in both urban and rural areas.
5. We recognize the ecological importance of pollinators and the
6. necessity to judiciously utilize crop protection products to protect
7. against loss of crop yield. We support the coexistence of crops and
8. pollinators and urge that any pollinator risk assessment required for
9. registration or regulation of crop protection products be based on
10. field-relevant, sound scientific data.

11. We support expedited approval of emergency labeling of chemi-
12. cal treatments for beekeepers fighting colony collapse issues.

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HORTICULTURE CROPS

17. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau, the University
18. of Kentucky, the Kentucky State University, and the Kentucky
19. Department of Agriculture assist growers in working with wholesale
20. buyers and processors in matters of pricing, food safety, receiving
21. schedules and handling facilities.

22. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in
23. cooperation with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture
24. Food and Environment, Kentucky State University, and the
25. Kentucky Horticulture Council to update and make publicly available
26. the database for the Kentucky Horticultural Products and Services
27. Directory.

28. We urge the Colleges of Agriculture to continue their commit-
29. ment to all areas of horticulture research and the providing of time-
30. ly and current information on production, handling, processing and
31. marketing of the wide array of horticulture products grown
32. in Kentucky.

33. We recommend that the University of Kentucky Horticulture
34. Research Farm be maintained as the primary horticulture facility for
35. research and extension and undergraduate education in central
36. Kentucky because the location, topography and soil types are
37. extremely suitable for the type of research afforded to the growing
38. horticulture industry. We also urge extensive horticulture crop
39. research at the Princeton and Quicksand facilities.

40. We recommend that all fruits and vegetables sold on the
41. wholesale and retail markets in Kentucky be labeled as to the point
42. of origin.

43. We support continued efforts and further development of the
44. Arboretum at the University of Kentucky.

45. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and
46. the University of Kentucky make a strong effort to determine out-of-
47. state nurseries that supply disease and insect free strawberry
48. plants, fruit trees, vegetable transplants, etc.

49. We encourage the Agricultural Statistics Service to continue to
50. develop collection and reporting procedures on sales of all horticul-
51. tural products (nursery, greenhouse, fruits, and vegetables).

52. We recommend the enforcement of regulating transient roadside
53. vendors, especially those selling from highway rights-of-way, which
54. are hazardous, do not contribute to the local tax base and compete
55. unfairly with local producers.

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1. We further recommend that Farm Bureau publish information
2. pertaining to monitoring and regulation of transient roadside
3. markets and their effect on local producers.

4. We encourage priority being given to Kentucky-grown
5. greenhouse and nursery stock and sod for all state and county
6. funded construction and maintenance projects.

7. Horticulture should be included in the definition of agriculture
8. wherever agriculture is defined in statute.

9. We recommend that the Natural Resource Conservation Service
10. make funding available for high tunnel structures to farmers statewide.

11. We recommend that the University of Kentucky maintain an
12. extension viticulturist and an extension oenologist to work full-time
13. with the Kentucky Wine Industry and to interact with the Kentucky
14. Grape and Wine Council.

15. We recommend a tiered permitting cost for companies register-
16. ing crop protective agents used only on specialty crops.

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FORAGE CROPS

21. We urge the Agricultural Development Board to maintain
22. the existing forage-related County Agricultural Investment Program,
23. and expand these programs to address the needs of Kentucky
24. agriculture.

25. We support the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council in an
26. effort to improve forage production on farms.

27. We commend the University of Kentucky and the USDA
28. Agricultural Research Service Forage-Animal Production Research
29. Unit (FAPRU) in Lexington for establishing and maintaining an
30. internationally recognized forage program. We support funding for
31. continued research and extension in the establishment, production,
32. storage, and marketing of forage crops in Kentucky.

33. We support all Kentucky livestock and forage-related events,
34. such as the Kentucky Grazing schools, the Kentucky Grazing
35. Conference and the Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forage
36. Conference.

37. We recommend that the regulatory services, seed companies
38. and dealers monitor seeds and inoculant supplies in Kentucky to
39. ensure that quality products are available.

40. We recommend that Kentucky Department of Agriculture funding
41. be increased to maintain and improve forage testing.

42. We encourage farmers who raise forage either for sale or their
43. own use to use the forage testing facilities at the Kentucky
44. Department of Agriculture to monitor the quality of their forage.

45. We favor the continuance of upgrading and tightening hay
46. grading standards.

47. We recommend that forage crops be maintained at maximum
48. levels to conserve soil and preserve water.

49. We urge farmers to consider the use of alfalfa and other forage
50. crops as a means of increasing income and reducing soil erosion.

51. We urge continued research and development on the use of
52. forage crops for alternative fuels.

53. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
54. explore the possibility of harvesting forages from public lands and
55. rights-of-way.

56. We recommend efforts to increase the use of forage crops as a
57. biofuel source.

1. We support the availability of crop insurance for all forage crops
2. and pasture.
3. We support the research, production, processing, commercial-
4. ization, marketing, and utilization of industrial hemp and that it be
5. regulated by USDA rather than the Drug Enforcement
6. Administration (DEA).

TOBACCO

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11. We recommend Kentucky Farm Bureau continue leading a
12. coalition to speak with one voice as we address post-buyout issues
13. in the tobacco industry.
14. For continuity with growers and companies, we encourage
15. multi-year contracts. We encourage tobacco companies announce
16. contract intentions by February 1.
17. We support exploring the possibility of establishing a national
18. checkoff for U.S. Tobacco Export Promotion.
19. We believe that all U.S. Tobacco Export Promotion Committee
20. members should be active tobacco producers.
21. We support a marketing initiative for tobacco not sold under
22. contract and for other excess tobacco.
23. We recommend that all tobacco be reported on Form 578 to the
24. Farm Service Agency.
25. We support continuing availability of crop insurance for tobacco
26. including fields with an acceptable crop rotation management plan.
27. We also support allowing tobacco to be fully insurable in sod
28. ground.
29. We support a two-tiered crop insurance program for tobacco; the
30. base rate being available for all tobacco with a second tier buy-up
31. level for tobacco grown under contract from a company GAP
32. member in good standing.
33. We support the final planting date for dark tobacco be moved to
34. July 1.
35. We support final harvest date of October 10 for burley tobacco
36. and October 20 for dark tobacco in Kentucky for crop insurance
37. purposes.
38. We support any tobacco graded as no value and receiving an
39. insurance adjustment being required to be destroyed and destruc-
40. tion witnessed by a representative of the insurance company.
41. We support the USDA tobacco advisory committee, or a similar
42. committee representing the tobacco industry being established to
43. represent the new issues facing growers.
44. Because we encourage tobacco companies to limit the use of
45. foreign grown tobacco, we believe that cigarette packs should
46. contain information regarding the percentage of the geographic
47. content by country of the tobacco in the pack.
48. We support the use of peer-reviewed, sound science, as the
49. basis for any regulatory decision.
50. FDA regulation of tobacco should be limited to processing and
51. distribution.
52. We support a Kentucky tobacco grower being placed on any FDA
53. Advisory Boards for developing tobacco regulations.
54. We oppose FDA or any other federal agency regulating tobacco
55. products in a manner that could mandate modifications to
56. components which naturally occur in tobacco leaf used in
57. conventional tobacco products.

1. We oppose the banning of flavorings in tobacco products by any
2. agency.
3. We encourage the FDA to be more transparent and to inform the
4. general public, especially tobacco producers, of upcoming meetings
5. and agendas, and to accept public comments from all interested
6. parties.
7. We believe that smokeless tobacco products should be treated
8. differently in FDA regulations than smoking products.
9. We support smoking policies that accommodate the rights of
10. smokers and nonsmokers. We support current state law restricting
11. the sale of tobacco products to minors, but we oppose delegating
12. this authority to local governments. While we oppose a ban on
13. tobacco advertising or other restrictions on free access to tobacco
14. products for those of a legal age, we recommend that Kentucky
15. Farm Bureau work with allied organizations to curb youth smoking.
16. In order to protect the important tobacco industry of Kentucky, we
17. encourage elected officials to oppose any regulation or tax on
18. tobacco products that would put Kentucky at a competitive
19. disadvantage with surrounding states.
20. We oppose ad valorem taxes on tobacco products.
21. We oppose the sale of e-cigarettes and vapor products to
22. minors, and recommend liquid nicotine products be packaged in
23. childproof containers.
24. We encourage that all substances or ingredients in e-cigarettes
25. or vapor products fall under the same regulatory oversight as
26. domestic or imported tobacco.
27. We support the concept of inspection, labeling, regulation and
28. taxation of vapor products.
29. We urge continued exploration and development of market
30. outlets and new uses for tobacco and we recommend that a
31. coalition of tobacco organizations employ a marketing specialist to
32. sell tobacco in potential markets.
33. We are opposed to federal lawsuits brought by the Department
34. of Justice against tobacco manufacturers.
35. We request that tobacco be graded uniformly.
36. Recognizing that tobacco is a legal crop, we support USDA
37. collecting data and issuing reports on tobacco acreage, production,
38. and prices received by tobacco type. We also support authorizing
39. the Economic Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service
40. (FAS) to collect data and provide market analysis on tobacco.
41. We support the funds necessary to maintain the Tobacco
42. Research and Development Center at an adequate level to carry
43. out their purpose. We urge the Tobacco Research Board to
44. continue to carry out an effective program with adequate revenue
45. provided for this purpose.
46. We support procedures being established to prevent
47. GMO tobacco from being commingled with, or contaminating
48. traditional tobacco.
49. We ask all burley producers to join in the checkoff fund.
50. We recommend that the University of Kentucky continue
51. to develop mechanical methods for the production, harvesting,
52. and curing of tobacco, develop disease resistant varieties, and
53. continue their work with herbicides, insecticides, fungicides
54. and nitrosamines.
55. We support research and education to help farmers comply with
56. new contract requirements as a result of FDA regulations.
57. 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
3. three years rather than requiring annual training.
4. We oppose GAP fees or assessments being the responsibility of
5. the grower.
6. We recommend that GAP compliance must contribute to a
7. tobacco growers improved financial sustainability.
8. We continue to support efforts to restrict and eliminate blue mold
9. including spraying of tobacco transplants with preventive fungicides
10. by plant producers. Producers should then certify their plants as
11. having been sprayed. We also recommend labeling of effective
12. chemicals for use in tobacco greenhouses.
13. We recommend Farm Bureau work with the Extension Service,
14. the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the tobacco
15. companies to develop an informational campaign to promote use
16. of locally grown plants to prevent the spread of blue mold from out-
17. of-state plants.
18. We recommend the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service
19. include more detailed reports on tobacco which should be broken
20. down to specific types.
21. We recommend that Farm Bureau work toward getting the Risk
22. Management Agency (RMA) to continue to insure dark tobacco in
23. the barns as they have in the past.
24. We support tobacco being included in a Disaster Title of the
25. Farm Bill.

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS

26. We recommend that the Agriculture Development Board funding
27. (50% of Master Settlement Agreement Phase I) and structure
28. be made a permanent part of state government and the
29. current, operational structure remain in the Governor's Office of
30. Agricultural Policy.
31. We support more dollars of Ag Development Funds be spent for
32. the purpose of improving the net farm income of individual farmers
33. in production agriculture.
34. We recommend restoring and maintaining funding for existing
35. agricultural programs and services through the General Fund rather
36. than using Master Settlement Agreement funds.
37. We support the creation of tobacco projects in the County
38. Agricultural Investment Program.
39. We recommend that any Tobacco Settlement funds above the
40. agriculture community's request that are directed toward youth
41. smoking programs be broadened to include alcohol and drugs and
42. be structured with sufficient safeguards and accountability.
43. We support the Kentucky Ag Finance Corporation Infrastructure
44. Loan Program and the Beginning Farmer Loan Program.
45. We recommend no changes in the Master Settlement
46. Agreement and encourage the state of Kentucky to leave the
47. settlement "as is."
48. We request the debt service for state projects be taken from the
49. General Fund rather than from the Agricultural Development Funds.
50. We support the need for increased funding for the rapidly
51. expanding horticulture industry as Tobacco Settlement Funds
52. 57.

1. decrease and recommend the General Assembly finance these
2. programs with General Fund dollars.

COMMODITY PROMOTION

3. We recognize the right of producers to promote increased
4. research, sales and consumption of the commodities they produce
5. and to work together as a group to promote Kentucky agriculture.
6. Therefore, we support the promotional activities of the following
7. Kentucky commodity groups: Corn Growers Association, Soybean
8. Association, Cattlemen's Association, American Dairy Association,
9. Egg Council, Poultry Federation, Pork Producers, Council for Burley
10. Tobacco, Small Grain Growers, Kentucky Aquaculture Association,
11. Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers, Kentucky Forest Industries
12. Association, Sweet Sorghum Producers and Processors
13. Association, the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, the
14. Kentucky Goat Producers Association, the Kentucky Sheep and
15. Goat Development Office, the Kentucky Dairy Development
16. Council, the Kentucky Horticulture Council, and its member
17. associations, the Kentucky Grape and Wine Council, the Kentucky
18. Alternative Livestock Association, the Organic Association of
19. Kentucky, the Kentucky Farmers Market Association, the Kentucky
20. Agritourism Council, the equine industry and the Kentucky State
21. Beekeepers Association.
22. We recommend the Governor's office engage in a multitude of
23. collaborative efforts with the Commissioner of Agriculture and
24. Kentucky Farm Bureau on international trade.
25. We support legislation to authorize any new commodity
26. promotion program if the legislation provides:
27. (1) For mandatory participation with a referendum to be held
28. before initiation of the program;
29. (2) For a referendum to be valid a majority of votes cast must be
30. affirmative;
31. (3) For periodic review and referenda to determine continuation
32. or termination of the program upon petition of 10 percent of the
33. registered producers in the area covered by the program;
34. (4) That collected funds shall be used only for promotion,
35. research, education, and market development as directed by the
36. growers and producers of these products; and
37. (5) That only those persons who contribute monies to the
38. respective programs shall be eligible to serve on the boards which
39. administer such programs.
40. We recommend a refund option for all checkoff programs.
41. We recommend checkoffs be a percentage of net sales, instead
42. of a set rate per head, bushel, or pound with the exception of the
43. current cattle and cotton checkoffs, and information should be made
44. available at the point of sale regarding refunds.
45. Opportunities should be offered to producers with existing
46. promotional programs to approve changes in operation and
47. administration under the guidelines of the existing legislation in
48. order that the declared policy of such legislation may be carried out.
49. Any commission or body created under an agricultural
50. commodity promotion program should be required to provide
51. complete accountability to its producers of the expenditure of
52. funds collected from them, including funds released to any
53. 57.

1. agricultural organization, public agency or private firm for promotion
2. or research purposes.
3. We recommend that the Council for Burley Tobacco strive to
4. include all burley tobacco producing states in the burley checkoff.
5. We support the national program for soybean product promotion
6. and research as established by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation
7. and Trade Act of 1990.
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10. **FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY**

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12. The American food supply is the safest and most abundant in the
13. world. Agricultural chemicals and other technological advances play
14. a major role in maintaining both the quality and quantity of our food
15. supply.
16. We support legislative and regulatory decisions concerning
17. food irradiation that are based on valid research. We support
18. irradiation of food products to control harmful bacteria and
19. pathogens, to extend shelf-life and to reduce dependency on
20. post-harvest treatments.
21. We will monitor initiatives to improve and streamline food safety
22. to ensure that policies and procedures are in place that build trust
23. and reliability in Kentucky Agriculture.
24. We recommend that EPA use an accepted scientific approach
25. (when labeling or relabeling) in formulating and regulating
26. chemicals under the Food Quality Protection Act.
27. We support educating all food handlers on the proper preparation,
28. cooking and serving of food products, including sanitary practices
29. required by state licensing procedures.
30. We recommend that nitrates continue to be used as a meat
31. preservative unless it is proved beyond doubt that the continued use
32. of nitrates will be harmful to human health.
33. We support the state of Kentucky's adoption of the current food
34. codes for all food and convenience stores.
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36. **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

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- 38.
39. We support the investment required to make Kentucky a world
40. leader in agricultural biotechnology including: recruitment and
41. incentive programs for new biotechnology industry, and further
42. development of world class facilities and research faculty in the
43. Colleges of Agriculture.
44. We support the expanded use of agricultural products for
45. medical purposes by the biotechnology industry.
46. We support the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO) as
47. a viable option for agriculture production. We believe that current
48. federal approval procedures establish the safety of marketable
49. GMO products and that these approval procedures are stringent
50. and scientifically based.
51. We support research and establishment of internationally
52. accepted levels/percentages for GMO and non-GMO agricultural
53. content.
54. We oppose the production of any GMO product or crop that is not
55. federally approved for human consumption with the exception of
56. crops grown for medicinal or research purposes.
- 57.

1. We oppose individual states establishing separate policies on
2. GMO labeling.
3. We oppose the federal government's work and promotion of the
4. terminator gene in seed research.
5. We recommend that the term genetically modified organisms
6. (GMO) be changed to genetically enhanced organisms (GEO).
7. We support the use of underground facilities for GMO research.
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10. **MARKETING AND CONTRACTING**

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12. We support activities and proposals that will bring about
13. increased efficiency in the marketing of agricultural products,
14. domestically and internationally. We encourage all Kentucky stock-
15. yard facilities to incorporate video auctions during livestock sales.
16. We recommend close investigation of all mergers, ownership
17. changes and other trends in the livestock marketing industry for
18. actions that limit competitive marketing for livestock producers.
19. We favor a value based marketing system that allows farmers
20. the flexibility to be legally engaged in value and volume based
21. marketing agreements or contracts.
22. We encourage producers to seek value-added sales by
23. networking with other producers, processors, and retailers to
24. improve net farm income.
25. We support expanding the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's
26. Office of Marketing and Product Promotion.
27. We urge county Farm Bureaus to support programs offered
28. by Kentucky Farm Bureau such as the chemical program, Florida
29. fruit program, beef mineral program, and the Certified Roadside
30. Farm Market program.
31. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture offer
32. guidance, information, and financial aid to producers in developing
33. cooperative markets for farm products.
34. We recommend adequate funding for marketing promotion of all
35. Kentucky agricultural products.
36. We encourage the utilization of Kentucky agriculture products by
37. state and county agencies, state funded institutions, public schools
38. and publicly funded projects whenever possible. We also encourage
39. these institutions to contract with local growers when feasible.
40. We support the use of more U.S. red meat, poultry, and fish, as
41. well as other farm products in the school lunch program.
42. We support research to find ways to help small meat processors
43. lower their costs of production to facilitate the growth of Kentucky's
44. direct meat marketing enterprises.
45. We recommend that Kentucky Department of Agriculture funding
46. be increased to maintain and improve forage testing and marketing.
47. We recommend that a statewide wholesale marketing
48. infrastructure be continued and expanded to include the research
49. and development of wholesale marketing, packaging, and process-
50. ing efforts for Kentucky-grown horticulture products.
51. We recommend continued cooperation between the Kentucky
52. Department of Agriculture, the Cabinet for Economic Development,
53. the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, and the Agricultural
54. Development Board in an attempt to promote farmer and roadside
55. markets for the promotion of local grown products in the state with
56. the ultimate goal of having at least one farmer market per county.
57. We support a prompt pay law to protect Kentucky growers.

1. We support legislation protecting agricultural producers in the
2. event of non-payment for their products.
3. We support all state and national efforts to help veterans
4. transition to the agricultural industry.
5. We encourage producers and processors to use a positive
6. approach in identifying their products in Kentucky or the U.S., such
7. as the Kentucky Proud program.
8. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's campaign
9. for promotion of agricultural products, like the Kentucky Proud,
10. Homegrown by Heroes and Appalachia Proud.
11. We recommend continued funding and support for the Kentucky
12. Center for Agriculture and Rural Development and its activities.
13. We oppose any legislation that would adversely affect the ability
14. of farm wineries and small wineries to produce income for the
15. farm family.
16. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky
17. Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky, and Kentucky
18. State University work to expand internet marketing programs which
19. provide listings of available products and services for agriculture
20. commodities.
21. We recommend strengthening labeling and policing at the retail
22. level to maintain the integrity of products certified as organic.
23. We support legislation that would prohibit the misrepresentation
24. of a product as meat that is not derived from harvested production
25. of livestock, poultry or aquaculture.

DAMS AND LOCKS

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30. We recommend that agencies funding watershed projects,
31. including PL566 and PL534 projects and pilot projects, be held
32. responsible for the upgrading of existing structures above regular
33. operation and maintenance. We support sponsoring entities' efforts
34. to maintain watershed structures.
35. We encourage USDA to allow landowners who have wetlands
36. that have been created by dams that were built under PL566 and
37. PL534 projects be allowed to enter them into the Wetlands
38. Conservation Program.
39. We support finding common sense, least cost alternatives for
40. resolving hazardous dams classification issues.
41. We support reducing matching fund levels, and allowing for
42. in-kind contributions from local entities, to maintain state and
43. federal dams.
44. We recommend that flood control or retarding structures be
45. developed as multi-purpose facilities where feasible. In addition to
46. flood control, they should provide benefits such as municipal and
47. industrial water storage, recreational and agricultural development,
48. and/or for the purpose of generating power, etc.
49. We encourage the Division of Water to work with the
50. water conservancy districts and other appropriate authorities to
51. address the funding and development of emergency action plans
52. for high hazard dams that could impact life or property of
53. adjoining landowners.
54. We believe the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Kentucky
55. River Authority should give more consideration to the agricultural
56. land and stream bank erosion below their dams by monitoring land
- 57.

1. and water conditions below these structures and by adjusting
2. release rates and times.
3. We oppose the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers charging fees to
4. water utilities for water storage, for water withdrawal based on the
5. Corps' loss of revenue, for annual operation and maintenance costs,
6. and for percentage of any major dam repairs.
7. We strongly support the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the
8. Kentucky River Authority's efforts to properly repair and bring up to
9. standard the dams and feasible locks on all Kentucky rivers, and
10. further encourage these entities to then maintain and operate the
11. locks and dams on all Kentucky rivers for the benefit of the people
12. of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
13. We recommend those lakes controlled by the U.S. Army Corps
14. of Engineers be maintained for their primary purpose of flood
15. control, with special consideration given to agricultural activities.
16. We support an increase in the Kentucky Riverport Improvement
17. Program and/or adequate funding to maintain riverports.
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- 19.

WATER RESEARCH

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- 21.
22. We encourage the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation
23. Commission, local conservation districts and farm bureau to participate
24. in developing water quality regulations. We request state government to
25. include agricultural representation in the process of developing water
26. quality regulations to include, but not limited to TMDLs.
27. Classifications of the surface and ground waters of the
28. Commonwealth should be based on documented water quality and
29. quantity data. A state program should consider factors such as the
30. cost of pollution abatement, the needs of agriculture, the needs for
31. growth and the presence of naturally occurring substances.
32. Solving of difficult problems caused by the intrusion of naturally
33. occurring substances should not be at the expense of the estab-
34. lished water users, including agriculture.
35. We support the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act and the
36. Kentucky Water Resources Board. We support research on the
37. BMPs established in the state water quality plan. We support
38. producer development, implementation, and updating of individual
39. agriculture water quality plans.
40. We encourage producers to have their plan certified by a
41. qualified party, and to file their self-certifications and/or plan with the
42. local conservation district.
43. We support voluntary watershed awareness efforts. We recom-
44. mend local communities take an active role in watershed research,
45. education and assessment. We support the use of agricultural
46. water quality plans and best management practices to address
47. water quality issues, using a targeted watershed approach.
48. Using accurate water quality monitoring, water use needs should
49. be addressed through research on the following:
50. (1) The status of surface and groundwater quality in Kentucky;
51. (2) The impacts of agriculture on water quality in Kentucky;
52. (3) The economics and maintenance of water supply structures
53. and transport mechanisms; and
54. (4) The location, quantity and hydrology of groundwater
55. and springs.
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1. We support the Energy & Environment Cabinet's efforts to review
2. all impaired streams and reassess their designation based on
3. actual scientific data.
4. We encourage the Agriculture Water Quality Authority (AWQA)
5. to coordinate research among the agencies and evaluate water
6. quality protection models.
7. We support collaborative efforts to conduct water resource
8. research, monitoring and education efforts by state and federal
9. agencies and the universities.
10. We support United States Geological Survey (USGS) efforts
11. to collect data on Kentucky's major waterways that contribute to
12. the Mississippi River Basin. We encourage adequate funding
13. be allocated to continue maintenance and operation of USGS
14. super gages.
15. We oppose any voluntary water quality data being used as the
16. sole source on which regulatory decisions are based.
17. We recommend the Division of Water use appropriate, applica-
18. ble and scientifically defensible data when setting TMDLs.
19. We recommend the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services
20. conduct research on sewage treatment systems and develop
21. low-cost alternatives for areas where septic tanks are inefficient.
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24. **WATER DISTRICTS/ASSOCIATIONS**

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27. When water districts/associations are established, consideration
28. should be given to the communities' future needs, including
29. sufficient facilities to serve all people in the area, adequately
30. sized lines for fire protection, and sufficient infrastructure to
31. accommodate industry and agriculture.
32. We oppose any fee for water holding/storage by the U.S. Army
33. Corps of Engineers.
34. We recommend that water districts make a wholesale rate
35. available for agricultural uses that exceeds 50,000 gallons
36. per month.
37. We encourage local and state legislation that mandates
38. eliminating sewer charges on water used in production agriculture
39. that is never returned to a municipal system. The agricultural
40. definition should include horticulture production including green-
41. houses and nurseries.
42. We recommend that costs for developing sewer lines be
43. established relative to each tap-on. We oppose sewer line
44. development costs being pro-rated on a footage basis as deter-
45. mined by length of line on the individual's property. Landowners in
46. Agricultural Districts shall pay the cost of service connections from
47. the water line extension and the one unit share for each service
48. connection to the farming operation.
49. We recommend that any city, town or village that has a
50. central water supply system also have a feasible plan for
51. sewage disposal that meets state approved health standards and
52. passes inspections.
53. We oppose mandatory sewer hook-ups for farmsteads beyond
54. the city limits that have an existing and functioning septic system.
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1. **WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

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3. State water resource policy and regulations should be based on
4. adequate scientific research data.
5. Agricultural waste water impoundments and groundwater should
6. be monitored only for demonstration, research projects, or
7. individual water quality plans.
8. We support state and federal legislation that specifically allows a
9. farmer to spread manure on fields at acceptable rates using the
10. most cost effective methods without it being considered a point
11. source discharge under the Kentucky Pollution Discharge
12. Elimination System of the Division of Water and the federal Clean
13. Water Act.
14. We support the Energy & Environment Cabinet's control over the
15. issuing of permits for domestic and industrial spreading of waste.
16. We urge the Governor and the Energy & Environment Cabinet to
17. continue the development and implementation of a comprehensive
18. water resources development plan while giving due consideration to
19. land use planning efforts and future water needs of the state and to
20. assist local government in implementing a water and sewer
21. resource plan in their own community. We urge farmer participation
22. in the water resources planning process and request an agri-
23. cultural representative on all watershed basin teams.
24. We recommend that the Division of Water monitor and inform
25. local communities as to the status of their water resources and be
26. available to provide necessary guidance in the development of an
27. emergency plan. We recommend that during a declaration of a
28. water emergency that water for livestock be listed as a high priority
29. and that water remain available to producers in order to prevent
30. livestock owners from liquidating their herds. We support research,
31. cost-share, technical assistance, and further development of
32. existing programs for on-farm water supplies including irrigation
33. purposes. We support USDA modifying existing cost-share
34. programs to allow for NRCS technical assistance in assessing the
35. long-term availability of water resources and the planning and
36. development of new on-farm water supplies and irrigation systems.
37. We also recommend that during a water emergency, water for com-
38. mercial producers of horticulture crops be listed as high priority, and
39. that water remain available to them.
40. In order to prevent future water supply issues, we believe human
41. consumption and agricultural usage needs should take precedence
42. over environmental issues when creating new or renovating existing
43. water resources.
44. We encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to aggressively pursue
45. opportunities to increase water availability for farms and rural
46. communities.
47. We encourage the use of backflow devices on water supplies.
48. We oppose state regulations on wild and scenic rivers that are
49. more stringent than federal protections.
50. We support moving Clean Water Act Section 319 Non-Point
51. Source Program for agriculture and light construction to the
52. Division of Conservation and silviculture to the Division of Forestry.
53. We support the Kentucky Water Resources Board and its coor-
54. dinated effort to manage water resource projects and programs.
55. We support the University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center
56. of Excellence concept and coordinated research efforts on water
57. resource development and irrigation efficiencies.

1. We support increased monitoring of Kentucky's water resources
2. to observe both quantity and quality of these resources.
3. We support further expansion of the Kentucky Mesonet Program.
4. We recommend the Kentucky Drought Mitigation and Response
5. Plan be updated to include a specific "Agriculture Drought
6. Mitigation" section. We recommend that in addition to the Kentucky
7. Department of Agriculture that the USDA Farm Service Agency and
8. a representative of the farming community be represented on the
9. Kentucky Drought Mitigation Team.
10. We support the development of tax incentives for irrigation and
11. livestock systems development.
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- 13.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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

47. We support all alternative methods of farming, whether livestock,
48. aquaculture or crops, being solely regulated by the Kentucky
49. Department of Agriculture.
50. We support methods of farming that result in:
 51. (1) A profit for the farm operator;
 52. (2) Enhancement of environmental quality and our natural
 53. resource base; and
 54. (3) The production of safe food, feed and fiber.
55. We are keenly aware that the means to accomplish these ends
56. may vary from farm operation to farm operation and that no single
57. method of farming will work with every operator.

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 agri-tourism 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.

WETLANDS

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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. We strongly support the normal farming practices exemption.
31. We support compensation for the lost use of privately-owned
32. land due to wetlands delineation.
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. We recommend establishing a process of re-evaluation of
39. wetland determinations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
40. We recommend that logging access roads be removed by the
41. logger when logging is completed in wetlands.
42. We support the NRCS as the lead agency for agricultural
43. wetland determinations.
44. We support the Wetland Reserve Program and use of
45. mitigation banks.
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STREAM RESTORATION

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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.

1. We support the landowner's right to manage, maintain and repair
2. existing private dikes and levees.
3. Normal farming practices should be exempt from permits or
4. certification requirements.
5. We recommend landowners be able to remove log jams in
6. existing streams in order to prevent or correct soil erosion, crop loss
7. and changes in normal flow of existing streams. Removal should be
8. accomplished through practical means under advisement from
9. conservation officials in a timely manner and without fear of
10. repercussions or fines by government agencies. We also support
11. allowing state equipment to be used to help unclog creeks
12. and streams.
13. We recommend state and local governments clean and maintain
14. ditches, culverts, and bridges on public rights-of-way to allow for
15. adequate water flow.
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UTILITY EASEMENTS

20. All utilities should adhere to their contracts of easements as
21. stated in their original agreement. We will work with soil and water
22. conservation organizations in studying erosion problems and if
23. necessary initiate legislation to solve them.
24. We recommend where possible new power transmission lines
25. utilize existing easements and any new construction be done in a
26. way that will minimize the effect on agricultural activities.
27. We encourage utility and pipeline companies to hold public
28. informational meetings prior to negotiating with property owners for
29. easement rights or starting a new project that would impact multiple
30. landowners.
31. We support efforts to confine utility easements that interfere with
32. farming practices to property lines where feasible.
33. We support utility companies or their subcontractors providing
34. notification prior to entering private agriculture property to perform
35. routine maintenance.
36. When trees are being trimmed on utility rights-of-way we support
37. that the whole tree be trimmed or removed whichever is more
38. feasible.
39. We recommend that all commercial underground utility lines be
40. marked and identified by the owner of the utility.
41. Since lands taken through easement by utility companies or
42. other deed restrictions are restricted from production, they should
43. be withdrawn from the tax rolls.
44. All subleasing of utility easements should require landowners'
45. consent and compensation.
46. We urge utility companies to use selective herbicides that will not
47. harm cool season grasses to help control erosion when spraying
48. rights-of-way.
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UTILITY LINES AND PIPELINES

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53. We favor legislation requiring all who construct underground
54. lines in Kentucky to:
55. (1) Lay all utility lines and pipelines at such depth that the top of
56. the line shall be at least 30 inches beneath the surface of the
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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 rocks 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 enforcement 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

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49. We strongly support the coal industry because it plays such a
50. critical role in Kentucky's economy.
51. We support funding research to develop alternative uses of coal.
52. We urge strict enforcement of Kentucky's Surface Mining Control
53. and Reclamation Act.
54. We support coal mine safety standards that protect Kentucky
55. miners.
56. We recommend that provisions be made in strip mine regulations
57. for salvaging marketable timber. We encourage the development of

1. markets for pulpwood and other small materials removed in the strip
2. mining operations.
3. We oppose uneconomical, unreasonable requirements to return
4. strip-mined land to its original contour when such restoration will not
5. return it to its most productive use.
6. We support investments in research and promotion of ag crops
7. and commodities that can be produced on reclaimed mine land.
8. We support a common sense approach to regulating mountain
9. top removal of coal which recognizes the agricultural and
10. economic development opportunities it can create.
11. We support incentive programs, including an early bond release
12. for reclaimed coal mines to be used for agriculture.
13. We support mining reclamation for agricultural purposes.
14. We are concerned that the Longwall method of mining can be
15. destructive to agricultural land. Therefore, we recommend better
16. enforcement of all mining laws and regulations to protect prime
17. farmland from further destruction.
18. We urge the state to change the way it determines prime
19. farmland by using soil analysis rather than historical use.
20. We support the rural abandoned mine program and the
21. abandoned mine lands program and encourage the government to
22. release the state's full allocation of fees collected from mining
23. operations for the reclaiming of abandoned mines.
24. We support reforestation of surface mined land on non-
25. compacted soils using native species.
26. We support regulatory changes that allow environmentally
27. protective and efficient mining of previously mined areas.
28. We support agencies involved in regulating waterways on
29. private property be able to ease regulations in times of disaster
30. so that landowners may effectively clean or clear waterways on
31. their property.
32. We urge the Kentucky courts and the General Assembly to
33. clarify that coal bed methane is the same as gas found in oil and oil
34. producing zones and is the property of the gas owner. Due to the
35. unknown value and marketability of this gas, owners should be
36. exempt from unmined or unproduced mineral tax.
37. We support establishing a limited Sand and Gravel Operation
38. Permit for off-farm commercial operations.
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ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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

1. We urge actions that would increase availability of recycling services in rural areas.
3. 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.
6. We urge Kentucky landfills to accept agricultural wastes, and dead animals at a reasonable fee, to prevent improper disposal.
8. We encourage research on high temperature incineration as a possible replacement for landfills.
10. 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.
14. We recommend that agencies and organizations work together to encourage composting and other means including bio-fermentation to deal effectively with both on-farm and processing animal waste.
18. 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.
21. 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.
24. We believe the cost of administering trash pickup should be limited. We do not believe the administrative costs should exceed actual trash pickup costs.
27. When salvage yards are established, we recommend that the facilities be located a reasonable distance from flood plains, lakes, streams and other waterways.
30. We support tighter control on landfills to avoid the dumping of dangerous chemicals.

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

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

1. (5) participate in the generation of data (IR-4 Program) for the registration of pesticides for "minor-use" crops.
 3. We encourage legislation that would require registration of soil-plant amendments ("miracle" plant growth products) with Regulatory Services and gives 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.
 10. 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.
 17. We oppose the elimination of methyl bromide from the list of labeled chemicals until a substitute can be developed.
 19. 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 and systematic process should be followed for all pesticides.
 24. We oppose hazardous industrial and radioactive waste being mixed with fertilizer.
 26. We encourage fertilizer retailers to sell phosphorus-free fertilizer for homeowners who don't need it according to soil test.
 28. 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.
 35. 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 dissolvable packaging and urge the industry to promote this technology whenever possible.
 41. 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.
 44. We support expedited approval of emergency labeling of chemicals to fight crop losses from diseases such as soybean rust.
 46. We encourage quarries to continue grinding quality agricultural lime.
- ## REGULATORY SERVICES
52. We support the programs provided by Regulatory Services at the University of Kentucky and encourage increased public reporting of the various analyses.
 55. We encourage farmers to take advantage of the analyses of bulk lime, fertilizer, feed, and animal waste.
 57. We recommend strict enforcement of Kentucky's lime law.

LITTERING

- 1.
- 2.
3. We support enactment of beverage container deposit legislation.
4. We favor strict enforcement of laws regarding littering of
5. highways and private property adjoining highways. We urge all
6. citizens to cooperate with enforcement of present littering laws. We
7. urge the broadcast and print media to call the littering problem to
8. the public's attention.
9. We recommend that the size and number of signs pertaining
10. to roadside dumping be increased and include the penalty
11. for violation.
12. When landowners discover and report illegal dumping on their
13. land, we recommend that the landowner not be held responsible for
14. cleanup of the illegal dumping.
15. We encourage farmers to police their own operations in properly
16. disposing of the containers from farming operations and the
17. cleaning of farm machinery.
18. We recommend that all garbage trucks be enclosed to
19. avoid littering.
- 20.

PEST AND WEED CONTROL

- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
24. We urgently request highway departments, railroad companies,
25. industries and all owners of public or private land adjacent to
26. farmland to cooperate with farmers in the control of Johnson grass,
27. nodding thistle, multiflora rose, honeysuckle, kudzu, water hemlock
28. and poisonous hemlock, and other noxious weeds.
29. We urge the Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with the
30. University of Kentucky Extension Service to ensure that native
31. grasses they are promoting are managed so as not to interfere with
32. nearby farming operations.
33. We oppose the use of non-native invasive landscape varieties of
34. plants that are spreading uncontrollably and negatively impacting
35. agriculture.
36. For federal, state and local highway departments, we
37. recommend appropriations be made to carry out the noxious
38. weed program.
39. We encourage continued and adequate funding for the
40. Kentucky Department of Agriculture's noxious weed program on
41. agriculture land.
42. We support strict enforcement of noxious weed laws on all
43. public and private property.
44. We urge state and county highway departments to spray for
45. Johnson grass, nodding thistle and other noxious weeds before they
46. go to seed in accordance with pesticide application guidelines.
47. We support the allocation of funds for counties to control noxious
48. weeds on county rights-of-way.
49. We encourage state and local road departments to use caution
50. when spraying rights-of-way near agriculture production.
51. In the control of Johnson grass and other noxious weeds, we
52. suggest state and county highway departments take special
53. precautions to rinse or air spray equipment before moving from
54. contaminated rights-of-way to non-contaminated areas.
55. We request that wild sunflower, wild cucumber, poisonous
56. hemlock, marehail, black nightshade, palmer amaranth and water
57. hemp be listed as noxious weeds.

1. We are opposed to noxious weed seed being sold as bird feed
2. unless it has been treated so that it will not germinate.
3. We recommend increased efforts in eradicating disease carrying
4. insects, corn borer, Japanese Beetle, aphids, etc.
5. We support the use of waiver forms with landowners to relieve
6. applicators of liability arising from thorough, effective use of
7. herbicides or other control options.
8. We support the use of livestock grazing and browsing as a viable
9. tool to improve resource conditions and to control weeds and/or
10. other vegetation.
- 11.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
15. We recommend that Farm Bureau be represented in any
16. decision-making process involving wildlife hunting restrictions and
17. population control, and for the protection of animal health.
18. We support effective wildlife management that will reduce the
19. wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop loss,
20. automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life.
21. We support a year-round hunting season for crows.
22. We urge research be conducted on the amount of crop damage
23. done by government-controlled wildlife in order to help find a
24. solution to this problem. We recommend that the state establish
25. procedures for controlling wildlife pests such as beaver, black bear,
26. deer, turkey, coyote, raccoon, etc., which are proving to be destruc-
27. tive in certain areas of the state. We encourage more liberal deer,
28. elk, turkey, duck, geese, and black bear hunting seasons to control
29. rapidly expanding populations.
30. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Fish and
31. Wildlife provide extra elk tag allotments for purchase to the
32. "counties of release", and that extra consideration be given to local
33. residents. We also recommend a nuisance provision be provided
34. for farmers in production agriculture, specifically for elk.
35. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife to
36. develop solutions to alleviate the problems that black bears cause
37. farmers by increasing the number of bears harvested and
38. depredation permits.
39. We encourage the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
40. to develop programs to increase the doe harvest. We support the
41. harvest of doe during modern gun season in zones where it is
42. currently not allowed. We further recommend that landowners
43. require deer hunters to harvest a doe before a buck can be taken.
44. We support the Hunters for the Hungry Program. We urge the
45. Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife to allow landowners with
46. nuisance permits to donate the wildlife to the Hunters for the Hungry
47. Program or a local food bank.
48. We support all wildlife trapped by nuisance trappers being
49. destroyed and not relocated.
50. We support Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and USDA APHIS Wildlife
51. Services work to eradicate feral hogs. We also support landowners
52. expanding their means of control by allowing:
53. (1) The issuance of permits to landowners, to be used by them
54. or their designee to hunt at night;
55. (2) The use of night vision, thermal imaging and electronic calls;
56. (3) The use of dogs for hunting; and
57. (4) The continuation of trapping.

1. We are opposed to the releasing of all wolves, bears, elk,
2. hogs, venomous snakes, mountain lions, beavers and coyotes any-
3. where in the state of Kentucky. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife
4. Department should not be permitted to release any animals in a
5. county until they have secured approval from the county fiscal court.
6. We recommend a public hearing be held and a census be
7. conducted before nuisance wildlife can be released in areas and
8. that controls and limits should be placed on animals released.
9. We support the right of an individual to protect livestock,
10. property, and human life against wildlife. We support establishing
11. an indemnity fund to pay for any and all damages caused by wildlife
12. in Kentucky and establishing a grievance committee to review and
13. award claims with a majority of members being private landowners.
14. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
15. Resources provide a cost-share to all bee farmers to purchase an
16. electric fence to protect their beehives.
17. We support developing conservation agreements for the
18. protection of species in lieu of endangered species listings.
19. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Fish and
20. Wildlife Resources be responsible for damages caused by actions,
21. or the prevention of certain actions, which prohibit landowners from
22. making improvements to or maintaining their land.
23. We recommend the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife
24. Services keep the East Fork Clarks River and its tributaries, (that lie
25. within the boundaries of the National Wildlife Refuge), free of snags
26. and other obstacles to prevent flooding and other problems that
27. could affect other landowners.
28. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the
29. Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources work together
30. to ensure sound health practices for wild cervids to prevent any
31. disease for humans, livestock, or wildlife. We support cervids for
32. any operations being allowed into the state only from disease-free
33. areas. We oppose the private possession or interstate commerce of
34. native or exotic fish and wildlife which could change the local
35. ecosystem or which carry any disease presently under a state
36. eradication program.
37. We oppose any effort to restrict the intrastate movement of
38. domesticated deer and elk in Kentucky.
39. We support funding for USDA wildlife services technicians to
40. address nuisance wildlife issues.
41. We encourage a more readily available permit process for
42. nuisance wildlife such as the American black vulture.
43. We support removal of the black vulture from protected status
44. and elimination of permit fees.
45. We support the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife efforts
46. to restore the quail population and encourage the voluntary
47. participation in the quail restoration program.
48. Due to the potential risk of high path avian influenza, which can
49. be carried by migratory birds, we recommend the Kentucky
50. Department of Fish and Wildlife develop and allow practices that
51. would relocate and/or eliminate migratory bird populations that pose
52. a direct threat to the poultry industry in Kentucky.
53. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife to
54. enact regulations to prevent the release of pen-raised quail during
55. the breeding season.
56. We believe the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
57. enforcement officers should have probable cause that a game law

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

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

- 1.
- 2.
3. We believe in the American capitalistic, private, competitive
4. enterprise system in which property is privately owned, privately
5. managed and operated for profit and individual satisfaction. Any
6. erosion 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 exact degree 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 a 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 to
44. 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 151.250 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.
- 24.
- 25.

RIGHT TO FARM

- 26.
- 27.
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 actions to ensure that farmers
32. be protected from undue liability and nuisance suits.
- 33.

LAND USE PLANNING

- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
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 broad form 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.
- 57.

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.

23.

24.

25. **PLANNING AND ZONING**

26.

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 agritourism 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.

56.

57.

1. We urge landowners, land purchasers and developers to
2. become familiar with the Federal Flood Control Zoning Act and
3. its limitations of flood insurance on structures in flood plains.

4. We support boundary fencing by the developers of residential,
5. commercial or industrial development adjoining agricultural
6. property.

7. Residential and commercial developments adjacent to agricul-
8. tural land often disrupt farming operations and present safety
9. hazards to people and livestock; therefore, we urge establishment of
10. regulations requiring buffer zones between such properties at the
11. expense of the developers and require that such buffer zones be in
12. place before infrastructure is developed.

13. We recommend that when a person establishes or expands an
14. agricultural business within the laws acceptable to the planning and
15. zoning regulations of the community, he should not be forced out of
16. business by new regulations.

17. We recommend the owners be compensated for the monetary
18. losses of development rights when major changes occur in zoning
19. laws affecting the building lots size in agriculture areas.

20. We believe all division and sale of farm land that results in multi-
21. ple housing tracts should be subject to review by local planning and
22. zoning boards (where such boards exist). The use of the so-called
23. ag exemption under KRS 100.111 (22) by creating resulting tracts
24. of slightly more than five acres is being misapplied.

25. We support continuing the current exemption for agriculture
26. buildings and dwellings under the uniform building and electrical
27. codes.

28.

29.

30. **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC 31. DEVELOPMENT**

32.

33. We support rural economic development efforts to attract new
34. agricultural biotechnology and processing plants and expand
35. existing local industry, including production agriculture, that
36. compliments and adds value to Kentucky-produced agricultural
37. commodities. This support should be through existing government
38. bodies, community organizations and institutions, including the
39. University of Kentucky, working together in identifying the
40. relationship of agriculture and rural development.

41. The Cabinet for Economic Development should be encouraged
42. to provide incentives for the establishment of tobacco industries that
43. expand the market for leaf.

44. We believe that if any government entity sells goods in
45. competition with private industry, that they be required to sell at
46. current market prices.

47. We urge the Cabinet for Economic Development to develop
48. incentives and programs for the establishment of agribusinesses
49. based on job generation, economic impact and/or the use of
50. Kentucky-produced agricultural commodities.

51. We recommend that the Cabinet for Economic Development
52. place extra time and effort in locating processing plants or
53. establishing cooperative processing plants in Kentucky for
54. agricultural commodities.

55. We support the continued education on and promotion of
56. programs in the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation and sup-
57. port its continued growth and financial support.

1. We encourage coordination of efforts of county and regional
2. economic development foundations. We urge local Farm Bureaus
3. to become involved with these groups.
4. We support agricultural leadership in all areas of economic
5. development to strengthen rural communities.
6. We support the strengthening of the entrepreneurial and
7. leadership development activities of the Agriculture Development
8. Board, the Agricultural Finance Corporation, the University of
9. Kentucky, Kentucky State University and all regional universities, the
10. Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the Kentucky Center for
11. Agricultural and Rural Development.
12. We recommend one staff member of the Economic Development
13. Cabinet work solely with agriculture issues.
14. We recommend that the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet
15. continue to provide support for agritourism activities.
16. We support legislative initiatives to amend the Kentucky Cultural
17. and Recreational Signage Program to provide additional signage
18. components designed to increase awareness of farm destination
19. agritourism enterprises.
20. We support the Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) initia-
21. tive and its efforts that continue to look for additional options to build
22. the cattle market in eastern Kentucky, including but not limited to
23. expanding opportunities for cattle on reclaimed mine land.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
28. We favor strict enforcement of the laws requiring registration,
29. disclosures and report of holdings and purchases of land by foreign
30. entities. We feel there should be no preferential tax treatment and
31. that all tax loopholes including property, production and capital
32. gains be closed.

ANNEXATION

- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
37. We encourage strict enforcement of annexation laws to protect
38. the interests of rural people.
39. We oppose annexation of any property without providing all
40. public services to that owner.
41. We recommend that affected property owners be notified by
42. certified return receipt mail at least 60 days before a public hearing
43. is held and before final annexation or incorporation can be
44. consummated there must be an approval of two-thirds of the
45. affected property owners. We are opposed to mandatory spot
46. annexation. We also recommend that any challenges in court be
47. heard by a jury.
48. Any legislation providing new guidelines for establishing county
49. wide urban government should require approval by the voters in
50. both the incorporated and unincorporated areas.

EMINENT DOMAIN

- 51.
- 52.
- 53.
- 54.
55. We recommend that Kentucky laws dealing with eminent domain
56. be amended to provide that the power of eminent domain could not
57. be used for parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, riding and

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

1. Elected officials who are convicted of a felony associated with
2. public service, or who resign to avoid prosecution, should lose all
3. government retirement benefits.
4. We support legislative oversight of state regulations.
5. We strongly encourage the Kentucky General Assembly to pass
6. a budget within the allotted time the Constitution allows them to
7. meet, making the state budget the priority of the legislative session.
8. We request the Kentucky General Assembly to decrease spend-
9. ing where possible instead of raising taxes.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

14. We will oppose any efforts to change the procedure for selection
15. of county officials, including property valuation administrators.
16. Property valuation administrators and property evaluation
17. personnel salaries should not be indexed or earmarked from
18. property tax values, and their salaries should be based on what
19. other county officials are paid.
20. We are opposed to any change that would require county judge
21. executives to be attorneys.
22. We recommend staggered terms for members of the city and
23. county governing bodies.
24. We oppose officials of county government using taxpayers'
25. money to lobby for additional taxes.
26. We are in favor of strict enforcement of a code of ethics for all
27. elected and appointed government officials.

HOME RULE

32. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau study any proposals
33. to change the Home Rule Law and take such action as deemed
34. advisable to protect the rural areas of Kentucky.
35. We recommend that each county Farm Bureau appoint a
36. committee to attend fiscal court meetings and report back to the
37. county Farm Bureau Board of Directors.
38. We recommend that self-governing privileges of cities be
39. confined to matters within their boundaries. Any authority including
40. zoning beyond the corporate limits and into unincorporated areas
41. should be limited to matters other than taxation and regulations;
42. require expressed permission of the fiscal court; and not include any
43. authority the fiscal court does not already possess.
44. We oppose any local ordinance that is more restrictive than state
45. regulations governing agricultural operations.

ELECTIONS

50. Kentucky Farm Bureau urges county Farm Bureaus to conduct
51. voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns on a regular
52. basis. We encourage Farm Bureau members to become actively
53. engaged in the campaigns of candidates whose policy positions
54. reflect Farm Bureau's ideals.
55. We support all registered voters showing photo identification
56. when reporting to the polling place to receive a ballot.

1. We support the public distribution of voting records and policy
2. position statements and how candidate positions compare with
3. Farm Bureau policy.
4. We oppose any action designed to permit college students
5. who are not legal residents of the college community to vote in local
6. elections.
7. We recommend all registered voters of the county be allowed to
8. vote in elections conducted by a city for alcohol referendum.
9. We oppose the use of public funds and franking privileges in the
10. financing of political campaigns.
11. We oppose the concept of centralized voting.
12. We recommend general voting hours be extended to coincide
13. with absentee voting in the county clerk's office during general
14. office hours within 7 days prior to any election.
15. We recommend that any wet/dry election be held on the next
16. scheduled election day. If not possible, then the individuals seeking
17. the special election should be required to cover the cost rather than
18. the county.

EDUCATION

23. We recommend the teaching of basic moral values, basic eco-
24. nomics and responsibilities of living in a democratic society at all
25. levels of education.
26. We support financial literacy and Science, Technology,
27. Engineering, Agriculture, Mathematics (STEAM) to be included in
28. Kentucky school curriculum at all appropriate levels.
29. We favor public school courses on the structure and function of
30. democratic government. However, students should not be subject-
31. ed to indoctrination for political purposes.
32. *Elementary and Secondary*
33. We recommend cross curriculum support for the teaching of
34. reading, mathematics, writing, science, and social studies. We
35. recommend providing innovative classroom strategies focusing on
36. the basic skills which are included in the common core standards
37. guidelines. We recommend providing programs for those who need
38. remedial assistance and/or for those needing advanced challenges.
39. We urge the Kentucky Department of Education to abide by the
40. guidelines set forth in the individual education plans for Kentucky
41. students for state assessments.
42. We support changes to the testing system that reflect the
43. yearly education improvement of the child while also evaluating the
44. school. We recommend the Kentucky End-of-Program Assessment
45. testing window and industry certification be aligned with the state
46. testing window. We support exploring alternative ways of calculating
47. test scores of special needs students that would stay within the
48. parameter of the Every Student Succeeds guidelines.
49. We recommend the Department of Education adopt a uniform
50. grading scale to be used across the Commonwealth concerning
51. grade point averages.
52. We encourage efficient use of school funds and urge the General
53. Assembly to continue its efforts to achieve this goal. We support
54. the state appropriation of adequate funds for teachers' salaries
55. and benefits.

1. We urge more emphasis be placed on collaboration between
2. postsecondary schools, elementary and secondary schools to
3. improve teacher education, recruitment, and retention.
4. We support local school districts' control in setting compensation
5. criteria, considering needs and ability while operating within the
6. state salary structure.
7. We support lowering the classroom student-to-teacher ratio
8. while maintaining adequate staffing of schools.
9. We recommend maintaining a percentage of the General Fund
10. to go to elementary and secondary education at an equal or higher
11. level than the 1990-1991 funding level.
12. We encourage and support funding the free textbook structure
13. for elementary and middle schools and when state funds are not
14. available we recommend local school boards be encouraged to buy
15. such books that are needed.
16. We favor reducing the cost of new educational facilities by
17. eliminating features not essential to a sound education program.
18. Local school boards should consider renovation whenever practical
19. rather than new construction. The state should consider the county
20. growth rate when approving the size of new construction for
21. schools; as well as review the justification for new construction ver-
22. sus renovation prior to approving a bond sale for new construction.
23. We favor the present method of selecting county school
24. superintendents and county school board members. We encourage
25. Farm Bureau members to be active in this process.
26. We support local school districts in providing professional
27. development and/or workshops to improve teaching methods of
28. new and ineffective teachers.
29. A teacher effectiveness rating should be designed and used as a
30. means of removing ineffective teachers.
31. We support the original intent of teacher tenure to protect
32. teachers against political abuse. However, tenure should be
33. reformed so that it cannot be used to unduly protect incompetent
34. teachers.
35. We challenge school principals and superintendents to be more
36. responsible in the evaluation of teachers and administrators.
37. We strongly oppose teacher strikes. We oppose legislation that
38. mandates collective bargaining for public school employees.
39. We recommend that local boards of education consider keeping
40. schools for grades K-5, 6-8, 9-12 in neighborhood locations.
41. We recognize that boards of education have the responsibility for
42. developing the school calendar. We urge county Farm Bureau
43. boards to work with local boards of education in developing the
44. school calendar. We further recommend all school districts that
45. service area career or technical centers to coordinate their
46. calendars to support all programs at those centers.
47. We recommend that when a student needs to attend an
48. adjoining school district, the county Farm Bureau work with the local
49. school boards to obtain approval of a reciprocal agreement.
50. We support adequate state funding for staffing and facilities for
51. the state agency children's programs and for district-operated day
52. treatment and alternative programs.
53. We support the school board's efforts to establish district wide
54. discipline codes and the efforts of site based councils to implement
55. instructional strategies or appropriate techniques to ensure the
56. safety of students and staff while ensuring a conducive learning
57. environment.

1. We encourage the local school districts to support participation
2. in the state fair activities and/or 4-H, FFA, and other youth
3. educational opportunities and not penalize students for their
4. absence. We support the Kentucky Farm Bureau working with the
5. Kentucky Department of Education to enforce the state statute
6. allowing students to attend and/or participate in Kentucky State Fair
7. activities. We further encourage schools to value the State Fair for
8. the educational opportunities it offers and incorporate it as a
9. learning experience in their curriculum.
10. We oppose schools declaring themselves gender neutral.
11. Alternative lifestyles should not be taught in public schools.
12. We support "Agriculture in the Classroom" and encourage school
13. districts to implement this program in their curriculum and
14. encourage administrators to support professional development
15. training concerning "Agriculture in the Classroom." We support
16. teaching the concepts of the food and fiber system for the
17. enhancement of the current Kentucky Core Academic Standards.
18. We support implementation of agriculture education programs
19. within practical living career studies classes and clarification on
20. different concepts related to agriculture.
21. We encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Department
22. of Agriculture, and the Kentucky Department of Education to work
23. together to develop K-12 agriculture education curriculum and
24. resources for use by agritourism and farm operators in facilitating
25. school tours.
26. We urge schools to incorporate into the curriculum conservation
27. and environmental education. We urge that agriculture interests be
28. given fair consideration in environmental matters and that farmers
29. be recognized as leaders among environmentalists.
30. We support the continued utilization of Project Food, Land and
31. People resources for learning as the most recommended curriculum
32. toward the enhancement of environmental and agricultural literacy.
33. We favor increased emphasis on teaching of respect for law and
34. order, and recommend maximum use of law enforcement officials
35. and other appropriate public officials in this type of instruction. We
36. support safe school programs that are comprehensive in nature
37. from pre-school through grade 12. We encourage continuation of
38. these services for all students from agencies which are charged
39. with preventive intervention on behalf of public school age children.
40. We favor continuing cursive writing instruction in our school
41. systems.
42. We recommend that instructional CPR courses be made
43. available in grades six through twelve.
44. We support a physical activity as part of the school curriculum for
45. grades K-12.
46. We favor inclusion of the study of the Bible in the curriculum of
47. world religions.
48. We believe teachers should devote some time to spiritual
49. meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag at the beginning
50. of each school day. We believe that the use of prayer should be
51. allowed at school functions.
52. We support legislation that would allow the inclusion of the Ten
53. Commandments in historical documents displays.
54. We support the selection process for school principals that
55. includes a requirement for a meaningful screening of candidates by
56. the local superintendent.
57.

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 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.
38. **Career & Technical Education**
39. We support all school districts in providing more equitable
40. access to career and technical education based on workforce
41. development needs.
42. We recommend that an adequate and equitable level of funding and
43. state staffing be permanently established for all areas of career and
44. technical education.
45. We continue to support a strong up-to-date program of
46. agriculture education and family consumer sciences at the
47. elementary, secondary, postsecondary, adult and continuing levels.
48. We urge county Farm Bureaus to assume leadership in encouraging
49. students to enroll in these and other career and technical education
50. programs as a means of preparing themselves for a career. We
51. recommend students pursue all career opportunities available in the
52. agriculture field.
53. We recommend:
54. (1) County Farm Bureaus to work with local school boards and
55. local site-based councils to ensure that each county has an
56. adequate agricultural education program, FFA chapters and
57. 4-H clubs;

1. (2) An agriculture teacher be employed in every county in
2. Kentucky.
3. (3) That teachers of agriculture education continue to be
4. employed on a 240-day basis;
5. (4) That agricultural education teachers be diligent in planning
6. and providing an effective instructional program and FFA leadership
7. development activities for each student which is reviewed
8. and supervised by local administrators. We favor the inclusion of
9. an agriculture economics, agriculture biology, and agriculture
10. mathematics courses in high school agriculture programs. We
11. further favor these courses being accepted in their respective
12. discipline in high school graduation requirements. We favor the
13. inclusion of an agriculture unit in the basic biology course taught in
14. both middle schools and high schools in Kentucky; and
15. (5) We support a long range goal for agricultural education to
16. help create new programs in communities not yet served by
17. agricultural education and FFA and ensure the quality and
18. high performance of current programs providing personal,
19. academic, and career education in agriculture. We support an
20. increase in federal funding and necessary personnel to advance
21. the initiative.
22. We strongly support more integration of career and technical
23. education by development of a joint curriculum combining academic
24. and career instruction in the classroom. School administrators
25. and school councils should work more closely together to
26. accomplish this.
27. We support the statewide implementation of the Career
28. and Technical Education legislation and encourage the full
29. implementation of workforce education and development programs
30. which are designed to combine secondary and postsecondary edu-
31. cational programs.
32. We urge the leaders of the community college system and career
33. and technical education to coordinate their programs in such a
34. manner as to better utilize their finances, faculty and facilities.
35. We support the implementation of an annual funding stream and
36. the continued procurement of funds as needed for the renovation
37. and improvement of the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center
38. in Hardinsburg and 4-H camps.
39. We strongly support reauthorization and appropriation of funding
40. of the Carl D. Perkins Act which provides federal funding for career
41. and technical education.
42. **Postsecondary Education**
43. We support the implementation of the Kentucky Community and
44. Technical College System (KCTCS). We recognize the need to
45. establish a working relationship with all state universities.
46. State financed colleges should accept all credit-hours obtained
47. at any other state financed college.
48. We suggest parallel course requirements for equal degrees.
49. Kentucky's statutes state that three members of the Board of
50. Trustees of the University of Kentucky shall be agriculturally
51. oriented. We urge the Governor to continue the appointment of an
52. active full-time farmer to the Board of Trustees of the University of
53. Kentucky. We recommend that an individual with an agricultural
54. interest be appointed to the Board of Regents of each of the
55. regional universities that confer Ag degrees.
56.
57.

1. We recommend that qualified individuals with an agricultural
2. interest be appointed to the Kentucky Board of Education and the
3. Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.
4. We believe that greater attention should be given to career and
5. technical education programs in the elementary, middle, secondary
6. and postsecondary schools. These programs should prepare
7. students for employment and postsecondary education. Adult and
8. continuing education should be available to the people on the basis
9. of their needs.
10. We support the development of more vocational training
11. programs for displaced farmers and farm related workers.
12. We encourage the Council on Postsecondary Education to care-
13. fully review any tuition increase proposal for state-funded
14. universities to ensure the proposal is justified and does not place an
15. undue financial burden on students.
16. We oppose colleges and universities denying students the
17. full value of scholarships earned and oppose caps on reimburse-
18. ments from scholarships.
19. We endorse the concept of preparation for the workforce by
20. improving Kentucky's education system and preparing students for
21. a career for which they are best suited. We support centralized
22. testing for online college courses.
23. We support agricultural workforce development through state
24. funding for agriculture technology programs such as the Kentucky
25. Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) programs to
26. seek competent and skilled agriculture workers for modern
27. farming operations. We support the Adult Agriculture Upgrade
28. Program offered through KCTCS.
29. **General Education Policy**
30. We support the continued development of the state educational
31. television system. We appreciate Kentucky Educational Television's
32. interest in the programming needs of the agricultural public of
33. Kentucky. Farm Bureau supports the general equivalency degree
34. now being offered by KET and urges county Farm Bureaus to assist
35. in publicizing this service.
36. We believe that since locally elected Boards of Education are
37. accountable for the effectiveness of local schools, our schools
38. should be operated within the general policy provisions and district
39. goals adopted by local boards.
40. We support additional and enhanced technology that provides
41. immediate feedback and real-time interaction with teachers and
42. students.
43. We support local boards of education establishing a professional
44. dress code for educators.
45. We recommend the legislature review the requirements and
46. criteria for home schooling. Any guidelines should be conducive to
47. traditional values, should not infringe on basic parental rights, and
48. should only address instruction of core subjects.
49. We believe that statutory models and all alternative models
50. for school site-based council composition should ensure equal
51. representation of parents and employees. We support strengthening
52. community governance of public education by local boards of
53. education, who are elected by all citizens. This gives all taxpayers
54. a voice in the expenditures of tax dollars and the policies which
55. govern the schools of the district.
56. We oppose addictive games of chance (poker, blackjack, etc.)
57. being held on school property.

1. **Career Awareness & Preparation**
2. We recommend that Farm Bureau continue to inform young
3. people of the many rewarding career opportunities in agriculture.
4. Furthermore, we encourage young people to consider their career
5. opportunities early in their formal education and structure their
6. education to allow them to meet their career goals.
7. We support programs that reduce barriers to success for
8. students and prepare them for college and career readiness.
9. We support dual-credit courses, including agriculture classes,
10. being offered to high school students.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.

TAXATION

15. Kentucky's tax policies should be based on public need and
16. sound economic principles. Kentucky taxes should be apportioned
17. equitably among the citizens.
18. We recommend that state, county, local governments, special
19. taxing districts and school districts look at every possible way to
20. save money before raising taxes.
21. We oppose unfunded mandates on local government.
22. If county fiscal courts or city governments vote to raise taxes in
23. excess of 4 percent, the citizens in that county or city should be
24. allowed to vote on the proposed tax, via a referendum, before it
25. is assessed.
26. We oppose legislation that would require licensing of farm
27. machinery and equipment and recommend that new farm
28. equipment be exempt from inventory taxes.
29. We recommend that the appropriate state agency enforce tax
30. collection on highway diesel fuel.
31. We oppose severance taxes on renewable resources.
32. We believe health insurance premiums should be exempt from
33. premium taxes.
34. We support the creation of tax relief for farmers who are retiring
35. or leaving production agriculture and are transferring farmland to
36. individuals who will continue in production agriculture.
37. We are opposed to the state legislature allowing district school
38. boards to pass a non-recallable or forgivable school tax (e.g.,
39. nickel or dime) without a community referendum.
40. We recommend that only elected officials have the authority to
41. increase or create new taxes. In addition, we strongly urge all
42. entities with the ability to increase taxes to be accountable for the
43. expenditures of tax dollars to the citizens.
44. We support allowing fiscal courts the flexibility to lower a tax rate
45. submitted by a special taxing district.
46. We encourage the development of a centralized filing system of
47. all local business and payroll taxes.
- 48.
- 49.
- 50.

LAND ASSESSMENT

- 51.
52. We urge the Department of Revenue and county assessing
53. authorities to comply with the principles of the Farmland
54. Assessment Amendment and use new technology such as Global
55. Positioning Systems (GPS) to obtain the most accurate surveying
56. information.
- 57.

1. Landowners should be permitted to use Global Positioning
2. Systems (GPS) to obtain accurate surveying information.
3. We believe the Department of Revenue should not override
4. an elected county official's assessment of residential and farm
5. properties unless proof of mistakes are publicly given.
6. We encourage equitable regional farmland and forest land
7. assessments.
8. We support the agricultural land definition and assessment
9. process that is currently in place.
10. We recommend when property is being transferred into a
11. revocable trust of the current owners the assessed value may be
12. used or the value statements may be omitted from the deed.

PROPERTY TAXES

- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
17. To prosper in a modern economy, property taxes should be
18. gradually phased downward in favor of broad base sources
19. of revenue.
20. We strongly oppose freezing the state real property tax rate.
21. We recommend that local officials' authority to increase revenue
22. from property taxes be confined to 4 percent plus new growth. Any
23. proposal to increase revenue more than that formula should
24. automatically be decided by a voter referendum.
25. We recommend that property taxes collected for school
26. purposes be levied and administered locally. We also recommend
27. that the sheriff, county attorney, and Department of Revenue be
28. more diligent in collecting delinquent taxes and urge property
29. valuation administrators to ensure that taxes are collected on mobile
30. homes and other tangible property.
31. We believe that churches should be allowed to exempt church
32. buildings, parsonages, or other property used from property
33. taxes, but should be taxed on property owned or used for
34. commercial profit.
35. We oppose farm structures being assessed at values higher than
36. their farm value.
37. For farms not raising tobacco, tobacco barns should be
38. exempted from property taxes.
39. We oppose taxing farm equipment with property taxes.
40. We oppose greenhouses being taxed as permanent structures.
41. We recommend that when a farm happens to end up in the
42. middle of commercial development, its tax assessment rate should
43. not be changed from agriculture.
44. We support using University of Kentucky's farm analysis rental
45. data on tax assessment.
46. We recommend that public utility companies be taxed equitably
47. with other similarly situated property owners.
48. If a farm is annexed into a city, the city shall provide services
49. equal to others in that city. If the services are not provided, the city
50. taxes on the property shall be adjusted.
51. We support strict regulatory control of selling unpaid property
52. tax bills.
- 53.
- 54.
- 55.
- 56.
- 57.

SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS

- 1.
- 2.
3. We oppose taxation by petition.
4. We recommend the repeal of the annual fee requirement for
5. special purpose governmental entities.
6. We support more stringent rules for the establishment of special
7. taxing districts and the selection of its directors. We recommend
8. that before any special taxing district is formed that it be placed on
9. the ballot for the affected people to vote on.
10. We also believe that members of the taxing board should be
11. property holders.
12. The county judge executive should ensure that detailed maps of
13. fire taxing districts are provided.
14. We recommend that legislation be enacted to allow fire
15. departments to continue to participate in charitable community
16. projects. We recommend that the funds resulting from the
17. Kentucky insurance premium surcharge be more equitably
18. distributed for the benefit of volunteer fire departments.
19. We recommend the fire tax rate should be 25% of normal rate
20. on farmland and full rate on buildings and improvements.
21. No taxing district should be allowed to increase taxes more than
22. 4 percent without recall, and that local taxing boards be required to
23. clarify expenditures of all funds collected annually through some
24. public information vehicle.
25. We encourage the General Assembly to develop statewide
26. uniform guidelines, annual training and oversight rules for taxes
27. and fees implemented by special taxing districts.

SALES AND USE TAXES

- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
32. We believe that a broad-base sales and use tax is the fairest plan
33. for financing government, while maintaining current agricultural
34. exemptions for all taxing jurisdictions.
35. We recommend that all farm production items and services
36. including veterinary medicine and vaccines, electricity, sawdust and
37. wood shavings, all livestock and poultry bedding, LP gas, and natu-
38. ral gas be exempt from sales and use tax. We recommend remov-
39. ing the sales tax on bumper trailers for agricultural use.
40. We support a card identification system for qualified farmers for
41. sales and use tax exemptions.
42. We oppose adding sales tax to food items and prescription drugs.
43. We encourage sales tax not be imposed on nonprofit or
44. charitable organizations.
45. We support the permanent extension of a motor vehicle usage
46. tax trade-in credit on a new vehicle.
47. Kentucky horse farms should receive the same sales tax
48. exemption that all other Kentucky farms receive.
49. Agriculture cannot pass along its increases in production expens-
50. es; therefore to keep our agriculture community viable, we need to
51. keep our Kentucky agriculture sales tax exemption intact.
52. We support restoring the sales and use tax vendor's compensa-
53. tion back to the pre-2013 level.
54. We urge the Kentucky Department of Revenue to utilize auditors
55. with agricultural knowledge when performing agricultural audits.
56. We recommend that freight, being a service and not a tangible
57. item, always be considered non-taxable.

INHERITANCE TAXES

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

INCOME TAXES

- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
15. We recommend reinstatement of the federal income tax
16. deduction on state income tax returns.
17. We recommend the repeal of the tax on interest income and
18. recommend the exclusion of taxes on dividend income earned
19. with full exclusion of anyone over the age of 62.
20. We oppose mandatory withholding of state taxes from
21. agriculture employees.
22. We believe necessary college expenses for parents supporting
23. their children at fully or partially state or federally funded
24. universities should be tax exempt.
25. We believe an option transaction for agriculture marketing should
26. be treated the same as a hedge transaction for tax purposes.
27. We support an exclusion from all taxes for the sale of
28. agricultural land that remains in production.
29. We support Kentucky's depreciation schedule conforming with
30. the federal depreciation schedule including Section 179 rules and
31. regulations.
32. We support an exclusion from all taxes for the transfer of a
33. business, including farms, between parent and children.

REVENUE SHARING

- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
38. We recommend that any revenue sharing proposals be closely
39. examined to protect rural citizens.
40. Rural areas and programs such as conservation, rural road
41. improvements and increased water lines, should receive their fair
42. share of federal revenue sharing funds.
43. Coal/gas producing counties should receive a greater share of
44. coal severance taxes and should be permitted to use it for repairing
45. roads and bridges and/or water projects.

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

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50. We recommend that the state of Kentucky conduct a thorough
51. investigation before approving additional bonds so that the state's
52. bonded indebtedness is not over-extended and that the general
53. fund and the road fund is not jeopardized.
54. We recommend that all bond issues that are to be financed by a
55. tax increase be presented to a vote of the people and that a two-
56. thirds majority vote be required for approval.
- 57.

HIGHWAYS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES

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5. We recommend continuation of the 22.2 percent allocation of the
6. state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads, and increasing county
7. road aid funds to the point that all rural roads can have a
8. hard surface.
9. We support revenue options that ensure adequate financing for
10. transportation infrastructure maintenance which take into account
11. increased construction costs, improved fuel efficiency, and electric
12. vehicles which currently pay no fuel tax.
13. We support amending KRS 138.210 to specify the motor fuels
14. excise tax does not decrease by more than 10 percent under the
15. average wholesale price in any fiscal year.
16. We support measures that would prohibit all levels of government
17. from enacting weight limit restrictions, other than where the safety
18. of bridges is a concern, that would hamper the ability of agriculture
19. to produce and deliver their products to market.
20. We oppose requiring loggers to bond roads to remove timber
21. from private land.
22. We support the 10% weight exemption on farm trucks and trucks
23. servicing farms hauling agriculture products, similar to the same
24. benefits currently given to the transportation of primary forest
25. products.
26. We support 97,000 pound gross weight for six axles on state and
27. federal highways.
28. Furthermore, necessary action should be taken to assure that all
29. road fund money is spent as originally intended and is used
30. effectively by local jurisdictions.
31. We recommend that a policy be adopted regarding farm-to-
32. market roads using the same concept with weight and dimension
33. and that consideration be given to farm machinery when widening
34. these roads. We recommend county and state highway engineers
35. to consider agriculture use in the design phase of road and bridge
36. planning. We support the efforts to upgrade all bridges and all
37. county, state and federal roads. We recommend that a better job be
38. done in maintaining rural coal-haul roads.
39. We support legislation requiring the taking of equal amounts of
40. property from each side of the road when widening of the roads is
41. planned. Furthermore, we recommend that property owners be fully
42. informed when rights-of-way negotiations are taking place.
43. We recommend that county Farm Bureaus work with county
44. officials and the rural highway department in determining where
45. rural highway funds should be used.
46. We urge that consideration be given to the construction of
47. crossroads, underpasses or overpasses to allow the passage of
48. livestock and vehicles when a farm is divided.
49. We request the Highway Department to refrain from seeding
50. rights-of-way with Bermuda grass.
51. We are opposed to fertilizing highway rights-of-way except when
52. reseeding.
53. We recommend better markings for all dangerous intersections
54. on rural highways using caution lights and rumble strips. We
55. also recommend that all state and county roads be striped
56. where feasible.
- 57.

1. We recommend that all paved public roads be white-striped on
2. the shoulder.
3. We support the state using raised pavement markers in the
4. center of the road on state highways.
5. We encourage transportation officials to ease restrictions on
6. farm equipment access to multi-lane and/or limited access
7. roadways.
8. We recommend that new surfaces laid upon old roads be
9. accompanied by a comparable buildup of the shoulders. We also
10. urge the guidelines, center and outside, be painted on blacktop
11. roads and minimum width standards be maintained.
12. Asphalt strip patching should be done in a manner that will not
13. alter a vehicle's direction or result in vehicle over correction.
14. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Transportation to
15. install and maintain all road signs and markers at least six feet
16. where possible from the pavement edges so that large farm
17. equipment can travel easier and safer on all public roads.
18. We further recommend that reflectors be installed on the ends of
19. all culverts and bridges and that paved highway markers be
20. installed in the center of the roads.
21. We recommend that all county roads be a minimum of 18 feet
22. wide where feasible.
23. We support policy that all highway rights-of-ways be mowed
24. completely at least three times and the first mowing be completed
25. before the seed head formation of noxious weeds. We urge the
26. state highway department to more closely supervise contract mow-
27. ers.
28. We recommend that highways be kept clean and that limbs
29. are pruned in a timely manner.
30. We support enforcement of laws requiring complete roadside
31. cleanup and removal of roadside debris from accident scenes.
32. We recommend all respective entities work together in highway
33. planning so as to maximize development of Kentucky water
34. resources through use of highway fills and dams.
35. We recommend that bona fide farm equipment and operations
36. be exempt from the beautification laws and/or regulations.
37. We urge exemption of ad valorem taxes on commercial vehicles
38. to encourage licensing trucks in Kentucky.
39. We recommend that the speed limit on four lane, partially
40. controlled access highways, be raised to 65 mph with exceptions for
41. congested areas.
42. We recommend that all farm machinery and equipment driven on
43. public roads have rubber tires, including horse drawn buggies.
44. We support legislation to have scooters, bicycles and horse
45. drawn equipment display slow moving vehicle signs (SMVs) and/or
46. be adequately illuminated when ridden off private property.
47. We encourage a statewide system for removal of animal remains
48. from highways and disposal through composting or other approved
49. methods.
50. We urge the development of regulations that would make riding
51. bicycles on roads safer for all.
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FARM VEHICLE LICENSE

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3. We recommend the reduction of license costs on vehicles
4. involved in the practice of moving soil conservation equipment.
5. We oppose mandatory licensing of farm trailers.
6. We suggest the creation of a farm truck tag for larger farm trucks.
7. Furthermore, the license tag fee should be prorated per pound in
8. accordance with the 38,000 pound farm tag.
9. We favor prorating the cost of a farm truck license when
10. purchased in the middle of the license year.
11. We favor the continuation of the exemption up to the 80 thousand
12. pound weight limit on Kentucky's roads for trucks transporting items
13. of agriculture commodities, to and from the farm.
14. We support legislation that, for the purpose of vehicle enforce-
15. ment, farm trucks and farm truck-trailer combinations, licensed with
16. the 38,000 pound farm tag shall not be considered commercial
17. vehicles when used for agricultural purposes.
18. We recommend reciprocity agreements with adjoining states, to
19. allow operations of licensed Kentucky farm trucks without the
20. required purchase of fuel permits or additional licenses. We also
21. recommend that Kentucky weight limits and regulations be honored
22. in such cases.
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27. We support the exempt commodity provision of the Motor
28. Transportation Act and oppose any effort to regulate the
29. transportation of agricultural commodities or supplies.
30. We support legislation that clearly defines the right of farmers to
31. transport their products to market and to move their equipment by
32. the most economically feasible method.
33. We encourage the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
34. and the Department of Transportation to use uniform enforcement
35. policies across the state.
36. We support a review of the trucking regulations including a
37. suggested escalating fine system for overweight trucks.
38. We recommend that the state regulations on width of trailers be
39. changed to 102" on all state and local highways. Trailers that are
40. sold currently don't comply with the old regulations of 96".
41. We oppose road tractors pulling any more than two trailers.
42. We support changes to Kentucky's Transportation Cabinet
43. laws and regulations which conflict with long term practices of
44. agriculture; such as the requirement when hauling grain that it be
45. 100% owned by the landowner, which prevents trucking of grain
46. and/or livestock in a swap work environment where no cash
47. exchanges hands.
48. We recommend the maximum driving and on-time-duty-
49. exemption for agriculture purposes be increased to a 200 air-mile
50. radius.
51. We recommend that farm trucks that travel 7,500 miles per year
52. or less be exempt from annual vehicle inspections; but inspected
53. every three years.
54. We support a waiver for drivers DOT restrictions in disaster
55. situations.
56. We recommend that farm trucks have a year-round exemption on
57. log book entries.

TRANSPORTATION

SAFETY

1. We support the extension of non-CDL farmers to travel anywhere
2. within the Commonwealth from the farm to the market.
3. We support an exemption from the Department of Transportation
4. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's 30 minute break
5. period for livestock haulers in consideration of animal welfare.
6. We support the soldiers to semis initiative to get more qualified
7. CDL drivers in the workforce and support a similar initiative be
8. enacted for coal miners.

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RAILROADS

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13. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau assist property
14. owners in obtaining title to abandoned railroad easements adjacent
15. to their property.
16. We are opposed to the abandoned Rails to Trails Program unless
17. all affected property owners are in agreement with the project.
18. We support crossing arms at all public railroad crossings.
19. We support increasing the fine for railroad companies that
20. obstruct a highway, street or navigable stream.

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LIABILITY ISSUES

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25. We believe that many awards in personal injury cases are
26. excessive and have resulted in higher insurance premiums.

27. We support tort reform to include, but not be limited to, a cap on
28. the amount of damages, such as a maximum of \$250,000, that can
29. be awarded for non-economic loss. Tort reform should also limit
30. attorney's fees paid from the awards.

31. If a plaintiff files a class action lawsuit or civil lawsuit and loses,
32. the plaintiff should reimburse any court expenses and attorney fees
33. incurred by the defendant.

34. We urge state legislation be enacted to require individuals or
35. groups who seek injunctions to reimburse the defendants for all
36. court costs, legal fees, losses and costs arising from such actions
37. that are eventually shown to be unfounded or are overturned in a
38. court of law. We support a requirement that court jurisdiction for
39. regulatory actions and lawsuits stay within the county where the
40. alleged offense occurred.

41. We support legislation to exempt the contract grower from
42. product liability issues.

43. Landowners should be protected from any trespassers, hunters,
44. and criminal offenders seeking liability damages.

45. We encourage the adoption of anti-disparagement legislation
46. that provides a legal cause of action against those individuals,
47. groups or government bodies who make disparaging statements
48. against agricultural products, farm animals, and/or production
49. without scientific proof.

50. We favor legislation that would require a car owner, law
51. enforcement officer or wrecker operator be liable for damages to
52. private property or damages caused by livestock getting out as a
53. result of an auto accident, if landowner is not notified immediately.

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3. We encourage programs that promote the proper use of farm
4. machinery.

5. We encourage all local media to promote educational
6. programs in helping to make the public aware of safety
7. consideration year round with special emphasis during planting and
8. harvesting seasons.

9. We strongly support and encourage the continuation and expan-
10. sion of the Department of Agriculture safety programs. We nationally
11. recognize the benefits of the safety programs and encourage the
12. General Assembly to provide adequate funding.

13. We encourage county Farm Bureaus to explore the possibility of
14. organizing local fire protection associations. We favor legislation
15. that would require railroads to eliminate excessive weed growth,
16. installation of flashers at crossings with obstructed views and
17. prompt repair of rough crossings.

18. We encourage the proper use of hazard lights and escorts when
19. moving farm equipment.

20. We strongly urge that police flag wrecked cars so that other
21. motorists will know that the wreck has been worked.

22. We recommend that all mailboxes be placed a reasonable
23. distance from the edge of roads and not directly across from other
24. obstructions to accommodate farm implements where feasible.

25. We support legislation requiring headlights being illuminated if
26. windshield wipers are in use.

27. We encourage the wearing of safety gear when staffing road
28. blocks for the purpose of solicitation.

29. We oppose unreasonable interruptions and enforcement of
30. occupational safety and health regulations when they deal with
31. farming practices.

32. We recommend that businesses with ten or less employees be
33. exempt from occupational safety and health regulations.

34. We recommend that entities involved in safety education
35. programs cooperate and support each other, and that Farm Bureau
36. support all safety educational programs.

37. Due to the increased number of injuries and deaths with ATV
38. usage, we recommend more emphasis be put on education,
39. training and enforcement of legislation for all ages.

40. Dealers who sell ATVs should be required to provide all
41. purchasers with basic safety instructions and materials for
42. comprehensive ATV safety usage.

43. We strongly support enforcement of all ATV laws for protection of
44. the ATV riders and the public.

45. We recommend the continued promotion of rollover protection
46. structures and seat belts by all groups and associations involved in
47. farm safety.

48. We recommend that all addresses should be properly marked
49. and displayed on houses and mailboxes.

50. We encourage the use of "dry hydrants" as a way of improving
51. fire protection in rural areas.

52. We recommend water districts and 911 coordinators work
53. together to assign all fire hydrants and dry hydrants a physical
54. address to assist fire departments in responding to 911 calls.

55. We recommend the laws be enforced on tinting of motor
56. vehicle glass.

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1. Guard rails should, if practical, be recessed from the edge of
2. the traveling lane an adequate distance, no less than 3 feet, to
3. allow disabled vehicles and farm equipment a safe area from
4. moving traffic.
5. We support having questions on the Kentucky driver's license
6. test pertaining to what actions motorists should take when
7. approaching wide or slow moving vehicles on public roadways.
8. We recommend that all state and local driver's education
9. classes include a section dealing with driver awareness when
10. approaching farm equipment on roadways.
11. We strongly urge Kentucky Farm Bureau to work with appropriate
12. agencies, such as the National Safety Council, to encourage the
13. automobile industry and the consumer products industries to
14. develop standardization on all car seats and booster seats and
15. methods of installation and operation.
16. We support educational efforts to prevent the death of children
17. left in unattended vehicles and encourage research for the
18. development of safety features to prevent these incidents.
19. We strongly support and encourage the Department of
20. Agriculture to continue and expand their safety programs.
21. We recommend all tractor kill switches be marked by a sticker or
22. other means.
23. We support a statewide public education safety campaign
24. to discourage the practice of distracted driving, including texting and
25. cell phone usage.
26. We oppose using slow moving vehicle signs on anything other
27. than slow moving vehicles.
28. We encourage individuals to wear a helmet and other appropri-
29. ate safety gear while riding motorcycles or bicycles.

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.

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 charges 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
14. Settlement Practices Act.
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

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

1. - staggered dates of worker entry under a single contract.
2. We recognize the importance of guest worker visa reform and
3. believe all immigration issues should be addressed at the federal level.
4. We support amending the Federal Migrant Seasonal Labor Act
5. and the H-2A Act to require that court jurisdiction fall within the state
6. and/or county where the alleged violation occurred.
7. Understanding farm labor skills vary by commodity, we urge
8. exploration of potential state and local workforce investment areas
9. to help meet Kentucky's agricultural labor needs.
10. We recommend all farmers markets be covered under the
11. agricultural workers exemption and not be required to carry
12. workers' compensation insurance or pay overtime.
13. We support:
14. (1) Retention of the present family farm exemption from the child
15. labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regardless
16. of business structure where family members are owners;
17. (2) Enforcement of federal child labor laws designed to prevent
18. underage children from working in all industries;
19. (3) Existing FLSA provisions, which specify and provide
20. opportunities for young people of the proper age to perform certain
21. agriculture jobs; and
22. (4) The family farm exemption in the Migrant and Seasonal
23. Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA) and oppose any efforts
24. to restrict its application.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

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30. We recommend that steps be taken to eliminate abuse in the
31. collection of unemployment compensation claims. We support
32. right-to-work legislation.
33. We oppose an increase in the minimum hourly wage.
34. We recommend that the federal prevailing wage law be repealed
35. when dealing with government contracts.
36. We support a return to the \$1 million project level before the
37. prevailing wage law is triggered, and support indexing the level
38. for inflation.

UNIONIZATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

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44. We strongly oppose any mandate that would require any
45. government entities to recognize and collectively bargain with
46. employee unions.
47. Furthermore, we oppose public employees being permitted to
48. strike, organize work stoppages or slow-downs.

UNION ORGANIZATION OF FARMERS

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54. We oppose unionization of farmers and farm laborers.
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WELFARE

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

DOG LAW

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

ENERGY

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38. We support government and industry working together to
39. develop all possible sources of energy to alter U.S. dependence on
40. other nations for energy resources.
41. We support further development of solar, geothermal, biofuels,
42. wind, and other sources of energy and recommend that special
43. emphasis be given to converting to expanded use of coal including
44. gasification, liquefaction and alcohol production.
45. We support providing incentive programs and tax relief for
46. fuel-graded alcohol. We also support use of coal gasification
47. technology to produce nitrogen based fertilizers.
48. We will publicly and aggressively promote the use of biofuels
49. and support legislation that promotes biofuels usage. We
50. recommend aggressively combating anti-renewable fuels and anti-
51. biofuels campaigns.
52. We recommend that if any oxygenate is needed to meet clean air
53. requirements that it be ethanol.
54. We recommend that all state vehicles use ethanol blends and
55. biodiesel when available.
56. We recommend that all gasoline engine vehicles purchased by
57. state government be able to use e85 fuel when available.

1. We encourage expanded research for the use of ethanol for coal
2. desulphurization.
3. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau aggressively
4. promote the required use of biodiesel throughout the state
5. of Kentucky.
6. We recommend that all diesel and gasoline offered for sale in
7. Kentucky contain a blend of biofuels or ethanol and urge increased
8. availability of e85 fuel. We support efforts to promote biofuel usage
9. by visible and identifiable signage.
10. We support quality testing of biofuels by the Kentucky
11. Department of Agriculture, in a cost-effective manner.
12. We urge top priority be given to agriculture when fuel rationing
13. occurs. We favor rationing programs be based on current annual
14. needs rather than a monthly basis.
15. We encourage economic incentives for farm owners to purchase
16. their own fuel storage and propane tanks.
17. Energy is an important input to agriculture, and in times of short-
18. age or other emergencies the state should implement an energy
19. emergency response plan to facilitate transportation and delivery of
20. fuel, propane and electricity.
21. We recommend that biofuels be taken into consideration when
22. fuel rationing occurs.
23. We support:
24. (1) continued research and development to expand production
25. of renewable fuels from agricultural commodities, further reducing
26. America's dependence on foreign oil;
27. (2) establishment of state incentives to support increased
28. production and use of agricultural-based fuels;
29. (3) the use and conversion of waste products for expanded
30. forms of energy;
31. (4) tax incentives for the usage of alternative forms of energy;
32. (5) state incentives and programs to promote energy efficiency
33. and conservation on farms;
34. (6) implementation of a state and national energy policy;
35. (7) University research on alternative fuels; and
36. (8) University research on processing and transporting biomass
37. products.
38. We support the Kentucky Biomass Initiative to research the use
39. of switchgrass and other forage crops for commercial electrical
40. generation and residential heating.
41. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
42. and the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet recognize that
43. renewable energy and energy efficiency are economic drivers for
44. our farms, rural communities and businesses and encourage these
45. agencies to develop and support initiatives of the same. We further
46. recommend these agencies collaborate with the Kentucky
47. Department for Energy Development and Independence.
48. We support the goals of 25 X '25 which are: by the year 2025
49. America's farms, ranches, and forests will provide twenty-five
50. percent of the total energy consumed in the United States without
51. sacrificing the production of safe, abundant and affordable food,
52. feed, and fiber.
53. We encourage enhanced education and demonstration efforts
54. on energy efficiency in the homes, farms and businesses of
55. Kentucky.
56. We oppose the establishment of new city-owned electric systems
57. to serve new or expanded electric loads because of the obvious

1. negative impact this would have on the electric rates of residential and
2. commercial customers of the electric utility currently providing service.
3. We support the use of wood, wood pellets, wood biomass, and
4. wood products as a source of renewable energy.
5. We oppose climate change legislation that establishes mandatory
6. cap and trade provisions which would lead to higher energy costs and
7. negative impacts on the agricultural economy.
8. Fracking should not be permitted on current oil and gas leases
9. without notifying landowners and renegotiating the lease with the
10. landowners.
11. We encourage state government to return to agriculture a portion
12. of any settlement funds from energy distributors and suppliers due to
13. unfair practices and unfulfilled contracts.
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RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

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

39. We support expanded and improved cellular phone coverage
40. throughout Kentucky, but want safeguards to protect and maintain
41. landline service for those who do not want wireless.
42. We urge the Public Service Commission to study the service
43. being offered to all telephone users in rural areas and to encourage
44. the companies to upgrade the service to compare with that in
45. urban areas.
46. We support toll-free county-wide telephone service.
47. We are opposed to mandatory measured service.
48. We are opposed to the present overlay district system as
49. proposed by the Public Service Commission.
50. We are encouraged by the progress that has been made and the
51. attention that has been given to increasing affordable broadband
52. and high speed internet in all rural areas, and we urge continuation
53. of this effort because there is an urgent need.
54. We support all efforts and incentives to improve all telecommu-
55. nications in rural Kentucky.
56. We support efforts to provide affordable broadband, high speed
57. internet, and precision ag service to all rural areas of Kentucky

1. through improved access to, and prompt and efficient use of, all
2. available federal and state funding opportunities.
3. We strongly oppose free cell phones being funded by the
4. federal government with the exception of those provided for the
5. elderly.
6. We urge the state of Kentucky to open state and federal
7. property to improve rural mobile and broadband coverage.

UTILITY RATES AND REGULATIONS

13. We encourage the Public Service Commission to monitor and
14. investigate the activities and operating costs of utilities to ensure
15. that the rates approved are fair and equitable, particularly as this
16. relates to the fuel adjustment clause.
17. We recommend the Public Service Commission encourage
18. utilities to develop a new rate classification specifically designed for
19. farms to address seasonal peak demand charges.
20. We recommend that customer meter charges be kept to a
21. minimum for farm operations.
22. We oppose municipal water utilities raising water rates only on
23. rural water districts, water associations, and small cities to pay for
24. expanding their water plants.
25. Steps should be taken to maintain Kentucky's favorable utility
26. rates. Construction of new power generating facilities and
27. associated infrastructures should not be allowed to adversely affect
28. Kentucky consumers and specifically rural customers.
29. We encourage all electric utility providers to monitor and
30. maintain rates at levels below the national average to attract and
31. retain commercial and industrial customers.
32. We recommend there be rural representation on the Public
33. Service Commission.
34. We support the procedure in which Public Service Commission
35. members are appointed by the Governor and not elected.

HEALTH

40. We support:
41. (1) The development and implementation of programs to
42. provide incentives for consumers to practice wellness and
43. disease prevention;
44. (2) Efforts of Kentucky's cancer and disease research programs.
45. (3) A personal file added to an individual driver's license, similar
46. to the organ donor's list currently used. This file should upon a
47. voluntary basis include medication alerts, immediate family contact
48. information, and/or other needed important data that could be used
49. at the time of an accident or medical emergency;
50. (4) Efforts of medical schools to train additional qualified
51. family physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and
52. other qualified health care professionals who intend to practice
53. medicine in rural areas;
54. (5) Residency programs to provide postgraduate family
55. physician training away from major metropolitan-based medical
56. training centers;

1. (6) All programs which support efforts to eradicate sexually
2. transmitted diseases;
3. (7) Closer working relationships between organizations of
4. primary care providers, medical societies and health agencies and
5. the Board of Education;
6. (8) Education of primary care providers, teachers, and other
7. health professionals to include the clinical application of sound
8. nutritional principles; and
9. (9) The Certificate of Need Board being more diligent in
10. their work in approving hospital expansions, including hospice,
11. home health, and long-term care, concerning facilities and services.
12. We oppose:
13. (1) Legislation or regulations that would jeopardize present
14. volunteer emergency medical technician (EMT) systems; and
15. (2) Guidelines that would close the obstetric wards in hospitals
16. that do not meet annual requirements for number of births.
17. We urge county Farm Bureaus to support and participate with
18. community health clinics, free clinics and rural health programs
19. such as bloodmobiles, mobile X-ray units, dental and cancer clinics
20. and ambulance service.
21. We believe the disability programs are too lenient and should be
22. monitored closely by the health care providers. Both the patient and
23. health care providers should be held accountable. A system to reg-
24. ulate the program should be in place.
25. We support the county health departments and recommend they
26. be used to their full potential.
27. We urge the passage of legislation that provides that the
28. membership of county health boards include at least one farmer.
29. We encourage timely domestic production of critical health
30. vaccines as a policy of national security.
31. We urge continuing research and development of a human
32. vaccine for any strain of influenza or other communicable disease.
33. We support Advanced Life Support Systems (ALSS) being
34. available in all Kentucky counties.
35. We urge the development of a secure electronic medical records
36. system, such as the E-Health Network, to increase the efficiency of
37. healthcare delivery.
38. We support the location of a Veterans Administration long-term
39. care facility in southeast Kentucky; one that will provide care to
40. veterans who are unable to care for themselves.
41. We support a dedicated suicide hotline for farmers and agricul-
42. tural workers, and encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to promote its
43. availability.

HEALTH INSURANCE

45. We support health care insurance reform and encourage the
46. Kentucky General Assembly to continue to address this issue.
47. We support being able to modify coverages, such as increasing
48. deductibles, without losing the status of legacy or grandfathered
49. health insurance policies.
50. We recommend that all insurance remain a free enterprise with
51. minimum state regulations and that it continue to be a service that
52. may be purchased in accordance with the needs of the public.

1. We support changes in Kentucky's health insurance laws that
2. will stabilize the market, encourage competition and increase
3. consumer choice.
4. We believe that all health care providers should be allowed to set
5. their own individual rates for health care services. However, we
6. recommend legislation that would require individual providers
7. to charge consistent fees for like services.
8. We encourage continued transparency by health insurance
9. providers on costs and coverages to ensure competitive pricing
10. and service.
11. We recommend that the state rate all medical services, facilities,
12. and equipment. This would enable consumers and health care
13. providers to determine the most cost effective service of
14. comparable quality.
15. We reaffirm our support for state and federal legislation that
16. would increase the flexibility for individuals to benefit from
17. Association Health Plans.
18. Associations should be able to provide adequate health
19. insurance. We oppose any action that would impede that ability.
20. We support the creation of additional tax incentives for self-
21. employed and small business owners that purchase health
22. insurance for their employees.
23. We are opposed to requiring employers to provide health
24. insurance. Employers who choose to provide health insurance
25. benefits for full-time employees should not be required to provide
26. seasonal and part-time employees with health insurance throughout
27. the calendar year of their employment.
28. Future health care policy changes should embrace the following
29. principles:
 30. (1) Promotion of personal wellness, fitness and preventive care
 31. as basic health goals;
 32. (2) Minimal government intervention in decisions between
 33. providers and receivers of health care;
 34. (3) Tax policies that encourage individuals to prepare for future
 35. health care needs such as making long-term care insurance
 36. premiums 100% tax deductible;
 37. (4) Direct government financial assistance to providers for those
 38. who are economically unable to pay for health care needs;
 39. (5) Government programs like Medicare and Medicaid properly
 40. compensate providers;
 41. (6) Protect the right of patients to choose health care providers
 42. and methods of treatment; and
 43. (7) Ensure that health care providers, not insurance companies,
 44. determine patient treatment.
45. We support comprehensive affordable health care for all U.S.
46. citizens.
47. We support:
 48. (1) Every possible effort to affect cost management while
 49. providing accessible high quality health care;
 50. (2) A law that would limit health care costs to no more than the
 51. level of federal cost of living increases and furthermore, recommend
 52. that hospitals be required to reveal their pricing structures;
 53. (3) The development of legislation that will lead to changing our
 54. present health care delivery system through the following:
 55. (A) Cost incentive/rewards (providers, insurance companies
 56. and consumers);
 57. (B) Protection against monopolies; and

1. (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) Privately 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

45. We support the State Fair Board and management in their efforts
46. to make the State Fair the pride of Kentucky's agriculture, industry
47. and natural resources. We encourage the Kentucky State Fair
48. Board be composed of a minimum of fifty percent voting members
49. who are active members in agriculture leadership. We support
50. funding for the expansion and maintenance of facilities at the
51. Kentucky Exposition Center. We urge the Kentucky General
52. Assembly to assume the remaining debt service on capital expen-
53. ditures at the Kentucky Exposition Center and for the funding to be

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

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

24. We support an efficient, well-administered and adequately
25. financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture. We support the
26. Kentucky Department of Agriculture be primarily financed by
27. dedicated sources of revenue, and recommend an increase in the
28. budget's baseline to bring the marketing and promotion budget in
29. line with other states.
30. We support adequate funding for all 4-H and FFA livestock
31. shows.
32. We support the current equal distribution of proceeds generated
33. by the voluntary \$10 donation made when renewing Kentucky farm
34. license plates to the Kentucky FFA, Kentucky 4-H, and Kentucky
35. Proud and we encourage county clerks to promote participation.
36. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's efforts to
37. continue to provide organic certification program services and to
38. maintain and promote the standards of the national organic
39. program.
40. We recommend that the State Board of Agriculture consist
41. of commodity specific members and at least one member
42. representing Farm Bureau.
43. We are concerned about the number of state appointed
44. boards and commissions representing agriculture. Efforts should
45. be made to consolidate the work of these groups into one mission
46. for agriculture.
47. We recommend that a more adequate training program be
48. developed for inspectors responsible for testing equipment, grading,
49. checking moisture meters and scales. We further recommend the
50. licensing of all moisture meter operators and we endorse a unified
51. system of measuring moisture content in grain, soybeans and
52. tobacco at all purchasing stations.
53. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to create
54. procedures for the sanitizing of testing equipment, including probes,
55. instruments, grinders and containers, between the gatherings of
56. grain samples.
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1. We urge the Department to provide strict inspection of all scales
2. used in buying and selling agricultural products.
3. We recommend the Department continue to work with the
4. Cabinet for Economic Development and others in seeking
5. market opportunities for Kentucky commodities domestically and
6. internationally.
7. We recommend that the National Agricultural Statistics Service
8. include more detailed reports on horticultural crops. We recommend
9. improving the efficiency and conversion to computerization of market
10. data collection and utilize a more producer friendly schedule for the
11. data collection.
12. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
13. continue to employ an equine specialist to work jointly with the
14. Cabinet for Economic Development and the Tourism, Arts and
15. Heritage Cabinet to foster and develop both domestic and foreign
16. markets.
17. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's and the
18. Kentucky Tourism Arts and Heritage Cabinet's efforts to promote
19. Agri-tourism in the Commonwealth with city and county level
20. tourism groups.
21. We recommend that century and older farms be certified and
22. recognized in Kentucky.
23. We recommend equine inventory data be included in the
24. Kentucky Agricultural Statistics book.
25. We recommend the annual survey of Kentucky livestock num-
26. bers include sheep and goats, and that the state statistician work
27. with the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association and the
28. Kentucky Goat Producers Association to assist with the design of
29. this survey.
30. We recommend the annual survey of Kentucky livestock
31. numbers include privately-owned, farm-raised cervids.
32. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's efforts to
33. support and promote the privately-owned, farm-raised cervid
34. industry.
35. We recommend that data on the poultry industry be combined to
36. include broiler, layers, eggs, and the breeder industry in the
37. Kentucky Agricultural Statistics book.
38. We recommend continued funding for the Kentucky Department
39. of Agriculture to employ horticulture/aquaculture marketing
40. specialists to better communicate marketing opportunities to
41. producers and to identify local Kentucky agriculture products for
42. wholesale buyers.
43. We support providing the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
44. with sufficient resources to fund increased enforcement of organic
45. standards.
46. We recommend establishment of poultry, equine and woodland
47. specialists in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.
48. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and
49. both state diagnostic laboratories employ poultry veterinarians to
50. ensure the health of avian species.
51. We urge the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to amend
52. their existing regulations pertaining to Pullorum Typhoid testing to
53. conform with federal guidelines.
54. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Division
55. of Environmental Services to be more consistent in their inspections
56. of agricultural operations.
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1. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to
2. support the Kentucky Hay Marketing initiative.
3. We urge the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to fully staff the
4. hay testing program to ensure quality forages throughout the
5. Commonwealth.
6. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture fully
7. staff their market news positions.
8. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's efforts to
9. monitor proper harvesting and sales of ginseng.
10. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's efforts to
11. strengthen industrial hemp production in the state of Kentucky.
12. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Agriculture enter
13. into reciprocal agreements, or establish legal documents, with other
14. state's governing agencies to establish a Boll Weevil Eradication
15. Program, and to allow out-of-state commercial agricultural chemical
16. applicators the ability to operate in Kentucky.
17. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture as the
18. Commonwealth's primary agency for implementation of the produce
19. safety rule of the Food Safety Modernization Act.
20. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to use
21. science-based information when forming any regulations dealing
22. with crop production.
23. We believe that all Kentucky farmers should be under the same
24. regulations set by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

FARM AND FAMILY CREDIT

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29. We favor continuation of adequate agriculture credit at the
30. lowest possible cost.
31. We believe farmers should be able to access credit from
32. available equity, rather than having credit access based on
33. cash flow.
34. We continue to support the cooperative associations in the Farm
35. Credit System (FCS) now completely farmer-owned. We oppose
36. any restructuring of the Farm Credit System which would replace
37. farmer-elected members of system boards or grant commercial
38. banks access to money procured by virtue of the agency status
39. enjoyed by the FCS or otherwise threaten the viability of the
40. system. We support legislation that would prohibit Farm Credit
41. Banks from exiting the Farm Credit System.
42. We recommend that efforts be made to establish a method of
43. financing farms through the use of local, state, federal or other funds
44. that would enable young people to start farming.
45. We urge our farmer-members to be aware of special financial
46. schemes that require "up-front" fees.
47. We support the Farm Service Agency (FSA) assisting farmers
48. who cannot qualify for other financing.
49. We recommend federal funding for low income housing as
50. presently administered by the Housing and Urban Development
51. Agency and Rural Economic Community Development (RECD) be
52. discontinued.
53. We support the continuation of guaranteed and insured loan
54. programs of RECD. Adequate funding should be provided to meet
55. the legitimate needs of eligible farm families including those which
56. are either partnerships or corporations. Adequate, competent coun-
57. seling and supervision should be available to all borrowers.

1. We recommend RECD expedite the processing of loans to
2. farmers allowing them ample time to make farming decisions before
3. planting season. We further recommend providing loans that will be
4. sufficient to carry out farming operations for a full year or rejecting
5. the loan.
6. We support uniform anti-predatory lending standards for
7. mortgage companies and consumer lenders.
8. We recommend medical liabilities not be listed as a derogatory
9. on a credit report.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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14. We discourage the closing of local Farm Service Agency offices.
15. However, if offices are combined, we urge the USDA to allow
16. farmers to only have to travel to adjoining counties that maintain an
17. adequate workforce.
18. We recommend that USDA fund FSA in a manner that lets them
19. be timely with their services.
20. We encourage streamlining of the FSA lending process,
21. including formulation of partnerships with other lending institutions
22. to simplify the process for applicants.
23. We support utilizing FSA's data and assistance for Premise ID
24. Registration.
25. We encourage FSA to allow authorized insurance personnel
26. to obtain any necessary producer information forms free of charge
27. from their office.
28. We support a change in FSA regulations to accept certified
29. printed scale weights.
30. We urge eligible producers to participate in local FSA committee
31. elections.
32. We recommend that to be eligible for any FSA committee, the
33. candidate must be actively engaged in agriculture production.
34. We urge local FSA committees to assist cooperating landowners
35. in the utilization of the forestry incentive programs for tree planting
36. and timber stand improvement.
37. Federally certified disaster years should be omitted from county
38. FSA yield calculations.
39. We recommend that the local FSA office display a discount
40. schedule to ensure that each producer in the loan program realizes
41. the cost that he can expect to incur.
42. We recommend that endophyte-free fescue be considered when
43. FSA cost-shares in pasture renovation.
44. We suggest that FSA require the establishment of irrigated yields
45. for farmers who irrigate their crops.
46. We request that FSA, NRCS and the Division of Water
47. collectively provide cost-share information for waste handling
48. facilities to producers when construction permits are issued.
49. We ask that Kentucky law be changed to allow a parent to sign
50. documents that would be legally binding upon their minor children.
51. We support extending office hours of local FSA offices during
52. peak sign-up periods.
53. We are opposed to the open office concept at USDA service
54. centers as being defined as removing walls and having all the
55. agencies in one big room.
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1. We oppose mandatory consolidation of farm serial numbers.
2. We oppose compliance status of one farm affecting the ability to
3. receive benefits on another farm.

AGRI-TERRORISM

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

AGRICULTURE DISASTER

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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39. In an effort to improve the public image of agriculture and Farm
40. Bureau, we will work to:
41. (1) Build and communicate a better image of agriculture and to
42. stress its importance to the well-being of the American consumer;
43. (2) Create and communicate better understanding between rural
44. and urban people;
45. (3) Emphasize the marked difference between benefits going
46. directly to farmers and those of benefit to the general public;
47. (4) Inform the public that food is affordable and a great value,
48. and that farmers receive a small share of the price paid for food;
49. (5) Familiarize the public with the importance of the businesses
50. serving agriculture and their contributions to the growth of the
51. national economy; and
52. (6) Conduct an aggressive communication program to promote
53. growth in Farm Bureau membership and commercial services.
54. We endorse the National Farm-City Program and urge county
55. Farm Bureaus to participate in such activities.
56. We recommend that information regarding the environmental
57. effects of insecticides, pesticides, feed additives, etc., be

1. disseminated to the general public through non-farm publications
2. and on radio and television.
3. We support building and maintaining a Kentucky Agricultural
4. Heritage Center with primary funding from General Fund dollars
5. and private sources.
6. We discourage government officials and media from naming
7. diseases after livestock commodities such as "swine flu" due to its
8. negative financial impact.
9. We oppose media bias and encourage the media to be fair and
10. objective in their reporting.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

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

PATRIOTISM

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31. We recommend that the American flag be properly displayed
32. at all state and district Farm Bureau meetings and by farmers on
33. their farms.
34. We recommend that it be a crime to desecrate the American flag.
35. We recommend that the words, "Under God" remain in the
36. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and the words "In God We Trust"
37. remain on our nation's currency.
38. We support our armed forces defending our freedom.
39. We support the preservation of all historical markers and
40. monuments in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

COURTS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

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46. We believe in the principle that the government should protect
47. the rights of life, liberty and property, and we support a strong law
48. enforcement and first responders policy.
49. We support law enforcement agencies and believe they should
50. be equipped with safety items for their officers, including but not
51. limited to, bullet resistant glass and hands free communication
52. devices to limit distractions while on duty.
53. We support efforts and laws to strengthen the sanctity of
54. families.
55. We urge the courts to be more diligent in dealing with those who
56. violate the law. Furthermore, we support swift action by the courts
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1. including dealing with juveniles who violate the law and believe that the
2. names of juveniles who commit felony offenses should be made public.
3. We recommend that small claims court actions be increased to
4. \$5,000 to reflect modern financial conditions.
5. We support parents being held more responsible for cases of
6. vandalism and destruction by juveniles.
7. We urge strict enforcement of our anti-pornography laws with
8. harsher penalties imposed when children are involved.
9. We support the segregation of juvenile offenders from
10. adult criminals.
11. We recommend a prompt and thorough trial by jury in all cases
12. where indictments have been returned by a grand jury. We believe
13. that "plea bargaining" should be used only when guilt is acknowl-
14. edged and a minimum penalty has been fixed by statute.
15. We support legislation to increase the penalties of speeding and
16. reckless driving that result in an auto accident.
17. We support capital punishment.
18. We oppose release of sex offenders on shock probation.
19. We recommend strict and more careful consideration of the use
20. of shock probation.
21. We oppose the enactment of gun control laws, but propose that
22. mandatory sentences be given in crimes involving the use of firearms.
23. We support the rights of individuals to protect their property.
24. We support prosecution of individuals that are proven guilty of
25. price gouging.
26. We support the sheriff's office becoming more involved in law
27. enforcement and that the responsibility of tax collection be handled
28. by personnel in his/her office.
29. We recommend that there be more rural law enforcement officers.
30. We feel that existing laws dealing with criminal acts by reason of
31. insanity should provide for proper criminal punishment.
32. We believe that non-violent prisoners should be worked while
33. serving in county detention facilities and should be closely super-
34. vised while engaged in the work.
35. We recommend stronger punishment for drunken drivers
36. and/or drug offenders, especially repeat offenders, and more rigid
37. enforcement by both the law enforcement agencies and judges.
38. We recommend that authority be given to confiscate vehicles
39. and property when an individual is convicted of drunk driving or
40. drug-related charges.
41. We support family courts in Kentucky.
42. We recommend that persons stealing or destroying county road
43. signs be punished to the maximum extent of the law.
44. We support states' rights to determine citizenship of anyone in
45. violation of the law.
46. We recommend the state legislature enact comprehensive
47. forfeiture reform by requiring that individuals be convicted of a crime
48. before their property is seized and ensure that any forfeiture
49. proceeds go to the general fund to be allocated by our elected
50. representatives.
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CRIME PREVENTION

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3. We support the state police and local law enforcement agencies
4. in the fight against crime.
5. We oppose any violent crime targeting a first responder with the
6. offender prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
7. We support recyclers and consignors to record the name,
8. address, and obtain a copy of a photo ID of individuals who bring in
9. recyclables to discourage the recycling of stolen equipment. All
10. items should be held for a period of five days by recyclers before
11. processing.
12. We encourage and support activities on the part of extension
13. homemakers' organizations, Farm Bureau women and other groups
14. developing programs associated with rural crime prevention.
15. We recommend that an educational program be developed
16. for our schools regarding the danger of child abuse and how to
17. recognize and guard against such.
18. We recommend that rural crime prevention programs, including
19. DNA kits for children, be continued by the state and county Farm
20. Bureaus and that all members be encouraged to participate.
21. We urge the Career and Technical Education and the FFA
22. Chapters to implement the rural crime prevention program and
23. develop model programs with county Farm Bureaus.
- 24.
- 25.

DRUG CONTROL

- 26.
- 27.
28. We pledge our cooperation to organizations in their efforts to
29. curb drug and alcohol abuse.
30. We are strongly opposed to any efforts to legalize narcotic and
31. recreational marijuana.
32. We support more stringent laws to deal with drug offenders. We
33. also support educational programs designed for students that would
34. teach them the harmful effects of drug use, including prescription
35. drug abuse.
36. We recommend that innocent property owners not have their
37. property seized or encumbered with federal tax liens when illegal
38. drug activity is found on their property.
39. We recommend the Task Force on Drugs become aware of the
40. destructive ability that their helicopters and equipment are having
41. on property. Innocent landowners should be compensated for their
42. loss or damage.
43. We recommend that every effort be made to eradicate
44. marijuana from all land in Kentucky.
45. We recommend that street value not be given out on a drug raid
46. or destroyed marijuana crop.
47. We support the efforts of the partnerships for a Drug
48. Free Community Program and encourage Farm Bureau members
49. to participate.
50. We encourage the use of additives in anhydrous ammonia to
51. prevent its theft from farms and suppliers for use in making
52. methamphetamine.
53. We support the use of seized drug money to help clean up
54. methamphetamine contamination on private property.
55. We strongly support increased funding for the state's drug task
56. forces.
- 57.

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

MECHANICS LIEN LAW

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
9. We urge the state and county Farm Bureaus to inform the
10. membership about the provisions of the Kentucky Mechanics Lien
11. Law and the advisability of farmers protecting themselves against
12. having to pay the same bill twice for services and materials.
13. We support a modification of the statutory liens statute to specif-
14. ically list hay sold as an inclusive in the persons who may apply an
15. agister's lien on farm animals and property.

REGULATORY AGENCIES AND COMMISSIONS

- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
21. We recommend that the state legislature provide specific guide-
22. lines and restraints on the agencies that are to administer the laws
23. and are given the power to adopt rules and regulations.
24. We oppose state regulations that are more stringent than federal.
25. Any new regulation should not restrict expansion or sale of
26. existing agricultural operations.

LINE FENCES

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- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
31. We support the Kentucky line fence law which allows an owner
32. of agriculture property to file an amendment in district court
33. requiring the construction or the replacement or repair of a
34. boundary line fence. We also support the provision of language
35. which allows the district court flexibility in determining what type of
36. fence is to be used.
37. We support amending the Kentucky fence law to award
38. reasonable attorney fees and court costs to the prevailing party in
39. the event of litigation required to resolve a fencing dispute.
40. We support that developers be required to build a boundary
41. fence when a residential, commercial or industrial development
42. adjoins farm property.
43. We support the provision in the line fence law that says each
44. landowner shall stand in the center of his boundary line facing each
45. other, and each shall be responsible to build and maintain that
46. portion of fence to his right.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

- 47.
- 48.
- 49.
- 50.
51. We oppose a change in the Constitution which would allow
52. residents to get proposed changes in the Constitution on a ballot by
53. obtaining signatures from any percentage of the state voters.
54. We are opposed to annual regular sessions of the Kentucky
55. General Assembly; however, we recognize the need for the
56. General Assembly to have greater control over the enactment
- 57.

1. and implementation of regulations, appointment oversight, and
2. budget revisions.

3. We support the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture being

4. a cabinet post whether elected or appointed.

5. We recommend the office of Constable be abolished.
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- 9.

MISCELLANEOUS

10. We recommend that charitable and nonprofit organizations be
11. exempted from laws that require an auctioneer to be licensed. We
12. support attorney's fees on foreclosures of real property being
13. limited only to hourly fees and expenses, as opposed to a
14. percentage of the total indebtedness.

15. We oppose mandating that an attorney be present at real

16. estate closings.

17. We recommend that regulations on unsolicited spam on Internet

18. Services be put in force similar as to "No Call List" on phones.

19. We support asking the phone company to make larger print

20. directories.

21. We encourage the General Assembly, universities and local

22. communities to use caution when considering making changes to,

23. or removal of items of historic significance.

24. We oppose any government mandate that forces school districts

25. to provide transgender bathrooms.

26. We oppose any infringement or additional restrictions on our

27. right to bear arms.

28. We oppose the continuation of state pension fund diversions and

29. recommend the state legislature take the necessary actions to

30. stabilize and create sustainability in the Kentucky Employees

31. Retirement System (non-hazardous) and the Kentucky Teachers

32. Retirement System.

STATUS OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

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35. It is our policy to keep our resolutions as current as possible

36. without specifically restating all details of continuing policies every

37. year. We therefore reaffirm resolutions passed at the four (4)

38. previous meetings, except insofar as they have been dropped,

39. fulfilled, modified or supplemented by later resolutions.

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