2020
Kentucky Farm Bureau Policies

As adopted by voting delegates of member county Farm Bureaus at the 100th annual meeting of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation

Louisville, Kentucky
December, 2019
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How These Priority Issues Were Decided

Farm Bureau priority issues are the result of a policy development process that begins in each county and concludes at the state and national levels. Once the delegates adopt new policies, the Farm Bureau Board of Directors approve priority issues for the upcoming year at a meeting of the board upon completion of our annual meeting.

The board of directors reviews the policies adopted by the delegates and selects those issues that will be pertinent for the next year. While we strive to implement all of our policy, priority issues could have the most impact on the agricultural industry and the citizens of Kentucky.
2020 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.

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 32 (KRS 130.010). 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 and incentives to improve and provide all telecommunications in rural Kentucky.
- 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.

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.

2020 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 restructures the H-2A program to make it more streamlined, reliable, and economical, in addition to limiting legal liability for farmers.

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.

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.
MISSION STATEMENT

Kentucky Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization dedicated to serving our membership family and their communities. As the Voice of Agriculture, we identify problems, develop solutions, promote economic success, and enhance the quality of life for all.

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, are proud of our organization and the contribution it has made to our national economy and to our social well-being. Abundant production on our farms is a national asset and we will continue to strive for the attainment of our goal of a well-fed and peaceful world.

Strides have been made in increasing our total agricultural output, but volume of production cannot be relied upon as the only means of attaining a high income. A sound national program will provide an income to agriculture which corresponds with the contribution that agriculture makes to the nation. Any federal or state program calling for adjustment in agricultural production must guard against declining incomes that may result from such adjustment.

We recognize that efficiency in farming, as in any other productive enterprise, has much bearing on the level of net income and well-being of individual farmers. Progress calls for the adoption of more and better machinery, new and improved varieties of field crops, better bred and fed livestock, better farm management practices and cooperative associations as a means of reducing marketing costs and purchasing of farm supplies. We contend that the conservation of our soil and water resources is essential to the public welfare of all segments of our society, and is, therefore, an obligation of the general public.

We wish to reaffirm our belief in the American way of life, with equal opportunity for all and a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

PART I POLICY STATEMENT

The laudable objectives of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation need to be kept in mind by all Farm Bureau members. Its objectives are: to organize effectively; to promote and protect the interest of Kentucky farmers; to enlarge and ennoble their field of endeavor; to win for them that recognition of their usefulness and respect to which they are justly entitled; to raise standards of farming and rural homemaking throughout our beloved Commonwealth; to establish a high code of ethics among the members of our vocation; to represent farmers in any legitimate manner which may promote their best interest - economically, educationally, socially; to increase the effectiveness of county Farm Bureaus by strengthening their educational and service programs; to strengthen the whole Kentucky Farm Bureau program by unifying the county programs while preserving local initiative; to cooperate with all such agencies - University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, the United States
1. Department of Agriculture, the Cooperative Extension Service, 2. Career and Technical Education, the Kentucky Department of 3. Agriculture, the Natural Resources Conservation Service agencies 4. and the Farm Service Agency, thus advancing the best interests 5. of all people in Kentucky. In order to better accomplish these 6. purposes, we are guided by the following principles:

7. (1) 
8. 
9. 
10. Agriculture's Place in the Economy and Society: To promote the 11. best interest of Kentucky's agriculture and by so doing to serve 12. the best interest of all of the people, it must be recognized that 13. agricultural prosperity and rural well-being cannot be gained or 14. maintained at the detriment of others. On the other hand, 15. prosperity and well-being of others must not be maintained at the 16. detriment of agriculture. We will take positive action to keep the 17. public informed of the rightful place of agriculture in the economy 18. and society of the country and will cooperate with other organized 19. groups for the good of all.

20. (2) Farmer Cooperatives: We stand on the proposition that 21. the development of farmer cooperatives is a democratic process 22. which may contribute to placing the business of farming on an 23. economically sound and efficient basis. Farmers in building for 24. themselves a sound agriculture have the responsibility of getting 25. their products to the consumer in the most efficient and economical 26. manner. Efficiency in marketing farm commodities and efficiency in 27. purchasing farm supplies and providing services, means the 28. elimination of economic waste, and insofar as cooperatives 29. contribute to this end they serve the farmer directly and indirectly by 30. contributing to the general welfare of the consumers. We will help 31. educate farmers in the development and use of sound 32. cooperatives.

33. We believe that farmers must take an active role of leadership in 34. formulating the policies and programs of their cooperatives.

35. We hold that farmers have the inalienable right to enter into 36. business on a cooperative basis whenever it is wise to do so and 37. oppose any legislation that will tend to hamper the development 38. of sound farmer cooperatives. We particularly object to attempts to 39. weaken cooperatives through the use of unjust taxes. We will fight 40. these attempts to weaken cooperatives with all the legitimate 41. means at our disposal.

42. (3) Education: We maintain that Kentucky can and must have 43. an adequate system of public education for all the people in the 44. state. It is our obligation to support legislation to secure sufficient 45. funds to properly support our public elementary schools, vocational 46. schools, high schools, colleges and universities. We maintain that 47. each person has the right to education that is best for them.

48. We maintain that sound educational programs specifically 49. designed for the training of farmers, farm homemakers and farm 50. leaders are vital to a sound and progressive agriculture. We, 51. therefore, staunchly support the programs of the Colleges of 52. Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, Vocational Agriculture 53. and Agricultural Education and Career and Technical Education to 54. end that these services may be most helpful to farm people 55. in Kentucky.

56. (4) Agricultural Research: We hold that an adequate program of 57. agricultural research is fundamental to agricultural progress. Since 58. the responsibility of conducting and interpreting this work is placed 59. on the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, it must have 60. adequate facilities and finances to carry on a progressive program
1. We are opposed to any state-supported agency providing benefits to "domestic" partners.
2. We strongly believe in the value of all individuals both born and unborn.
3. We support an effort to eliminate the pornographic menace to the moral fiber of our nation.
4. In order to maintain and improve our capitalist system and prevent further steps toward socialism, we assert the following beliefs:
   (a) We are opposed to any monopoly in any form and we believe that the anti-trust laws of this country should be enforced. We believe that the individual search for progress should not be inhibited by false promises of security.
   (b) We believe that regulation should be based on law and not on directives by people without benefit of law. We further believe that propagandizing of the public by government is dangerous to our future.
   (c) We believe that Congress should use restraint in enacting the powers of the Executive Branch.
   (d) Citizenship: It is the duty and responsibility of every citizen of the United States to understand our way of life; to support, protect and preserve it; to guard it from without or from within; to make its democratic principles more effective and to teach its principles to our children. To do these things we must be constantly on the alert to ferret out and expose persons, organizations and movements which would destroy our democratic institutions. We must exercise our right to vote by participating in all local, state and national elections. We must assume willingly all the responsibilities and duties that rest upon self-governed free people.
   (e) Nonpartisan Organization: The Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation is nonpartisan and holds that the actions of all governmental bodies should be directed toward serving the best interests of all of the people rather than serving the interests of any partisan group. All decisions should be considered on the merits of the proposed act rather than on its sponsorship.
   (f) We believe that the present organizational structure of Kentucky Farm Bureau and its affiliates should be maintained essentially as presently exists and that all members of the governing boards of the affiliates of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation shall be current and active members of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation.

COUNTY FARM BUREAUS

51. With the problems facing agriculture and the nation becoming increasingly complex, it is all the more important that every county Farm Bureau organize more effectively. Member participation is the essential factor in the accomplishment of Farm Bureau objectives. Good committee work within the county Farm Bureau

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

PART II STATE RESOLUTIONS

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

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AND RESEARCH

27. We urge adequate funding for the agricultural research facilities and the experimental farms in order to develop and maintain an effective research program.
28. We support research that will protect the livestock and equine industries and our economic resources by developing new capabilities to monitor, assess, predict and respond to emerging infectious disease threats. We believe the top priority of any research facility shall be ensuring all the appropriate safeguards are in place to protect the local and regional communities.
29. We urge that agricultural research at the University of Kentucky be fully funded in order to fill all faculty vacancies as soon as possible, and continue to recruit and maintain a high-quality staff.
30. We support additional forage and livestock extension specialists at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (UK CAFE).
31. We urge UK CAFE to focus research on the major issues facing Kentucky agriculture and make the results of that research available to farmers as rapidly as possible. We also recommend expanding research in the areas of environmental quality, water quality and quantity, agricultural profitability and competitiveness, and alternative crops.
32. We urge UK CAFE to update AGR-1 to more accurately address current crop production practices and technologies that result in higher yields.
33. We are in favor of keeping land grant colleges, the University of Kentucky, and Kentucky State University and state university research farms intact. Should a change or reduction of any existing research farm become necessary, there should be corresponding purchases or addition in order to maintain or expand programs of agricultural research.
1. We encourage enhancement of Agricultural Research and Extension facilities at the University of Kentucky, Princeton, and Robinson stations.
2. We encourage cooperation between UK CAFE and other state universities to establish joint research, education programs and facilities.
3. We urge commodity research for further expanded use of our products, including producer-financed programs.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

13. We support an effective extension educational program of agriculture, family and consumer sciences, 4-H, youth, and community and economic development as embodied in the system of local agents supported by area and state specialists.
14. We recommend that the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) intensify its efforts at the local level to focus on the rapid changes taking place in agriculture and to assist producers in a timely manner in adjusting to these conditions such as drought, and low commodity prices.
15. We encourage the CES to devote greater resources to production agriculture and expedite the transfer of technology to farmers.
16. We understand the need for the extension program in other areas, however, the CES’s involvement with agriculture programs should remain a priority.
17. We urge Farm Bureau members to serve on extension councils, 4-H councils, homemakers’ councils, agriculture councils, and other councils or committees to help plan local programs. Furthermore, we recommend that one of the two members nominated by the area extension councils to serve on the State Extension Council be actively engaged in farming.
18. We recommend the state 4-H Council evaluate and encourage more stringent criteria at the district level to qualify for the state show in order to eliminate horses and/or riders that may pose a safety problem. The horses qualifying for the State Fair show should be shown only in classes for which they qualified at the area level.
19. We recommend that adequate funds be appropriated to bring Kentucky’s CES back to a competitive position in salary levels. We urge the Kentucky General Assembly to provide funding for a performance-based career ladder for county agents, and for improved training and professional development of agents. This should be supported on recurring General Fund dollars, not using tobacco settlement funds.
20. We recommend that the Kentucky General Assembly fund the CES as a line item in the University of Kentucky (UK) and the Kentucky State University budgets.
21. We recommend that the funds needed to expand the current farm analysis program at UK be appropriated.
22. We encourage the UK CES to fill any extension agent vacancy positions within a maximum of twelve months.
23. We support the county based model for cooperative extension.
24. We recommend that the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment work more closely with local extension councils to carry out priorities and recommendations of the councils. We support the efforts of local county extension boards to have an equal voice in the appointment and evaluation of agents and assistants in their counties.
25. We recommend that the director operate the extension program in an efficient manner and continually review the operation of the service in order to improve efficiency and to determine if there are ways to eliminate excessive reports and any other nonproductive procedures.
26. We urge county Farm Bureau leaders to be aware of situations relative to future needs of agriculture, home economics and 4-H and plan for increased local support for such extension programs.
27. We oppose any efforts by state or federal government to impose restrictions on extension research or extension field work with producers of any legal commodity.
28. We support educational efforts by the CES to inform farmers of their rights and recourse under federal marketing protection programs.

DAIRY

21. We support programs that will increase the demand for dairy products. These programs include the serving of real dairy products in all state institutions and parks.
22. We support efforts to encourage school districts to participate in the Fuel Up to Play 60 program that encourages nutrition and fitness as well as the use of plastic bottle packaging on the meal line.
23. We support schools offering all pasteurized fluid milk and milk products, including whole milk and flavored milk, as part of the school lunch program without losing federal subsidies.
24. We support the promotion of milk vending machines and smoothie machines in schools.
25. We support the Junior Dairy Show Program.
26. We support the efforts of the Kentucky Dairy Development Council (KDDC) on behalf of dairy farmers and the entire dairy infrastructure. We encourage cooperation between affiliated agricultural organizations, industries, and dairy farmers to benefit all.
27. We support the efforts of the American Dairy Association of Kentucky and all other dairy promotion groups. These organizations should strive to communicate checkoff dollar usage through an industry-wide newsletter. Dairy checkoff dollars should be utilized in market areas where the milk is sold.
28. We strongly urge that all milk utilized for human fluid consumption be pasteurized. We oppose legislation that could lessen public health regulations on fluid milk for human consumption.
29. We will continue to work with the Dairy Products Association of Kentucky and others to improve dairy health regulations. We support the manufactured dairy products industry’s efforts for quality improvement and will cooperate in helping develop a sound program that will provide for proper state supervision.
30. We recommend that Dairy Management Incorporated continue research on all dairy products for the purpose of improving quality and consumer acceptance, and expanding new development of dairy products.
31. We recommend a greater effort to ensure that farm inspectors, regulatory officials and other industry professionals are familiar with dairy farming practices and are aware of the practical efforts that implementation of rules and regulations will require.
1. We encourage coordination between the state and regional testing labs in testing for contamination in milk products. We support the Kentucky Farm Milk Handlers Law which will provide increased services to producers and processors.
2. We support funding of the state wide Uniform Dairy Program. This program should continue to be administered by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.
3. We support passage of state or national legislation designed to protect dairy farmers in the event that buyers of milk become insolvent.
4. We support continued dairy research and education conducted in Kentucky through the most effective means possible including, but not limited to, a partnership between the University of Kentucky (UK) and Eastern Kentucky University dairy programs.
5. We recommend adequate funds be allocated to university research projects with the goal of alleviating health issues such as, but not limited to, the digital dermatitis (heel wart) problem in dairy cattle.
6. We oppose input from milk handlers in haul rate negotiations between dairy farmers and milk haulers.
7. We encourage cooperative efforts among universities in the southeast in extension, teaching, and research efforts to support and educate the dairy industry.
8. We support a coalition of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet, UK and the state universities, the Kentucky Governor’s Office of Agriculture Policy and the KDDC to implement a program that maintains the viability of existing dairies while attracting new dairies to Kentucky.
9. We encourage 100 percent participation in Cooperatives Working Together by dairy farmers.
10. We support the Kentucky Hunger Initiative and encourage providing dairy products to those in need.
11. We encourage entrepreneurship through the Kentucky Proud Program to further develop value-added dairy production that emphasizes quality and professionalism.
12. We support the development of a simple and transparent federal milk pricing system including, but not limited to, supply management, and exploring all feasible pricing mechanisms to provide a reasonable rate of return to dairy producers.
13. We support a two-tiered pricing program that addresses excess production as it influences the price of milk.
14. We urge all dairy cooperatives to pay at or above the federally mandated price for milk.
15. We support legislation that would provide a reasonable rate of return for dairy producers, processors, and retailers by recovering costs from the marketplace by establishing a minimum price for milk.
16. We oppose inaccurate or misleading labeling of all dairy products.
17. We support maintaining milk as the official beverage of Kentucky.

FORESTY

1. We urge cooperation among all forestry related organizations.
2. We recommend that the Kentucky Forest & Environment Cabinet expand and elevate the Division of Forestry (DOF), in keeping with the economic and environmental importance of Kentucky’s forest resources and the forest industries. Forestry should continue to be recognized as an agricultural enterprise.
3. We recommend that the DOF increase the number of state foresters in order to reduce the waiting time for forester assistance, and increase services provided, with an emphasis in the Appalachian region of Eastern Kentucky for landowner assistance.
4. We support the Forest Conservation Act in conjunction with the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act (KAWQA).
5. We support the DOF’s work in expanding Kentucky’s forest industry from protection against forest fires; assisting woodland owners in management, reforestation, insect disease, and non-native invasive plant control.
6. We recommend counties with significant forest resources invest a portion of coal, gas, and oil severance tax monies into woodland management activities for fire trails, timber stand improvement, and controlling invasive species that affect our renewable forest resources.
7. We encourage the use of hardwoods such as the American Chestnut tree in the restoration of strip-mined/mountain top removal lands.
8. We encourage the Kentucky General Assembly to fund a Forest Health Task Force, and make it a permanent part of state government. We request the task force publish its mission and submit a public annual report on the status of Kentucky’s forest health.
9. We support forest that qualify for an agricultural deferment of property tax should be assessed using an assessment model that is appropriate for forest land.
10. We encourage the establishment of forestry organizations at the local level.
11. We support the continuation and expansion of collecting and publishing of log price information commensurate with other agricultural commodities.
12. We support rewards for information leading to the prosecution and conviction for forest arson through the Wildland Fire and Arson Prevention Task Force and the Kentucky Forest Industries Association and the Target Arson Program in conjunction with Farm Bureau’s Theft Reward Policy.
13. We recommend adjacent property owners engaged in logging clearly delineate the farm boundaries to prevent accidental encroachment on adjoining property.
14. We urge stricter enforcement of our laws and regulations relative to controlling fires in our forests. We urge vigorous prosecution of those who violate Kentucky’s fire laws and regulations.
15. We support the creation and funding of an arson investigation team within DOF to aggressively investigate all woodland arson.
16. We support expansion of forestry research and natural resource education and extension at the University of Kentucky (UK).
1. We recommend that marketable timber and woody debris from
2. highway right-of-way and utility right-of-way, oil/gas pipelines and
3. wells be salvaged.
4. We support the collection and dissemination of annual forestry
5. inventory data under the Kentucky Forest Conservation Act by the
6. DOF. Moreover, the forest resource inventory should provide
7. reliable information on the amount of timber that is available for
8. purchase or use.
9. We support the Cabinet for Economic Development (CED) and
10. its efforts to include agriculture and natural resources in their
11. long-range economic development plan.
12. We recommend that the CED intensify its efforts in marketing
13. Kentucky forest products and increasing wood utilization.
14. We support the current effort in the state to promote the expansion
15. of the secondary forest industries, including the KDA's Value-Added
16. Wood Products Program.
17. We recommend the timberland assessment fee be increased
18. from two cents to five cents per acre, provided that the assessment
19. fee continues to be returned to the Kentucky DOF for the
20. suppression of fires and for promoting forest health.

GRAIN

We request that the University of Kentucky (UK) intensify its
research efforts in the following areas:
1. Control of barley yellow dwarf, a virus of small grains;
2. Early maturing varieties of wheat in Kentucky;
3. High test weight and high yielding wheat;
4. Control of head scab in small grains;
5. Production such as grain rye and barley yield traits.
6. We recommend UK develop public varieties of wheat.
7. We recommend the labeling of the number of seed per pound on
8. small grain seed tags and the cold germination tests on seed corn
9. tags for all commercially marketed seed.
10. We recommend that seed tags for all commodity grains reflect
11. the genetic purity of the bagged crop.
12. When seed companies sell insecticide pre-treated corn seeds,
13. farmers should be able to return the seeds, and be reimbursed for
14. the cost of the seeds.
15. Summaries of Kentucky seed law results should be published
16. annually and rigidly enforced.
17. We encourage use of corn starch based products such as
18. biodegradable plastics, calcium magnesium acetate and eco-foam.
19. We recommend Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) stress the
20. importance of producers using the best management possible in
21. the operation of harvesting and storing grain in order to maintain a
22. high quality product.
23. Farmers should be able to choose the date they lock in loan defi-
24. ciency payment (LDP) rates while grain is in storage at feed mills.
25. Grain quality should not disqualify commodities from LDP
26. eligibility if the county has been adversely affected by weather.
27. We encourage grain elevators to pay a premium for low moisture
28. grain.
29. We support the adoption of legislation at the state level that
30. would require grain purchasers to use United States Department of
31. Agriculture (USDA) grading practices.
1. All vacuum probes used in the marketing of grain should be approved by the USDA and foreign matter should be removed from a sample of grain before the test weight is derived.

2. We recommend that any genetically engineered grain approved by USDA and United States Food and Drug Administration not be considered contaminated grain in cargo.

3. We recommend KFB continue to monitor and publish methods used in arriving at dockage in grain.

4. We recommend that chemical testing for aflatoxin/vomitoxin be made available to farmers through UK and the Breathitt Veterinary Center laboratories.

5. We recommend that KFB become more aggressive in promoting a better understanding of marketing alternatives available to farmers.

6. Due to the increased value of grain, the grain insurance fund coverage should be increased to adequately protect farmers and the cap limit should be increased accordingly.

7. We request the Risk Management Agency retain May 31 as the final planting date for corn for the entire state of Kentucky.

8. SOYBEANS

We urge the University of Kentucky (UK) to expand its program in controlling cyst nematode, sudden death syndrome and soybean rust in soybeans through use of either resistant varieties or other methods of control. We encourage UK and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to conduct research on slug control and management, and further develop deer and insect resistant soybean varieties.

We support government funding for Asian soybean rust sentinel plots across soybean growing areas.

We favor the use of a dry matter basis for grading and pricing of soybeans and pricing seed by seed count rather than by weight.

We recommend that the Soybean Promotion Board continue funding programs to help develop ways to increase the use of soybeans and fund production research to increase profitability.

We urge the universities throughout Kentucky to intensify their research efforts on the expanded use of soybeans for human food.

We recommend UK develop public varieties of soybeans.

We encourage the Soybean Promotion Board to continue funding programs to increase the public awareness of soybeans and soybean byproducts.

We request the Risk Management Agency maintain the late planting date for soybeans as June 25.

9. LIVESTOCK

We support Kentucky's Beef Quality Assurance program and strongly encourage cattle producers, haulers, handlers, stockyard employees, and processors to participate.

We support the Pork Quality Assurance Plus Program, the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals Program, the Trucker Quality Assurance Program, and the Environmental Assurance Program and recommend every swine producer utilize these programs at all levels.

We support the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office's Small Ruminant Profit School and Sheep and Goat Quality Assurance Program.

We recommend that the Kentucky Farm Bureau and Kentucky's livestock organizations work in conjunction with their national associations to combat negative campaigns regarding meat consumption or production.

We will continue to investigate the export market potential for Kentucky livestock and livestock products.

We support the veterinary training program established by the Southern Regional Education Board.

We support the construction and funding for a livestock education center on the main University of Kentucky campus to give hands-on educational opportunities to students.

We support expansion of the livestock industry as long as new operations meet current environmental regulations by using Best Management Practices.

We support more education and funding for producers in marketing feeder calves, sheep and goats in large commingled groups.

We support development and adoption of livestock identification technology which will enhance the implementation of value-based marketing.

We support the establishment and implementation of an animal disease traceability system (ADTS) that will provide support for animal disease control and eradication.

An ADTS should be cost-effective, with adequate cost-share among government, industry, and producers.

Any such program must protect producers from liability for acts of others after livestock leaves the producers' hands, including nuisance suits naming everyone who handled particular livestock.

An ADTS should ensure the security of producer information and respect the privacy of producers by only collecting data necessary to establish a trace-back system. We recommend all information collected should be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.

We recommend that information collected in support of an ADTS be held by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) and federal government access to this data be limited to an animal health emergency. We support state legislation that would exempt all information collected by the office of the state veterinarian regarding animal health from the open records law.

We support the implementation of the KDA Office of the State Veterinarian requirement that all sheep and goats presented at Kentucky livestock markets be identified with an official scrapie tag prior to arrival.

We urge the Kentucky Farm Bureau, Farm Service Agency, KDA, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Food and Environment, and other state universities, the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, the Kentucky Beef Network, the Kentucky Pork Producers Association, the Kentucky Livestock Association, and the Kentucky Dairy Development Council, the Kentucky Goat Producers Association, and the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association, and the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office to work together to develop an ADTS.

We support developing a public education campaign conducted by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service for homeowners living adjacent to livestock operations to alert
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY DISEASE

We favor an expansion of sound programs to control and/or eradicate communicable diseases in livestock.

We recognize the need for feed additives and medication in livestock, poultry, and minor species. We favor careful use and withdrawal restrictions of feed additives and therapeutic; we oppose the banning of such additives and therapeutics without adequate proof of danger.

We support the responsible use of antibiotics.

We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s (KDA) programs for testing and inspecting livestock for disease in the marketplace. We recommend that Kentucky’s health requirements for livestock be coordinated, as nearly as practical, with adjoining states and we encourage the office of state veterinarian to work cooperatively with Kentucky Farm Bureau and state commodity organizations on development and implementation of new regulations.

We recommend the establishment of a contingency fund within the KDA to be used to cover costs involved in combating declared emergency disease outbreaks.

We are in favor of state funds being appropriated to fully maintain Kentucky’s brucellosis program and when federal funds are available for various segments of the program, the state should be reimbursed.

We recommend the KDA and its commissioner continue the surveillance monitoring necessary to maintain a brucellosis “free” status for livestock.

We support a reinstatement of the calfhood vaccination program and its funding to further control brucellosis.

We support education and research to prevent losses in small ruminants due to internal parasites, such as haemonchus contortus.

We support the continuation of the educational programs offered by the state diagnostic laboratories in cooperation with the Kentucky State Veterinarian, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association and University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service to improve awareness of and elimination of endemic and emerging diseases.

We support state appropriations necessary to fund voluntary testing and herd certification programs for paratuberculosis.

We support continued surveillance testing for pseudorabies and encourage the state legislature to appropriate the necessary funds to maintain such programs.

We support continued research regarding the correlation of chronic wasting disease and cattle.

We support the use of tissue and/or fecal sources for natural inoculation against imported diseases for which there are not effective treatments like porcine epidemic diarrhea virus and transmissible gastroenteritis.
1. The Kentucky Farm Bureau is opposed to the imposition of unreasonable regulations by individual states affecting the interstate movement of livestock. We urge state veterinarians to work cooperatively with Kentucky market operators to accommodate the issuance of health papers, permits, etc.
2. We support the compartmentation and secure food plans to protect movement and exports of the livestock and poultry industries during disease incidents.
3. We support additional funding to ensure that any veterinarian student vacancies offered by our affiliated colleges of veterinary medicine are filled with Kentucky students.
4. In an effort to address the shortage of large animal veterinary services in Kentucky, we support:
   (1) Incentive programs for veterinarians and veterinary technicians and technologists;
   (2) Seeking and funding additional slots for Kentucky students at veterinary schools;
   (3) Updating and modifying the current laws to expand veterinary services to allow veterinary technicians and technologists, in direct consultation with a licensed veterinarian, to have a greater flexibility in providing animal care services;
   (4) Encouraging the expansion of veterinary mentoring programs;
   (5) Improved recruiting and awareness efforts for Kentucky youth to take advantage of the veterinary opportunities;
   (6) Ensuring the pre-veterinary programs in our Kentucky universities have sufficient funding; and
   (7) Encouraging local communities to design aggressive recruiting programs to entice viable veterinary practices to serve the livestock producers of their communities.

**ANIMAL CARE**

35. We support the work of the Kentucky Board of Agriculture, the Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission, and the Equine Health and Welfare Council.
36. We support the Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission in their efforts to establish minimum standards for the raising, handling, feeding, housing or transportation of livestock, poultry, aquaculture and fur bearing animals.
37. Proper care and welfare of livestock and poultry are essential to the efficient and profitable production of food and fiber. No segment of society has more concern for the well-being of poultry and livestock than the producer. This is best exemplified by the high levels of production and low mortality rates achieved in modern livestock and poultry operations.
38. We recommend producers, haulers, handlers, stockyard employees and processors be educated on the importance of proper care of livestock and poultry.
39. We recommend the education of first responders on livestock rescue and safe handling procedures during emergency situations.
40. We encourage formal livestock investigation training for animal control officers and designated county law enforcement officials.
41. We support an aggressive, comprehensive educational program presenting the facts of animal and poultry production to the general public and to school children.

42. We encourage discussion and education of producers and consumers prior to adoption of new production practices that impact animal care and sustainability.
43. We support legislation preempting local governments from establishing animal care standards.
44. Kentucky Farm Bureau will cooperate with other agricultural-related organizations to address the animal welfare issues.
45. We support the right to humanely and safely harvest horses and livestock.

**POULTRY**

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

**EQUINE**

46. We support the use of equine for transportation, recreation, tourism and business.
47. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau cooperate with other agencies involved in the equine industry to disseminate information on horse-related activities.
48. We recommend production items and services associated with the equine industry be exempt from the sales and use tax. We support development and utilization of equine identification technology.
49. We recommend legislation to develop and encourage additional public horse riding trails on state lands and parks.
50. We support programs to promote the trail riding sector of the equine industry.
1. We support preservation of existing horse riding trails which are for non-motorized use on public lands in Kentucky.
2. We support federal funding for the equine industry in dealing with disasters.
3. We support funding for all equine facilities at the Kentucky Exposition Center and the Kentucky Horse Park.
4. We support the Kentucky Equine Education Project and the Kentucky Horse Council to promote the equine industry in Kentucky.
5. We support the University of Kentucky's Equine Program and recommend adequate funding for its facilities and programs, on- and off-campus.
6. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture restore funding and support the 4-H horse program to the same degree as traditional 4-H livestock programs.
7. We support fair and uniform guidelines and enforcement of horse show inspections and proper training of horse show inspectors.
8. We encourage equine owners to follow American Association of Equine Practitioners core vaccination guidelines for equine health and disease related issues.

AQUACULTURE

We support the aquaculture and aquaponic industry as an alternative farming method and recommend the continued improvement in government encouragement and assistance to aquaculture.

We recognize aquaculture commodities as a viable part of Kentucky's agriculture industry.

We oppose propagation fees as part of the permitting process to raise any livestock or livestock products, including aquaculture.

We support Kentucky State University in developing the aquaculture industry and encourage increased funding in order to promote the industry.

We support the efforts of the Kentucky Aquaculture Association Task Force and encourage adequate funding.

We support cooperative educational efforts between the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Kentucky Aquaculture Association to promote better understanding of aquaculture regulations and practices.

We support the development of fish farming through continued research on propagation including captive propagation and husbandry practices. We also support a cooperative effort between fish farms and state and federal agencies. We recommend amending the endangered species act to allow for interstate and international commerce of legitimately grown or harvested fish products.

We support all imported fish be held to the same quality standards that is required of United States fish products.

We support the transportation of live aquaculture products being treated the same as other livestock.

HORTICULTURE CROPS

We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB), the University of Kentucky (UK), the Kentucky State University (KSU), and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) assist growers in working with wholesale buyers and processors in matters of pricing, food safety, receiving schedules and handling facilities.

We encourage the KDA in cooperation with the UK College of Agriculture Food and Environment, KSU, and the Kentucky Horticulture Council to update and make publicly available the database for the Kentucky Horticultural Products and Services Directory.

We urge the Colleges of Agriculture to continue their commitment to all areas of horticulture research and the providing of timely and current information on production, handling, processing and marketing of the wide array of horticulture products grown in Kentucky.

We recommend that the UK South Farm be maintained as the primary horticulture facility for research and extension and undergraduate education in central Kentucky because the location, topography and soil types are extremely suitable for the type of research afforded to the growing horticulture industry. We also urge extensive horticulture crop research at the Princeton and Quicksand facilities.

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

We support continued efforts and further development of the Arboretum at UK.

We recommend that the KDA and UK make a strong effort to determine out-of-state nurseries that supply disease and insect free strawberry plants, fruit trees, vegetable transplants, etc.
1. We encourage the Agricultural Statistics Service to continue to
develop collection and reporting procedures on sales of all
horticultural products (nursery, greenhouse, fruits, and vegetables).
4. We recommend the enforcement of regulating transient roadside
vendors, especially those selling from highway rights-of-way, which
are hazardous, do not contribute to the local tax base and compete
unfairly with local producers.
8. We further recommend that KFB publish information pertaining
to monitoring and regulation of transient roadside markets and their
effect on local producers.
11. We encourage priority being given to Kentucky-grown
greenhouse and nursery stock and sod for all state and county
funded construction and maintenance projects.
14. We recommend UK maintain an extension viticulturist and an
extension oenologist to work full-time with the Kentucky Wine
Industry and to interact with the Kentucky Grape and Wine Council.
17. We recommend a tiered permitting cost for companies
registering crop protective agents used only on specialty crops.
19. We encourage growers, markets, retailers, and others involved
in horticulture production to contribute to the Kentucky Horticulture
Research Fund initiative.

**FORAGE CROPS**

26. We urge the Agricultural Development Board to maintain
the existing forage-related County Agricultural Investment
Program, and expand this program to address the needs of
Kentucky agriculture.
30. We support the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council in an
effort to improve forage production on farms.
32. We support funding for continued research and extension in the
establishment, production, storage, and marketing of forage crops
in Kentucky.
35. We support all Kentucky livestock and forage-related events, such
as the Kentucky Grazing School, the Kentucky Grazing Conference
and the Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference.
38. We recommend that the regulatory services, seed companies
and dealers monitor seeds and inoculant supplies in Kentucky to
ensure that quality products are available.
41. We recommend that Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA)
funding be increased to maintain and improve forage testing and
marketing.
44. We encourage farmers who raise forage either for sale or their
own use to use the forage testing facilities at the KDA to monitor the
quality of their forage.
47. We favor the continuance of upgrading and tightening hay
grading standards.
49. We recommend that forage crops be maintained at maximum
levels to conserve soil and preserve water.
51. We urge farmers to consider the use of alfalfa and other forage
crops as a means of increasing income and reducing soil erosion.
53. We urge continued research and development on the use of
forage crops for alternative fuels.
55. We recommend that the KDA explore the possibility of
harvesting forages from public lands and rights-of-way.

1. We recommend efforts to increase the use of forage crops as a
biofuel source.
3. We support the availability of crop insurance for all forage crops
and pasture.

**HEMP**

9. We support the research, production, processing, commercial-
ization, marketing, and utilization of hemp.
11. We support efforts to strengthen hemp production for seed in the
state of Kentucky.
13. We support research and development for labeling fungicides,
herbicides, and insecticides to be used for hemp.
15. We support a certification system to help farmers ensure the
quality of their seed or planting stock.
17. We support the protection of farmers regarding validity of
companies with purchase contracts.
19. We support nationwide THC sampling and harvesting protocols,
or Kentucky regulation/statute to more closely align with other
surrounding states in production.
22. We support the proper government entities regulating the safety,
quality and standardization of hemp products, which are sold to
consumers.
25. We support the development of affordable on-site testing
technology for local and state authorities.
27. We encourage coordination between local and state authorities
on hemp to better cooperate with hemp growers.
29. We support the utilization of hemp grain as a feed ingredient for
poultry and livestock.

**TOBACCO**

36. We recommend Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) continue leading
a coalition to speak with one voice as we address post-buyout
issues in the tobacco industry.
39. For continuity with growers and companies, we encourage
multi-year contracts. We encourage tobacco companies announce
contract intentions by February 1.
42. We support exploring the possibility of establishing a national
checkoff program for United States tobacco export promotion and
believe it should be governed by a committee comprised of active
tobacco producers.
46. We support a marketing initiative for tobacco not sold under
contract and for other excess tobacco.
48. We recommend that all tobacco be reported on Form 578 to the
Farm Service Agency.
50. We support continuing availability of crop insurance for tobacco
including fields with an acceptable crop rotation management plan.
52. We also support allowing tobacco to be fully insurable in sod
ground.
54. We support a two-tiered crop insurance program for tobacco;
with the base rate being available for all tobacco with a second tier
buy-up level for tobacco grown under contract from a company
57. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) member in good standing.
1. We support the final planting date for dark tobacco be moved to
2. July 1.
3. We support maintaining a final harvest date of October 10 for
4. burley tobacco and October 20 for dark tobacco in Kentucky for
5. crop insurance purposes.
6. We support any tobacco graded as no value and receiving an
7. insurance adjustment being required to be destroyed and destruc-
8. tion witnessed by a representative of the insurance company.
9. We encourage tobacco companies to limit the use of
10. foreign grown tobacco and believe that cigarette packs should
11. contain information regarding the percentage of the geographic
12. content by country of the tobacco in the pack.
13. We support the use of peer-reviewed, sound science, as the
14. basis for any regulatory decision.
15. United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation of
16. tobacco should be limited to processing and distribution.
17. We support a Kentucky tobacco grower being placed on any
18. FDA Advisory Boards for developing tobacco regulations.
19. We oppose FDA or any other federal agency regulating tobacco
20. products in a manner that could mandate modifications to
21. components which naturally occur in tobacco leaf used in
22. conventional tobacco products.
23. We oppose the banning of flavorings in tobacco products by any
24. agency.
25. We encourage the FDA to be more transparent and to inform the
26. general public, especially tobacco producers, of upcoming
27. meetings and agendas, and to accept public comments from all
28. interested parties.
29. We believe that smokeless tobacco products should be treated
30. differently in FDA regulations than smoking products.
31. We support research and education to help farmers comply with
32. new contract requirements as a result of FDA regulations.
33. We support smoking policies that accommodate the rights of
34. smokers and nonsmokers.
35. We support current state law restricting the sale of tobacco
36. products to minors, but we oppose delegating this authority to local
37. governments. While we oppose a ban on tobacco advertising or
38. other restrictions on free access to tobacco products for those of a
39. legal age, we recommend that KFB work with allied organizations
40. to curb youth smoking.
41. We oppose the sale of e-cigarettes and vapor products to
42. minors, and recommend liquid nicotine products be packaged in
43. childproof containers.
44. We oppose all online sales of vaping products.
45. In order to protect the important tobacco industry of Kentucky,
46. we encourage elected officials to oppose any regulation or tax on
47. tobacco products that would put Kentucky at a competitive
48. disadvantage with surrounding states.
49. We oppose ad valorem taxes on tobacco products.
50. We encourage that all substances or ingredients in e-cigarettes
51. or vapor products fall under the same regulatory oversight as
52. domestic or imported tobacco.
53. We support the concept of inspection, labeling, regulation and
54. taxation of vapor products.
55. We urge continued exploration and development of market
56. outlets and new uses for tobacco and we recommend that a
57. coalition of tobacco organizations employ a marketing specialist to
58. sell tobacco in potential markets.
59. We are opposed to federal lawsuits brought by the Department
60. of Justice against tobacco manufacturers.
61. We request that tobacco be graded uniformly.
62. Recognizing that tobacco is a legal crop, we support the United
63. States Department of Agriculture (USDA) collecting data and
64. issuing reports on tobacco acreage, production, and prices received
65. by tobacco type. We also support authorizing the USDA's Economic
66. Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service to collect data
67. and provide market analysis on tobacco.
68. We support funding the Kentucky Tobacco Research and
69. Development Center at an adequate level to enable it to carry out
70. its purpose. We urge the Tobacco Research Board to continue to
71. carry out an effective program with adequate revenue provided for
72. this purpose.
73. We support procedures being established to prevent
74. genetically modified tobacco from being commingled with or
75. contaminating traditional tobacco.
76. We ask all burley producers to join in the checkoff fund.
77. We recommend that the University of Kentucky continue
78. to develop mechanical methods for the production, harvesting,
79. and curing of tobacco, develop disease resistant varieties, and
80. continue their work with herbicides, insecticides, fungicides
81. and nitrosamines.
82. We support universal GAP training.
83. We recommend all tobacco producers participate in a GAP
84. certification program.
85. We support Kentucky's GAP training program certification lasting
86. for three years rather than one year.
87. We oppose growers being responsible for GAP fees or
88. assessments.
89. We recommend that GAP compliance must contribute to a
90. tobacco grower's improved financial sustainability.
91. We continue to support efforts to restrict and eliminate blue mold
92. including spraying of tobacco transplants with preventive fungicides
93. by plant producers. Producers should then certify their plants as
94. having been sprayed. We also recommend labeling of effective
95. chemicals for use in tobacco greenhouses.
96. We recommend KFB work with the Cooperative Extension
97. Service, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the tobacco
98. companies to develop an informational campaign to promote use
99. of locally grown plants to prevent the spread of blue mold from out-
100. of-state plants.
101. We recommend the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service
102. include more detailed reports on tobacco which should be broken
103. down to specific types.
104. We recommend that KFB work toward getting the Risk
105. Management Agency to continue to insure dark tobacco in the
106. barns as they have in the past.

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS

We recommend that the Agriculture Development Board funding
(50% of Master Settlement Agreement Phase I) and structure
be made a permanent part of state government and the
1. current, operational structure remain in the Governor's Office of  
2. Agricultural Policy.  
3. We support more dollars of Ag Development Funds be spent for  
4. the purpose of improving the net farm income of individual farmers  
5. in production agriculture.  
6. We recommend restoring and maintaining funding for existing  
7. agricultural programs and services through the General Fund rather  
8. than using Master Settlement Agreement funds.  
9. We support the creation of tobacco projects in the County  
10. Agricultural Investment Program.  
11. We recommend that any Tobacco Settlement funds above the  
12. agriculture community’s request that are directed toward youth  
13. smoking programs be broadened to include alcohol and drugs and  
14. be structured with sufficient safeguards and accountability.  
15. We support the continued education on and promotion of  
16. programs in the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC)  
17. and support its continued growth and financial support.  
18. We support the KAFC Infrastructure Loan Program and the  
20. We recommend no changes in the Master Settlement Agreement  
21. and encourage the state of Kentucky to leave the  
22. settlement “as is.”  
23. We request the debt service for state projects be taken from the  
24. General Fund rather than from the Agricultural Development Funds.  
25. We support the need for increased funding for the rapidly  
26. expanding horticulture industry as Tobacco Settlement Funds  
27. decrease and recommend the General Assembly finance these  
28. programs with General Fund dollars.  
29.  
30. COMMODITY PROMOTION  
31. We recognize the right of producers to promote increased  
32. research, sales and consumption of the commodities they produce  
33. and to work together as a group to promote Kentucky agriculture.  
34. Therefore, we support the promotional activities of the following  
35. Kentucky commodity groups: Corn Growers Association, Soybean  
36. Association, Cattlemen's Association, American Dairy Association,  
37. Egg Council, Poultry Federation, Pork Producers, Council for Burley  
38. Tobacco, Small Grain Growers, Aquaculture Association, Sheep  
39. and Wool Producers, Forest Industries Association, Sweet  
40. Sorghum Producers and Processors Association, Forage and  
41. Grassland Council, Goat Producers Association, Sheep and Goat  
42. Development Office, Dairy Development Council, Horticulture  
43. Council, and its member associations, Grape and Wine Council,  
44. Alternative Livestock Association, Organic Association, Farmers  
45. Market Association, Agritourism Council, Beekeepers Association  
46. and the equine industry.  
47. We recommend the Governor's office engage in a multitude of  
48. collaborative efforts with the Commissioner of Agriculture and  
49. Kentucky Farm Bureau on international trade.  
50. We support legislation to authorize any new commodity  
51. promotion program if the legislation provides:  
52. (1) For mandatory participation with a referendum to be held  
53. before initiation of the program;  
54. (2) For a referendum to be valid, a majority of votes cast must  
55. be affirmative;  
56. (3) For periodic review and referenda to determine continuation  
57. of termination of the program upon petition of 10 percent of the  
58. registered producers in the area covered by the program;  
59. (4) That collected funds shall be used only for promotion,  
60. research, education, and market development as directed by the  
61. growers and producers of these products; and  
62. (5) That only those persons who contribute monies to the  
63. respective programs shall be eligible to serve on the boards which  
64. administer such programs.  
65. We recommend a refund option for all checkoff programs.  
66. We recommend checkoffs be a percentage of net sales, instead  
67. of a set rate per head, bushel, or pound with the exception of the  
68. current cattle and cotton checkoffs, and information should be made  
69. available at the point of sale regarding refunds.  
70. Opportunities should be offered to producers with existing  
71. promotional programs to approve changes in operation and  
72. administration under the guidelines of the existing legislation in  
73. order that the declared policy of such legislation may be carried out.  
74. Any commission or body created under an agricultural  
75. commodity promotion program should be required to provide  
76. complete accountability to its producers of the expenditure of  
77. funds collected from them, including funds released to any  
78. agricultural organization, public agency or private firm for promotion  
79. or research purposes.  
80. We recommend that the Council for Burley Tobacco strive to  
81. include all burley tobacco producing states in the burley checkoff.  
82. We support the national program for soybean product promotion  
83. and research as established by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation  
84. and Trade Act of 1990.  
85.  
86. FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY  
87. The American food supply is the safest and most abundant in the  
88. world. Agricultural chemicals and other technological advances  
89. play a major role in maintaining both the quality and quantity of our  
90. food supply.  
91. We support legislative and regulatory decisions concerning  
92. food irradiation that are based on valid research. We support  
93. irradiation of food products to control harmful bacteria and  
94. pathogens, to extend shelf-life and to reduce dependency on  
95. post-harvest treatments.  
96. We will monitor initiatives to improve and streamline food safety  
97. to ensure that policies and procedures are in place that build trust  
98. and reliability in Kentucky agriculture.  
99. We recommend that the Environmental Protection Agency use  
100. an accepted scientific approach (when labeling or relabeling) in  
101. formulating and regulating chemicals under the Food Quality  
102. Protection Act.  
103. We support educating all food handlers on the proper preparation,  
104. cooking and serving of food products, including sanitary practices  
105. required by state licensing procedures.  
106. We recommend that nitrates continue to be used as a meat  
107. preservative unless it is proved beyond doubt that the continued  
108. use of nitrates will be harmful to human health.
1. We support Kentucky's adoption of current food codes for all
2. food and convenience stores.
3. We support scientific research to be used to disprove or verify
4. claims of plant-based and non-genetically or chemically-engineered
5. food products being healthier and safer than conventionally-
6. produced food.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

11. We support making Kentucky a world leader in agricultural
12. biotechnology through investments in recruitment and incentive
13. programs for new biotechnology industry, and further development
14. of world class facilities and research faculty in the Colleges of
15. Agriculture.
16. We support the expanded use of agricultural products for
17. medical purposes by the biotechnology industry.
18. We support the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO) as
19. a viable option for agriculture production. We believe that current
20. federal approval procedures establish the safety of marketable
21. GMO products and that these approval procedures are stringent
22. and scientifically based.
23. We support research and establishment of internationally accept-
24. ed levels/percentages for GMO and non-GMO agricultural content.
25. We oppose the production of any GMO product or crop that is not
26. federally approved for human consumption with the exception of
27. crops grown for medicinal or research purposes.
28. We oppose the federal government's work and promotion of the
29. terminator gene in seed research.
30. We recommend that the term genetically modified organisms
31. (GMO) be changed to genetically enhanced organisms (GEO).
32. We support the use of underground facilities for GMO research.

MARKETING AND CONTRACTING

37. We support activities and proposals that will bring increased
38. efficiency in marketing of agricultural products, domestically and
39. internationally.
40. We favor a value based marketing system that allows farmers
41. the flexibility to be legally engaged in value and volume based
42. marketing agreements or contracts.
43. We encourage producers to seek value-added sales by
44. networking with other producers, processors, and retailers to
45. improve net farm income.
46. We support expanding the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's
47. (KDA) Office of Marketing and Product Promotion.
48. We urge county Farm Bureaus to support programs offered
49. by Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) such as the chemical program,
50. Florida fruit program, and the Certified Farm Market program.
51. We recommend adequate funding for marketing promotion of all
52. Kentucky agricultural products.
53. We encourage the utilization of Kentucky agriculture products by
54. state and county agencies, state funded institutions, public schools
55. and publicly funded projects whenever possible. We also encourage
56. these institutions to contract with local growers when feasible.

LOCKS AND DAMS

44. We recommend that agencies funding watershed projects,
45. including PL566 and PL534 projects and pilot projects, be held
46. responsible for the upgrading of existing structures above regular
47. operation and maintenance. We support sponsoring entities' efforts
48. to maintain watershed structures.
49. We encourage the United States Department of Agriculture to
50. allow landowners who have wetlands that have been created by
51. dams that were built under PL566 and PL534 projects be allowed
52. to enter them into the Wetlands Conservation Program.
53. We support finding common sense, least cost alternatives for
54. resolving hazardous dams classification issues.
55. We support reducing matching fund levels, and allowing for
56. in-kind contributions from local entities, to maintain state and
57. federal dams.
1. We recommend that flood control or flood retarding structures be developed as multi-purpose facilities when feasible. In addition to flood control, they should provide benefits such as municipal and industrial water storage, recreational and agricultural development, and/or for the purpose of generating power, etc.

2. We encourage the Division of Water to work with the water conservancy districts and other appropriate authorities to address the funding and development of emergency action plans for high hazard dams that could impact life or property of adjoining landowners.

3. We believe the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Kentucky River Authority (KRA) should give more consideration to the agricultural land and stream bank erosion below their dams by monitoring land and water conditions below these structures and by adjusting release rates and times.

4. We oppose the Corps charging fees to water utilities for water storage, water withdrawal based on the Corps’ loss of revenue, annual operation and maintenance costs, and percentage of any major dam repairs.

5. We strongly support the Corps and the KRA’s efforts to properly repair and bring up to standard the dams and feasible locks on all Kentucky rivers, and further encourage these entities to then maintain and operate the locks and dams on all Kentucky rivers for the benefit of the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

6. We recommend those lakes controlled by the Corps be maintained for their primary purpose of flood control, with special consideration given to agricultural activities.

7. We support an increase in the Kentucky Riverport Improvement Program and/or adequate funding to maintain riverports.

**WATER RESEARCH**

8. We encourage the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission, local conservation districts and Kentucky Farm Bureau to participate in developing water quality regulations. We request state government engage the agricultural industry in the process of developing water quality regulations to include, but not limited to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

9. Classifications of the surface and ground waters of Kentucky should be based on documented water quality and quantity data. A state program should consider factors such as the cost of pollution abatement, the needs of agriculture, the needs for growth and the presence of naturally occurring substances.

10. Solving of difficult problems caused by the intrusion of naturally occurring substances should not be at the expense of the established water users, including agriculture.

11. We support the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act. We support research on the Best Management Practices (BMPs) established in the state water quality plan. We support producer development, implementation, and updating of individual agriculture water quality plans.

12. We encourage producers to have their water quality plan certified by a qualified party, and to file their self-certifications and/or plan with the local conservation district.

13. We support voluntary watershed awareness efforts. We recommend local communities take an active role in watershed research, education and assessment. We support the use of agricultural water quality plans and BMPs to address water quality issues, using a targeted watershed approach.

14. We believe water use needs should be addressed through research on the following:

15. (1) The status of surface and groundwater quality in Kentucky;

16. (2) The impacts of agriculture on water quality in Kentucky;

17. (3) The economics and maintenance of water supply structures and transport mechanisms; and

18. (4) The location, quantity and hydrology of groundwater and springs.

19. We support the Energy & Environment Cabinet’s efforts to review all impaired streams and reassess their designation based on actual scientific data.

20. We encourage the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority to coordinate research among the agencies and evaluate water quality protection models.

21. We support collaborative efforts to conduct water resource research, monitoring and education efforts by state and federal agencies and the universities.

22. We support United States Geological Survey (USGS) efforts to collect data on Kentucky’s major waterways that contribute to the Mississippi River Basin. We encourage adequate funding be allocated to continue maintenance and operation of USGS super gauges.

23. We oppose any voluntary water quality data being used as the sole source on which regulatory decisions are based.

24. We recommend the Division of Water use appropriate, applicable and scientifically defensible data when setting TMDLs.

25. We recommend the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services conduct research on sewage treatment systems and develop low-cost alternatives for areas where septic tanks are inefficient.

**WATER DISTRICTS/ASSOCIATIONS**

26. When water districts/associations are established, consideration should be given to the communities’ future needs, including sufficient facilities to serve all people in the area, adequately sized lines for fire protection, and sufficient infrastructure to accommodate industry and agriculture.

27. We oppose any fee for water holding/storage by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

28. We recommend that water districts make a wholesale rate available for agricultural uses that exceeds 50,000 gallons per month.

29. We encourage local and state legislation that mandates eliminating sewer charges on water used in production agriculture that is never returned to a municipal system.

30. We recommend that costs for developing sewer lines be established relative to each tap-on. We oppose sewer line development costs being pro-rated on a footage basis as determined by length of line on the individual’s property. Landowners in Agricultural Districts shall pay the cost of service connections from the water line extension and the one unit share for each service connection to the farming operation.
1. We recommend that any city, town or village that has a central water supply system also have a feasible plan for sewage disposal that meets state approved health standards.
2. We oppose mandatory sewer hook-ups for farmsteads beyond the city limits that have an existing and functioning septic system.

8. WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

9. State water resource policy and regulations should be based on adequate scientific research data.
10. Agricultural waste water impoundments and groundwater should be monitored only for demonstration, research projects, or individual water quality plans.
11. We support state and federal legislation that specifically allows a farmer to spread manure on fields at acceptable rates using the most cost effective methods without it being considered a point source discharge under the Kentucky Pollution Discharge Elimination System of the Division of Water (DOW) and the federal Clean Water Act.
12. We encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to aggressively pursue opportunities to increase water availability for farms and rural communities.
13. We support the Kentucky Water Resources Board and its coordinated effort to manage water resource projects and programs.
14. We urge the Governor and the Energy & Environment Cabinet to continue the development and implementation of a comprehensive water resources development plan while giving due consideration to land use planning efforts and future water needs of the state and to assist local government in implementing a water and sewer resource plan in their own community. We urge farmer participation in the water resources planning process and request an agricultural representative on all watershed basin teams.
15. We recommend that the DOW monitor and inform local communities as to the status of their water resources and be available to provide necessary guidance in the development of an emergency plan. We recommend that during a declaration of a water emergency that water for livestock be listed as a high priority and that water remain available to producers in order to prevent livestock owners from liquidating their herds. We support research, cost-share, technical assistance, and further development of existing programs for on-farm water supplies including irrigation purposes. We support the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) modifying existing cost-share programs to allow for Natural Resources Conservation Service technical assistance in assessing the long-term availability of water resources and the planning and development of new on-farm water supplies and irrigation systems.
16. We also recommend that during a water emergency, water for commercial producers of horticulture crops be listed as high priority, and that water remain available to them. We encourage producers to develop water resources and storages for their operations.
17. In order to prevent future water supply issues, we believe human consumption and agricultural usage needs should take precedence over environmental issues when creating new or renovating existing water resources.
18. We encourage the use of backflow devices on water supplies.

19. We oppose state regulations on wild and scenic rivers that are more stringent than federal protections.
20. We support moving Kentucky’s Nonpoint Source Program for agriculture and light construction to the Division of Conservation from the DOW and silviculture to the Division of Forestry.
21. We support the University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center of Excellence concept and coordinated research efforts on water resource development and irrigation efficiencies.
22. We support increased monitoring of Kentucky’s water resources to observe both quantity and quality of these resources.
23. We support further expansion of the Kentucky Mesonet Program.
24. We recommend the Kentucky Drought Mitigation and Response Plan be updated to include a specific “Agriculture Drought Mitigation” section. We recommend that in addition to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture that the USDA Farm Service Agency and a representative of the farming community be represented on the Kentucky Drought Mitigation Team.
25. We support the development of tax incentives for irrigation and livestock systems development.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

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

ALTERNATIVE FARMING
METHODS

4. We support all alternative methods of farming, whether livestock,
5. aquaculture or crops, being solely regulated by the Kentucky
6. Department of Agriculture.
7. We support methods of farming that result in:
8. (1) A profit for the farm operator;
9. (2) Enhancement of environmental quality and our natural
10. resource base; and
11. (3) The production of safe food, feed and fiber.
12. We are aware there are many ways to accomplish these and
13. methods may vary from farm operation to farm operation.
14. We support:
15. (1) Research aimed at reducing overall inputs needed to sustain
16. profitable farming operations;
17. (2) Efforts to provide information to farmers on proven means of
18. improving the efficiency of inputs; and
19. (3) Efforts to assist agri-tourism and non-traditional farming
20. enterprises particularly in obtaining affordable insurance coverage.
21. We oppose:
22. (1) Any attempt to mandate low input methods of farming; and
23. (2) Requiring low input methods as a condition of participation in
24. government farm programs.

WETLANDS

29. We recommend that tax credits be made available for wetlands
30. preservation. We are opposed to farmers being forced to pay
31. additional taxes for wetlands preservation. However, if a state fund
32. is created for wetlands preservation, we oppose the funds being
33. used with the power of eminent domain.
34. We support compensation for the lost use of privately-owned
35. land due to wetlands delineation.
36. We support congressional efforts to address the inconsistent
37. interpretations of jurisdictional waters pursuant to Section 404 of
38. the Clean Water Act (CWA) by the United States Army Corps of
39. Engineers (Corps). We support limiting the Corps’ jurisdiction to the
40. rivers and navigable water resources of the United States.
41. We strongly support the normal farming practices exemption
42. provided in section 404 of the CWA.
43. We recommend establishing a process of re-evaluation of
44. wetland determinations by the Corps.
45. We support the Natural Resources Conservation Service as
46. the lead agency for agricultural wetland determinations.
47. We support the Wetland Reserve Program and use of
48. mitigation banks.
49. We recommend that logging access roads be removed by the
50. logger when logging is completed in wetlands.
STREAM RESTORATION

1. We oppose legislation, regulations or any actions that result in hampering the appropriate application and maintenance of levees, stream channels, and banks, including drainage and maintenance of prior converted wetlands.
2. We support agencies involved in regulating streams on private property being able to ease regulations in times of disaster so that landowners may effectively clean or clear streams on their property.
3. We support the landowner's right to manage, maintain and repair existing private dikes and levees.
4. We recommend landowners be able to remove log jams in existing streams in order to prevent or correct soil erosion, crop loss and changes in normal flow of existing streams. Removal should be accomplished through practical means under advisement from conservation officials in a timely manner and without fear of repercussions or fines by government agencies.
5. We support allowing state equipment to be used to help unplug creeks and streams.
6. We recommend state and local governments clean and maintain ditches, culverts, and bridges on public rights-of-way to allow for adequate water flow.

UTILITY EASEMENTS

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

UTILITY LINES AND PIPELINES

1. We favor legislation requiring all who construct underground lines in Kentucky to:
2. (1) Lay all utility lines and pipelines at such depth that the top of the line shall be at least 30 inches beneath the surface of the ground, or the roadway, whichever is lower, and be checked, mapped 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 adequate vegetative cover;
6. (5) Leave cropland in tillable condition;
7. (6) Leave in first-class condition drainage systems disrupted by utility lines and pipeline construction; and in cases where disagreements as to what constitutes first-class condition develops, the final decision should be left to the local or nearest conservation district;
8. (7) Adequately compensate property owners for property taken and for damages to remaining property and any subsequent damage thereafter; and
9. (8) Be a member of Kentucky811.
10. We recommend that all commercial underground utility lines be marked and identified by the owner of the utility.
11. We recommend prohibiting utility companies from wire flag use and recommend they remove and dispose of all discarded materials.
12. The multi-line rights-of-way agreement, which cheats farmers out of income from pipelines and utility lines, should be eliminated.
13. Property owners should be paid for the damage to the property as a whole rather than the immediate area used by the pipe or utility lines.
14. We urge strict enforcement of the National Electrical Safety Code and support increasing the minimum clearance of electric and telecommunication lines.
15. The oil and gas industry should be held to the same standard regarding landowners as the coal industry, in that all oil and gas activities including roadways and pipelines should be permitted, bonded, and placed under the Energy & Environment Cabinet requiring quarterly inspections and enforcement for violations including civil penalties. Landowner consent must be obtained before any permits are issued.
16. Soil compaction should be considered in any damage claim from construction of a power line or utility. The full costs of removing such compaction and weed control should be covered at local equipment rental rates.
17. We support the appropriate federal and state agencies be given the authority to develop and implement regulations governing the natural gas liquid pipelines being proposed in Kentucky, repurposing of existing lines should also be included under these regulations.
1. UTILITY RATES AND REGULATIONS
2.  
3. We encourage the Public Service Commission (PSC) to monitor and investigate the activities and operating costs of utilities to ensure that the rates approved are fair and equitable, particularly as this relates to the fuel adjustment clause.
4. We recommend the PSC encourage utilities to develop a new rate classification specifically designed for farms to address seasonal peak demand charges.
5. We recommend that customer meter charges be kept to a minimum for farm operations.
6. We oppose municipal water utilities raising water rates only on rural water districts, water associations, and small cities to pay for expanding their water plants.
7. Steps should be taken to maintain Kentucky's favorable utility rates. Construction of new power generating facilities and associated infrastructures should not be allowed to adversely affect Kentucky consumers and specifically rural customers.
8. We encourage all electric utility providers to monitor and maintain rates at levels below the national average to attract and retain commercial and industrial customers.
9. We recommend there be rural representation on the PSC.
10. We support the procedure in which PSC members are appointed by the Governor and not elected.

11. MINING
12.  
13. We strongly support the coal industry because it plays such a critical role in Kentucky's economy.
14. We support funding research to develop alternative uses of coal.
15. We urge strict enforcement of Kentucky's Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.
16. We support coal mine safety standards that protect Kentucky miners.
17. We recommend that provisions be made in strip mine regulations for salvaging marketable timber. We encourage the development of markets for pulpwood and other small materials removed in the strip mining operations.
18. We oppose uneconomical, unreasonable requirements to return strip-mined land to its original contour when such restoration will not return it to its most productive use.
19. We support investments in research and promotion of ag crops and commodities that can be produced on reclaimed mine land.
20. We support a common sense approach to regulating mountain top removal of coal which recognizes the agricultural and economic development opportunities it can create.
21. We support incentive programs, including an early bond release for reclaimed coal mines to be used for agriculture.
22. We support mining reclamation for agricultural purposes.
23. We are concerned that the Longwall method of mining can be destructive to agricultural land. Therefore, we recommend better enforcement of all mining laws and regulations to protect prime farmland from further destruction.
24. We support the rural abandoned mine program and the abandoned mine lands program and encourage the government to release the state's full allocation of fees collected from mining operations for the reclaiming of abandoned mines.
25. We support reforestation of surface mined land on non-compacted soils using native species.
26. We support regulatory changes that allow environmentally protective and efficient mining of previously mined areas.
27. We urge the Kentucky courts and the General Assembly to clarify that coal bed methane is the same as gas found in oil and oil producing zones and is the property of the gas owner. Due to the unknown value and marketability of this gas, owners should be exempt from unmined or unproduced mineral tax.
28. We support establishing a limited Sand and Gravel Operation Permit for off-farm commercial operations.

19. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
20.  
21. We support reasonable environmental protection programs that are based on sound science. We are increasingly fearful of an over-reaction by some preservation groups to the extent that sound farming practices may be jeopardized and farmers cannot economically produce American grown food and fiber to feed and clothe the American population. We, therefore, recommend:
22. (1) The Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority (AWQA), working in conjunction with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment assume an active role in developing Best Management Practices (BMPs) and conducting agricultural pollution research, including analyzing the effectiveness of BMPs; and
23. (2) Agriculture be adequately represented on all environmental commissions and other entities that establish air, water, land use and other environmental regulations and standards.
24. A consistent long-term state working lands conservation and environmental policy should be pursued that would:
25. (1) Recognize the importance of improving agricultural productivity, while maintaining a productive natural resource base;
26. (2) Ensure individual freedoms including the right to own and use private property;
27. (3) Balance economic and social costs with real environmental benefits;
28. (4) Encourage voluntary, local and incentive-based approaches in which outcomes are well-defined, identifiable, verifiable and realistic;
29. (5) Rely on market solutions, performance-based approaches, and/or funding effectiveness in which outcomes are well-defined, identifiable, verifiable and realistic;
30. (6) Base decisions on sound, scientific principles and peer-reviewed science;
31. (7) Recognize that education and technical assistance are key components needed to achieve conservation and environmental goals and objectives;
32. (8) Recognize farmers as stewards to the land and protectors of the environment;
33. (9) Use agricultural water quality plans as the basis for environmental quality compliance; and
34. (10) Minimize potential loss of acres from fencing restrictions adjoining waterways, creeks, ponds and lakes.
We support amending state law to give the AWQA direct oversight and approval authority of any state environmental regulations and/or permit programs potentially affecting agricultural operations.

We urge the Energy & Environment Cabinet to:

1. Give more attention to effective sewage treatment and solid waste disposal;
2. (2) Develop laws and regulations pertaining to the disposal of agricultural waste based on sound technical data and require that cost and benefit consideration be given;
3. (3) Create a separate permit classification for on-farm livestock truck washes;
4. (4) Assist local governments in establishing programs for recycling and proper disposal of items such as tires, batteries and motor oils, plastic (such as hay wrappings, bale twine and greenhouse covers) and Styrofoam (such as tobacco float trays); and
5. (5) Consult with the AWQA in its quest for 404 certification jurisdiction.

We support additional oversight and auditing of the Petroleum Storage Tank Assurance Fund to prevent excessive charges.

We support farmers being compensated for farming practices that put carbon back into the soil.

We support the development and the voluntary implementation of both Water Quality Trading Programs and Carbon Credit Trading Programs.

We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Rinse and Return Program and its efforts in agriculture chemical collection.

We oppose legislation that would hold a farmer or commercial agriculture applicator liable for chemicals found in groundwater if the chemicals were used according to label recommendations or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.

We oppose holding the current landowner responsible for the actions of the previous owner. We are strongly opposed to legislation extending citizen’s right to sue when they are not directly affected by the condition.

We support the United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service projects on forage and animal manure nutrients management at the University of Kentucky and Western Kentucky University, and encourage producers to participate in these projects.

We support using livestock and poultry manure nutrients as a viable, sound nutrient source and soil amendment option. Any proposed law or regulation which would restrict a farmer’s nutrient management practice shall only be implemented if consistent with BMPs developed at the state level with the cooperation and assistance from the land grant institutions with considerations given for local conditions. Government cost-share funding should be made available to producers for construction of manure handling facilities to correct existing problems.

We are opposed to any regulations which require joint liability as a part of any permitting process. We support agriculture integration as a viable option of farmers who voluntarily choose to partner with corporate entities. We expect those who own or operate such agricultural facilities to do so responsibly to ensure the protection of water and air quality and quality of life for local citizens.

We recommend a site-specific evaluation of appropriate BMPs for a particular livestock confinement operation and site-specific interpretation of regulations.

We support conserving Kentucky’s biodiversity through voluntary efforts.

We support discouraging the EPA from enforcing air quality standards and implementing a new national ambient air quality standard for particulate matter until scientists determine the health and economic consequences of their actions.

We oppose:

1. Mandatory air quality standards for ozone, greenhouse gases, and particulate matter on farmers and agricultural businesses;
2. Emission control rules for farming practices, farm equipment, cotton gins, grain handling facilities, etc., and urge EPA to reevaluate the imposition of standards on farm and ranch equipment and other non-highway use machinery;
3. Mandatory cap and trade regulations that will increase energy costs in Kentucky by penalizing coal-based energy generation; and
4. EPA regulations on wood burning stoves.

We oppose the implementation of state and local policies as substitutes for validly enacted laws and regulations. We oppose the enactment of regulations that go beyond the intent and authority of state and federal laws.

The United Nations should not be given any authority or regulatory power over the natural resources of the United States.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

We encourage incentives for the recycling of waste and strongly support research to find packages and containers utilizing renewable agricultural and forestry resources that are biodegradable.

We urge actions that would increase availability of recycling services in rural areas.

We strongly encourage the University of Kentucky (UK) to conduct research that would result in methods for recycling discarded net wrap, haylage wrap, silage/grain bags, and styrofoam.

We urge all Kentucky landfills to accept agricultural wastes, and dead animals at a reasonable fee, to prevent improper disposal.

We encourage research on high temperature incineration as a possible replacement for landfills.

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.

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.

We recommend market research be conducted by UK to identify markets for sheep and goat byproducts, to reduce the volume of offal generated at Kentucky processing plants.

We support funding for the Waste Tire Collection Program and efforts to ensure the integrity of the program.
1. We believe the cost of administering trash pickup should be limited. We do not believe the administrative costs should exceed actual trash pickup costs.

2. When salvage yards are established, we recommend that the facilities be located a reasonable distance from flood plains, lakes, streams and other waterways.

3. We support tighter control on landfills to avoid the dumping of dangerous chemicals.

4. We support the Energy & Environment Cabinet's control over the issuing of permits for domestic and industrial spreading of waste.

### AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

5. We are opposed to rules and regulations that prohibit farmers' reasonable use of agricultural pesticides, fertilizer and chemicals.

6. We oppose legislation that defines any crop management practice as point source pollution.

7. We oppose legislation that forbids the use of any agricultural input that has a federal label and established tolerance for certain usages.

8. We recommend the establishment and continuance of studies designed to test the effects of varying levels of persistent and short-residual pesticides.

9. We support a "beneficial insects" category in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) competitive grants program.

10. We recommend that colleges and universities in Kentucky:

   (1) Strengthen their research, implementation and education of farmers on integrated crop management;

   (2) Continue recommending short-residual materials as a substitute for persistent pesticides where advisable;

   (3) Strive to educate the public of the proper use of all agricultural inputs;

   (4) Support programs to inform and educate the public of the benefits of agricultural chemicals and animal health aids; and

   (5) Apply to participate in the Interregional Research Project No. 4 for the registration of pesticides for "minor-use" crops.

11. We encourage legislation that would require registration of soil-plant amendments ("miracle" plant growth products) with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Division of Regulatory Services and gives the director of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station authority to require manufacturers/distributors of such products to furnish acceptable data for evaluating the product under conditions applicable to the University of Kentucky as a basis for registration.

12. 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 United States Food and Drug Administration and USDA to restrict veterinarians from extra label usage of prescription drugs.

13. We oppose the elimination of methyl bromide from the list of labeled chemicals until a substitute can be developed.

14. Atrazine is a critically important product to Kentucky agriculture. Any regulatory re-evaluation should adhere to a transparent and systematic process as outlined by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, allowing producer input to ensure a high quality science-based conclusion. This same transparent and systematic process should be followed for all pesticides.

15. We oppose hazardous industrial and radioactive waste being mixed with fertilizer.

16. We encourage fertilizer retailers to sell phosphorus-free fertilizer for homeowners who don't need it according to soil tests.

17. We support improved training programs on the proper handling and safe use of pesticides. We will work with the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) and other agencies in assisting agriculture producers in the implementation of the Worker Protection Standard Act. We believe that the KDA private pesticide applicator training and certification program should be periodically reviewed to ensure it is a sound and effective source of training and information.

18. We support legislation requiring chemicals be available in reusable or recyclable containers. We also support containers made biodegradable when possible. We encourage manufacturers to utilize chemicals in dissolvable packaging and urge the industry to promote this technology whenever possible.

19. We support elimination of Kentucky Revised Statutes that require commercial pesticide applicator license holders to be charged a dealer fee to apply incidental amounts of pesticides.

20. We support expedited approval of emergency labeling of chemicals to fight crop losses from diseases such as soybean rust.

21. We encourage quarries to continue grinding quality agricultural limestone.

22. We encourage the proper use and handling of distillers and brewer's byproduct.

### REGULATORY SERVICES

23. We support the programs provided by Regulatory Services at the University of Kentucky and encourage increased public reporting of the various analyses.

24. We encourage farmers to take advantage of the analyses of bulk lime, fertilizer, feed, and animal waste.

25. We recommend strict enforcement of Kentucky's lime law.

### LITTING

26. We support enactment of beverage container deposit legislation.

27. We favor strict enforcement of laws regarding littering of highways and private property adjoining highways. We urge all citizens to cooperate with enforcement of present littering laws. We urge the broadcast and print media to call the littering problem to the public's attention.

28. We recommend that the size and number of signs pertaining to roadside dumping be increased and include the penalty for violation.

29. When landowners discover and report illegal dumping on their land, we recommend that the landowner not be held responsible for cleanup of the illegal dumping.

30. We encourage farmers to properly dispose of containers related to farming operations.
1. We recommend that all garbage trucks be enclosed to avoid littering.

2. **PEST AND WEED CONTROL**

3. We urgently request highway departments, railroad companies, industries, and all owners of public or private land adjacent to farmland to cooperate with farmers in the control of Johnson grass, nodding thistle, multiflora rose, honeysuckle, kudzu, water hemlock and poisonous hemlock, and other noxious weeds before they go to seed in accordance with pesticide application guidelines.

4. We urge the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to work with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service to ensure that native grasses they are promoting are managed so as not to interfere with nearby farming operations.

5. We oppose the use of non-native invasive landscape varieties of plants that are spreading uncontrollably and negatively impacting agriculture.

6. For federal, state, and local highway departments, we recommend appropriations be made to carry out the noxious weed program.

7. We encourage continued and adequate funding for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s noxious weed program on agriculture land.

8. We support strict enforcement of noxious weed laws on all public and private property.

9. We support the allocation of funds for counties to control noxious weeds on county rights-of-way.

10. We encourage state and local road departments to use caution when spraying rights-of-way near agriculture production.

11. In the control of Johnson grass and other noxious weeds, we suggest state and county highway departments take special precautions to rinse or air spray equipment before moving from contaminated rights-of-way to non-contaminated areas.

12. We request that wild sunflower, marestail, black nightshade, Palmer amaranth, and water-hemp be listed as noxious weeds.

13. We are opposed to noxious weed seed being sold as bird feed unless it has been treated so that it will not germinate.

14. We recommend increased efforts in eradicating disease carrying insects, corn borer, Japanese Beetle, aphids, etc.

15. We support efforts to encourage use of bird boxes and bat houses to increase natural controls of harmful insect pests.

16. We support the use of waiver forms with landowners to relieve applicators of liability arising from thorough, effective use of herbicides or other control options.

17. **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

18. We recommend that Farm Bureau be represented in any decision-making process involving wildlife hunting restrictions and population control, and for the protection of animal health.

19. We support effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop loss, automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life.

20. We support a year-round hunting season for crows.

21. We urge research be conducted on the amount of crop damage done by government-controlled wildlife in order to help find a solution to this problem.

22. We recommend that action be taken to alleviate damage caused by overpopulation of wildlife on state parks, nature preserves and public areas, and that the hunting season quotas be extended in those zones where deemed necessary.

23. We recommend that the state establish procedures for controlling wildlife pests such as beaver, black bear, deer, turkey, coyote, raccoon, etc., which are proving to be destructive in certain areas of the state. We encourage more liberal deer, elk, turkey, duck, goose, and black bear hunting seasons to control rapidly expanding populations.

24. We recommend the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) publish the procedure necessary for a landowner to obtain additional deer and turkey tags.

25. We recommend that the KDFWR provide extra elk tag allotments for purchase for the “counties of release”, and that extra consideration be given to local residents. We also recommend a nuisance provision be provided for farmers in production agriculture, specifically for elk.

26. We encourage the KDFWR to develop solutions to alleviate the problems that black bears cause farmers by increasing the number of bears harvested and depredation permits.

27. We encourage the KDFWR to develop programs to increase the doe harvest. We support the harvest of doe during modern gun season in zones where it is currently not allowed. We further recommend that landowners require deer hunters to harvest a doe before a buck can be taken. We support the Hunters for the Hungry Program. We urge the KDFWR to allow landowners with nuisance permits to donate the wildlife to the Hunters for the Hungry Program or a local food bank.

28. We support all wildlife trapped by nuisance trappers being destroyed and not relocated.

29. We support KDFWR and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services work to eradicate feral hogs. We also support landowners expanding their means of control by allowing:

30. (1) The issuance of permits to landowners, to be used by them or their designee to hunt at night;

31. (2) The use of night vision, thermal imaging and electronic calls;

32. (3) The use of dogs for hunting; and

33. (4) The continuation of trapping.

34. We are opposed to the releasing of all wolves, bears, elk, hogs, venomous snakes, mountain lions, beavers and coyotes anywhere in the state of Kentucky. The KDFWR should not be permitted to release any animals in a county until they have secured approval from the county fiscal court. We recommend a public hearing be held and a census be conducted before nuisance wildlife can be released in areas and that controls and limits should be placed on animals released.

35. We support the right of an individual to protect livestock, property, and human life against wildlife. We support establishing an indemnity fund to pay for any and all damages caused by wildlife in Kentucky and establishing a grievance committee to review and award claims with a majority of members being private landowners.

36. We recommend the KDFWR provide a cost-share to all bee farmers to purchase an electric fence to protect their beehives.
1. We support developing conservation agreements for the protection of species in lieu of endangered species listings.
2. We recommend KDFWR be responsible for damages caused by actions, or the prevention of certain actions, which prohibit landowners from making improvements to or maintaining their land.
3. We recommend the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife Services keep the East Fork Clarks River and its tributaries, (that lie within the boundaries of the National Wildlife Refuge), free of snags and other obstacles to prevent flooding and other problems that could affect other landowners.
4. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the KDFWR work together to ensure sound health practices for wild cervids to prevent any disease for humans, livestock, or wildlife. We support cervids for any operations being allowed into the state only from disease-free areas. We oppose the private possession or interstate commerce of native or exotic fish and wildlife which could change the local ecosystem or which carry any disease presently under a state eradication program.
5. We oppose any effort to restrict the intrastate movement of domesticated deer and elk in Kentucky.
6. We support funding for USDA APHIS Wildlife Services technicians to address nuisance wildlife issues.
7. We encourage a more readily available permit process for nuisance wildlife such as the American black vulture.
8. We support removal of the black vulture from protected status and elimination of permit fees.
9. We support the KDFWR efforts to restore the quail population and encourage the voluntary participation in the quail restoration program.
10. Due to the potential risk of high path avian influenza, which can be carried by migratory birds, we recommend the KDFWR develop and allow practices that would relocate and/or eliminate migratory bird populations that pose a direct threat to the poultry industry in Kentucky.
11. We encourage the KDFWR to enact regulations to prevent the release of pen-raised quail during the breeding season.
12. We believe the KDFWR enforcement officers should have probable cause that a game law has been broken before they are allowed to enter upon private property.
13. We support market development and wild harvest of invasive, non-native carp species within the state of Kentucky.
14. We support creation of a program that encourages youth to be involved in hunting and fishing and creation of a lifetime license for youth and adults.

**TRESPASS, GAME LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

15. We urge strict enforcement of the law requiring permission to enter property for the purpose of hunting, fishing, trapping or digging ginseng. We also urge strict enforcement of laws relating to hunting, fishing and trapping.
16. Landowners should be protected from any trespassers, hunters, and criminal offenders seeking liability damages.
17. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) implement proactive programs to edu-

**PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS**

18. We believe in the American capitalist, private, competitive enterprise system in which property is privately owned, privately managed and operated for profit and individual satisfaction. Any erosion of that right weakens all other rights guaranteed to individuals by the Constitution.
19. We support protection of private property rights from eminent domain actions for any reason other than public use.
20. We support the rights of individuals to protect their property.
21. We oppose any legislation that would allow public access to or through private property without permission of the property owner or authorized agent. We oppose scientific or archeological activity being conducted on private land without written permission from, and compensation to, the landowner.
22. Any laws or regulations regarding upkeep of cemeteries on private lands should be fair to the landowner.
23. We call for review of all regulations that encroach on the rights of agricultural property owners.
24. We support the elimination of the Kentucky law that gives an individual a permanent easement across the landowner's property after 7 years of uninterrupted use.
1. We believe that any government action that diminishes an owner's right to use his property constitutes a taking of that owner's property. Therefore, government should provide due process and compensation to the exact degree that an owner's right to use his property has been diminished by the government action. Furthermore, we believe that the only just basis for compensation in such cases is fair market value.

8. We oppose government entities and railroads cutting off ingress and egress which would cause a parcel of land to be landlocked.

10. We believe business owners should have the exclusive right to prohibit tobacco use in their private business. We are adamantly opposed to any level of government or agency mandating that businesses prohibit tobacco use.

14. We support individual businesses right to make decisions based on religious convictions.

16. When regulations or legislation regarding wild and scenically rivers and/or rare, threatened or endangered species alter agricultural practices, agricultural producers should be compensated for the cost of these altered agricultural practices.

20. We support a landowner's ability to have their property surveyed at any time to establish property boundaries without encumbrance.

22. We support surveying all excepted property from existing deed to establish proper boundaries.

24. We support the rights of individual farmers to voluntarily sell or donate the development rights of their farms.

26. We encourage the General Assembly to increase funding for the PACE Program in order for the state to receive the maximum federal funds available.

29. When a government agency demands a flood control structure developed under the direction of KRS 151.250 be removed, they must present proof that the removal of this structure would eliminate the flood problem. Should the courts force the removal of these flood control structures, the funding for their removal should be used from the agency that forced the removal.

35. We recommend anyone, group or organization that video tapes or records images on a farm with the intent of using them in an anti-farming or anti-welfare campaign, without the permission of the land/farm owner, be charged with a criminal offense and subject to a reasonable fine and/or other punishment.

40. We support regulation of ultra-light aircraft in regard to minimum height flown.

42. Unmanned Aircraft Systems

43. We support:

44. (1) The use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for commercial purposes (i.e., agriculture, forestry, and other natural resource use);

46. (2) Requiring the operator of the UAS to gain the written consent of the landowner and/or farm operator if the UAS will be surveilling or gathering data above private property;

49. (3) Allowing landlords and tenants to fly over their fields for any reason without being considered commercial activity;

51. (4) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) developing reasonable certification and safety training requirements for the operation of UAS; and

54. (5) The use of safety features to notify manned aircraft that a UAS is in the vicinity.

1. We oppose:

2. (1) A federal or state agency using UAS for the purpose of regulatory enforcement, litigation and as a sole source for natural resource inventory used in planning efforts;

5. (2) FAA regulations of UAS as aircraft; and

6. (3) FAA regulations that require a pilot's license and third-class medical certification to operate a UAS.

RIGHT TO FARM

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

18. LAND USE PLANNING

21. We believe that any state land use planning initiatives should respect local control and private property rights, and not contain any mandates from state or regional entities. We believe this can only be accomplished through new incentives for local governments.

25. We support reforms which will provide greater protection to surface landowners from broad form deeds.

27. We are strongly opposed to the taking of prime farmland for the purpose of wildlife refuges.

29. We support the United States Department of Agriculture and local programs providing for the identification and retention of prime and unique agricultural land in Kentucky and the use of such information by local officials in the decision-making process to determine future use of such land.

34. We support the retention of these prime and unique agricultural lands to the maximum extent possible to ensure the capacity for food and fiber production. We recommend the re-establishment and full utilization of the Interagency Farmland Advisory Committee with regards to all state transportation projects.

39. We strongly support the concept of compensation for loss of land or land uses. Before the land use planning maps are adopted they should be reviewed by local agricultural groups.

42. We recommend that state funds be made available to assist counties in developing a land use policy and a comprehensive plan to protect their agricultural base. Such policy and plans should take into consideration land, water, forest and other natural resources within their capabilities. We support such programs only if the land use decisions and controls are left at the local level and/or regional level with local representation.

49. In addition to the above, we recommend the following:

50. (1) A definition of small farms should coincide with the same criteria used with agricultural assessment. We recommend that after a tract of land is divided into two sections of 10 acres or less, it should be subject to planning and zoning review;

54. (2) Location of all rights-of-way such as utilities or pipelines should not interfere with agricultural prime farmland; and

56. (3) The development of less desirable land for non-agricultural land use should be encouraged, so long as it conforms with locally
PLANNING AND ZONING

We hold to the principle of planning and zoning being locally administered through locally established planning and zoning commissions.

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

14. We urge county Farm Bureau leaders to familiarize themselves with Kentucky’s planning and zoning law, and be more aggressive in working with their fiscal courts, planning and zoning commissions when planning county-wide zoning.

15. Agriculture interests should be protected when a merged government takes effect in any county in the state.

16. We encourage planning and zoning boards to include farm representation as well as an active farmer member of the board of supervisors of the conservation district in the area, and the same principle apply in regard to regional planning commissions.

17. We support planning efforts that consider the needs of agriculture for the future which allow for both the continuation of normal farming practices and residential and/or commercial development of agriculture property.

18. We recommend that planning and zoning recognize Kentucky Proud. We urge local planning bodies to recognize agritourism as an agricultural venue and allow for agritourism uses.

19. We recommend that bona fide farm equipment and operations be exempt from the beautification laws and/or regulations.

20. We support the present law which prohibits regulation or requirement of permits for farm buildings and will oppose any attempt to repeal it.

21. We recommend that planning and zoning regulations for developers be strengthened and enforced to prevent and control erosion and flooding.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

We support cooperation with the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy, Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA), Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association, and other ag commodity groups to help incentivize and establish a beef packer in Kentucky.

The Cabinet for Economic Development (CED) should be encouraged to provide incentives for the establishment of tobacco industries that expand the market for leaf.

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

We urge the CED to develop incentives and programs for the establishment of agribusinesses on coal reclamation sites, rural economic development foundations. We urge local Farm Bureaus to become involved with these groups.

We support agricultural leadership in all areas of economic development to strengthen rural communities.

We support the strengthening of the entrepreneurial and leadership development activities of the Agriculture Development Board, the Agricultural Finance Corporation, the University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University and all regional universities, the KDA, and the Kentucky Center for Agricultural and Rural Development.

We recommend one staff member of the CED work solely with agriculture issues.

We recommend that the Tourism, Arts and Heritages Cabinet continue to provide support for agitourism activities.

We support the Shaping Our Appalachian Region initiative and its efforts that continue to look for additional options to build the cattle market in eastern Kentucky, including but not limited to expanding opportunities for cattle on reclaimed mine land.
1. FOREIGN INVESTMENT
2. 3. We favor strict enforcement of the laws requiring registration, disclosures and report of holdings and purchases of land by foreign entities. We feel there should be no preferential tax treatment to foreign entities and that all tax loopholes including property, production and capital gains be closed.

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

5. EMINENT DOMAIN
6. 7. We recommend that Kentucky laws dealing with eminent domain be amended to provide that the power of eminent domain could not be used for parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, riding and hiking trails, other recreational projects, sludge or waste disposal projects. We favor repeal of the law which gives the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources the right of eminent domain.
8. 9. We oppose the power of eminent domain being used to take private property for private use.
10. 11. We oppose the principle of giving credit to the acquiring agency for potential value of remaining acreage when paying for land acquired under eminent domain. In cases where private property is taken, we support prompt, just and adequate compensation. In cases of partial takings of real property, depreciation in the value of any remaining real property should be recognized, and compensation paid for any damages which result.
12. 13. Any entity using eminent domain to seize private property for public use shall reimburse the landowner the costs of private engineering, consulting studies, and appraisal fees needed to fairly determine land value.
14. 15. We support an exclusion from all taxes for land and improvements sold through an act of eminent domain or the threat thereof.
16. 17. In situations where eminent domain is used to acquire land, provisions should be made whereby the landowner shall have access to any of his property divided by the eminent domain action.
18. 19. We recommend that the owner of land acquired under eminent domain be reimbursed adequately to facilitate replacement or relocation. If property taken under eminent domain is not used for

6. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
7. 8. Rural areas of Kentucky must be adequately represented in the state legislature. A system similar to that used for the United States Congress where only one house is apportioned by population would accomplish this and be fair to everyone. We recommend that any revision of Kentucky’s Constitution provide for this.
9. 10. Inasmuch as the Supreme Court has held that state legislative districts may have considerable variance in population, we recommend that the General Assembly, where possible, restore legislative district lines to coincide with county lines.
11. 12. Elected officials who are convicted of a felony associated with public service, or who resign to avoid prosecution, should lose all government retirement benefits.
13. 14. We support legislative oversight of state regulations.
15. 16. We strongly encourage the Kentucky General Assembly to pass a budget within the allotted time the Constitution allows them to meet, making the state budget the priority of the legislative session.
17. 18. We request the Kentucky General Assembly to decrease spending where possible instead of raising taxes.

6. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
7. 8. We will oppose any efforts to change the procedure for selection of county officials, including property valuation administrators.
9. 10. Property valuation administrators and property evaluation personnel salaries should not be indexed or earmarked from property tax values, and their salaries should be based on what other county officials are paid.
11. 12. We are opposed to any change that would require county judge executives to be attorneys.
13. 14. We recommend staggered terms for members of the city and county governing bodies.
15. 16. We oppose officials of county government using taxpayers’ money to lobby for additional taxes.
17. 18. We are in favor of strict enforcement of a code of ethics for all elected and appointed government officials.
HOME RULE

3. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau study any proposals to change the Home Rule Law and take such action as deemed advisable to protect the rural areas of Kentucky.
4. We recommend that each county Farm Bureau appoint a committee to attend fiscal court meetings and report back to the county Farm Bureau Board of Directors.
5. We recommend that self-governing privileges of cities be confined to matters within their boundaries. Any authority including zoning beyond the corporate limits and into unincorporated areas should be limited to matters other than taxation and regulations; require expressed permission of the fiscal court; and not include any authority the fiscal court does not already possess.
6. We oppose any local ordinance that is more restrictive than state regulations governing agricultural operations.
7. We further oppose any legislation that will allow the creation of regional boards that may result in the loss of the present home rule authority over local areas and/or the control of rural areas by urban dominated boards, unless approved by the fiscal courts of each county involved.

ELECTIONS

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

EDUCATION

3. We recommend the teaching of basic moral values, basic economics and responsibilities of living in a democratic society at all levels of education.
4. We oppose the continuation of state pension fund diversions and recommend the state legislature take the necessary actions to stabilize and create sustainability in the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System.
5. We oppose the use of state monies to support charter schools.
6. Elementary and Secondary
7. We recommend cross curriculum support for the teaching of reading, mathematics, writing, science, social studies, civics, United States and world history. We recommend providing innovative classroom strategies focusing on the basic skills which are included in the Kentucky Academic Standards.
8. We urge the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to abide by the guidelines set forth in the Individual Education Program for students for state assessments.
9. We support changes to the testing system that reflect the yearly education improvement of the child while also evaluating the school. We recommend the Kentucky End-of-Program Assessment testing window be aligned with the state testing window. We support exploring alternative ways of calculating test scores of special needs students that would stay within the parameter of the current Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines.
10. We recommend the Department of Education adopt a uniform grading scale to be used across the Commonwealth concerning grade point averages.
11. We encourage efficient use of school funds and urge the General Assembly to continue its efforts to achieve this goal. We support the state appropriation of adequate funds for teachers’ salaries and benefits.
12. We urge more emphasis be placed on collaboration between postsecondary schools, elementary and secondary schools to improve teacher education, recruitment, and retention.
13. We support local school districts’ control in setting compensation criteria, considering needs and ability while operating within the state salary structure.
14. We support lowering the classroom student-to-teacher ratio while maintaining adequate staffing of schools.
15. We encourage and support funding the free textbook structure for elementary and middle schools and when state funds are not available we recommend local school boards be encouraged to buy such books that are needed.
16. We favor reducing the cost of new educational facilities by eliminating features not essential to a sound education program.
17. Local school boards should consider renovation whenever practical rather than new construction. The state should consider the county growth rate when approving the size of new construction for schools; as well as review the justification for new construction versus renovation prior to approving a bond sale for new construction.
18. We favor the present method of selecting county school superintendents and county school board members. We encourage Farm Bureau members to be active in this process.
1. We support local school districts in providing professional
development and/or workshops to improve teaching methods of
new and ineffective teachers.
2. A teacher effectiveness rating should be designed and used as a
means of removing ineffective teachers.
3. We support the original intent of teacher tenure to protect
teachers against political abuse. However, tenure should be
reformed so that it cannot be used to unduly protect incompetent
teachers.
4. We challenge school principals and superintendents to be more
responsible in the evaluation of teachers and administrators.
5. We support the current law that prevents teacher strikes.
6. We oppose legislation that mandates collective bargaining for
public school employees.
7. We believe that since locally elected Boards of Education are
accountable for the effectiveness of local schools, our schools
should be operated within the general policy provisions and district
goals adopted by local boards.
8. We recommend that local boards of education consider keeping
schools for grades K-5, 6-8, 9-12 in neighborhood locations.
9. We recognize that boards of education have the responsibility for
developing the school calendar. We urge county Farm Bureau
boards to work with local boards of education in developing the
school calendar. We further recommend all school districts that
service area career or technical centers to coordinate their
calendars to support all programs at those centers.
10. We support local boards of education establishing a professional
dress code for educators.
11. We recommend the legislature review the requirements and
criteria for home schooling. Any guidelines should be conducive to
traditional values, should not infringe on basic parental rights, and
should only address instruction of core subjects.
12. We believe that statutory models and all alternative models
for school site-based council composition should ensure equal
representation of parents and employees. We support strengthening
community governance of public education by local boards of
education, who are elected by all citizens. This gives all taxpayers
a voice in the expenditures of tax dollars and the policies which
govern the schools of the district.
13. We recommend that when a student needs to attend an
adjoining school district, the county Farm Bureau work with the local
school boards to obtain approval of a reciprocal agreement.
14. We support adequate state funding for staffing and facilities for
the state agency children's programs and for district-operated day
treatment and alternative programs.
15. We support the school board's efforts to establish district wide
discipline codes and the efforts of site based councils to implement
instructional strategies or appropriate techniques to ensure the
safety of students and staff while ensuring a conducive learning
environment.
16. We encourage the local school districts to support participation
in the state fair activities and/or 4-H, FFA, and other youth
educational opportunities and not penalize students for their
absence. We support the Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) working
with the KDE to enforce the state statute allowing students to attend
and/or participate in Kentucky State Fair activities. We further
encourage schools to value the State Fair for the educational
opportunities it offers and incorporate it as a learning experience in
their curriculum.
17. We oppose schools declaring themselves gender neutral.
18. Alternative lifestyles should not be taught in public schools.
19. We support “Agriculture in the Classroom” and encourage school
districts to implement this program in their curriculum and
encourage administrators to support professional development
training concerning “Agriculture in the Classroom.” We support
teaching the concepts of the food and fiber system for the
enhancement of the current Kentucky Academic Standards.
20. We support implementation of agriculture education programs
within practical living career studies classes and clarification on
different concepts related to agriculture.
21. We encourage KFB, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture,
and the KDE to work together to develop K-12 agriculture education
curriculum and resources for use by agritourism and farm operators
in facilitating school tours.
22. We urge schools to incorporate into the curriculum conservation
and environmental education. We urge that agriculture interests be
given fair consideration in environmental matters and that farmers
be recognized as leaders among environmentalists.
23. We support the continued utilization of Project Food, Land and
People resources for learning as the most recommended curriculum
toward the enhancement of environmental and agricultural literacy.
24. We favor increased emphasis on teaching of respect for law and
order, and recommend maximum use of law enforcement officials
and other appropriate public officials in this type of instruction. We
support safe school programs that are comprehensive in nature
from pre-school through grade 12. We encourage continuation of
these services for all students from agencies which are charged
with preventive intervention on behalf of public school age children.
25. We favor continuing cursive writing instruction in our school
systems.
26. We recommend that instructional CPR courses be made
available in grades six through twelve.
27. We support a physical activity as part of the school curriculum for
grades K-12.
28. We favor inclusion of the study of the Bible in the curriculum of
world religions.
29. We believe teachers should devote some time to spiritual
meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag at the beginning
of each school day. We believe that the use of prayer should be
allowed at school functions.
30. We support legislation that would allow the inclusion of the Ten
Commandments in historical documents displays.
31. We support the selection process for school principals that
includes a requirement for a meaningful screening of candidates by
the local superintendent.
32. We suggest caution and exercise of good judgment in offering
sex education courses and recommend that parents be consulted in
this matter.
33. Extracurricular activities should be limited to those times when
they will least interfere with regular instruction.
34. We support “High Schools That Work” and other initiatives
which provide for the integration of academics with career/
technical education.
We urge our public schools to develop more effective “drop out” prevention programs. We support the placement of a school counselor at each elementary school.

We support the use of licensed social workers within the school system.

We support the concept that individuals under 18 years of age must be enrolled in a certified school and maintain passing grades in 50% of their classes or be a graduate to keep their driver’s license.

We urge a stronger program of career guidance in the later years of elementary schools and continuing through postsecondary programs. We encourage all school districts to implement an advising system to provide individualized career guidance and academic counseling for all students which includes parent/guardian participation to ensure preparation for postsecondary education and workforce. We encourage local school districts to require 25% of continuing education hours for counselors be in the area of career and technical education (CTE) for grades 5-12. We further recommend that sufficient clerical help be provided so that counselors can spend more time with their students.

We urge KDE to continue to support and seek funding for effective programs for the gifted and talented students.

We encourage the local schools to provide a driver’s training program, with emphasis on driver’s attention, and that it be funded by the state.

We support having an educational page in the driver’s education manual and curriculum in driver’s education classes pertaining to wide or slow moving vehicles on public roadways.

Career & Technical Education

We support all school districts in providing more equitable access to CTE based on workforce development needs. We recommend that an adequate and equitable level of funding and state staffing be permanently established for all areas of CTE.

We continue to support a strong up-to-date program of agricultural education and family consumer sciences at the elementary, secondary, postsecondary, adult and continuing levels.

We urge county Farm Bureaus to assume leadership in encouraging students to enroll in these and other career and technical education programs as a means of preparing themselves for a career. We recommend students pursue all career opportunities available in the agriculture field.

We recommend:

(1) County Farm Bureaus to work with local school boards and local site-based councils to ensure that each county has an adequate agricultural education program, FFA chapters and 4-H clubs;

(2) A teacher of agriculture be employed in every county in Kentucky.

(3) That teachers of agriculture education continue to be employed on a 12-month basis;

(4) That agricultural education teachers be diligent in planning and providing an effective instructional program and FFA leadership development activities for each student which is reviewed and supervised by local administrators. We favor the inclusion of an agriculture economics, agriculture biology, and agriculture mathematics courses in high school agriculture programs. We further favor these courses being accepted in their respective discipline in high school graduation requirements. We favor the inclusion of an agriculture unit in the basic biology course taught in both middle schools and high schools in Kentucky; and

(5) A long range goal for agricultural education to help create new programs in communities not yet served by agricultural education and FFA and ensure the quality and high performance of current programs providing personal, academic, and career education in agriculture. We support an increase in federal funding and necessary personnel to advance the initiative.

We strongly support more integration of CTE by development of a joint curriculum combining academic and career instruction in the classroom. School administrators and school councils should work more closely together to accomplish this.

We support the statewide implementation of CTE and encourage the full implementation of workforce education and development programs which are designed to combine secondary and postsecondary educational programs.

We urge the leaders of the community college system and career and technical education to coordinate their programs in such a manner as to better utilize their finances, faculty and facilities.

We support the implementation of an annual funding stream and the continued procurement of funds as needed for the renovation and improvement of the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center in Hardinsburg and 4-H camps.

We strongly support reauthorization and appropriation of funding of the Carl D. Perkins Act which provides federal funding for career and technical education.

Postsecondary Education

We recognize the need to establish a working relationship with all state universities.

State financed colleges should accept all credit-hours obtained at any other state financed college.

We suggest parallel course requirements for equal degrees.

Kentucky’s statutes state that three members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky shall be agriculturally oriented. We urge the Governor to continue the appointment of an active full-time farmer to the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky. We recommend that an individual with an agricultural interest be appointed to the Board of Regents of each of the regional universities that confer Ag degrees.

We support the development of more vocational training programs for displaced farmers and farm related workers.

We encourage the Council on Postsecondary Education to carefully review any tuition increase proposal for state-funded universities to ensure the proposal is justified and does not place an undue financial burden on students.

We oppose colleges and universities denying students the full value of scholarships earned and oppose caps on reimbursements from scholarships.

We support agricultural workforce development through state funding for agriculture technology programs to seek competent and skilled agriculture workers for modern farming operations. We support the Adult Agriculture Upgrade Program offered through the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.
1. General Education Policy
2. We support financial literacy and Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, Mathematics (STEAM) to be included in Kentucky school curriculum at all appropriate levels.
3. We favor public school courses on the structure and function of democratic government. However, students should not be subjected to indoctrination for political purposes.
4. We recommend that qualified individuals with an agricultural interest be appointed to the Kentucky Board of Education and the Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education.
5. We appreciate Kentucky Educational Television’s (KET) interest in the programming needs of the agricultural public of Kentucky.
6. Farm Bureau supports the general equivalency degree now being offered by KET and urges county Farm Bureaus to assist in publicizing this service.
7. We support additional and enhanced technology that provides immediate feedback and real-time interaction with teachers and students.
8. We oppose addictive games of chance (poker, blackjack, etc.) being held on school property.
9. Career Awareness & Preparation
10. We recommend that Farm Bureau continue to inform young people of the many rewarding career opportunities in agriculture.
11. Furthermore, we encourage young people to consider their career opportunities early in their formal education and structure their education to allow them to meet their career goals.
12. We believe that greater attention should be given to career and technical education programs in the elementary, middle, secondary, and postsecondary schools. These programs should prepare students for employment and postsecondary education.
13. Adult and continuing education should be available to the people on the basis of their needs.
14. We endorse the concept of preparation for the workforce by improving Kentucky’s education system and preparing students for a career for which they are best suited. We support centralized testing for online college courses.
15. We support programs that reduce barriers to success for students and prepare them for college and career readiness.
16. We support dual-credit courses, including agriculture classes, being offered to high school students.

TAXATION

45. Kentucky’s tax policies should be based on public need and sound economic principles. Kentucky taxes should be apportioned equitably among the citizens.
46. We recommend that state, county, local governments, special taxing districts and school districts look at every possible way to save money before raising taxes.
47. We oppose unfunded mandates on local government.
48. If county fiscal courts or city governments vote to raise taxes in excess of 4 percent, the citizens in that county or city should be allowed to vote on the proposed tax, via a referendum, before it is assessed.

LAND ASSESSMENT

24. We urge the Department of Revenue and county assessors to comply with the principles of the Farm Land Assessment Amendment and use new technology such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to obtain the most accurate surveying information.
25. Landowners should be permitted to use GPS to obtain accurate surveying information.
26. We believe the Department of Revenue should not override an elected county official’s assessment of residential and farm properties unless proof of mistakes are publicly given.
27. We encourage equitable regional farmland and forest land assessments.
28. We support the agricultural land definition and assessment process that is currently in place.
29. We recommend when property is being transferred into a revocable trust of the current owners the assessed value may be used or the value statements may be omitted from the deed.

PROPERTY TAXES

45. To prosper in a modern economy, property taxes should be gradually phased downward in favor of broad base sources of revenue.
46. We strongly oppose freezing the state real property tax rate.
47. We recommend that local officials’ authority to increase revenue from property taxes be confined to 4 percent plus new growth. Any proposal to increase revenue more than that formula should automatically be decided by a voter referendum.
48. We recommend that property taxes collected for school purposes be levied and administered locally. We also recommend that the sheriff, county attorney, and Department of Revenue be more diligent in collecting delinquent taxes and urge property owners to comply with local real property tax requirements.
1. Valuation administrators to ensure that taxes are collected on mobile
2. homes and other tangible property.
3. We believe that churches should be allowed to exempt church
4. buildings, parsonages, or other property used from property
5. taxes, but should be taxed on property owned or used for
6. commercial profit.
7. We oppose farm structures being assessed at values higher than
8. their farm value.
9. For farms not raising tobacco, tobacco barns should be
10. exempted from property taxes.
11. We oppose taxing farm equipment with property taxes.
12. We oppose greenhouses being taxed as permanent structures.
13. We recommend that when a farm happens to end up in the
14. middle of commercial development, its tax assessment rate should
15. not be changed from agriculture.
16. We recommend that public utility companies be taxed equitably
17. with other similarly situated property owners.
18. If a farm is annexed into a city, the city shall provide services
19. equal to others in that city. If the services are not provided, the city
20. taxes on the property shall be adjusted.
21. We support strict regulatory control of selling unpaid property
22. tax bills.

SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS

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

SALES AND USE TAXES

49. We believe that a broad-base sales and use tax is the fairest plan
50. for financing government, while maintaining current agricultural
51. exemptions for all taxing jurisdictions.
52. We recommend that all farm production items and services
53. including veterinary medicine and vaccines, electricity, sawdust and
54. wood shavings, all livestock and poultry bedding, LP gas, and
55. natural gas be exempt from sales and use tax. We recommend
56. removing the sales tax on bumper trailers for agricultural use.
57. We support a card identification system for qualified farmers for
58. sales and use tax exemptions.
59. We oppose adding sales tax to food items and prescription drugs.
60. We support the permanent extension of a motor vehicle usage
61. tax trade-in credit on a new vehicle.
62. Kentucky horse farms should receive the same sales tax
63. exemption that all other Kentucky farms receive.
64. Agriculture cannot pass along its increases in production
65. expenses; therefore to keep our agriculture community viable, we
66. need to keep our Kentucky agriculture sales tax exemption intact.
67. We support restoring the sales and use tax vendor’s compensa-
68. tion back to the pre-2013 level.
69. We urge the Kentucky Department of Revenue to utilize auditors
70. with agricultural knowledge when performing agricultural audits.
71. We recommend that freight, being a service and not a tangible
72. item, always be considered non-taxable.

INHERITANCE TAXES

73. We recommend the removal of the requirement that farm value
74. exceed 50% of the fair cash value of the estate for the agricultural
75. use evaluation in computing the inheritance taxes.
76. We support the permanent repeal of Kentucky’s estate and
77. inheritance tax.
78. We recommend sons-in-law and daughters-in-law be reclassified
79. as Class A beneficiaries.

INCOME TAXES

80. We recommend reinstatement of the federal income tax
81. deduction on state income tax returns.
82. We recommend the repeal of the tax on interest income and
83. recommend the exclusion of taxes on dividend income earned
84. with full exclusion of anyone over the age of 62.
85. We oppose mandatory withholding of state taxes from
86. agriculture employees.
87. We believe necessary college expenses for parents supporting
88. their children at fully or partially state or federally funded
89. universities should be tax exempt.
90. We believe an option transaction for agriculture marketing should
91. be treated the same as a hedge transaction for tax purposes.
92. We support an exclusion from all taxes for the sale of
93. agricultural land that remains in production.
1. We support Kentucky's depreciation schedule conforming with the federal depreciation schedule including Section 179 rules and regulations.
2. We support an exclusion from all taxes for the transfer of a business, including farms, between parent and children.

REVENUE SHARING

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

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

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

HIGHWAYS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES

8. We recommend continuation of the 22.2 percent allocation of the state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads, and increasing county road aid funds to the point that all rural roads can have a hard surface.
9. Furthermore, necessary action should be taken to assure that all road fund money is spent as originally intended and is used effectively by local jurisdictions.
10. We support revenue options that ensure adequate financing for transportation infrastructure maintenance which take into account increased construction costs, improved fuel efficiency, and electric vehicles which currently pay no fuel tax.
11. We support measures that would prohibit all levels of government from enacting weight limit restrictions, other than where the safety of bridges is a concern, that would hamper the ability of agriculture to produce and deliver their products to market.
12. We oppose requiring loggers to bond roads to remove timber from private land.
13. We support the 10% weight exemption on farm trucks and trucks servicing farms hauling agriculture products, similar to the same benefits currently given to the transportation of primary forest products.
14. We support 97,000 pound gross weight for six axles on state and federal highways.
15. We recommend that a policy be adopted regarding farm-to-market roads using the same concept with weight and dimension and that consideration be given to farm machinery when widening these roads. We recommend county and state highway engineers to consider agriculture use in the design phase of road and bridge planning. We support the efforts to upgrade all bridges and all county, state and federal roads. We recommend that a better job be done in maintaining rural coal-haul roads.
16. We support legislation requiring the taking of equal amounts of property from each side of the road when widening of the roads is planned. Furthermore, we recommend that property owners be fully informed when rights-of-way negotiations are taking place.
17. We recommend that county Farm Bureaus work with county officials and the Office of Rural and Secondary Roads in determining where rural highway funds should be used.
18. We urge that consideration be given to the construction of crossroads, underpasses or overpasses to allow the passage of livestock and vehicles when a farm is divided.
19. We request the Department of Highways to refrain from seeding rights-of-way with Bermuda grass.
20. We are opposed to fertilizing highway rights-of-way except when reseeding.
21. We recommend better markings for all dangerous intersections on rural highways using caution lights and rumble strips. We also recommend that all state and county roads be striped where feasible.
22. We recommend that all paved public roads be white-striped on the shoulder.
23. We support the state using raised pavement markers in the center of the road on state highways.
24. We encourage transportation officials to ease restrictions on farm equipment access to multi-lane and/or limited access roadways.
25. We recommend that new surfaces laid upon old roads be accompanied by a comparable buildup of the shoulders. We also urge the guidelines, center and outside, be painted on blacktop roads and minimum width standards be maintained.
26. Asphalt strip patching should be done in a manner that will not alter a vehicle's direction or result in vehicle over correction.
27. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Transportation to install and maintain all road signs and markers at least six feet where possible from the pavement edges so that large farm equipment can travel easier and safer on all public roads.
28. We further recommend that reflectors be installed on the ends of all culverts and bridges and that paved highway markers be installed in the center of the roads.
29. We recommend that all county and state roads and bridges be a minimum of 20 feet wide where feasible.
30. We support policy that all highway rights-of-ways be mowed completely at least three times and the first mowing be completed before the seed head formation of noxious weeds. We urge the state highway department to more closely supervise contract mowers.
31. We recommend that highways be kept clean and that limbs are pruned in a timely manner.
32. We support enforcement of laws requiring complete roadside cleanup and removal of roadside debris from accident scenes.
1. We recommend all respective entities work together in highway
2. planning so as to maximize development of Kentucky water
3. resources through use of highway fills and dams.
4. We urge exemption of ad valorem taxes on commercial vehicles
5. to encourage licensing trucks in Kentucky.
6. We recommend that the speed limit on four lane, partially
7. controlled access highways, be raised to 65 mph with exceptions
8. for congested areas.
9. We recommend that all farm machinery and equipment driven on
10. public roads have rubber tires, including horse drawn buggies.
11. We support legislation to have scooters, bicycles and horse
12. drawn equipment display slow moving vehicle signs and/or be
13. adequately illuminated when ridden off private property.
14. We encourage a statewide system for removal of animal remains
15. from highways and disposal through composting or other approved
16. methods.
17. We urge the development of regulations that would make riding
18. bicycles on roads safer for all.

FARM VEHICLE LICENSE

We recommend the reduction of license costs on vehicles
involved in the practice of moving soil conservation equipment.
We oppose mandatory licensing of farm trailers and equipment.
We favor prorating the cost of a farm truck license when
purchased in the middle of the license year.
We support legislation that, for the purpose of vehicle
enforcement, farm trucks and farm truck-trailer combinations,
licensed with the 38,000 pound farm tag shall not be considered
commercial vehicles when used for agricultural purposes.
We recommend reciprocity agreements with adjoining states, to
allow operations of licensed Kentucky farm trucks without the
required purchase of fuel permits or additional licenses. We also
recommend that Kentucky weight limits and regulations be honored
in such cases.

TRANSPORTATION

We support legislation that clearly defines the right of farmers to
transport their products to market and to move their equipment by
the most economically feasible method.
We encourage the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
and the Transportation Cabinet to use uniform enforcement policies
across the state.
We support a review of the trucking regulations including a
suggested escalating fine system for overweight trucks.
We recommend that the state regulations on width of trailers be
changed to 102" on all state and local highways. Trailers that are
sold currently don't comply with the old regulations of 96".
We oppose road tractors pulling any more than two trailers.
We support changes to Kentucky's Transportation Cabinet
laws and regulations which conflict with long term practices of
agriculture; such as the requirement when hauling grain that it be
100% owned by the landowner, which prevents trucking of grain
and/or livestock in a swap work environment where no cash
exchanges hands.
We recommend the maximum driving and on-time-duty-
exemption for agriculture purposes be increased to a 200 air-mile
radius.
We support a waiver for drivers DOT restrictions in disaster
situations.
We support the soldiers to semis initiative to get more qualified
CDL drivers in the workforce and support a similar initiative be
enacted for coal miners.
We support driver's license expiration notices being mailed to
individuals a month prior to expiration.

RAILROADS

We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau assist property
owners in obtaining title to abandoned railroad easements adjacent
to their property.
We are opposed to the Kentucky Rails to Trails Program
unless all affected property owners are in agreement with the
proposed projects.
We support crossing arms at all public railroad crossings.
We support increasing the fine for railroad companies that
obstruct a highway, street or navigable stream.
We favor legislation that would require railroads to eliminate
excessive weed growth, installation of flashers at crossings with
obstructed views and prompt repair of rough crossings.

LIABILITY ISSUES

We believe that many awards in personal injury cases are
excessive and have resulted in higher insurance premiums.
We support tort reform to include, but not be limited to, a cap on
the amount of damages, such as a maximum of $250,000, that can
be awarded for non-economic loss. Tort reform should also limit
attorney's fees paid from the awards.
If a plaintiff files a class action lawsuit or civil lawsuit and loses,
the plaintiff should reimburse any court expenses and attorney fees
incurred by the defendant.
We urge state legislation to be enacted to require individuals or
groups who seek injunctions to reimburse the defendants for all
court costs, legal fees, losses and costs arising from such actions
that are eventually shown to be unfounded or are overturned in a
court of law. We support a requirement that court jurisdiction for
regulatory actions and lawsuits stay within the county where the
alleged offense occurred.
We support legislation to exempt the contract grower from
product liability issues.
We encourage the adoption of anti-disparagement legislation
that provides a legal cause of action against those individuals,
groups or government bodies who make disparaging statements
against agricultural products, farm animals, and/or production
without scientific proof.
1. We favor legislation that would require a car owner, law
2. enforcement officer or wrecker operator be liable for damages to
3. private property or damages caused by livestock getting out as a
4. result of an auto accident, if landowner is not notified immediately.
5.
SAFETY
6.
9. We encourage programs that promote the proper use of farm
10. machinery.
11. We encourage all local media to promote educational
12. programs in helping to make the public aware of safety
13. consideration year round with special emphasis during planting
14. and harvesting seasons.
15. We strongly support and encourage the continuation and expan-
16. sion of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture safety programs and
17. encourage the General Assembly to provide adequate funding.
18. We encourage county Farm Bureaus to explore the possibility of
19. organizing local fire protection associations.
20. We encourage the proper use of hazard lights and escorts when
21. moving farm equipment.
22. We strongly urge that police flag wrecked cars so that other
23. motorists will know that the wreck has been worked.
24. We recommend that all mailboxes be placed a reasonable
25. distance from the edge of roads and not directly across from other
26. obstructions to accommodate farm implements where feasible.
27. We support legislation requiring headlights being illuminated if
28. windshield wipers are in use.
29. We encourage the wearing of safety gear when staffing road
30. blocks for the purpose of solicitation.
31. We oppose unreasonable interruptions and enforcement of
32. occupational safety and health regulations when they deal with
33. farming practices.
34. We recommend that businesses with ten or less employees be
35. exempt from occupational safety and health regulations.
36. We recommend that entities involved in safety education
37. programs cooperate and support each other, and that Farm Bureau
38. support all safety educational programs.
39. Due to the increased number of injuries and deaths with ATV
40. usage, we recommend more emphasis be put on education,
41. training and enforcement of the law for all ages to protect riders
42. and the public.
43. Dealers who sell ATVs should be required to provide all
44. purchasers with basic safety instructions and materials for
45. comprehensive ATV safety usage.
46. We recommend the continued promotion of rollover protection
47. structures and seat belts by all groups and associations involved in
48. farm safety.
49. We recommend that all addresses be properly marked
50. and displayed on houses and mailboxes.
51. We encourage the use of “dry hydrants” as a way of improving
52. fire protection in rural areas.
53. We recommend water districts and 911 coordinators work
54. together to assign all fire hydrants and dry hydrants a physical
55. address to assist fire departments in responding to 911 calls.
56. We recommend the laws be enforced on tinting of motor
57. vehicle glass.

INSURANCE

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 strongly urge Kentucky Farm Bureau to work with appropriate
9. agencies, such as the National Safety Council, to encourage the
10. automobile industry and the consumer products industries to
11. develop standardization on all car seats and booster seats and
12. methods of installation and operation.
13. We support educational efforts to prevent the death of children
14. left in unattended vehicles and encourage research for the
15. development of safety features to prevent these incidents.
16. We recommend all tractor kill switches be marked by a sticker or
17. other means.
18. We support a statewide public education safety campaign
19. to discourage the practice of distracted driving, including texting and
20. cell phone usage.
21. We oppose using slow moving vehicle signs on anything other
22. than slow moving vehicles.
23. We encourage individuals to wear a helmet and other appropri-
24. ate safety gear while riding ATVs, motorcycles or bicycles.
25. We encourage safety education and training of firearms use.
26.
30. We recommend that all insurance remain a free enterprise with
31. minimum state regulations and that it continue to be a service that
32. may be purchased in accordance with the needs of the public.
33. We oppose further federal regulatory expansion into the
34. insurance industry.
35. We are against federal no-fault automobile insurance. We
36. strongly feel the best interests of society will be served if such
37. legislation continues under the supervision and control of state
38. legislatures rather than Congress.
39. We support eliminating fraud and abuse in Kentucky’s Workers’
40. Compensation Law and encourage continuing review of the law to
41. prevent further abuse and fraud.
42. We oppose any state operated funds being used for the payment
43. of workers’ compensation claims or claims on behalf of the
44. irresponsible motorist.
45. We support the continuation of agriculture being exempt from the
46. workers’ compensation law.
47. We oppose H-2A employers being required to carry workers
48. compensation insurance on all employees that are not engaged in
49. like work. We also oppose premium payments based on anything
50. other than wages paid to workers.
51. We support legislation requiring all institutions selling insurance
52. to provide written consumer disclosure and other consumer
53. protections as specified in current state insurance regulations.
54. We oppose any undue or unjust rate increases in vehicle
55. insurance on farm pick-ups or sport utility vehicles.
56.
57.
1. We strongly recommend the vehicle insurance liability law be enforced. Uninsured motorists should be required to surrender license plates to local authorities.
2. We support establishing a schedule, as it relates to charges for PIP coverages, similar to that of worker's compensation.
3. We support enactment of federal natural disaster protection legislation, with special emphasis for earthquake and flood loss, to form a workable partnership between the federal government and the private insurance industry.
4. We oppose a private cause of action under the Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Act.
5. We favor increasing the quarterly limit of workers compensation exemptions to small businesses and farmers, due to the increases of hourly wages and expenses.

**FARM LABOR**

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

**LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS**

26. We recommend that steps be taken to eliminate abuse in the collection of unemployment compensation claims.
27. We oppose an increase in the minimum hourly wage.
28. We recommend that the federal prevailing wage law be repealed when dealing with government contracts.
29. We support a return to the $1 million project level before the prevailing wage law is triggered, and support indexing the level for inflation.
30. We support ensuring workers are compensated first if a company declares bankruptcy.

**UNIONIZATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

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

**UNION ORGANIZATION OF FARMERS**

33. We uphold the right of farmers and farm workers to decline union membership based on their own convictions.
1. WELFARE

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

15. DOG LAW

16. We urge the Farm Bureau leadership to work with fiscal courts
17. and local dog law enforcement agencies to:
18. (1) See that the laws are strongly enforced; and
19. (2) Arrange with veterinarians and other appropriate persons to
20. sell dog tags.
21. We favor amending the law to designate animal control officers
22. as peace officers for the purpose of enforcing the dog law only.
23. We oppose any effort to transfer dog law enforcement
24. from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to any other
25. department of state government.

26. ENERGY

27. We support government and industry working together to
28. develop all possible sources of energy to alter United States
29. dependence on other nations for energy resources.
30. We support further development of solar, geothermal, biofuels,
31. wind, and other sources of energy and recommend that special
32. emphasis be given to converting to expanded use of coal including
33. gasification, liquefaction and alcohol production.
34. We support providing incentive programs and tax relief for
35. fuel-graded alcohol. We also support use of coal gasification
36. technology to produce nitrogen based fertilizers.
37. We will publicly and aggressively promote the use of biofuels
38. and support legislation that promotes biofuels usage.
39. We support updating all state statutes and regulations to comply
40. with federal guidelines relative to motor fuel use when approved by
41. federal statute and/or regulation.
42. We recommend that if any oxygenate is needed to meet clean
43. air requirements that it be ethanol.
44. We encourage expanded research for the use of ethanol for coal
45. desulphurization.
46. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau aggressively
47. promote the required use of biodiesel throughout Kentucky.
48. We recommend that all diesel and gasoline offered for sale in
49. Kentucky contain a blend of biofuels or ethanol and urge increased
50. availability of e85 fuel. We support efforts to promote biofuel usage
51. by visible and identifiable signage.
52. We recommend that all state vehicles use ethanol blends and
53. biodiesel when available.
54. We recommend that all gasoline engine vehicles purchased by
55. state government be able to use e85 fuel when available.
56. We support quality testing of biofuels by the Kentucky
57. Department of Agriculture (KDA), in a cost-effective manner.
58. We urge top priority be given to agriculture when fuel rationing
59. occurs. We favor rationing programs be based on current annual
60. needs rather than a monthly basis.
61. We recommend that biofuels be taken into consideration when
62. fuel rationing occurs.
63. We encourage economic incentives for farm owners to purchase
64. their own fuel storage and propane tanks.
65. Energy is an important input to agriculture, and in times of
66. shortage or other emergencies the state should implement an
67. energy emergency response plan to facilitate transportation and
68. delivery of fuel, propane and electricity.
69. We support:
70. (1) Continued research and development to expand production
71. of renewable fuels from agricultural commodities, further reducing
72. America's dependence on foreign oil.
73. (2) Establishment of state incentives to support increased
74. production and use of agricultural-based fuels.
75. (3) The use and conversion of waste products for expanded
76. forms of energy.
77. (4) Tax incentives for the usage of alternative forms of energy;
78. (5) State incentives and programs to promote energy efficiency
79. and conservation on farms.
80. (6) Implementation of a state and national energy policy;
81. (7) University research on alternative fuels; and
82. (8) University research on processing and transporting biomass
83. products.
84. We recommend that the KDA and the Kentucky Economic
85. Development Cabinet recognize that renewable energy and energy
86. efficiency are economic drivers for our farms, rural communities and
87. businesses. We encourage these agencies to develop
88. and support initiatives of the same. Further, we recommend
89. these agencies collaborate with the Kentucky Energy &
90. Environment Cabinet.
91. We support the goals of 25 X '25 which outline that by the year
92. 2025 America's farms, ranches, and forests will provide twenty-five
93. percent of the total energy consumed in the United States without
94. sacrificing the production of safe, abundant and affordable food,
95. feed, and fiber.
96. We encourage enhanced education and demonstration efforts
97. on energy efficiency in the homes, farms and businesses of
98. Kentucky.
99. We oppose the establishment of new city-owned electric systems
100. to serve new or expanded electric loads because of the obvious
101. negative impact this would have on the electric rates of residential and
102. commercial customers of the electric utility currently providing service.
103. We support the use of wood, wood pellets, wood biomass, and
104. wood products as a source of renewable energy.
We oppose climate change legislation that establishes mandatory cap and trade provisions which would lead to higher energy costs and negative impacts on the agricultural economy. Fracking should not be permitted on current oil and gas leases without notifying landowners and renegotiating the lease with the landowners. We encourage state government to return a portion of any settlement funds from energy distributors and suppliers due to unfair practices and unfulfilled contracts to agriculture.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

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

RURAL COMMUNICATIONS

We support expanded and improved cellular phone coverage throughout Kentucky, but want safeguards to protect and maintain landline service for those who do not want wireless. We urge the Public Service Commission to study the service being offered to all telephone users in rural areas and to encourage the companies to upgrade the service to compete with that in urban areas. We support toll-free county-wide telephone service. We are opposed to mandatory measured service. We are opposed to the present overlay district system as proposed by the Public Service Commission. We are encouraged by the progress that has been made and the attention that has been given to increasing affordable broadband and high-speed internet in all rural areas, and we urge continuation of this effort because there is an urgent need. We support all efforts and incentives to improve and provide all telecommunications in rural Kentucky. We strongly oppose free cell phones being funded by the federal government with the exception of those provided for the elderly. We urge the state of Kentucky to open state and federal property to improve rural mobile and broadband coverage.

HEALTH

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

We oppose:
10. (1) Legislation or regulations that would jeopardize present volunteer emergency medical technician systems; and
11. (2) Guidelines that would close the obstetric wards in hospitals that do not meet annual requirements for number of births.
12. We urge county Farm Bureaus to support and participate with community health clinics, free clinics and rural health programs such as bloodmobiles, mobile X-ray units, dental and cancer clinics and ambulance service.
13. We believe the disability programs are too lenient and should be monitored closely by the health care providers. Both the patient and health care providers should be held accountable. A system to regulate the program should be in place.
14. We support the county health departments and recommend they be used to their full potential.
15. We urge the passage of legislation that provides that the membership of county health boards include at least one farmer.
16. We encourage timely domestic production of critical health vaccines as a policy of national security.
17. We urge continuing research and development of a human vaccine for any strain of influenza or other communicable disease.
18. We support Advanced Life Support Systems being available in all Kentucky counties.
19. We urge the development of a secure electronic medical records system, such as the E-Health Network, to increase the efficiency of health care delivery.
20.
1. We support the location of a Veterans Administration long-term care facility in southeast Kentucky; one that will provide care to veterans who are unable to care for themselves.
2. We support a dedicated suicide hotline for farmers and agricultural workers, and encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to promote its availability.

**HEALTH INSURANCE**

11. We support health care insurance reform and encourage the Kentucky General Assembly to continue to address this issue.
12. We support being able to modify coverages, such as increasing deductibles, without losing the status of legacy or grandfathered health insurance policies.
13. We recommend that all insurance remain a free enterprise with minimum state regulations and that it continue to be a service that may be purchased in accordance with the needs of the public.
14. We support changes in Kentucky’s health insurance laws that will stabilize the market, encourage competition and increase consumer choice.
15. We believe that all health care providers should be allowed to set their own individual rates for health care services. However, we recommend legislation that would require individual providers to charge consistent fees for like services.
16. We encourage continued transparency by health insurance providers on costs and coverages to ensure competitive pricing and service.
17. We recommend that the state rate all medical services, facilities, and equipment. This would enable consumers and health care providers to determine the most cost effective service of comparable quality.
18. We reaffirm our support for state and federal legislation that would increase the flexibility for individuals to benefit from Association Health Plans. Associations should be able to provide adequate health insurance. We oppose any action that would impede that ability.
19. We support the creation of additional tax incentives for self-employed and small business owners that purchase health insurance for their employees.
20. We are opposed to requiring employers to provide health insurance. Employers who choose to provide health insurance benefits for full-time employees should not be required to provide seasonal and part-time employees with health insurance throughout the calendar year of their employment.
21. Future health care policy changes should embrace the following principles:
22. (1) Promotion of personal wellness, fitness and preventive care as basic health goals;
23. (2) Minimal government intervention in decisions between providers and receivers of health care;
24. (3) Tax policies that encourage individuals to prepare for future health care needs such as making long-term care insurance premiums 100% tax deductible;
25. (4) Direct government financial assistance to providers for those who are economically unable to pay for health care needs;
26. (5) Government programs like Medicare and Medicaid properly compensate providers;
27. (6) Protect the right of patients to choose health care providers and methods of treatment; and
28. (7) Ensure that health care providers, not insurance companies, determine patient treatment.
29. We support comprehensive affordable health care for all United States citizens.
30. We support:
31. (1) Every possible effort to affect cost management while providing accessible high quality health care;
32. (2) A law that would limit health care costs to no more than the level of federal cost of living increases and furthermore, recommend that hospitals be required to reveal their pricing structures;
33. (3) The development of legislation that will lead to changing our present health care delivery system through the following:
34. (a) Cost incentive/rewards (providers, insurance companies and consumers); and
35. (b) Protection against monopolies; and
36. (c) Periodic review of regulations.
37. (4) Efforts to eliminate or significantly reduce cost shifting from Medicaid and Medicare to individuals and third-party payers;
38. (5) The reduction of government mandates which require certain provisions be included in all health insurance policies;
39. (6) Greater use of non-physician providers, such as physician’s assistants, nurse practitioners and midwives, to help improve the distribution of health care;
40. (7) Economic incentives at state and local levels to encourage primary care providers to practice in rural areas and the restoration of equitable Medicare payments to rural hospitals and primary care providers;
41. (8) Government policies that provide incentives for medical and mental health services in rural areas;
42. (9) Privately funded optional care delivery systems such as health maintenance organizations;
43. (10) Efforts to reduce medical malpractice insurance costs;
44. (11) Third-party payer recognition for payment of outpatient treatment and preventive measures; and
45. (12) Government incentives to the private sector for providing long-term health care.
46. We oppose:
47. (1) Government interference with private enterprise by subsidizing professional medical services;
48. (2) The practice of charging for medical services solely on the ability to pay; and
49. (3) Compulsory national and/or state health insurance.
50. We encourage strict oversight of Medicare and Medicaid programs with the intent of reducing fraud and to decrease health care costs.
51. We encourage individuals to seek a high deductible and/or co-payment plan as a way of reducing overall health insurance premiums.
52. We support and encourage the use of health savings accounts as an opportunity to lower health insurance costs and be able to contribute after age 65 as long as you continue to work.
53. We support action by the Kentucky General Assembly that will ensure that patients in nursing homes receive quality care including
1. sufficient, better trained front-line care givers and a statewide
2. system to help consumers find available beds.
3. We support the use of Kentucky All Scheduled Prescription
4. Electronic Reporting to assist health care providers in monitoring
5. narcotic prescriptions and support the cooperation of surrounding
6. states that have similar programs.
7. 
8. 
9. 
10. We support the State Fair Board and management in their efforts
11. to make the State Fair the pride of Kentucky's agriculture, industry
12. and natural resources. We support funding for the expansion and
13. maintenance of facilities at the Kentucky Exposition Center. We
14. urge the Kentucky General Assembly to assume the remaining debt
15. service on capital expenditures at the Kentucky Exposition Center
16. and for the funding to be taken from the general fund. We will
17. cooperate with all interest groups in efforts to maintain an
18. educational State Fair free from political interference with continuity
19. of competent management. For efficiency and effectiveness, we
20. support the Kentucky State Fair Board's maintenance of independence
21. as a state agency as provided in KRS 247.
22. We urge county Farm Bureaus to support and participate in their
23. local fairs and to encourage good local entries to participate in the
25. We support state funds for the continued upgrading of county fairs
26. and encourage the legislature to reinstate and fund the County Fair
27. Building Program.
28. All requirements for participating in all shows and fairs should be
29. strictly adhered to and all entries should be visually inspected and
30. certified before unloading.
31. We support fair and uniform guidelines and enforcement of
32. animal livestock inspections for shows and fairs and support proper
33. training for inspectors.
34. We suggest that penalties be increased for those interfering with
35. livestock shows, by untying livestock, etc., as this creates a major
36. safety issue for the animals and the public.
37. 
38. 
39. 
40. We support an efficient, well-administered and adequately
41. financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA). We support
42. the KDA being primarily financed by dedicated sources of revenue, and
43. recommend an increase in the budget's baseline to bring the
44. marketing and promotion budget in line with other states.
45. We support adequate funding for all 4-H and FFA livestock
46. shows.
47. We support the current equal distribution of proceeds generated
48. by the voluntary $10 donation made when renewing Kentucky farm
49. license plates to the Kentucky FFA, Kentucky 4-H, and Kentucky
50. Proud and we encourage county clerks to promote participation.
51. We support KDA's efforts to continue to provide organic
52. certification program services and to maintain and promote the
53. standards of the national organic program.
54. 
55. We are concerned about the number of state appointed
56. boards and commissions representing agriculture. Efforts should
57. be made to consolidate the work of these groups into one mission
58. for agriculture.
59. We recommend that a more adequate training program be
60. developed for inspectors responsible for testing equipment,
61. grading, checking moisture meters and scales. We further
62. recommend the licensing of all moisture meter operators and we
63. endorse a unified system of measuring moisture content in grain,
64. soybeans and tobacco at all purchasing stations.
65. We encourage KDA to create procedures for the sanitizing of
66. testing equipment, including probes, instruments, grinders and
67. containers, between the gatherings of grain samples.
68. We urge KDA to provide strict inspection of all scales used in
69. buying and selling agricultural products.
70. We recommend KDA continue to work with the Cabinet
71. for Economic Development (CED) and others in seeking
72. market opportunities for Kentucky commodities domestically
73. and internationally.
74. We recommend that the National Agricultural Statistics Service
75. include more detailed reports on horticultural crops. We recommend
76. improving the efficiency and conversion to computerization of market
77. data collection and utilize a more producer-friendly schedule for the
78. data collection.
79. We recommend that KDA continue to employ an equine
80. specialist to work jointly with the CED and the Tourism, Arts and
81. Heritage Cabinet (TAHC) to foster and develop both domestic and
82. foreign markets.
83. We support the KDA's and the TAHC's efforts to promote
84. Agri-tourism in the Commonwealth with city and county level
85. tourism groups.
86. We recommend that century and older farms be certified and
87. recognized in Kentucky.
88. We recommend equine inventory data be included in the
90. We recommend the annual survey of Kentucky livestock
91. numbers include privately-owned, farm-raised cervids.
92. We support farmers of privately owned farm raised cervids
93. defined as livestock to be solely regulated by the KDA.
94. We support KDA's efforts to support and promote the privately-
95. owned, farm-raised cervid industry.
96. We recommend that data on the poultry industry be combined to
97. include broiler, layers, eggs, and the breeder industry in the
99. We recommend continued funding for the KDA to employ
100. horticulture/aquaculture marketing specialists to better
101. communicate marketing opportunities to producers and to identify
102. local Kentucky agriculture products for wholesale buyers.
103. We support providing KDA with sufficient resources to fund
104. increased enforcement of organic standards.
105. We recommend establishment of poultry, equine and woodland
106. specialists in the KDA.
107. We recommend the KDA and both state diagnostic laboratories
108. employ poultry veterinarians to ensure the health of avian species.
109. We encourage KDA's Division of Environmental Services to be
110. more consistent in their inspections of agricultural operations.
1. We encourage KDA to support the Kentucky Hay Marketing initiative.
2. We urge KDA to fully staff the hay testing program to ensure quality forages throughout the Commonwealth.
3. We recommend KDA fully staff their market news positions.
4. We support KDA's efforts to monitor proper harvesting and sales of Ginseng.
5. We encourage KDA's efforts to strengthen industrial hemp production in the state of Kentucky.
6. We recommend KDA enter into reciprocal agreements, or establish legal documents, with other state's governing agencies to operate the Boll Weevil Eradication Program, and to allow out-of-state commercial agricultural chemical applicators the ability to implement the produce safety rule of the Food Safety Modernization Act.
7. We encourage KDA to use science-based information when forming any regulations dealing with crop production.
8. We believe that all Kentucky farmers should be under the same regulations set by the KDA.

FARM AND FAMILY CREDIT

We favor continuation of adequate agriculture credit at the lowest possible cost. We believe farmers should be able to access credit from available equity, rather than having credit access based on cash flow.

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

We support legislation that would prohibit Farm Credit Banks from exiting the FCS.

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

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

We support the Farm Service Agency assisting farmers who cannot qualify for other financing.

We recommend the United States Department of Agriculture expedite the processing of loans under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program to farmers to allow ample time to make farming decisions before planting season. We further recommend providing loans that will be sufficient to carry out farming operations for a full year or rejecting the loan.

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

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

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are opposed to the open office concept at USDA service centers as being defined as removing walls and having all the agencies in one big room.

We oppose mandatory consolidation of farm serial numbers.

We oppose compliance status of one farm affecting the ability to receive benefits on another farm.

AGROTEERRORISM

We condemn acts of terrorism and support the protection of our people, resources, and industry.

In order to ensure national security, we recommend that all farmers adopt biosecurity measures and work with agrosafety officials whenever necessary.
1. We encourage a coordinated plan of prevention and remediation
2. between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and other
3. emergency management organizations in response to acts of
4. terrorism. We encourage the University of Kentucky Cooperative
5. Extension Service to conduct educational/awareness programs on
6. agroterrorism.
7. We support the appointment of an oversight committee capable of
8. investigating bio-level three and four labs, and their effect on
9. agriculture. We recommend the committee be comprised
10. of community members and professionals, funded by state
11. government and completely independent of the Kentucky Office of

AGRICULTURE DISASTER

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

RADIO AND TELEVISION

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

PATRIOTISM

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

COURTS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

34. We believe in the principle that the government should protect
35. the rights of life, liberty and property, and we support a strong law
36. enforcement and first responders policy.
37. We support law enforcement agencies and believe they should
38. be equipped with safety items for their officers, including but not
39. limited to, bullet resistant glass and hands free communication
40. devices to limit distractions while on duty.
41. We urge the courts to be more diligent in dealing with those who
42. violate the law. Furthermore, we support swift action by the courts
43. including dealing with juveniles who violate the law and believe that the
44. names of juveniles who commit felony offenses should be made public.
45. We recommend that small claims court actions be increased to
46. $5,000 to reflect modern financial conditions.
47. We support parents being held more responsible for cases of
48. vandalism and destruction by juveniles.
49. We urge strict enforcement of our anti-pornography laws with
50. harsher penalties imposed when children are involved.
51. We support the segregation of juvenile offenders from
52. adult criminals.
53. We recommend a prompt and thorough trial by jury in all cases
54. where indictments have been returned by a grand jury. We believe
55. that “plea bargaining” should be used only when guilt is acknowl-
56. edged and a minimum penalty has been fixed by statute.

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1. We support legislation to increase the penalties of speeding and reckless driving that result in an auto accident.
2. We support capital punishment.
3. We oppose release of sex offenders on shock probation.
4. We recommend strict and more careful consideration of the use of shock probation.
5. We oppose the enactment of gun control laws, but propose that mandatory sentences be given in crimes involving the use of firearms.
6. We support prosecution of individuals that are proven guilty of price gouging.
7. We recommend that there be more rural law enforcement officers.
8. We feel that existing laws dealing with criminal acts by reason of insanity should provide for proper criminal punishment.
9. We believe that non-violent prisoners should be worked while serving in county detention facilities and should be closely supervised while engaged in the work.
10. We recommend stronger punishment for drunken drivers and/or drug offenders, especially repeat offenders, and more rigid enforcement by both the law enforcement agencies and judges.
11. We recommend that authority be given to confiscate vehicles and property when an individual is convicted of drunk driving or drug-related charges.
12. We support family courts in Kentucky.
13. We recommend that persons stealing or destroying county road signs be punished to the maximum extent of the law.
14. We support states’ rights to determine citizenship of anyone in violation of the law.
15. We recommend that the state legislature enact comprehensive forfeiture reform by requiring that individuals be convicted of a crime before their property is seized and ensure that any forfeiture proceeds go to the general fund to be allocated by our elected representatives.

CRIME PREVENTION

16. We oppose any violent crime targeting a first responder and recommend the offender be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
17. We support recyclers and consignors to record the name, address, and obtain a copy of a photo ID of individuals who bring in recyclables to discourage the recycling of stolen equipment. All items should be held for a period of five days by recyclers before processing.
18. We encourage and support activities on the part of extension homemakers’ organizations, Farm Bureau women and other groups developing programs associated with rural crime prevention.
19. We recommend that rural crime prevention programs, including DNA kits for children, be continued by the state and county Farm Bureaus and that all members be encouraged to participate.
20. We urge the Career and Technical Education and the FFA Chapters to implement the rural crime prevention program and develop model programs with county Farm Bureaus.

DRUG CONTROL

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

MECHANICS LIEN LAW

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

REGULATORY AGENCIES AND COMMISSIONS

40. We oppose state regulations that are more stringent than federal.
41. Any new regulation should not restrict expansion or sale of existing agricultural operations.
LINE FENCES

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

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

21. We oppose a change in the Constitution which would allow residents to get proposed changes in the Constitution on a ballot by obtaining signatures from any percentage of the state voters.
22. We recognize the need for the General Assembly to have greater control over the enactment and implementation of regulations, appointment oversight, and budget revisions.
23. We support the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture being a cabinet post whether elected or appointed.
24. We recommend the office of Constable be abolished.

MISCELLANEOUS

36. We recommend that charitable and nonprofit organizations be exempted from laws that require an auctioneer to be licensed. We support attorney's fees on foreclosures of real property being limited only to hourly fees and expenses, as opposed to a percentage of the total indebtedness.
37. We recommend daylight saving time be retained year-round.
38. We oppose mandating that an attorney be present at real estate closings.
39. We recommend that regulations on unsolicited spam on Internet Services be put in force similar as to "No Call List" on phones.
40. We support asking the phone company to make larger print directories.
41. We encourage the General Assembly, universities and local communities to use caution when considering making changes to, or removal of items of historic significance.
42. We oppose any government mandate that forces school districts to provide transgender bathrooms.
43. We oppose any infringement or additional restrictions on our right to bear arms.

STATUS OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

4. We oppose the continuation of state pension fund diversions and recommend the state legislature take the necessary actions to stabilize and create sustainability in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System (non-hazardous).
5. It is our policy to keep our resolutions as current as possible without specifically restating all details of continuing policies every year. We therefore reaffirm resolutions passed at the four (4) previous meetings, except insofar as they have been dropped, fulfilled, modified or supplemented by later resolutions.
## 2019 State Resolutions Committee Members

**Eddie Melton, Chair**

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