



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 44 (KRS 132.010). Revenue from property taxes should continue to be limited to 4% plus new growth. Proposals to exceed 4% should automatically go to the voters.
- Maintain Kentucky's sales tax exemptions for production agriculture.

HIGHWAYS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES

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

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Support efforts 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.

How These Policies Were Decided

Farm Bureau policies are a result of a continuous process of policy development which begins in each county and concludes at the state and national levels. Delegates at the annual meeting adopted these policies on December 7, 2019. They are the official policies on state issues for all 120 Farm Bureau's in Kentucky.

Kentucky Farm Bureau recommendations on national issues are sent to the American Farm Bureau's Resolutions Committee for consideration at its annual meeting. The official policies of Farm Bureau on national matters are in the American Farm Bureau policy book.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

57. We support efforts and laws to strengthen the sanctity of families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25. (d) We believe that Congress should use restraint in enlarging
26. the powers of the Executive Branch.

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

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

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

COUNTY FARM BUREAUS

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

1. provides a desirable means for members to make a worthwhile
2. contribution to effective programs.

3. In order to provide more unification of action, and to enable the
4. Federation to render a greater service and more effective
5. assistance to the counties, we urge county Farm Bureaus to
6. appoint special committees entrusted with the responsibility of
7. initiating and carrying out needed programs of action on such
8. matters as Rural Roads, Rural Industry, Education, Rural Health,
9. Safety, Citizenship, Conservation and Natural Resources, and the
10. more important farm enterprises such as: Tobacco, Livestock,
11. 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
17. Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, the House of Delegates of the
18. Federation in annual meeting, hereby adopts the following
19. statements of position and specific resolutions as related to state
20. issues, and places upon its members, officers and representatives
21. the responsibility of securing proper and adequate action thereon.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AND RESEARCH

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

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

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

39. We support additional forage and livestock extension specialists
40. at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and
41. Environment (UK CAFE).

42. We urge UK CAFE to focus research on the major issues facing
43. Kentucky agriculture and make the results of that research
44. available to farmers as rapidly as possible. We also recommend
45. expanding research in the areas of environmental quality, water
46. quality and quantity, agricultural profitability and competitiveness,
47. and alternative crops.

48. We urge UK CAFE to update AGR-1 to more accurately address
49. current crop production practices and technologies that result in
50. higher yields.

51. We are in favor of keeping land grant colleges, the University
52. of Kentucky, and Kentucky State University and state university
53. research farms intact. Should a change or reduction of any
54. existing research farm become necessary, there should be
55. corresponding purchases or addition in order to maintain or expand
56. programs of agricultural research.

57.

1. We encourage enhancement of Agricultural Research and
2. Extension facilities at the University of Kentucky, Princeton, and
3. Robinson stations.
4. We encourage cooperation between UK CAFE and other state
5. universities to establish joint research, education programs and
6. facilities.
7. We urge commodity research for further expanded use of our
8. products, including producer-financed programs.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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

1. in the appointment and evaluation of agents and assistants in their
2. counties.
3. We recommend that the director operate the extension program
4. in an efficient manner and continually review the operation of the
5. service in order to improve efficiency and to determine if there are
6. ways to eliminate excessive reports and any other nonproductive
7. procedures.
8. We urge county Farm Bureau leaders to be aware of situations
9. relative to future needs of agriculture, home economics and 4-H
10. and plan for increased local support for such extension programs.
11. We oppose any efforts by state or federal government to impose
12. restrictions on extension research or extension field work with
13. producers of any legal commodity.
14. We support educational efforts by the CES to inform farmers
15. of their rights and recourse under federal marketing protection
16. programs.

DAIRY

21. We support programs that will increase the demand for dairy
22. products. These programs include the serving of real dairy
23. products in all state institutions and parks.
24. We support efforts to encourage school districts to participate in
25. the Fuel Up to Play 60 program that encourages nutrition and fit-
26. ness as well as the use of plastic bottle packaging on the meal line.
27. We support schools offering all pasteurized fluid milk and milk
28. products, including whole milk and flavored milk, as part of the
29. school lunch program without losing federal subsidies.
30. We support the promotion of milk vending machines and
31. smoothie machines in schools.
32. We support the Junior Dairy Show Program.
33. We support the efforts of the Kentucky Dairy Development
34. Council (KDDC) on behalf of dairy farmers and the entire dairy infra-
35. structure. We encourage cooperation between affiliated agricultural
36. organizations, industries, and dairy farmers to benefit all.
37. We support the efforts of the American Dairy Association
38. of Kentucky and all other dairy promotion groups. These
39. organizations should strive to communicate checkoff dollar usage
40. through an industry-wide newsletter. Dairy checkoff dollars should
41. be utilized in market areas where the milk is sold.
42. We strongly urge that all milk utilized for human fluid consump-
43. tion be pasteurized. We oppose legislation that could lessen public
44. health regulations on fluid milk for human consumption.
45. We will continue to work with the Dairy Products Association
46. of Kentucky and others to improve dairy health regulations. We
47. support the manufactured dairy products industry's efforts for
48. quality improvement and will cooperate in helping develop a sound
49. program that will provide for proper state supervision.
50. We recommend that Dairy Management Incorporated continue
51. research on all dairy products for the purpose of improving quality
52. and consumer acceptance, and expanding new development of
53. dairy products.
54. We recommend a greater effort to ensure that farm inspectors,
55. regulatory officials and other industry professionals are familiar with
56. dairy farming practices and are aware of the practical efforts that
57. implementation of rules and regulations will require.

1. We encourage coordination between the state and regional
2. testing labs in testing for contamination in milk products. We
3. support the Kentucky Farm Milk Handlers Law which will provide
4. increased services to producers and processors.
5. We support funding of the statewide Uniform Dairy Inspection
6. Program from the Kentucky General Fund. This program should
7. continue to be administered by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and
8. Family Services.
9. We support passage of state or national legislation designed
10. to protect dairy farmers in the event that buyers of milk
11. become insolvent.
12. We support continued dairy research and education conducted
13. in Kentucky through the most effective means possible including,
14. but not limited to, a partnership between the University of Kentucky
15. (UK) and Eastern Kentucky University dairy programs.
16. We recommend adequate funds be allocated to university
17. research projects with the goal of alleviating health issues such as,
18. but not limited to, the digital dermatitis (heelwart) problem in dairy
19. cattle.
20. We oppose input from milk handlers in haul rate negotiations
21. between dairy farmers and milk haulers.
22. We encourage cooperative efforts among universities in the
23. southeast in extension, teaching, and research efforts to support
24. and educate the dairy industry.
25. We support a coalition of the Kentucky Department of
26. Agriculture, the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet, UK and
27. other state universities, the Kentucky Governor's Office of
28. Agriculture Policy and the KDDC to implement a program that
29. maintains the viability of existing dairies while attracting new dairies
30. to Kentucky.
31. We encourage 100 percent participation in Cooperatives
32. Working Together by dairy farmers.
33. We support the Kentucky Hunger Initiative and encourage
34. providing dairy products to those in need.
35. We encourage entrepreneurship through the Kentucky Proud
36. Program to further develop value-added dairy production that
37. emphasizes quality and professionalism.
38. We support the development of a simple and transparent federal
39. milk pricing system including, but not limited to, supply manage-
40. ment, and exploring all feasible pricing mechanisms to provide a
41. reasonable rate of return to dairy producers.
42. We support a two-tiered production program that addresses
43. excess production as it influences the price of milk.
44. We urge all dairy cooperatives to pay at or above the federally
45. mandated price for milk.
46. We support legislation that would provide a reasonable rate of
47. return for dairy producers, processors, and retailers by recovering
48. costs from the marketplace by establishing a minimum price for milk.
49. We oppose inaccurate or misleading labeling of all dairy
50. products.
51. We support maintaining milk as the official beverage of
52. Kentucky.
- 53.
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- 57.

FORESTRY

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3. Kentucky Farm Bureau recognizes the environmental benefits
4. forest lands provide to the general public, such as clean air and
5. water, wildlife habitat, and conservation of natural beauty, and
6. believes the owners of forest lands should be compensated for
7. continuing to provide these public benefits.
8. We urge cooperation among all forestry related organizations.
9. We recommend that the Kentucky Energy & Environment
10. Cabinet expand and elevate the Division of Forestry (DOF), in
11. keeping with the economic and environmental importance of
12. Kentucky's forest resources and the forest industries. Forestry
13. should continue to be recognized as an agricultural enterprise.
14. We recommend that the DOF increase the number of state
15. foresters in order to reduce the waiting time for forester assistance
16. and increase services provided, with an emphasis in the
17. Appalachian region of Eastern Kentucky for landowner assistance.
18. We support the Forest Conservation Act in conjunction with the
19. Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act (KAWQA).
20. We support the DOF's work in expanding Kentucky's forest
21. industries from protection against forest fires; assisting woodland
22. owners in management, reforestation, insect disease, and non-
23. native invasive plant control.
24. We recommend counties with significant forest resources invest a
25. portion of coal, gas, and oil severance tax monies into woodland man-
26. agement activities for fire trails, timber stand improvement, and con-
27. trolling invasive species that affect our renewable forest resources.
28. We encourage the use of hardwoods such as the American
29. Chestnut tree in the restoration of strip-mined/mountain top removal
30. lands.
31. We encourage the Kentucky General Assembly to fund a Forest
32. Health Task Force, and make it a permanent part of state govern-
33. ment. We request the task force publish its mission and submit a
34. public annual report on the status of Kentucky's forest health.
35. We support forest that qualify for an agricultural deferment of
36. property tax should be assessed using an assessment model that is
37. appropriate for forest land.
38. We encourage the establishment of forestry organizations at the
39. local level.
40. We support the continuation and expansion of collecting and
41. publishing of log price information commensurate with other
42. agricultural commodities.
43. We support rewards for information leading to the prosecution
44. and conviction for forest arson through the Wildland Fire and Arson
45. Prevention Task Force and the Kentucky Forest Industries
46. Association and the Target Arson Program in conjunction with Farm
47. Bureau's Theft Reward Policy.
48. We recommend adjacent property owners engaged in logging
49. clearly delineate the farm boundaries to prevent accidental
50. encroachment on adjoining property.
51. We urge stricter enforcement of our laws and regulations relative
52. to controlling fires in our forests. We urge vigorous prosecution of
53. those who violate Kentucky's fire laws and regulations.
54. We support the creation and funding of an arson investigation
55. team within DOF to aggressively investigate all woodland arson.
56. We support expansion of forestry research and natural resource
57. education and extension at the University of Kentucky (UK). We

1. support the efforts of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
2. (KDA), the DOF, and the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) to
3. continue to provide information used to determine the value of the
4. timber the owner plans to market.
5. We support the funding and staffing necessary to continue and
6. expand the work by the UK Department of Forestry and Natural
7. Resources and the DOF to conduct annual economic analysis of
8. the forest industry in Kentucky.
9. We recommend additional funding for the DOF's tree nurseries
10. including the restoration of the American Chestnut tree.
11. We recommend that the UK CES recruit and locate forestry
12. extension personnel in all areas of Kentucky to assist landowners in
13. forest stewardship management and in utilizing all market facilities
14. and services.
15. We support UK, the Kentucky Community and Technical College
16. System, and the Department for Workforce Investment, reinstating
17. a forestry technician program to prepare students as sawyers, kiln
18. operators, lumber graders, other forestry related occupations and
19. value-added wood products training.
20. We support the Kentucky wood industry's efforts to get
21. affordable workers' compensation rates.
22. We support the Master Logger Program and recommend
23. appropriate funding to maintain the viability of the program.
24. We support the Forestry Best Management Practice Board in
25. amending the Forest Conservation Act to strengthen the bad actor
26. provisions.
27. We support efforts to require the harvesting or removing of trees
28. and woody debris for commercial energy production to use Best
29. Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water quality.
30. We support bonding of commercial loggers. We support the
31. utilization of all scientifically proven forestry practices to achieve
32. sound and sustainable forests.
33. We support any purchaser of forestry products to record the
34. name, address, and obtain a copy of a photo ID of individuals
35. selling forestry products.
36. We encourage local prosecutors to recognize theft of timber and
37. other non-timber forest products is not a trespass issue, but a
38. criminal activity, and existing theft laws should be enforced.
39. We support the Kentucky Forest Leadership Program and urge
40. county Farm Bureaus to sponsor students to attend this camp.
41. We urge county Farm Bureaus to assist members in
42. taking advantage of the forestry assistance offered by any federal
43. or state government agency, including the DOF's stewardship
44. program and the stewardship incentive practices.
45. We support an exemption for farmers to burn debris during the
46. established fire seasons.
47. We encourage all members who are timberland owners in
48. Kentucky to have a forest stewardship plan on their land.
49. We strongly encourage and support cost-share programs for all
50. forestry activities on private lands and we encourage the General
51. Assembly to appropriate funds for the Forest Stewardship
52. Incentives Fund.
53. We are opposed to comprehensive legislation that would regulate
54. forest practices on privately owned forest land and recommend that
55. no such action be undertaken by the Kentucky legislature.
56. We oppose mandatory third party certification of Kentucky's
57. forest land in order to be eligible for biomass production programs.

1. We recommend that marketable timber and woody debris from
2. highway rights-of-way and utility rights-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.
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GRAIN

1. We request that the University of Kentucky (UK) intensify its
2. research efforts in the following areas:
3. (1) Control of barley yellow dwarf, a virus of small grains;
4. (2) Early maturing varieties of wheat in Kentucky;
5. (3) High test weight and high yielding wheat;
6. (4) Control of head scab in small grains;
7. (5) Production such as grain rye and barley yield traits.
8. We recommend UK develop public varieties of wheat.
9. We recommend the labeling of the number of seed per pound on
10. small grain seed tags and the cold germination tests on seed corn
11. tags for all commercially marketed seed.
12. We recommend that seed tags for all commodity grains reflect
13. the genetic purity of the bagged crop.
14. When seed companies sell insecticide pre-treated corn seeds,
15. farmers should be able to return the seeds, and be reimbursed for
16. the cost of the seeds.
17. Summaries of Kentucky seed law results should be published
18. annually and rigidly enforced.
19. We encourage use of corn starch based products such as
20. biodegradable plastics, calcium magnesium acetate and eco-foam.
21. We recommend Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) stress the
22. importance of producers using the best management possible in
23. the operation of harvesting and storing grain in order to maintain a
24. high quality product.
25. Farmers should be able to choose the date they lock in loan defi-
26. ciency payment (LDP) rates while grain is in storage at feed mills.
27. Grain quality should not disqualify commodities from LDP
28. eligibility if the county has been adversely affected by weather.
29. We encourage grain elevators to pay a premium for low moisture
30. grain.
31. We support the adoption of legislation at the state level that
32. would require grain purchasers to use United States Department of
33. Agriculture (USDA) grading practices.
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1. All vacuum probes used in the marketing of grain should be
2. approved by the USDA and foreign matter should be removed from
3. a sample of grain before the test weight is derived.
4. We recommend that any genetically engineered grain approved
5. by USDA and United States Food and Drug Administration not be
6. considered contaminated grain in cargo.
7. We recommend KFB continue to monitor and publish methods
8. used in arriving at dockage in grain.
9. We recommend that chemical testing for aflatoxin/vomitoxin be
10. made available to farmers through UK and the Breathitt Veterinary
11. Center laboratories.
12. We recommend that KFB become more aggressive in promoting
13. a better understanding of marketing alternatives available to farmers.
14. Due to the increased value of grain, the grain insurance fund
15. coverage should be increased to adequately protect farmers and
16. the cap limit should be increased accordingly.
17. We request the Risk Management Agency retain May 31 as the
18. final planting date for corn for the entire state of Kentucky.

SOYBEANS

23. We urge the University of Kentucky (UK) to expand its program
24. in controlling cyst nematode, sudden death syndrome and soybean
25. rust in soybeans through use of either resistant varieties or other
26. methods of control. We encourage UK and the Kentucky
27. Department of Agriculture to conduct research on slug control and
28. management and further develop deer and insect resistant
29. soybean varieties.
30. We support government funding for Asian soybean rust sentinel
31. plots across soybean growing areas.
32. We favor the use of a dry matter basis for grading and pricing of
33. soybeans and pricing seed by seed count rather than by weight.
34. We recommend that the Soybean Promotion Board continue
35. funding programs to help develop ways to increase the use of
36. soybeans and fund production research to increase profitability.
37. We urge the universities throughout Kentucky to intensify their
38. research efforts on the expanded use of soybeans for human food.
39. We recommend UK develop public varieties of soybeans.
40. We encourage the Soybean Promotion Board to continue
41. funding programs to increase the public awareness of soydiesel
42. fuels and soybean byproducts.
43. We request the Risk Management Agency maintain the late
44. planting date for soybeans as June 25.

LIVESTOCK

49. We support Kentucky's Beef Quality Assurance program and
50. strongly encourage cattle producers, haulers, handlers, stockyard
51. employees, and processors to participate.
52. We support the Pork Quality Assurance Plus Program, the Youth
53. for the Quality Care of Animals Program, the Trucker Quality
54. Assurance Program, and the Environmental Assurance Program
55. and recommend every swine producer utilize these programs at all
56. levels.
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1. We support the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office's
2. Small Ruminant Profit School and Sheep and Goat Quality
3. Assurance Program.
4. We recommend that the Kentucky Farm Bureau and Kentucky's
5. livestock organizations work in conjunction with their national
6. associations to combat negative campaigns regarding meat
7. consumption or production.
8. We will continue to investigate the export market potential for
9. Kentucky livestock and livestock products.
10. We support the veterinary training program established by the
11. Southern Regional Education Board.
12. We support the construction and funding for a livestock
13. education center on the main University of Kentucky campus to
14. give hands-on educational opportunities to students.
15. We support expansion of the livestock industry as long as new
16. operations meet current environmental regulations by using Best
17. Management Practices.
18. We support more education and funding for producers in
19. marketing feeder calves, sheep and goats in large commingled
20. groups.
21. We support development and adoption of livestock identification
22. technology which will enhance the implementation of value-based
23. marketing.
24. We support the establishment and implementation of an
25. animal disease traceability system (ADTS) that will provide support
26. for animal disease control and eradication.
27. An ADTS should be cost effective, with adequate cost-share
28. among government, industry, and producers.
29. Any such program must protect producers from liability for acts
30. of others after livestock leaves the producers' hands, including
31. nuisance suits naming everyone who handled particular livestock.
32. An ADTS should ensure the security of producer information and
33. respect the privacy of producers by only collecting data necessary
34. to establish a trace-back system. We recommend all information
35. collected should be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.
36. We recommend that information collected in support of an
37. ADTS be held by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) and
38. federal government access to this data be limited to an animal
39. health emergency. We support state legislation that would exempt
40. all information collected by the office of the state veterinarian
41. regarding animal health from the open records law.
42. We support the implementation of the KDA Office of the State
43. Veterinarian requirement that all sheep and goats presented at
44. Kentucky livestock markets must be identified with an official
45. scrapie tag prior to arrival.
46. We urge the Kentucky Farm Bureau, Farm Service Agency, KDA,
47. University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Food and
48. Environment, and other state universities, the Kentucky Cattlemen's
49. Association, the Kentucky Beef Network, the Kentucky Pork
50. Producers Association, the Kentucky Livestock Association, and the
51. Kentucky Dairy Development Council, the Kentucky Goat
52. Producers Association, and the Kentucky Sheep and Wool
53. Producers Association, and the Kentucky Sheep and Goat
54. Development Office to work together to develop an ADTS.
55. We support developing a public education campaign conducted
56. by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service
57. for homeowners living adjacent to livestock operations to alert

1. them of activities that could harm livestock, such as dumping yard
2. waste, etc.
3. A veterinarian may report an abusive or negligent situation with
4. the owner's prior knowledge.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY DISEASE

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

12. We recognize the need for feed additives and medication in
13. livestock, poultry, and minor species. We favor careful use and
14. withdrawal restrictions of feed additives and therapeutics. We
15. oppose the banning of such additives and therapeutics without
16. adequate proof of danger.

17. We support the responsible use of antibiotics.

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

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

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

33. We recommend the KDA and its commissioner continue the
34. surveillance monitoring necessary to maintain a brucellosis "free"
35. status for livestock.

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

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

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

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

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

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

54. We support the use of tissue and/or fecal sources for natural
55. inoculation against imported diseases for which there are not
56. effective treatments like porcine epidemic diarrhea virus and
57. transmissible gastro enteritis.

1. We encourage more accurate collection of swine serological
2. slaughter trace-backs for pseudorabies. We support first-point
3. testing of breeding animals being marketed in Kentucky for
4. monitoring of pseudorabies. We recognize the importance of the
5. swine industry and its contribution to the economic well-being of
6. American agriculture and we support efforts to increase the number
7. of swine in Kentucky.

8. We support public health officials deferring to the Office of the
9. State Veterinarian when dealing with cases of rabies in farm
10. livestock and the state veterinarian's office develop guidelines for
11. dealing with cases of rabies in farm livestock.

12. We encourage the equine and livestock industries to develop
13. and utilize vaccinations to prevent the spread of vector borne
14. diseases. As a further precaution, we recommend that the General
15. Assembly appropriate sufficient funds to expand the state Pest and
16. Weed Control Division's Mosquito Control Program.

17. We recommend that the State Board of Agriculture eliminate all
18. "swine permitted feedlots" for quarantined animals in Kentucky.

19. The state diagnostic laboratories should coordinate their efforts
20. and be operated under the procedures outlined by the state Animal
21. Diagnostic Laboratory Advisory Committee.

22. We request the General Assembly to provide the KDA and the
23. diagnostic laboratories with sufficient space and funds to conduct
24. strong programs of detection and elimination of livestock and
25. poultry disease. We recommend that both Kentucky's diagnostic
26. laboratories be line items in their respective university budgets.

27. We support sufficient funding for both diagnostic laboratories
28. and for the enhancement of their capability to respond to
29. emergencies such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, west Nile
30. virus, scrapie or avian influenza outbreaks.

31. We recommend the laboratories be established as separate
32. departments within their respective universities and their directors
33. report directly to said universities. If fees are charged, the income
34. generated should be allowed to benefit the laboratory charging the
35. fee. We recommend that the director of each diagnostic laboratory
36. have experience and expertise in livestock disease.

37. We recommend that farmers be allowed to use the laboratory
38. without prior approval by a veterinarian.

39. We recommend the major mission or priority of the diagnostic
40. laboratories be directed toward diagnostic work associated with
41. livestock.

42. We support additional programs to dispose of dead animals and
43. processing residue. We recommend the state legislature expand
44. funding of programs with the KDA for a statewide dead animal
45. removal program.

46. We urge the KDA and the Division of Conservation not reduce
47. the funding available for dead animal removal programs.

48. We encourage cooperative efforts and funding throughout the
49. Commonwealth to address the dead animal removal issue.

50. We oppose any legislation or rule that bans the rendering of any
51. specific parts of ruminant animals.

52. We are encouraged by any systems identifying diseased and
53. non-ambulatory cattle as not being resold. However, we are
54. discouraged by the mis-use and abuse of these systems by traders.
55. We recommend stronger methods for proof and identification of
56. resold cattle.

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1. The Kentucky Farm Bureau is opposed to the imposition of
2. unreasonable regulations by individual states affecting the
3. interstate movement of livestock. We urge state veterinarians
4. to work cooperatively with Kentucky market operators to
5. accommodate the issuance of health papers, permits, etc.

6. We support the compartmentation and secure food plans to
7. protect movement and exports of the livestock and poultry
8. industries during disease incidents.

9. We support additional funding to ensure that any veterinarian
10. student vacancies offered by our affiliated colleges of veterinary
11. medicine are filled with Kentucky students.

12. In an effort to address the shortage of large animal veterinary
13. services in Kentucky, we support:

14. (1) Incentive programs for veterinarians and veterinary
15. technicians and technologists;

16. (2) Seeking and funding additional slots for Kentucky students
17. at veterinary schools;

18. (3) Updating and modifying the current laws to expand veteri-
19. nary services to allow veterinary technicians and technolo-
20. gists, in direct consultation with a licensed veterinarian, to
21. have a greater flexibility in providing animal care services;

22. (4) Encouraging the expansion of veterinary mentoring
23. programs;

24. (5) Improved recruiting and awareness efforts for Kentucky
25. youth to take advantage of the veterinary opportunities;

26. (6) Ensuring the pre-veterinary programs in our Kentucky
27. universities have sufficient funding; and

28. (7) Encouraging local communities to design aggressive recruit-
29. ing programs to entice viable veterinary practices to serve
30. the livestock producers of their communities.

ANIMAL CARE

35. We support the work of the Kentucky Board of Agriculture, the
36. Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission, and the Equine
37. Health and Welfare Council.

38. We support the Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission
39. in their efforts to establish minimum standards for the raising,
40. handling, feeding, housing or transportation of livestock, poultry,
41. aquaculture and fur bearing animals.

42. Proper care and welfare of livestock and poultry are essential to
43. the efficient and profitable production of food and fiber. No segment
44. of society has more concern for the well-being of poultry and
45. livestock than the producer. This is best exemplified by the high
46. levels of production and low mortality rates achieved in modern
47. livestock and poultry operations.

48. We recommend producers, haulers, handlers, stockyard
49. employees and processors be educated on the importance of
50. proper care of livestock and poultry.

51. We recommend the education of first responders on livestock
52. rescue and safe handling procedures during emergency situations.

53. We encourage formal livestock investigation training for animal
54. control officers and designated county law enforcement officials.

55. We support an aggressive, comprehensive educational program
56. presenting the facts of animal and poultry production to the general
57. public and to school children.

1. We encourage discussion and education of producers and
2. consumers prior to adoption of new production practices that impact
3. animal care and sustainability.

4. We support legislation preempting local governments from
5. establishing animal care standards.

6. Kentucky Farm Bureau will cooperate with other agricultural-
7. related organizations to address the animal welfare issues.

8. We support the right to humanely and safely harvest horses
9. and livestock.

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POULTRY

14. We support our poultry farmers and their role in the poultry
15. industry. We encourage the development of poultry and egg

16. marketing services and will cooperate with other organizations and
17. agencies in improving and developing markets for poultry and eggs.

18. We support research into the development of sustainable,
19. renewable, agriculturally-produced bedding and litter for the poultry
20. industry.

21. We support research in alternative methods for dead animal
22. disposal.

23. We encourage poultry producers to be environmental stewards.

24. We support poultry research to investigate ammonia production
25. and technology to reduce ammonia levels and emissions in poultry
26. houses.

27. We support the continuation of the federal-state cooperative
28. agreement for surveillance of low-path H5/H7 avian influenza at
29. current levels.

30. We urge companies to justify mandatory modification of buildings
31. and equipment through research documentation. Any modification
32. should be a long-term agreement, negotiated in writing, between
33. the grower and company before installation. The length of contracts
34. should adequately protect a grower's investment in buildings and
35. equipment.

36. We support pay averaging criteria being revised to compensate
37. for company production decisions that influence a farmer/
38. producer's settlement.

39. We support the relocation of the University of Kentucky poultry
40. research facility to enable the faculty to conduct relevant research
41. to meet the need of the ever-changing poultry industry.

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EQUINE

46. We support the use of equine for transportation, recreation,
47. tourism and business.

48. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau cooperate with other
49. agencies involved in the equine industry to disseminate
50. information on horse-related activities.

51. We recommend production items and services associated with
52. the equine industry be exempt from the sales and use tax. We sup-
53. port development and utilization of equine identification technology.

54. We recommend legislation to develop existing and encourage
55. additional public horse riding trails on state lands and parks.

56. We support programs to promote the trail riding sector of the
57. equine industry.

1. We support preservation of existing horse riding trails which are
2. for non-motorized use on public lands in Kentucky.
3. We support federal funding for the equine industry in dealing with
4. disasters.
5. We support funding for all equine facilities at the Kentucky
6. Exposition Center and the Kentucky Horse Park.
7. We support the Kentucky Equine Education Project and the
8. Kentucky Horse Council to promote the equine industry in
9. Kentucky.
10. We support the University of Kentucky's Equine Program and
11. recommend adequate funding for its facilities and programs,
12. on- and off-campus.
13. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture
14. restore funding and support the 4-H horse program to the same
15. degree as traditional 4-H livestock programs.
16. We support fair and uniform guidelines and enforcement of horse
17. show inspections and proper training of horse show inspectors.
18. We encourage equine owners to follow American Association of
19. Equine Practitioners core vaccination guidelines for equine health
20. and disease related issues.

AQUACULTURE

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25. We support the aquaculture and aquaponic industry as an alter-
26. native farming method and recommend the continued improvement
27. in government encouragement and assistance to aquaculture.
28. We recognize aquaculture commodities as a viable part of
29. Kentucky's agriculture industry.
30. We oppose propagation fees as part of the permitting process to
31. raise any livestock or livestock product, including aquaculture.
32. We support Kentucky State University in developing the aquaculture
33. industry and encourage increased funding in order to promote the
34. industry.
35. We support the efforts of the Kentucky Aquaculture Association Task
36. Force and encourage adequate funding.
37. We support cooperative educational efforts between the Kentucky
38. Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Kentucky
39. Aquaculture Association to promote better understanding of aquacul-
40. ture regulations and practices.
41. We support the development of fish farming through continued
42. research on propagation including captive propagation and husbandry
43. practices. We also support a cooperative effort between fish farms and
44. state and federal agencies. We recommend amending the endangered
45. species act to allow free interstate and international commerce of
46. legitimately grown or harvested fish products.
47. We support all imported fish be held to the same quality standards
48. that is required of United States fish products.
49. We support the transportation of live aquaculture products being
50. treated the same as other livestock.

POLLINATOR PROTECTION AND APICULTURE

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4. We support monitoring the activities of the Pollinator Working
5. Group in connection with the protection of the monarch butterflies
6. and bees to make sure that agriculture will not be affected in a
7. negative way.
8. We support the enhancement of the honeybee population in
9. Kentucky.
10. We support the four goals of the Kentucky Pollinator Protection
11. Plan which are the use of best management practices, increased
12. pollinator habitat, increased education and outreach and increased
13. communication among stakeholders.
14. We support the development of Best Management Practices that
15. enhance pollinator habitat in both urban and rural areas.
16. We recognize the ecological importance of pollinators and the
17. necessity to judiciously utilize crop protection products to protect
18. against loss of crop yield. We support the coexistence of crops and
19. pollinators and urge that any pollinator risk assessment required for
20. registration or regulation of crop protection products be based on
21. field-relevant, sound scientific data.
22. We support expedited approval of emergency labeling of
23. chemical treatments for beekeepers fighting colony collapse issues.
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HORTICULTURE CROPS

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28. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB), the
29. University of Kentucky (UK), the Kentucky State University (KSU),
30. and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) assist growers
31. in working with wholesale buyers and processors in matters of
32. pricing, food safety, receiving schedules and handling facilities.
33. We encourage the KDA in cooperation with the UK College of
34. Agriculture Food and Environment, KSU, and the Kentucky
35. Horticulture Council to update and make publicly available the
36. database for the Kentucky Horticultural Products and Services
37. Directory.
38. We urge the Colleges of Agriculture to continue their
39. commitment to all areas of horticulture research and the providing
40. of timely and current information on production, handling,
41. processing and marketing of the wide array of horticulture products
42. grown in Kentucky.
43. We recommend that the UK South Farm be maintained as the
44. primary horticulture facility for research and extension and
45. undergraduate education in central Kentucky because the location,
46. topography and soil types are extremely suitable for the type of
47. research afforded to the growing horticulture industry. We also urge
48. extensive horticulture crop research at the Princeton and
49. Quicksand facilities.
50. We recommend that all fruits and vegetables sold on the
51. wholesale and retail markets in Kentucky be labeled as to the point
52. of origin.
53. We support continued efforts and further development of the
54. Arboretum at UK.
55. We recommend that the KDA and UK make a strong effort to
56. determine out-of-state nurseries that supply disease and insect free
57. strawberry plants, fruit trees, vegetable transplants, etc.

1. We encourage the Agricultural Statistics Service to continue to
2. develop collection and reporting procedures on sales of all
3. horticultural products (nursery, greenhouse, fruits, and vegetables).
4. We recommend the enforcement of regulating transient roadside
5. vendors, especially those selling from highway rights-of-way, which
6. are hazardous, do not contribute to the local tax base and compete
7. unfairly with local producers.

8. We further recommend that KFB publish information pertaining
9. to monitoring and regulation of transient roadside markets and their
10. effect on local producers.

11. We encourage priority being given to Kentucky-grown
12. greenhouse and nursery stock and sod for all state and county
13. funded construction and maintenance projects.

14. We recommend UK maintain an extension viticulturist and an
15. extension oenologist to work full-time with the Kentucky Wine
16. Industry and to interact with the Kentucky Grape and Wine Council.

17. We recommend a tiered permitting cost for companies
18. registering crop protective agents used only on specialty crops.

19. We encourage growers, markets, retailers, and others involved
20. in horticulture production to contribute to the Kentucky Horticulture
21. Research Fund initiative.

FORAGE CROPS

26. We urge the Agricultural Development Board to maintain
27. the existing forage-related County Agricultural Investment
28. Program, and expand this program to address the needs of
29. Kentucky agriculture.

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

32. We support funding for continued research and extension in the
33. establishment, production, storage, and marketing of forage crops
34. in Kentucky.

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

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

41. We recommend that Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA)
42. funding be increased to maintain and improve forage testing and
43. marketing.

44. We encourage farmers who raise forage either for sale or their
45. own use to use the forage testing facilities at the KDA to monitor the
46. quality of their forage.

47. We favor the continuance of upgrading and tightening hay
48. grading standards.

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

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

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

55. We recommend that the KDA explore the possibility of
56. harvesting forages from public lands and rights-of-way.

57.

1. We recommend efforts to increase the use of forage crops as a
2. biofuel source.

3. We support the availability of crop insurance for all forage crops
4. and pasture.

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9. We support the research, production, processing, commercial-
10. ization, marketing, and utilization of hemp.

11. We support efforts to strengthen hemp production for seed in the
12. state of Kentucky.

13. We support research and development for labeling fungicides,
14. herbicides, and insecticides to be used for hemp.

15. We support a certification system to help farmers ensure the
16. quality of their seed or planting stock.

17. We support the protection of farmers regarding validity of
18. companies with purchase contracts.

19. We support nationwide THC sampling and harvesting protocols,
20. or Kentucky regulation/statute to more closely align with other
21. surrounding states in production.

22. We support the proper government entities regulating the safety,
23. quality and standardization of hemp products, which are sold to
24. consumers.

25. We support the development of affordable on-site testing
26. technology for local and state authorities.

27. We encourage coordination between local and state authorities
28. to better cooperate with hemp growers.

29. We support the utilization of hemp grain as a feed ingredient for
30. poultry and livestock.

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TOBACCO

36. We recommend Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) continue leading
37. a coalition to speak with one voice as we address post-buyout
38. issues in the tobacco industry.

39. For continuity with growers and companies, we encourage
40. multi-year contracts. We encourage tobacco companies announce
41. contract intentions by February 1.

42. We support exploring the possibility of establishing a national
43. checkoff program for United States tobacco export promotion and
44. believe it should be governed by a committee comprised of active
45. tobacco producers.

46. We support a marketing initiative for tobacco not sold under
47. contract and for other excess tobacco.

48. We recommend that all tobacco be reported on Form 578 to the
49. Farm Service Agency.

50. We support continuing availability of crop insurance for tobacco
51. including fields with an acceptable crop rotation management plan.
52. We also support allowing tobacco to be fully insurable in sod
53. ground.

54. We support a two-tiered crop insurance program for tobacco;
55. with the base rate being available for all tobacco with a second tier
56. 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.

1. coalition of tobacco organizations employ a marketing specialist to
2. sell tobacco in potential markets.
3. We are opposed to federal lawsuits brought by the Department
4. of Justice against tobacco manufacturers.
5. We request that tobacco be graded uniformly.
6. Recognizing that tobacco is a legal crop, we support the United
7. States Department of Agriculture (USDA) collecting data and
8. issuing reports on tobacco acreage, production, and prices received
9. by tobacco type. We also support authorizing the USDA's Economic
10. Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service to collect data
11. and provide market analysis on tobacco.
12. We support funding the Kentucky Tobacco Research and
13. Development Center at an adequate level to enable it to carry out
14. its purpose. We urge the Tobacco Research Board to continue to
15. carry out an effective program with adequate revenue provided for
16. this purpose.
17. We support procedures being established to prevent
18. genetically modified tobacco from being commingled with or
19. contaminating traditional tobacco.
20. We ask all burley producers to join in the checkoff fund.
21. We recommend that the University of Kentucky continue
22. to develop mechanical methods for the production, harvesting,
23. and curing of tobacco, develop disease resistant varieties, and
24. continue their work with herbicides, insecticides, fungicides
25. and nitrosamines.
26. We support universal GAP training.
27. We recommend all tobacco producers participate in a GAP
28. certification program.
29. We support Kentucky's GAP training program certification lasting
30. for three years rather than one year.
31. We oppose growers being responsible for GAP fees or
32. assessments.
33. We recommend that GAP compliance must contribute to a
34. tobacco grower's improved financial sustainability.
35. We continue to support efforts to restrict and eliminate blue mold
36. including spraying of tobacco transplants with preventive fungicides
37. by plant producers. Producers should then certify their plants as
38. having been sprayed. We also recommend labeling of effective
39. chemicals for use in tobacco greenhouses.
40. We recommend KFB work with the Cooperative Extension
41. Service, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the tobacco
42. companies to develop an informational campaign to promote use
43. of locally grown plants to prevent the spread of blue mold from out-
44. of-state plants.
45. We recommend the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service
46. include more detailed reports on tobacco which should be broken
47. down to specific types.
48. We recommend that KFB work toward getting the Risk
49. Management Agency to continue to insure dark tobacco in the
50. barns as they have in the past.
51.
52.
53. **TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS**
54.
55. We recommend that the Agriculture Development Board funding
56. (50% of Master Settlement Agreement Phase I) and structure
57. 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
19. Beginning Farmer Loan Program.

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.

COMMODITY PROMOTION

33. We recognize the right of producers to promote increased
34. research, sales and consumption of the commodities they produce
35. and to work together as a group to promote Kentucky agriculture.
36. Therefore, we support the promotional activities of the following
37. Kentucky commodity groups: Corn Growers Association, Soybean
38. Association, Cattlemen's Association, American Dairy Association,
39. Egg Council, Poultry Federation, Pork Producers, Council for Burley
40. Tobacco, Small Grain Growers, Aquaculture Association, Sheep
41. and Wool Producers, Forest Industries Association, Sweet
42. Sorghum Producers and Processors Association, Forage and
43. Grassland Council, Goat Producers Association, Sheep and Goat
44. Development Office, Dairy Development Council, Horticulture
45. Council, and its member associations, Grape and Wine Council,
46. Alternative Livestock Association, Organic Association, Farmers
47. Market Association, Agritourism Council, Beekeepers Association
48. and the equine industry.

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

52. We support legislation to authorize any new commodity
53. promotion program if the legislation provides:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17. Opportunities should be offered to producers with existing
18. promotional programs to approve changes in operation and
19. administration under the guidelines of the existing legislation in
20. order that the declared policy of such legislation may be carried out.

21. Any commission or body created under an agricultural
22. commodity promotion program should be required to provide
23. complete accountability to its producers of the expenditure of
24. funds collected from them, including funds released to any
25. agricultural organization, public agency or private firm for promotion
26. or research purposes.

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

29. We support the national program for soybean product promotion
30. and research as established by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation
31. and Trade Act of 1990.

FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY

36. The American food supply is the safest and most abundant in the
37. world. Agricultural chemicals and other technological advances
38. play a major role in maintaining both the quality and quantity of our
39. food supply.

40. We support legislative and regulatory decisions concerning
41. food irradiation that are based on valid research. We support
42. irradiation of food products to control harmful bacteria and
43. pathogens, to extend shelf-life and to reduce dependency on
44. post-harvest treatments.

45. We will monitor initiatives to improve and streamline food safety
46. to ensure that policies and procedures are in place that build trust
47. and reliability in Kentucky agriculture.

48. We recommend that the Environmental Protection Agency use
49. an accepted scientific approach (when labeling or relabeling) in
50. formulating and regulating chemicals under the Food Quality
51. Protection Act.

52. We support educating all food handlers on the proper preparation,
53. cooking and serving of food products, including sanitary practices
54. required by state licensing procedures.

55. We recommend that nitrates continue to be used as a meat
56. preservative unless it is proved beyond doubt that the continued
57. 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.
- 57.

1. We support the use of more United States red meat, poultry, and
2. fish, as well as other farm products in the school lunch program.
3. We support research to find ways to help small meat processors
4. lower their costs of production to facilitate the growth of Kentucky's
5. direct meat marketing enterprises.
6. We encourage all Kentucky stockyard facilities to incorporate
7. video auctions during livestock sales. We recommend close
8. investigation of all mergers, ownership changes and other trends in
9. the livestock marketing industry for actions that limit competitive
10. marketing for livestock producers.
11. We recommend that a statewide wholesale marketing
12. infrastructure be continued and expanded to include the research
13. and development of wholesale marketing, packaging, and
14. processing efforts for Kentucky-grown horticulture products.
15. We recommend continued cooperation between the KDA, the
16. Cabinet for Economic Development, the Tourism, Arts and Heritage
17. Cabinet, and the Agricultural Development Board in an attempt to
18. promote farmer and roadside markets for the promotion of local
19. grown products in the state with the ultimate goal of having at least
20. one farmer market per county.
21. We support a prompt pay law to protect Kentucky growers.
22. We support legislation protecting agricultural producers in the
23. event of non-payment for their products.
24. We support KDA's campaigns for promotion of agricultural
25. products including Kentucky Proud, Homegrown by Heroes and
26. Appalachia Proud programs.
27. We support all state and national efforts to help veterans
28. transition to the agricultural industry.
29. We recommend continued funding and support for the Kentucky
30. Center for Agriculture and Rural Development and its activities.
31. We oppose any legislation that would adversely affect the ability
32. of farm wineries and small wineries to produce income for the
33. farm family.
34. We recommend that KFB, KDA, the University of Kentucky, and
35. Kentucky State University work to expand internet marketing
36. programs which provide listings of available products and services
37. for agriculture commodities.
38. We recommend strengthening labeling and policing at the retail
39. level to maintain the integrity of products certified as organic.

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
2. developed as multi-purpose facilities where feasible. In addition to
3. flood control, they should provide benefits such as municipal and
4. industrial water storage, recreational and agricultural development,
5. and/or for the purpose of generating power, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

30. WATER RESEARCH

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

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

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

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

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

53. We support voluntary watershed awareness efforts. We recom-
54. mend local communities take an active role in watershed research,

55. education and assessment. We support the use of agricultural
56. water quality plans and BMPs to address water quality issues, using
57. a targeted watershed approach.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31. WATER DISTRICTS/ASSOCIATIONS

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

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

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

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

45. We recommend that costs for developing sewer lines be
46. established relative to each tap-on. We oppose sewer line
47. development costs being pro-rated on a footage basis as deter-
48. mined by length of line on the individual's property. Landowners in
49. Agricultural Districts shall pay the cost of service connections from
50. the water line extension and the one unit share for each service
51. connection to the farming operation.

1. We recommend that any city, town or village that has a
2. central water supply system also have a feasible plan for
3. sewage disposal that meets state approved health standards.
4. We oppose mandatory sewer hook-ups for farmsteads beyond
5. the city limits that have an existing and functioning septic system.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

10. State water resource policy and regulations should be based on
11. adequate scientific research data.

12. Agricultural waste water impoundments and groundwater should
13. be monitored only for demonstration, research projects, or
14. individual water quality plans.

15. We support state and federal legislation that specifically allows a
16. farmer to spread manure on fields at acceptable rates using the
17. most cost effective methods without it being considered a point
18. source discharge under the Kentucky Pollution Discharge
19. Elimination System of the Division of Water (DOW) and the federal
20. Clean Water Act.

21. We encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to aggressively pursue
22. opportunities to increase water availability for farms and rural
23. communities.

24. We support the Kentucky Water Resources Board and its coor-
25. dinated effort to manage water resource projects and programs.

26. We urge the Governor and the Energy & Environment Cabinet to
27. continue the development and implementation of a comprehensive
28. water resources development plan while giving due consideration to
29. land use planning efforts and future water needs of the state and to
30. assist local government in implementing a water and sewer
31. resource plan in their own community. We urge farmer participation
32. in the water resources planning process and request an
33. agricultural representative on all watershed basin teams.

34. We recommend that the DOW monitor and inform local
35. communities as to the status of their water resources and be
36. available to provide necessary guidance in the development of an
37. emergency plan. We recommend that during a declaration of a
38. water emergency that water for livestock be listed as a high priority
39. and that water remain available to producers in order to prevent
40. livestock owners from liquidating their herds. We support research,
41. cost-share, technical assistance, and further development of
42. existing programs for on-farm water supplies including irrigation
43. purposes. We support the United States Department of Agriculture
44. (USDA) modifying existing cost-share programs to allow for Natural
45. Resources Conservation Service technical assistance in assessing
46. the long-term availability of water resources and the planning and
47. development of new on-farm water supplies and irrigation systems.
48. We also recommend that during a water emergency, water for
49. commercial producers of horticulture crops be listed as high priority,
50. and that water remain available to them. We encourage producers
51. to develop water resources and storages for their operations.

52. In order to prevent future water supply issues, we believe human
53. consumption and agricultural usage needs should take precedence
54. over environmental issues when creating new or renovating existing
55. water resources.

56. We encourage the use of backflow devices on water supplies.
- 57.

1. We oppose state regulations on wild and scenic rivers that are
2. more stringent than federal protections.

3. We support moving Kentucky's Nonpoint Source Program for
4. agriculture and light construction to the Division of Conservation
5. from the DOW and silviculture to the Division of Forestry.

6. We support the University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center
7. of Excellence concept and coordinated research efforts on water
8. resource development and irrigation efficiencies.

9. We support increased monitoring of Kentucky's water resources
10. to observe both quantity and quality of these resources.

11. We support further expansion of the Kentucky Mesonet
12. Program.

13. We recommend the Kentucky Drought Mitigation and Response
14. Plan be updated to include a specific "Agriculture Drought
15. Mitigation" section. We recommend that in addition to the Kentucky
16. Department of Agriculture that the USDA Farm Service Agency and
17. a representative of the farming community be represented on the
18. Kentucky Drought Mitigation Team.

19. We support the development of tax incentives for irrigation and
20. livestock systems development.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

25. We support the Division of Conservation (DOC) remaining a
26. stand-alone agency.

27. We recommend the DOC continue to assist conservation
28. districts with financial oversight and preparation for audits.

29. We support the bipartisan Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation
30. Commission's authority to employ necessary state personnel
31. and develop appropriate state policy to carry out the state's
32. conservation program. We urge that the federal, state and local
33. units of government provide adequate funds to maintain a sound
34. program, and appropriate technical assistance to implement the
35. program, for the local conservation districts. Conservation districts
36. and watershed conservancy districts should be administered by
37. local elected supervisors and officials.

38. We value partnerships that work together in promoting sound
39. resource conservation practices, and we support increased efforts
40. in planning and implementing such activities.

41. We support at minimum, one full-time National Resources
42. Conservation Service (NRCS) employee being available as a
43. point of contact at all times in each district.

44. We support increased funding for professional NRCS staff at the
45. state and county levels to assist producers with state and federal
46. conservation programs in a more timely manner.

47. Conservation programs should be targeted to productive
48. working farmland. We oppose the use of federal conservation
49. practices on land that is in the process of being developed for
50. non-agricultural use.

51. Contracts for new and renewal acres enrolled in the program
52. should take into consideration provisions for highly erodible
53. farmland and land retired for water quality programs.

54. We support the original concept of the Conservation Reserve
55. Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
56. (CREP) to improve soil and water resources, secondarily to provide
- 57.

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, water, and wildlife benefits.

5. We support agricultural districts and recommend the Agricultural District and Conservation Act expand its protections for agricultural lands, as it relates to sewer line extensions. We also support changes to the act to include smaller farms.

9. We support tax breaks for farmers who practice environmentally sound soil conservation techniques.

11. We favor legislation, if necessary, to prevent the dissolution of watershed conservancy districts, as long as contractual commitments exist. We favor keeping all county conservation district offices open and encourage cooperative efforts by the DOC, NRCS and Farm Service Agency (FSA) to maintain these services.

16. We support FSA and NRCS retaining the administrative function over the programs they currently administer in the Farm Bill.

18. We support training programs on the proper organization of facilities, fences, waterers, manure management, etc. to create a functional farmstead plan.

21. We support cost-share dollars for animal feeding structures.

22. We support conservation districts' efforts to increase funding to state cost-share back to \$9 million each year in the state budget.

24. We support continuation of General Fund dollars and Kentucky Department of Agriculture dollars to the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share Program administered by the DOC through local conservation districts to help farmers install Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet the requirements of the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act (KAWQA). We support an increase in direct aid to conservation districts for office support and technical assistance for implementation of the KAWQA. We support a groundwater protection program based on pollution prevention through the use of BMPs.

34. We support continued cooperative efforts between the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources with the Equipment Revolving Loan Fund to purchase conservation equipment. We also support the use of the fund to purchase conservation infrastructure. We oppose legislation that allows removal of funds from the Equipment Revolving Loan Fund.

41. We recommend the use of NRCS funds to aid in the maintenance of streams and waterways such as eliminating debris in order to prevent flooding.

44. We support the soil mapping program and request continued funding for upgrades which will make the soil maps and interpretations available through modern technology, particularly Geographic Information Systems and Global Positioning Systems.

48. We support increased funding for existing farm construction of facilities that meet the state requirements for long-term manure storage. We recommend that end users of animal waste and poultry litter be eligible for cost-share funding to build storage facilities.

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ALTERNATIVE FARMING METHODS

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4. We support all alternative methods of farming, whether livestock, aquaculture or crops, being solely regulated by the Kentucky 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 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 profitable farming operations;

17. (2) Efforts to provide information to farmers on proven means of improving the efficiency of inputs; and

19. (3) Efforts to assist agri-tourism and non-traditional farming 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 government farm programs.

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WETLANDS

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29. We recommend that tax credits be made available for wetlands preservation. We are opposed to farmers being forced to pay additional taxes for wetlands preservation. However, if a state fund is created for wetlands preservation, we oppose the funds being used with the power of eminent domain.

34. We support compensation for the lost use of privately-owned land due to wetlands delineation.

36. We support congressional efforts to address the inconsistent interpretations of jurisdictional waters pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). We support limiting the Corps' jurisdiction to the rivers and navigable water resources of the United States.

41. We strongly support the normal farming practices exemption provided in section 404 of the CWA.

43. We recommend establishing a process of re-evaluation of wetland determinations by the Corps.

45. We support the Natural Resources Conservation Service as the lead agency for agricultural wetland determinations.

47. We support the Wetland Reserve Program and use of mitigation banks.

49. We recommend that logging access roads be removed by the logger when logging is completed in wetlands.

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STREAM RESTORATION

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3. We oppose legislation, regulations or any actions that result in
4. hampering the appropriate application and maintenance of levees,
5. stream channels, and banks, including drainage and maintenance
6. of prior converted wetlands.

7. We support agencies involved in regulating streams on private
8. property being able to ease regulations in times of disaster so that
9. landowners may effectively clean or clear streams on their
10. property.

11. We support the landowner's right to manage, maintain and repair
12. existing private dikes and levees.

13. We recommend landowners be able to remove log jams in
14. existing streams in order to prevent or correct soil erosion, crop loss
15. and changes in normal flow of existing streams. Removal should
16. be accomplished through practical means under advisement
17. from conservation officials in a timely manner and without fear of
18. repercussions or fines by government agencies.

19. We support allowing state equipment to be used to help unclog
20. creeks and streams.

21. We recommend state and local governments clean and maintain
22. ditches, culverts, and bridges on public rights-of-way to allow for
23. adequate water flow.

UTILITY EASEMENTS

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28. All utilities should adhere to their contracts of easements as
29. stated in their original agreement. We will work with soil and water
30. conservation organizations in studying erosion problems and if
31. necessary initiate legislation to solve them.

32. We recommend where possible new power transmission lines
33. utilize existing easements and any new construction be done in a
34. way that will minimize the effect on agricultural activities.

35. We encourage utility and pipeline companies to hold public
36. informational meetings prior to negotiating with property owners for
37. easement rights or starting a new project that would impact multiple
38. landowners.

39. We support utility companies or their subcontractors providing
40. notification prior to entering private agriculture property to perform
41. routine maintenance.

42. When trees are being trimmed on utility rights-of-way we support
43. that the whole tree be trimmed or removed whichever is more
44. feasible.

45. Since lands taken through easement by utility companies or
46. other deed restrictions are restricted from production, they should
47. be withdrawn from the tax rolls.

48. All subleasing of utility easements should require landowners'
49. consent and compensation.

50. We urge utility companies to use selective herbicides that will not
51. harm cool season grasses to help control erosion when spraying
52. rights-of-way.

UTILITY LINES AND PIPELINES

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3. We favor legislation requiring all who construct underground
4. lines in Kentucky to:

5. (1) Lay all utility lines and pipelines at such depth that the top of
6. the line shall be at least 30 inches beneath the surface of the
7. ground, or the road, whichever is lower, and be checked, mapped
8. and maintained;

9. (2) Prepare a diagram showing the location of all utility lines;

10. (3) Replace rocks below plow depth;

11. (4) Place back the top soil to plow depth and re-establish
12. adequate vegetative cover;

13. (5) Leave cropland in tillable condition;

14. (6) Leave in first-class condition drainage systems disrupted
15. by utility lines and pipeline construction; and in cases where
16. disagreements as to what constitutes first-class condition
17. develops, the final decision should be left to the local or nearest
18. conservation district;

19. (7) Adequately compensate property owners for property taken
20. and for damages to remaining property and any subsequent
21. damage thereafter; and

22. (8) Be a member of Kentucky811.

23. We recommend that all commercial underground utility lines be
24. marked and identified by the owner of the utility.

25. We recommend prohibiting utility companies from wire flag
26. use and recommend they remove and dispense of all discarded
27. materials.

28. The multi-line rights-of-way agreement, which cheats farmers
29. out of income from pipelines and utility lines, should be eliminated.
30. Property owners should be paid for the damage to the property
31. as a whole rather than the immediate area used by the pipe or
32. utility lines.

33. We urge strict enforcement of the National Electrical Safety
34. Code and support increasing the minimum clearance of electric and
35. telecommunication lines.

36. The oil and gas industry should be held to the same standard
37. regarding landowners as the coal industry, in that all oil and gas
38. activities including roadways and pipelines should be permitted,
39. bonded, and placed under the Energy & Environment Cabinet
40. requiring quarterly inspections and enforcement for violations
41. including civil penalties. Landowner consent must be obtained
42. before any permits are issued.

43. Soil compaction should be considered in any damage claim from
44. construction of a power line or utility. The full costs of removing
45. such compaction and weed control should be covered at local
46. equipment rental rates.

47. We support the appropriate federal and state agencies be given
48. the authority to develop and implement regulations governing the
49. natural gas liquid pipelines being proposed in Kentucky.
50. Repurposing of existing lines should also be included under these
51. regulations.

UTILITY RATES AND REGULATIONS

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

MINING

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30. We strongly support the coal industry because it plays such a
31. critical role in Kentucky's economy.
32. We support funding research to develop alternative uses of coal.
33. We urge strict enforcement of Kentucky's Surface Mining Control
34. and Reclamation Act.
35. We support coal mine safety standards that protect Kentucky
36. miners.
37. We recommend that provisions be made in strip mine regulations
38. for salvaging marketable timber. We encourage the development of
39. markets for pulpwood and other small materials removed in the strip
40. mining operations.
41. We oppose uneconomical, unreasonable requirements to return
42. strip-mined land to its original contour when such restoration will not
43. return it to its most productive use.
44. We support investments in research and promotion of ag crops
45. and commodities that can be produced on reclaimed mine land.
46. We support a common sense approach to regulating mountain
47. top removal of coal which recognizes the agricultural and
48. economic development opportunities it can create.
49. We support incentive programs, including an early bond release
50. for reclaimed coal mines to be used for agriculture.
51. We support mining reclamation for agricultural purposes.
52. We are concerned that the Longwall method of mining can be
53. destructive to agricultural land. Therefore, we recommend better
54. enforcement of all mining laws and regulations to protect prime
55. farmland from further destruction.
56. We support the rural abandoned mine program and the
57. abandoned mine lands program and encourage the government to

1. release the state's full allocation of fees collected from mining
2. operations for the reclaiming of abandoned mines.
3. We support reforestation of surface mined land on non-
4. compacted soils using native species.
5. We support regulatory changes that allow environmentally
6. protective and efficient mining of previously mined areas.
7. We urge the Kentucky courts and the General Assembly to
8. clarify that coal bed methane is the same as gas found in oil and oil
9. producing zones and is the property of the gas owner. Due to the
10. unknown value and marketability of this gas, owners should be
11. exempt from unmined or unproduced mineral tax.
12. We support establishing a limited Sand and Gravel Operation
13. Permit for off-farm commercial operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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

1. We support amending state law to give the AWQA direct over-
2. sight and approval authority of any state environmental regulations
3. and/or permit programs potentially affecting agricultural operations.
4. We urge the Energy & Environment Cabinet to:
5. (1) Give more attention to effective sewage treatment and solid
6. waste disposal;
7. (2) Develop laws and regulations pertaining to the disposal of
8. agricultural waste based on sound technical data and require that
9. cost and benefit consideration be given;
10. (3) Create a separate permit classification for on-farm livestock
11. truck washes;
12. (4) Assist local governments in establishing programs for
13. recycling and proper disposal of items such as tires, batteries and
14. motor oils, plastic (such as hay wrappings, baler twine and
15. greenhouse covers) and Styrofoam (such as tobacco float trays); and
16. (5) Consult with the AWQA in its quest for 404 certification
17. jurisdiction.
18. We support additional oversight and auditing of the Petroleum
19. Storage Tank Assurance Fund to prevent excessive charges.
20. We support farmers being compensated for farming practices
21. that put carbon back into the soil.
22. We support the development and the voluntary implementation of
23. both Water Quality Trading Programs and Carbon Credit Trading
24. Programs.
25. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Rinse and
26. Return Program and its efforts in agriculture chemical collection.
27. We oppose legislation that would hold a farmer or commercial
28. agriculture applicator liable for chemicals found in groundwater if
29. the chemicals were used according to label recommendations or
30. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.
31. We oppose holding the current landowner responsible for the
32. actions of the previous owner. We are strongly opposed to
33. legislation extending citizen's right to sue when they are not
34. directly affected by the condition.
35. We support the United States Department of Agriculture-
36. Agricultural Research Service projects on forage and animal
37. manure nutrients management at the University of Kentucky and
38. Western Kentucky University, and encourage producers to
39. participate in these projects.
40. We support using livestock and poultry manure nutrients as a
41. viable, sound nutrient source and soil amendment option. Any
42. proposed law or regulation which would restrict a farmer's nutrient
43. management practice shall only be implemented if consistent with
44. BMPs developed at the state level with the cooperation and
45. assistance from the land grant institutions with considerations
46. given for local conditions. Government cost-share funding should be
47. made available to producers for construction of manure handling
48. facilities to correct existing problems.
49. We are opposed to any regulations which require joint liability as
50. a part of any permitting process. We support agriculture integration
51. as a viable option of farmers who voluntarily choose to partner with
52. corporate entities. We expect those who own or operate such
53. agricultural facilities to do so responsibly to ensure the protection of
54. water and air quality and quality of life for local citizens.
55. We recommend a site-specific evaluation of appropriate BMPs
56. for a particular livestock confinement operation and site-specific
57. interpretation of regulations.

1. We support conserving Kentucky's biodiversity through
2. voluntary efforts.
3. We support discouraging the EPA from enforcing air quality
4. standards and implementing a new national ambient air quality
5. standard for particulate matter until scientists determine the health
6. and economic consequences of their actions.
7. We oppose:
8. (1) Mandatory air quality standards for ozone, greenhouse
9. gases, and particulate matter on farmers and agricultural
10. businesses;
11. (2) Emission control rules for farming practices, farm equipment,
12. cotton gins, grain handling facilities, etc., and urge EPA to
13. reevaluate the imposition of standards on farm and ranch
14. equipment and other non-highway use machinery;
15. (3) Mandatory cap and trade regulations that will increase
16. energy costs in Kentucky by penalizing coal-based energy
17. generation; and
18. (4) EPA regulations on wood burning stoves.
19. We oppose the implementation of state and local policies as
20. substitutes for validly enacted laws and regulations. We oppose the
21. enactment of regulations that go beyond the intent and authority of
22. state and federal laws.
23. The United Nations should not be given any authority or
24. regulatory power over the natural resources of the United States.
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WASTE MANAGEMENT

29. We encourage incentives for the recycling of waste and strongly
30. support research to find packages and containers utilizing renew-
31. able agricultural and forestry resources that are biodegradable.
32. We urge actions that would increase availability of recycling
33. services in rural areas.
34. We strongly encourage the University of Kentucky (UK) to
35. conduct research that would result in methods for recycling
36. discarded net wrap, haylage wrap, silage/grain bags, and
37. styrofoam.
38. We urge all Kentucky landfills to accept agricultural wastes,
39. and dead animals at a reasonable fee, to prevent improper
40. disposal.
41. We encourage research on high temperature incineration as a
42. possible replacement for landfills.
43. County Farm Bureaus should work with fiscal courts to develop
44. and implement waste collection programs. We believe that
45. adequate and appropriate funding to the counties should be
46. provided in any statewide solid waste collection legislation.
47. We recommend that agencies and organizations work together
48. to encourage composting and other means including
49. bio-fermentation to deal effectively with both on-farm and
50. processing animal waste.
51. We recommend market research be conducted by UK to identify
52. markets for sheep and goat byproducts, to reduce the volume of
53. offal generated at Kentucky processing plants.
54. We support funding for the Waste Tire Collection Program and
55. efforts to ensure the integrity of the program.
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1. We believe the cost of administering trash pickup should be
2. limited. We do not believe the administrative costs should exceed
3. actual trash pickup costs.
4. When salvage yards are established, we recommend that the
5. facilities be located a reasonable distance from flood plains, lakes,
6. streams and other waterways.
7. We support tighter control on landfills to avoid the dumping of
8. dangerous chemicals.
9. We support the Energy & Environment Cabinet's control over the
10. issuing of permits for domestic and industrial spreading of waste.

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

15. We are opposed to rules and regulations that prohibit farmers'
16. reasonable use of agricultural pesticides, fertilizer and chemicals.
17. We oppose legislation that defines any crop management
18. practice as point source pollution.
19. We oppose legislation that forbids the use of any agricultural
20. input that has a federal label and established tolerance for certain
21. usages.
22. We recommend the establishment and continuance of studies
23. designed to test the effects of varying levels of persistent and
24. short-residual pesticides.
25. We support a "beneficial insects" category in the United States
26. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) competitive grants program.
27. We recommend that colleges and universities in Kentucky:
28. (1) Strengthen their research, implementation and education of
29. farmers on integrated crop management;
30. (2) Continue recommending short-residual materials as a
31. substitute for persistent pesticides where advisable;
32. (3) Strive to educate the public of the proper use of all
33. agricultural inputs;
34. (4) Support programs to inform and educate the public of the
35. benefits of agricultural chemicals and animal health aids; and
36. (5) Apply to participate in the Interregional Research Project No.
37. 4 for the registration of pesticides for "minor-use" crops.
38. We encourage legislation that would require registration of
39. soil-plant amendments ("miracle" plant growth products) with the
40. University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and
41. Environment Division of Regulatory Services and gives the director
42. of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station authority to require
43. manufacturers/distributors of such products to furnish acceptable
44. data for evaluating the product under conditions applicable to those
45. of Kentucky as a basis for registration.
46. We support the concept that farmers should be able to buy
47. insecticides, pesticides and veterinary supplies at farm supply
48. stores or other outlets. We are opposed to any move to make
49. the use of subtherapeutic drugs in livestock feed available on a
50. prescription basis only. We oppose attempts by the United States
51. Food and Drug Administration and USDA to restrict veterinarians
52. from extra label usage of prescription drugs.
53. We oppose the elimination of methyl bromide from the list of
54. labeled chemicals until a substitute can be developed.
55. Atrazine is a critically important product to Kentucky agriculture.
56. Any regulatory re-evaluation should adhere to a transparent and
57. systematic process as outlined by the Federal Insecticide,

1. Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, allowing producer input to ensure a
2. high quality science based conclusion. This same transparent and
3. systematic process should be followed for all pesticides.
4. We oppose hazardous industrial and radioactive waste being
5. mixed with fertilizer.
6. We encourage fertilizer retailers to sell phosphorus-free fertilizer
7. for homeowners who don't need it according to soil tests.
8. We support improved training programs on the proper handling
9. and safe use of pesticides. We will work with the University of
10. Kentucky, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) and other
11. agencies in assisting agriculture producers in the implementation of
12. the Worker Protection Standard Act. We believe that the KDA
13. private pesticide applicator training and certification program should
14. be periodically reviewed to ensure it is a sound and effective source
15. of training and information.
16. We support legislation requiring chemicals be available in
17. reusable or recyclable containers. We also support containers be
18. made biodegradable when possible. We encourage manufacturers
19. to utilize chemicals in dissolvable packaging and urge the industry
20. to promote this technology whenever possible.
21. We support elimination of Kentucky Revised Statutes that require
22. commercial pesticide applicator license holders to be charged a
23. dealer fee to apply incidental amounts of pesticides.
24. We support expedited approval of emergency labeling of
25. chemicals to fight crop losses from diseases such as soybean rust.
26. We encourage quarries to continue grinding quality agricultural
27. limestone.
28. We encourage the proper use and handling of distillers and
29. brewer's byproduct.

REGULATORY SERVICES

34. We support the programs provided by Regulatory Services at the
35. University of Kentucky and encourage increased public reporting of
36. the various analyses.
37. We encourage farmers to take advantage of the analyses of bulk
38. lime, fertilizer, feed, and animal waste.
39. We recommend strict enforcement of Kentucky's lime law.
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44. We support enactment of beverage container deposit legislation.
45. We favor strict enforcement of laws regarding littering of
46. highways and private property adjoining highways. We urge all
47. citizens to cooperate with enforcement of present littering laws. We
48. urge the broadcast and print media to call the littering problem to the
49. public's attention.
50. We recommend that the size and number of signs pertaining
51. to roadside dumping be increased and include the penalty
52. for violation.
53. When landowners discover and report illegal dumping on their
54. land, we recommend that the landowner not be held responsible for
55. cleanup of the illegal dumping.
56. We encourage farmers to properly dispose of containers related
57. to farming operations.

1. We recommend that all garbage trucks be enclosed to
2. avoid littering.
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PEST AND WEED CONTROL

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

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

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

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

23. We encourage continued and adequate funding for the
24. Kentucky Department of Agriculture's noxious weed program on
25. agriculture land.

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

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

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

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

36. We request that wild sunflower, marestalk, black nightshade,
37. palmer amaranth and water-hemp be listed as noxious weeds.

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

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

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

44. We support the use of waiver forms with landowners to relieve
45. applicators of liability arising from thorough, effective use of
46. herbicides or other control options.
- 47.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17. We recommend that the KDFWR provide extra elk tag
18. allotments for purchase to the "counties of release", and that extra
19. consideration be given to local residents. We also recommend
20. a nuisance provision be provided for farmers in production
21. agriculture, specifically for elk.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

42. (4) The continuation of trapping.

43. We are opposed to the releasing of all wolves, bears, elk,
44. hogs, venomous snakes, mountain lions, beavers and coyotes any-
45. where in the state of Kentucky. The KDFWR should not be permit-
46. ted to release any animals in a county until they have secured
47. approval from the county fiscal court. We recommend a public
48. hearing be held and a census be conducted before nuisance wildlife
49. can be released in areas and that controls and limits should be
50. placed on animals released.

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

56. We recommend the KDFWR provide a cost-share to all bee
57. farmers to purchase an electric fence to protect their beehives.

1. We support developing conservation agreements for the
2. protection of species in lieu of endangered species listings.
3. We recommend KDFWR be responsible for damages caused by
4. actions, or the prevention of certain actions, which prohibit
5. landowners from making improvements to or maintaining their land.
6. We recommend the United States Department of Fish and
7. Wildlife Services keep the East Fork Clarks River and its tributaries,
8. (that lie within the boundaries of the National Wildlife Refuge), free
9. of snags and other obstacles to prevent flooding and other problems
10. that could affect other landowners.
11. We support the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the
12. KDFWR work together to ensure sound health practices for wild
13. cervids to prevent any disease for humans, livestock, or wildlife. We
14. support cervids for any operations being allowed into the state only
15. from disease-free areas. We oppose the private possession or
16. interstate commerce of native or exotic fish and wildlife which could
17. change the local ecosystem or which carry any disease presently
18. under a state eradication program.
19. We oppose any effort to restrict the intrastate movement of
20. domesticated deer and elk in Kentucky.
21. We support funding for USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
22. technicians to address nuisance wildlife issues.
23. We encourage a more readily available permit process for
24. nuisance wildlife such as the American black vulture.
25. We support removal of the black vulture from protected status
26. and elimination of permit fees.
27. We support the KDFWR efforts to restore the quail population
28. and encourage the voluntary participation in the quail restoration
29. program.
30. Due to the potential risk of high path avian influenza, which
31. can be carried by migratory birds, we recommend the KDFWR
32. develop and allow practices that would relocate and/or eliminate
33. migratory bird populations that pose a direct threat to the poultry
34. industry in Kentucky.
35. We encourage the KDFWR to enact regulations to prevent the
36. release of pen-raised quail during the breeding season.
37. We believe the KDFWR enforcement officers should have
38. probable cause that a game law has been broken before they are
39. allowed to enter upon private property.
40. We support market development and wild harvest of invasive,
41. non-native carp species within the state of Kentucky.
42. We support creation of a program that encourages youth to be
43. involved in hunting and fishing and creation of a lifetime license for
44. youth and adults.
45.
46.
47. **TRESPASS, GAME LAWS**
48. **AND REGULATIONS**
49.
50. We urge strict enforcement of the law requiring permission to
51. enter property for the purpose of hunting, fishing, trapping or
52. digging ginseng. We also urge strict enforcement of laws relating to
53. hunting, fishing and trapping.
54. Landowners should be protected from any trespassers, hunters,
55. and criminal offenders seeking liability damages.
56. We recommend that the Kentucky Department of Fish and
57. Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) implement proactive programs to edu-

1. cate landowners about the liability protection offered by the statute.
2. We further recommend the KDFWR continue to build partnerships
3. with Kentucky Farm Bureau for the purpose of encouraging better
4. hunter/landowner relations, and to increase respect among hunters
5. and anglers for landowners' property and private property rights.
6. We urge the League of Kentucky Sportsmen to continue to
7. encourage its members to be careful and show respect for
8. livestock, fencing and other farm property.
9. We recommend that Kentucky's law be changed to provide that
10. trespassing shall constitute a criminal offense subject to a
11. reasonable fine and/or other punishment. We recommend there be
12. a stricter penalty for person(s) destroying farm property, such as
13. cutting fences or trees, and other damages. We support requiring
14. all hunting and fishing licenses to be declared invalid unless the
15. license holder has written permission from the landowner. We
16. support Kentucky law that protects landowners from the negligent
17. or criminal actions committed by hunters who are guests of
18. the landowner.
19. We recommend enforcing laws to prohibit ATV operators,
20. riders of horses, and other individuals from using private property
21. without owner's permission; penalties should be sufficient to
22. discourage this practice. We favor legislation to make it unlawful for
23. anyone, including the driver of the vehicle, commercial wrecker
24. service and state or local police to remove a vehicle that has
25. damaged private property, except in emergencies, unless the owner
26. of the property or his representative has been notified.
27. We support the current hunter orange clothing requirements to
28. ensure the safety of all hunters and trappers.
29. We recommend that the KDFWR publicize and send to each
30. county Farm Bureau information pertaining to the selection of
31. commission members and encourage farmers and landowners to
32. actively participate in the process.
33.
34.
35.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

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

1. We believe that any government action that diminishes an
2. owner's right to use his property constitutes a taking of that owner's
3. property. Therefore, government should provide due process and
4. compensation to the exact degree that an owner's right to use his
5. property has been diminished by the government action.
6. Furthermore, we believe that the only just basis for compensation in
7. such cases is fair market value.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

42. **Unmanned Aircraft Systems**

43. We support:

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

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

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

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

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

56.

57.

1. We oppose:

2. (1) A federal or state agency using UAS for the purpose of
3. regulatory enforcement, litigation and as a sole source for natural
4. resource inventories 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
7. medical certification to operate a UAS.

8.

9.

10.

11.

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

17.

18.

19.

20.

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

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

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

29. We support the United States Department of Agriculture and
30. local programs providing for the identification and retention of prime
31. and unique agricultural land in Kentucky and the use of such infor-
32. mation by local officials in the decision-making process to deter-
33. mine future use of such land.

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

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

42. We recommend that state funds be made available to assist
43. counties in developing a land use policy and a comprehensive plan
44. to protect their agricultural base. Such policy and plans should take
45. into consideration land, water, forest and other natural resources
46. within their capabilities. We support such programs only if the land
47. use decisions and controls are left at the local level and/or regional
48. 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
51. criteria used with agricultural assessment. We recommend that
52. after a tract of land is divided into two sections of 10 acres or less,
53. it should be subject to planning and zoning review;

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

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

RIGHT TO FARM

LAND USE PLANNING

1. adopted land use policies and does not negatively impact desirable,
2. prime or unique agricultural land.
3. We support and promote the development of agricultural districts
4. and recommend additional protection incentives to encourage
5. farmers to form agricultural districts.
6. We oppose arbitrary zoning of green space areas for farms
7. adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas, residential, commercial
8. or business zoned property.
- 9.

PLANNING AND ZONING

- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
13. We hold to the principle of planning and zoning being
14. locally administered through locally established planning and
15. zoning commissions.
16. We believe that officials of each county are best prepared to
17. control the activities and development within their county through
18. planning, zoning and other means.
19. We urge county Farm Bureau leaders to familiarize themselves
20. with Kentucky's planning and zoning law, and be more aggressive in
21. working with their fiscal courts, planning and zoning commissions
22. when planning county-wide zoning.
23. Agriculture interests should be protected when a merged
24. government takes effect in any county in the state.
25. We encourage planning and zoning boards to include farm
26. representation as well as an active farmer member of the board of
27. supervisors of the conservation district in the area, and the same
28. principle apply in regard to regional planning commissions.
29. We support planning efforts that consider the needs of
30. agriculture for the future which allow for both the continuation of
31. normal farming practices and residential and/or commercial
32. development of agriculture property. We recommend that planning
33. and zoning recognize Kentucky Proud. We urge local planning
34. bodies to recognize agritourism as an agricultural venue and allow
35. for agritourism uses.
36. We recommend that bona fide farm equipment and operations be
37. exempt from the beautification laws and/or regulations.
38. We support the present law which prohibits regulation or
39. requirement of permits for farm buildings and will oppose any
40. attempt to repeal it.
41. We recommend that planning and zoning regulations for
42. developers be strengthened and enforced to prevent and control
43. erosion and flooding.
44. We urge landowners, land purchasers and developers to become
45. familiar with the Federal Flood Control Zoning Act and
46. its limitations of flood insurance on structures in flood plains.
47. Residential and commercial developments adjacent to
48. agricultural land often disrupt farming operations and present
49. safety hazards to people and livestock; therefore, we urge
50. establishment of regulations requiring buffer zones between such
51. properties at the expense of the developers and require that such
52. buffer zones be in place before infrastructure is developed.
53. We recommend that when a person establishes or expands an
54. agricultural business within the laws acceptable to the planning and
55. zoning regulations of the community, he should not be forced out of
56. business by new regulations.
- 57.

1. We recommend the owners be compensated for the monetary
2. losses of development rights when major changes occur in zoning
3. laws affecting the building lots size in agriculture areas.
4. We believe all division and sale of farm land that results in
5. multiple housing tracts should be subject to review by local planning
6. and zoning boards (where such boards exist).
7. We support continuing the current exemption for agriculture
8. buildings and dwellings under the uniform building and electrical
9. codes.

- 10.
- 11.
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- 13.
- 14.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

15. We support rural economic development efforts to attract new
16. agricultural biotechnology and processing plants and expand
17. existing local industry, including production agriculture, that
18. compliments and adds value to Kentucky-produced agricultural
19. commodities. This support should be through existing government
20. bodies, community organizations and institutions, including the
21. University of Kentucky, working together in identifying the
22. relationship of agriculture and rural development.
23. We support cooperating with the Governor's Office of Agricultural
24. Policy, Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA), Kentucky
25. Cattlemen's Association, and other ag commodity groups to help
26. incentivize and establish a beef packer in Kentucky.
27. The Cabinet for Economic Development (CED) should be
28. encouraged to provide incentives for the establishment of tobacco
29. industries that expand the market for leaf.
30. We believe that if any government entity sells goods in
31. competition with private industry, that they be required to sell at
32. current market prices.
33. We urge the CED to develop incentives and programs for the
34. establishment of agribusinesses based on job generation, economic
35. impact and/or the use of Kentucky-produced agricultural commodities.
36. We recommend that the CED place extra time and effort in
37. locating processing plants or establishing cooperative processing
38. plants in Kentucky for agricultural commodities.
39. We encourage coordination of efforts of county and regional
40. economic development foundations. We urge local Farm Bureaus
41. to become involved with these groups.
42. We support agricultural leadership in all areas of economic
43. development to strengthen rural communities.
44. We support the strengthening of the entrepreneurial and
45. leadership development activities of the Agriculture Development
46. Board, the Agricultural Finance Corporation, the University of
47. Kentucky, Kentucky State University and all regional universities,
48. the KDA, and the Kentucky Center for Agricultural and Rural
49. Development.
50. We recommend one staff member of the CED work solely with
51. agriculture issues.
52. We recommend that the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet
53. continue to provide support for agritourism activities.
54. We support the Shaping Our Appalachian Region initiative and
55. its efforts that continue to look for additional options to build the
56. cattle market in eastern Kentucky, including but not limited to
57. expanding opportunities for cattle on reclaimed mine land.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

- 1.
- 2.
3. *We favor strict enforcement of the laws requiring registration,*
4. *disclosures and report of holdings and purchases of land by foreign*
5. *entities. We feel there should be no preferential tax treatment to*
6. *foreign entities and that all tax loopholes including property,*
7. *production and capital gains be closed.*
- 8.
- 9.

ANNEXATION

- 10.
- 11.
12. *We encourage strict enforcement of annexation laws to protect*
13. *the interests of rural people.*
14. *We oppose annexation of any property without providing all*
15. *public services to that owner.*
16. *We recommend that affected property owners be notified by*
17. *certified return receipt mail at least 60 days before a public hearing*
18. *is held and before final annexation or incorporation can be*
19. *consummated there must be an approval of two-thirds of the*
20. *affected property owners. We are opposed to mandatory spot*
21. *annexation. We also recommend that any challenges in court be*
22. *heard by a jury.*
23. *Any legislation providing new guidelines for establishing county*
24. *wide urban government should require approval by the voters in*
25. *both the incorporated and unincorporated areas.*
- 26.

EMINENT DOMAIN

- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
30. *We recommend that Kentucky laws dealing with eminent domain*
31. *be amended to provide that the power of eminent domain could not*
32. *be used for parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, riding and*
33. *hiking trails, other recreational projects, sludge or waste disposal*
34. *projects. We favor repeal of the law which gives the Kentucky*
35. *Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources the right of eminent*
36. *domain.*
37. *We oppose the power of eminent domain being used to take*
38. *private property for private use.*
39. *We oppose the principle of giving credit to the acquiring agency*
40. *for potential value of remaining acreage when paying for land*
41. *acquired under eminent domain. In cases where private property is*
42. *taken, we support prompt, just and adequate compensation. In*
43. *cases of partial takings of real property, depreciation in the value*
44. *of any remaining real property should be recognized, and*
45. *compensation paid for any damages which result.*
46. *Any entity using eminent domain to seize private property for*
47. *public use shall reimburse the landowner the costs of private*
48. *engineering, consulting studies, and appraisal fees needed to fairly*
49. *determine land value.*
50. *We support an exclusion from all taxes for land and improve-*
51. *ments sold through an act of eminent domain or the threat thereof.*
52. *In situations where eminent domain is used to acquire land,*
53. *provisions should be made whereby the landowner shall have*
54. *access to any of his property divided by the eminent domain action.*
55. *We recommend that the owner of land acquired under eminent*
56. *domain be reimbursed adequately to facilitate replacement or*
57. *relocation. If property taken under eminent domain is not used for*

1. *the purpose for which it was secured within 5 years, the original*
2. *owner should have an opportunity to purchase it back at the price*
3. *received less damages.*
4. *We recommend the establishment of a time limit in which court*
5. *decisions shall be made on contested condemnation procedures,*
6. *not to exceed nine months.*
7. *We support protecting the rights of Kentucky's landowners when*
8. *dealing with regional planning issues and eminent domain laws.*
9. *We recommend that when eminent domain condemnation takes*
10. *private property, the value received for the condemned land should*
11. *not be considered in tax assessment for the balance of the land.*
- 12.
- 13.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

- 14.
- 15.
16. *Rural areas of Kentucky must be adequately represented in the*
17. *state legislature. A system similar to that used for the United States*
18. *Congress where only one house is apportioned by population would*
19. *accomplish this and be fair to everyone. We recommend that any*
20. *revision of Kentucky's Constitution provide for this.*
21. *Inasmuch as the Supreme Court has held that state legislative*
22. *districts may have considerable variance in population, we*
23. *recommend that the General Assembly, where possible, restore*
24. *legislative district lines to coincide with county lines.*
25. *Elected officials who are convicted of a felony associated with*
26. *public service, or who resign to avoid prosecution, should lose all*
27. *government retirement benefits.*
28. *We support legislative oversight of state regulations.*
29. *We strongly encourage the Kentucky General Assembly to pass*
30. *a budget within the allotted time the Constitution allows them to*
31. *meet, making the state budget the priority of the legislative session.*
32. *We request the Kentucky General Assembly to decrease spend-*
33. *ing where possible instead of raising taxes.*
- 34.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
38. *We will oppose any efforts to change the procedure for selection*
39. *of county officials, including property valuation administrators.*
40. *Property valuation administrators and property evaluation*
41. *personnel salaries should not be indexed or earmarked from*
42. *property tax values, and their salaries should be based on what*
43. *other county officials are paid.*
44. *We are opposed to any change that would require county judge*
45. *executives to be attorneys.*
46. *We recommend staggered terms for members of the city and*
47. *county governing bodies.*
48. *We oppose officials of county government using taxpayers'*
49. *money to lobby for additional taxes.*
50. *We are in favor of strict enforcement of a code of ethics for all*
51. *elected and appointed government officials.*
- 52.
- 53.
- 54.
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- 57.

HOME RULE

- 1.
- 2.
3. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau study any proposals
4. to change the Home Rule Law and take such action as deemed
5. advisable to protect the rural areas of Kentucky.
6. We recommend that each county Farm Bureau appoint a
7. committee to attend fiscal court meetings and report back to the
8. county Farm Bureau Board of Directors.
9. We recommend that self-governing privileges of cities be
10. confined to matters within their boundaries. Any authority including
11. zoning beyond the corporate limits and into unincorporated areas
12. should be limited to matters other than taxation and regulations;
13. require expressed permission of the fiscal court; and not include
14. any authority the fiscal court does not already possess.
15. We oppose any local ordinance that is more restrictive than state
16. regulations governing agricultural operations.
17. We further oppose any legislation that will allow the creation of
18. regional boards that may result in the loss of the present home rule
19. authority over local areas and/or the control of rural areas by urban
20. dominated boards, unless approved by the fiscal courts of each
21. county involved.
- 22.

ELECTIONS

- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
26. Kentucky Farm Bureau urges county Farm Bureaus to conduct
27. voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns on a regular
28. basis. We encourage Farm Bureau members to become actively
29. engaged in the campaigns of candidates whose policy positions
30. reflect Farm Bureau's ideals.
31. We support all registered voters showing photo identification
32. when reporting to the polling place to receive a ballot.
33. We support every effort be made to ensure that every legal vote
34. cast is counted.
35. We support the public distribution of voting records and policy
36. position statements and how candidate positions compare with
37. Farm Bureau policy.
38. We oppose any action designed to permit college students
39. who are not legal residents of the college community to vote in local
40. elections.
41. We recommend all registered voters of the county be allowed to
42. vote in elections conducted by a city for alcohol referendum.
43. We oppose the use of public funds and franking privileges in the
44. financing of political campaigns.
45. We oppose the concept of centralized voting.
46. We recommend general voting hours be extended to coincide
47. with absentee voting in the county clerk's office during general office
48. hours within 7 days prior to any election.
49. We recommend that any wet/dry election be held on the next
50. scheduled election day. If not possible, then the individuals seeking
51. the special election should be required to cover the cost rather than
52. the county.
- 53.
- 54.
- 55.
- 56.
- 57.

EDUCATION

- 1.
- 2.
3. We recommend the teaching of basic moral values, basic
4. economics and responsibilities of living in a democratic society at all
5. levels of education.
6. We oppose the continuation of state pension fund diversions and
7. recommend the state legislature take the necessary actions to
8. stabilize and create sustainability in the Kentucky Teachers
9. Retirement System.
10. We oppose the use of state monies to support charter schools.
11. **Elementary and Secondary**
12. We recommend cross curriculum support for the teaching of
13. reading, mathematics, writing, science, social studies, civics, United
14. States and world history. We recommend providing innovative
15. classroom strategies focusing on the basic skills which are included
16. in the Kentucky Academic Standards.
17. We urge the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to abide
18. by the guidelines set forth in the Individual Education Program for
19. students for state assessments.
20. We support changes to the testing system that reflect the
21. yearly education improvement of the child while also evaluating the
22. school. We recommend the Kentucky End-of-Program Assessment
23. testing window be aligned with the state testing window. We
24. support exploring alternative ways of calculating test scores of special
25. needs students that would stay within the parameter of the current
26. Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines.
27. We recommend the Department of Education adopt a uniform
28. grading scale to be used across the Commonwealth concerning
29. grade point averages.
30. We encourage efficient use of school funds and urge the
31. General Assembly to continue its efforts to achieve this goal. We
32. support the state appropriation of adequate funds for teachers'
33. salaries and benefits.
34. We urge more emphasis be placed on collaboration between
35. postsecondary schools, elementary and secondary schools to
36. improve teacher education, recruitment, and retention.
37. We support local school districts' control in setting compensation
38. criteria, considering needs and ability while operating within the
39. state salary structure.
40. We support lowering the classroom student-to-teacher ratio
41. while maintaining adequate staffing of schools.
42. We encourage and support funding the free textbook structure
43. for elementary and middle schools and when state funds are not
44. available we recommend local school boards be encouraged to buy
45. such books that are needed.
46. We favor reducing the cost of new educational facilities by
47. eliminating features not essential to a sound education program.
48. Local school boards should consider renovation whenever practical
49. rather than new construction. The state should consider the county
50. growth rate when approving the size of new construction for
51. schools; as well as review the justification for new construction ver-
52. sus renovation prior to approving a bond sale for new construction.
53. We favor the present method of selecting county school
54. superintendents and county school board members. We encourage
55. Farm Bureau members to be active in this process.
- 56.
- 57.

1. We support local school districts in providing professional
2. development and/or workshops to improve teaching methods of
3. new and ineffective teachers.
4. A teacher effectiveness rating should be designed and used as a
5. means of removing ineffective teachers.
6. We support the original intent of teacher tenure to protect
7. teachers against political abuse. However, tenure should be
8. reformed so that it cannot be used to unduly protect incompetent
9. teachers.
10. We challenge school principals and superintendents to be more
11. responsible in the evaluation of teachers and administrators.
12. We support the current law that prevents teacher strikes.
13. We oppose legislation that mandates collective bargaining for
14. public school employees.
15. We believe that since locally elected Boards of Education are
16. accountable for the effectiveness of local schools, our schools
17. should be operated within the general policy provisions and district
18. goals adopted by local boards.
19. We recommend that local boards of education consider keeping
20. schools for grades K-5, 6-8, 9-12 in neighborhood locations.
21. We recognize that boards of education have the responsibility for
22. developing the school calendar. We urge county Farm Bureau
23. boards to work with local boards of education in developing the
24. school calendar. We further recommend all school districts that
25. service area career or technical centers to coordinate their
26. calendars to support all programs at those centers.
27. We support local boards of education establishing a professional
28. dress code for educators.
29. We recommend the legislature review the requirements and
30. criteria for home schooling. Any guidelines should be conducive to
31. traditional values, should not infringe on basic parental rights, and
32. should only address instruction of core subjects.
33. We believe that statutory models and all alternative models
34. for school site-based council composition should ensure equal
35. representation of parents and employees. We support strengthening
36. community governance of public education by local boards of
37. education, who are elected by all citizens. This gives all taxpayers
38. a voice in the expenditures of tax dollars and the policies which
39. govern the schools of the district.
40. We recommend that when a student needs to attend an
41. adjoining school district, the county Farm Bureau work with the local
42. school boards to obtain approval of a reciprocal agreement.
43. We support adequate state funding for staffing and facilities for
44. the state agency children's programs and for district-operated day
45. treatment and alternative programs.
46. We support the school board's efforts to establish district wide
47. discipline codes and the efforts of site based councils to implement
48. instructional strategies or appropriate techniques to ensure the
49. safety of students and staff while ensuring a conducive learning
50. environment.
51. We encourage the local school districts to support participation
52. in the state fair activities and/or 4-H, FFA, and other youth
53. educational opportunities and not penalize students for their
54. absence. We support the Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) working
55. with the KDE to enforce the state statute allowing students to attend
56. and/or participate in Kentucky State Fair activities. We further
57. encourage schools to value the State Fair for the educational

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

1. 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.

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

6. 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.

10. 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 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.

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

23. 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.

26. 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.

29. **Career & Technical Education**

30. We support all school districts in providing more equitable access to CTE based on workforce development needs.

32. We recommend that an adequate and equitable level of funding and state staffing be permanently established for all areas of CTE.

34. 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.

42. We recommend:

43. (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;

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

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

51. (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

1. 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

4. (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.

11. 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.

15. 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.

19. 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.

22. 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.

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

29. **Postsecondary Education**

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

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

34. 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.

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

44. 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.

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

51. 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.

56.
57.

1. **General Education Policy**

2. We support financial literacy and Science, Technology,
3. Engineering, Agriculture, Mathematics (STEAM) to be included in
4. Kentucky school curriculum at all appropriate levels.
5. We favor public school courses on the structure and function of
6. democratic government. However, students should not be subjected
7. to indoctrination for political purposes.
8. We recommend that qualified individuals with an agricultural
9. interest be appointed to the Kentucky Board of Education and the
10. Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education.
11. We appreciate Kentucky Educational Television's (KET) interest
12. in the programming needs of the agricultural public of Kentucky.
13. Farm Bureau supports the general equivalency degree now being
14. offered by KET and urges county Farm Bureaus to assist in
15. publicizing this service.
16. We support additional and enhanced technology that provides
17. immediate feedback and real-time interaction with teachers and
18. students.

19. We oppose addictive games of chance (poker, blackjack, etc.)
20. being held on school property.

21. **Career Awareness & Preparation**

22. We recommend that Farm Bureau continue to inform young
23. people of the many rewarding career opportunities in agriculture.
24. Furthermore, we encourage young people to consider their career
25. opportunities early in their formal education and structure their
26. education to allow them to meet their career goals.
27. We believe that greater attention should be given to career and
28. technical education programs in the elementary, middle, secondary
29. and postsecondary schools. These programs should prepare
30. students for employment and postsecondary education. Adult and
31. continuing education should be available to the people on the basis
32. of their needs.
33. We endorse the concept of preparation for the workforce by
34. improving Kentucky's education system and preparing students for
35. a career for which they are best suited. We support centralized
36. testing for online college courses.
37. We support programs that reduce barriers to success for
38. students and prepare them for college and career readiness.
39. We support dual-credit courses, including agriculture classes,
40. being offered to high school students.

TAXATION

- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
45. Kentucky's tax policies should be based on public need and
46. sound economic principles. Kentucky taxes should be apportioned
47. equitably among the citizens.
48. We recommend that state, county, local governments, special
49. taxing districts and school districts look at every possible way to
50. save money before raising taxes.
51. We oppose unfunded mandates on local government.
52. If county fiscal courts or city governments vote to raise taxes in
53. excess of 4 percent, the citizens in that county or city should be
54. allowed to vote on the proposed tax, via a referendum, before it
55. is assessed.
- 56.
- 57.

1. We oppose legislation that would require licensing of farm
2. machinery and equipment and recommend that new farm
3. equipment be exempt from inventory taxes.
4. We recommend that the appropriate state agency enforce tax
5. collection on highway diesel fuel.
6. We oppose severance taxes on renewable resources.
7. We believe health insurance premiums should be exempt from
8. premium taxes.
9. We are opposed to the state legislature allowing district school
10. boards to pass a non-recallable or forgivable school tax (e.g.,
11. nickel or dime) without a community referendum.
12. We recommend that only elected officials have the authority to
13. increase or create new taxes. In addition, we strongly urge all
14. entities with the ability to increase taxes to be accountable for the
15. expenditures of tax dollars to the citizens.
16. We support allowing fiscal courts the flexibility to lower a tax rate
17. submitted by a special taxing district.
18. We encourage the development of a centralized filing system of
19. all local business and payroll taxes.

LAND ASSESSMENT

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

PROPERTY TAXES

- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
45. To prosper in a modern economy, property taxes should be
46. gradually phased downward in favor of broad base sources
47. of revenue.
48. We strongly oppose freezing the state real property tax rate.
49. We recommend that local officials' authority to increase revenue
50. from property taxes be confined to 4 percent plus new growth. Any
51. proposal to increase revenue more than that formula should
52. automatically be decided by a voter referendum.
53. We recommend that property taxes collected for school
54. purposes be levied and administered locally. We also recommend
55. that the sheriff, county attorney, and Department of Revenue be
56. more diligent in collecting delinquent taxes and urge property
- 57.

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.
- 23.
- 24.

SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS

- 25.
- 26.
27. We oppose taxation by petition.
28. We recommend the repeal of the annual fee requirement for
29. special purpose governmental entities.
30. We support more stringent rules for the establishment of special
31. taxing districts and the selection of its directors. We recommend
32. that before any special taxing district is formed that it be placed on
33. the ballot for the affected people to vote on.
34. We also believe that members of the taxing board should be
35. property holders.
36. The county judge executive should ensure that detailed maps of
37. fire taxing districts are provided.
38. We recommend that legislation be enacted to allow fire
39. departments to continue to participate in charitable community
40. projects. We recommend that the funds resulting from the
41. Kentucky insurance premium surcharge be more equitably
42. distributed for the benefit of volunteer fire departments.
43. We recommend the fire tax rate should be 25% of normal rate
44. on farmland and full rate on buildings and improvements.
45. No taxing district should be allowed to increase taxes more than
46. 4 percent without voter approval with the question to be held on the
47. next available election, and that local taxing boards be required to
48. clarify expenditures of all funds collected annually through some
49. public information vehicle.
50. We encourage the General Assembly to develop statewide
51. uniform guidelines, annual training and oversight rules for taxes
52. and fees implemented by special taxing districts.
- 53.
- 54.
- 55.
- 56.
- 57.

SALES AND USE TAXES

- 1.
- 2.
3. We believe that a broad-base sales and use tax is the fairest plan
4. for financing government, while maintaining current agricultural
5. exemptions for all taxing jurisdictions.
6. We recommend that all farm production items and services
7. including veterinary medicine and vaccines, electricity, sawdust and
8. wood shavings, all livestock and poultry bedding, LP gas, and
9. natural gas be exempt from sales and use tax. We recommend
10. removing the sales tax on bumper trailers for agricultural use.
11. We support a card identification system for qualified farmers for
12. sales and use tax exemptions.
13. We oppose adding sales tax to food items and prescription drugs.
14. We support the permanent extension of a motor vehicle usage
15. tax trade-in credit on a new vehicle.
16. Kentucky horse farms should receive the same sales tax
17. exemption that all other Kentucky farms receive.
18. Agriculture cannot pass along its increases in production
19. expenses; therefore to keep our agriculture community viable, we
20. need to keep our Kentucky agriculture sales tax exemption intact.
21. We support restoring the sales and use tax vendor's compensa-
22. tion back to the pre-2013 level.
23. We urge the Kentucky Department of Revenue to utilize auditors
24. with agricultural knowledge when performing agricultural audits.
25. We recommend that freight, being a service and not a tangible
26. item, always be considered non-taxable.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.

INHERITANCE TAXES

31. We recommend the removal of the requirement that farm value
32. exceed 50% of the fair cash value of the estate for the agricultural
33. use evaluation in computing the inheritance taxes.
34. We support the permanent repeal of Kentucky's estate and
35. inheritance tax.
36. We recommend sons-in-law and daughters-in-law be reclassified
37. as Class A beneficiaries.
- 38.
- 39.

INCOME TAXES

- 40.
- 41.
42. We recommend reinstatement of the federal income tax
43. deduction on state income tax returns.
44. We recommend the repeal of the tax on interest income and
45. recommend the exclusion of taxes on dividend income earned
46. with full exclusion of anyone over the age of 62.
47. We oppose mandatory withholding of state taxes from
48. agriculture employees.
49. We believe necessary college expenses for parents supporting
50. their children at fully or partially state or federally funded
51. universities should be tax exempt.
52. We believe an option transaction for agriculture marketing should
53. be treated the same as a hedge transaction for tax purposes.
54. We support an exclusion from all taxes for the sale of
55. agricultural land that remains in production.
- 56.
- 57.

1. We support Kentucky's depreciation schedule conforming with
2. the federal depreciation schedule including Section 179 rules and
3. regulations.

4. We support an exclusion from all taxes for the transfer of a
5. business, including farms, between parent and children.

REVENUE SHARING

10. We recommend that any revenue sharing proposals be closely
11. examined to protect rural citizens.

12. Rural areas and programs such as conservation, rural road
13. improvements and increased water lines, should receive their fair
14. share of federal revenue sharing funds.

15. Coal/gas producing counties should receive a greater share of
16. coal severance taxes and should be permitted to use it for repairing
17. roads and bridges and/or water projects.

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

22. We recommend that the state of Kentucky conduct a thorough
23. investigation before approving additional bonds so that the state's
24. bonded indebtedness is not over-extended and that the general
25. fund and the road fund is not jeopardized.

26. We recommend that all bond issues that are to be financed by a
27. tax increase be presented to a vote of the people and that a two-
28. thirds majority vote be required for approval.

HIGHWAYS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES

34. We recommend continuation of the 22.2 percent allocation of the
35. state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads, and increasing county
36. road aid funds to the point that all rural roads can have a
37. hard surface.

38. Furthermore, necessary action should be taken to assure that all
39. road fund money is spent as originally intended and is used
40. effectively by local jurisdictions.

41. We support revenue options that ensure adequate financing for
42. transportation infrastructure maintenance which take into account
43. increased construction costs, improved fuel efficiency, and electric
44. vehicles which currently pay no fuel tax.

45. We support measures that would prohibit all levels of
46. government from enacting weight limit restrictions, other than
47. where the safety of bridges is a concern, that would hamper the
48. ability of agriculture to produce and deliver their products to market.

49. We oppose requiring loggers to bond roads to remove timber
50. from private land.

51. We support the 10% weight exemption on farm trucks and trucks
52. servicing farms hauling agriculture products, similar to the same
53. benefits currently given to the transportation of primary forest
54. products.

55. We support 97,000 pound gross weight for six axles on state and
56. federal highways.

1. We recommend that a policy be adopted regarding farm-to-
2. market roads using the same concept with weight and dimension
3. and that consideration be given to farm machinery when widening
4. these roads. We recommend county and state highway engineers
5. to consider agriculture use in the design phase of road and bridge
6. planning. We support the efforts to upgrade all bridges and all
7. county, state and federal roads. We recommend that a better job be
8. done in maintaining rural coal-haul roads.

9. We support legislation requiring the taking of equal amounts of
10. property from each side of the road when widening of the roads is
11. planned. Furthermore, we recommend that property owners be fully
12. informed when rights-of-way negotiations are taking place.

13. We recommend that county Farm Bureaus work with county
14. officials and the Office of Rural and Secondary Roads in
15. determining where rural highway funds should be used.

16. We urge that consideration be given to the construction of
17. crossroads, underpasses or overpasses to allow the passage of
18. livestock and vehicles when a farm is divided.

19. We request the Department of Highways to refrain from seeding
20. rights-of-way with Bermuda grass.

21. We are opposed to fertilizing highway rights-of-way except when
22. reseeding.

23. We recommend better markings for all dangerous intersections
24. on rural highways using caution lights and rumble strips. We
25. also recommend that all state and county roads be striped
26. where feasible.

27. We recommend that all paved public roads be white-striped on
28. the shoulder.

29. We support the state using raised pavement markers in the
30. center of the road on state highways.

31. We encourage transportation officials to ease restrictions on
32. farm equipment access to multi-lane and/or limited access
33. roadways.

34. We recommend that new surfaces laid upon old roads be
35. accompanied by a comparable buildup of the shoulders. We also
36. urge the guidelines, center and outside, be painted on blacktop
37. roads and minimum width standards be maintained.

38. Asphalt strip patching should be done in a manner that will not
39. alter a vehicle's direction or result in vehicle over correction.

40. We encourage the Kentucky Department of Transportation to
41. install and maintain all road signs and markers at least six feet
42. where possible from the pavement edges so that large farm
43. equipment can travel easier and safer on all public roads.

44. We further recommend that reflectors be installed on the ends of
45. all culverts and bridges and that paved highway markers be
46. installed in the center of the roads.

47. We recommend that all county and state roads and bridges be
48. a minimum of 20 feet wide where feasible.

49. We support policy that all highway rights-of-ways be mowed
50. completely at least three times and the first mowing be completed
51. before the seed head formation of noxious weeds. We urge the
52. state highway department to more closely supervise contract
53. mowers.

54. We recommend that highways be kept clean and that limbs
55. are pruned in a timely manner.

56. We support enforcement of laws requiring complete roadside
57. 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

23. We recommend the reduction of license costs on vehicles
24. involved in the practice of moving soil conservation equipment.

25. We oppose mandatory licensing of farm trailers and equipment.

26. We favor prorating the cost of a farm truck license when
27. purchased in the middle of the license year.

28. We support legislation that, for the purpose of vehicle
29. enforcement, farm trucks and farm truck-trailer combinations,
30. licensed with the 38,000 pound farm tag shall not be considered
31. commercial vehicles when used for agricultural purposes.

32. We recommend reciprocity agreements with adjoining states, to
33. allow operations of licensed Kentucky farm trucks without the
34. required purchase of fuel permits or additional licenses. We also
35. recommend that Kentucky weight limits and regulations be honored
36. in such cases.

TRANSPORTATION

41. We support legislation that clearly defines the right of farmers to
42. transport their products to market and to move their equipment by
43. the most economically feasible method.

44. We encourage the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
45. and the Transportation Cabinet to use uniform enforcement policies
46. across the state.

47. We support a review of the trucking regulations including a
48. suggested escalating fine system for overweight trucks.

49. We recommend that the state regulations on width of trailers be
50. changed to 102" on all state and local highways. Trailers that are
51. sold currently don't comply with the old regulations of 96".

52. We oppose road tractors pulling any more than two trailers.

53. We support changes to Kentucky's Transportation Cabinet
54. laws and regulations which conflict with long term practices of
55. agriculture; such as the requirement when hauling grain that it be
56. 100% owned by the landowner, which prevents trucking of grain
57.

1. and/or livestock in a swap work environment where no cash
2. exchanges hands.

3. We recommend the maximum driving and on-time-duty-
4. exemption for agriculture purposes be increased to a 200 air-mile
5. radius.

6. We support a waiver for drivers DOT restrictions in disaster
7. situations.

8. We support the soldiers to semis initiative to get more qualified
9. CDL drivers in the workforce and support a similar initiative be
10. enacted for coal miners.

11. We support driver's license expiration notices being mailed to
12. individuals a month prior to expiration.

RAILROADS

17. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau assist property
18. owners in obtaining title to abandoned railroad easements adjacent
19. to their property.

20. We are opposed to the Kentucky Rails to Trails Program
21. unless all affected property owners are in agreement with the
22. proposed projects.

23. We support crossing arms at all public railroad crossings.

24. We support increasing the fine for railroad companies that
25. obstruct a highway, street or navigable stream.

26. We favor legislation that would require railroads to eliminate
27. excessive weed growth, installation of flashers at crossings with
28. obstructed views and prompt repair of rough crossings.

LIABILITY ISSUES

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

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

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

42. We urge state legislation be enacted to require individuals or
43. groups who seek injunctions to reimburse the defendants for all
44. court costs, legal fees, losses and costs arising from such actions
45. that are eventually shown to be unfounded or are overturned in a
46. court of law. We support a requirement that court jurisdiction for
47. regulatory actions and lawsuits stay within the county where the
48. alleged offense occurred.

49. We support legislation to exempt the contract grower from
50. product liability issues.

51. We encourage the adoption of anti-disparagement legislation
52. that provides a legal cause of action against those individuals,
53. groups or government bodies who make disparaging statements
54. against agricultural products, farm animals, and/or production
55. 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.

SAFETY

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
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 should 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.

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.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.

INSURANCE

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
2. enforced. Uninsured motorists should be required to surrender
3. license plates to local authorities.
4. We support establishing a schedule, as it relates to charges for
5. PIP coverages, similar to that of worker's compensation.
6. We support enactment of federal natural disaster protection
7. legislation, with special emphasis for earthquake and flood loss, to
8. form a workable partnership between the federal government and
9. the private insurance industry.
10. We oppose a private cause of action under the Unfair Claims
11. Settlement Practices Act.
12. We favor increasing the quarterly limit of workers compensation
13. exemptions to small businesses and farmers, due to the increases
14. of hourly wages and expenses.

FARM LABOR

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- 18.
19. We recommend Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) assist federal and
20. state agencies and private entities in disseminating information,
21. evaluating and implementing the use of migrant labor.
22. We encourage the development of a standardized, expedited
23. system within the United States consulate's offices for processing
24. and verification of H-2A workers.
25. We strongly urge the United States Department of Labor
26. (U.S. DOL) to approve joint contracts among farmers for the H-2A
27. program.
28. We support the use of the agricultural prevailing wage rate rather
29. than the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) in the H-2A program.
30. We oppose providing farm workers with private rights-of-action
31. or rights-to-sue under the H-2A program.
32. Federal H-2A program users should not be subject to Migrant
33. and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA)
34. jurisdiction. Necessary action should be taken to deter frivolous
35. lawsuits against farm labor employers. In the event of a lawsuit,
36. court jurisdiction should fall within the state and/or county where the
37. alleged violation occurred.
38. We recommend KFB work closely in cooperation with the U.S.
39. DOL's Employment and Training Administration in accumulating
40. data for the yearly prevailing wage.
41. We recommend that an exemption for agriculture be added to
42. the Kentucky Seventh Day Labor Law (KRS 337.050).
43. We recommend that, before making an H-2A referral, the
44. State workforce agency be required to conduct employment
45. eligibility verification.
46. We support a meaningful temporary agricultural guest-worker
47. program and encourage the following reforms:
48. (1) A new agriculture visa that is portable (at-will) or by contract
49. and that also deals with ag sectors, including livestock, that need
50. year-round workers;
51. (2) Required reimbursement paid at the 50 percent point of
52. the contract;
53. (3) A streamlined system to receive workers;
54. (4) The use of the Agricultural Prevailing Wage Rate instead of
55. the AEWR; and
56. (5) Staggered dates of worker entry under a single contract.
- 57.

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

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

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- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
29. We recommend that steps be taken to eliminate abuse in the
30. collection of unemployment compensation claims.
31. We oppose an increase in the minimum hourly wage.
32. We recommend that the federal prevailing wage law be repealed
33. when dealing with government contracts.
34. We support a return to the \$1 million project level before the
35. prevailing wage law is triggered, and support indexing the level
36. for inflation.
37. We support ensuring workers are compensated first if a
38. company declares bankruptcy.
- 39.

UNIONIZATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
44. We strongly oppose any mandate that would require any
45. government entities to recognize and collectively bargain with
46. employee unions.
47. Furthermore, we oppose public employees being permitted to
48. strike, organize work stoppages or slow-downs.
- 49.

UNION ORGANIZATION OF FARMERS

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- 51.
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- 53.
54. We uphold the right of farmers and farm workers to decline union
55. membership based on their own convictions.
- 56.
- 57.

WELFARE

- 1.
- 2.
3. We urge the Legislative Research Commission to study the
4. entire welfare system and make recommendations for any changes
5. needed to correct welfare abuses and ineligible recipients.
6. We also urge strong penalties when fraud is identified.
7. We support the idea that those who receive Supplemental
8. Security Income, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
9. (SNAP) benefits, or other government welfare payments should
10. have to submit to random drug testing.
11. Persons on strike should not be eligible for SNAP benefits,
12. surplus commodities or unemployment compensation.
13. We support amending SNAP to allow the participants to do part
14. time work and earn up to \$6,000 per year without any penalty or
15. loss of benefits.

DOG LAW

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

ENERGY

- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
34. We support government and industry working together to
35. develop all possible sources of energy to alter United States
36. dependence on other nations for energy resources.
37. We support further development of solar, geothermal, biofuels,
38. wind, and other sources of energy and recommend that special
39. emphasis be given to converting to expanded use of coal including
40. gasification, liquefaction and alcohol production.
41. We support providing incentive programs and tax relief for
42. fuel-graded alcohol. We also support use of coal gasification
43. technology to produce nitrogen based fertilizers.
44. We will publicly and aggressively promote the use of biofuels
45. and support legislation that promotes biofuels usage.
46. We support updating all state statutes and regulations to comply
47. with federal guidelines relative to motor fuel use when approved by
48. federal statute and/or regulation.
49. We recommend that if any oxygenate is needed to meet clean
50. air requirements that it be ethanol.
51. We encourage expanded research for the use of ethanol for coal
52. desulfurization.
53. We recommend that Kentucky Farm Bureau aggressively
54. promote the required use of biodiesel throughout Kentucky.
55. We recommend that all diesel and gasoline offered for sale in
56. Kentucky contain a blend of biofuels or ethanol and urge increased
- 57.

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

1. We oppose climate change legislation that establishes mandatory
2. cap and trade provisions which would lead to higher energy costs and
3. negative impacts on the agricultural economy.

4. Fracking should not be permitted on current oil and gas leases
5. without notifying landowners and renegotiating the lease with the
6. landowners.

7. We encourage state government to return a portion of any
8. settlement funds from energy distributors and suppliers due to unfair
9. practices and unfulfilled contracts to agriculture.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

1. Rural electric cooperatives serve thinly populated areas which
2. produce a low return on investments, thus, we support continuation
3. of an adequate program for securing necessary finances, their right
4. to generate and transmit power and their territorial integrity.

5. Every safeguard should be taken to ensure that control of rural
6. electric cooperatives remains with the members. We further
7. support the continued existence of the territorial law which
8. establishes the boundary lines relative to the service provided by
9. electric utilities for residential, commercial and industrial customers.

10. We recommend in areas where electrical rates are higher for
11. farming operations than residential rates, that these be adjusted to
12. the lowest rate possible.

13. We recommend the Public Service Commission encourage
14. utilities to develop a new rate classification specifically designed for
15. farms to address seasonal peak demand charges.

16. We oppose mandated retail deregulation of electricity through
17. legislative or regulatory action at the federal and/or state level.

RURAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. We support expanded and improved cellular phone coverage
2. throughout Kentucky, but want safeguards to protect and maintain
3. landline service for those who do not want wireless.

4. We urge the Public Service Commission to study the service
5. being offered to all telephone users in rural areas and to encourage
6. the companies to upgrade the service to compare with that in
7. urban areas.

8. We support toll-free county-wide telephone service.

9. We are opposed to mandatory measured service.

10. We are opposed to the present overlay district system as
11. proposed by the Public Service Commission.

12. We are encouraged by the progress that has been made and the
13. attention that has been given to increasing affordable broadband
14. and high speed internet in all rural areas, and we urge continuation
15. of this effort because there is an urgent need.

16. We support all efforts and incentives to improve and provide
17. all telecommunications in rural Kentucky.

18. We strongly oppose free cell phones being funded by the
19. federal government with the exception of those provided for the
20. elderly.

21. We urge the state of Kentucky to open state and federal
22. property to improve rural mobile and broadband coverage.

1.

2.

3. We support:

4. (1) The development and implementation of programs to
5. provide incentives for consumers to practice wellness and
6. disease prevention;

7. (2) Efforts of Kentucky's cancer and disease research programs.
8. (3) A personal file added to an individual driver's license, similar
9. to the organ donor's list currently used. This file should upon a
10. voluntary basis include medication alerts, immediate family contact
11. information, and/or other needed important data that could be used
12. at the time of an accident or medical emergency;

13. (4) Efforts of medical schools to train additional qualified
14. family physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and
15. other qualified health care professionals who intend to practice
16. medicine in rural areas;

17. (5) Residency programs to provide postgraduate family
18. physician training away from major metropolitan-based medical
19. training centers;

20. (6) All programs which support efforts to eradicate sexually
21. transmitted diseases;

22. (7) Closer working relationships between organizations of
23. primary care providers, medical societies and health agencies and
24. the Board of Education;

25. (8) Education of primary care providers, teachers, and other
26. health professionals to include the clinical application of sound
27. nutritional principles; and

28. (9) The Certificate of Need Board being more diligent in
29. their work in approving hospital expansions, including hospice,
30. home health, and long-term care, concerning facilities and services.

31. We oppose:

32. (1) Legislation or regulations that would jeopardize present
33. volunteer emergency medical technician systems; and

34. (2) Guidelines that would close the obstetric wards in hospitals
35. that do not meet annual requirements for number of births.

36. We urge county Farm Bureaus to support and participate with
37. community health clinics, free clinics and rural health programs
38. such as bloodmobiles, mobile X-ray units, dental and cancer clinics
39. and ambulance service.

40. We believe the disability programs are too lenient and should be
41. monitored closely by the health care providers. Both the patient
42. and health care providers should be held accountable. A system to
43. regulate the program should be in place.

44. We support the county health departments and recommend they
45. be used to their full potential.

46. We urge the passage of legislation that provides that the
47. membership of county health boards include at least one farmer.

48. We encourage timely domestic production of critical health
49. vaccines as a policy of national security.

50. We urge continuing research and development of a human
51. vaccine for any strain of influenza or other communicable disease.

52. We support Advanced Life Support Systems being available
53. in all Kentucky counties.

54. We urge the development of a secure electronic medical records
55. system, such as the E-Health Network, to increase the efficiency of
56. health care delivery.

57.

1. We support the location of a Veterans Administration long-term
2. care facility in southeast Kentucky; one that will provide care to
3. veterans who are unable to care for themselves.
4. We support a dedicated suicide hotline for farmers and agricul-
5. tural workers, and encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to promote
6. its availability.

HEALTH INSURANCE

11. We support health care insurance reform and encourage the
12. Kentucky General Assembly to continue to address this issue.

13. We support being able to modify coverages, such as increasing
14. deductibles, without losing the status of legacy or grandfathered
15. health insurance policies.

16. We recommend that all insurance remain a free enterprise with
17. minimum state regulations and that it continue to be a service that
18. may be purchased in accordance with the needs of the public.

19. We support changes in Kentucky's health insurance laws that
20. will stabilize the market, encourage competition and increase
21. consumer choice.

22. We believe that all health care providers should be allowed to set
23. their own individual rates for health care services. However, we
24. recommend legislation that would require individual providers
25. to charge consistent fees for like services.

26. We encourage continued transparency by health insurance
27. providers on costs and coverages to ensure competitive pricing
28. and service.

29. We recommend that the state rate all medical services, facilities,
30. and equipment. This would enable consumers and health care
31. providers to determine the most cost effective service of
32. comparable quality.

33. We reaffirm our support for state and federal legislation that
34. would increase the flexibility for individuals to benefit from
35. Association Health Plans.

36. Associations should be able to provide adequate health
37. insurance. We oppose any action that would impede that ability.

38. We support the creation of additional tax incentives for self-
39. employed and small business owners that purchase health
40. insurance for their employees.

41. We are opposed to requiring employers to provide health
42. insurance. Employers who choose to provide health insurance
43. benefits for full-time employees should not be required to provide
44. seasonal and part-time employees with health insurance through-
45. out the calendar year of their employment.

46. Future health care policy changes should embrace the following
47. principles:

48. (1) Promotion of personal wellness, fitness and preventive care
49. as basic health goals;

50. (2) Minimal government intervention in decisions between
51. providers and receivers of health care;

52. (3) Tax policies that encourage individuals to prepare for future
53. health care needs such as making long-term care insurance
54. premiums 100% tax deductible;

55. (4) Direct government financial assistance to providers for those
56. who are economically unable to pay for health care needs;

57.

1. (5) Government programs like Medicare and Medicaid properly
2. compensate providers;

3. (6) Protect the right of patients to choose health care providers
4. and methods of treatment; and

5. (7) Ensure that health care providers, not insurance companies,
6. determine patient treatment.

7. We support comprehensive affordable health care for all United
8. States citizens.

9. We support:

10. (1) Every possible effort to affect cost management while
11. providing accessible high quality health care;

12. (2) A law that would limit health care costs to no more than the
13. level of federal cost of living increases and furthermore, recommend
14. that hospitals be required to reveal their pricing structures;

15. (3) The development of legislation that will lead to changing our
16. present health care delivery system through the following:

17. (a) Cost incentive/rewards (providers, insurance companies
18. and consumers);

19. (b) Protection against monopolies; and

20. (c) Periodic review of regulations.

21. (4) Efforts to eliminate or significantly reduce cost shifting from
22. Medicaid and Medicare to individuals and third-party payers;

23. (5) The reduction of government mandates which require
24. certain provisions be included in all health insurance policies;

25. (6) Greater use of non-physician providers, such as physician's
26. assistants, nurse practitioners and midwives, to help improve the
27. distribution of health care;

28. (7) Economic incentives at state and local levels to encourage
29. primary care providers to practice in rural areas and the restoration
30. of equitable Medicare payments to rural hospitals and primary
31. care providers;

32. (8) Government policies that provide incentives for medical and
33. mental health services in rural areas;

34. (9) Privately funded optional care delivery systems such as
35. health maintenance organizations;

36. (10) Efforts to reduce medical malpractice insurance costs;

37. (11) Third-party payer recognition for payment of outpatient
38. treatment and preventive measures; and

39. (12) Government incentives to the private sector for providing
40. long-term health care.

41. We oppose:

42. (1) Government interference with private enterprise by
43. subsidizing professional medical services;

44. (2) The practice of charging for medical services solely on the
45. ability to pay; and

46. (3) Compulsory national and/or state health insurance.

47. We encourage strict oversight of Medicare and Medicaid
48. programs with the intent of reducing fraud and to decrease health
49. care costs.

50. We encourage individuals to seek a high deductible and/or
51. co-payment plan as a way of reducing overall health insurance
52. premiums.

53. We support and encourage the use of health savings accounts
54. as an opportunity to lower health insurance costs and be able to
55. contribute after age 65 as long as you continue to work.

56. We support action by the Kentucky General Assembly that will
57. ensure that patients in nursing homes receive quality care including

1. sufficient, better trained front-line care givers and a statewide
2. system to help consumers find available beds.
3. We support the use of 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.

KENTUCKY FAIRS

11. We support the State Fair Board and management in their efforts
12. to make the State Fair the pride of Kentucky's agriculture, industry
13. and natural resources. We support funding for the expansion and
14. maintenance of facilities at the Kentucky Exposition Center. We
15. urge the Kentucky General Assembly to assume the remaining debt
16. service on capital expenditures at the Kentucky Exposition Center
17. and for the funding to be taken from the general fund. We will
18. cooperate with all interest groups in efforts to maintain an
19. educational State Fair free from political interference with continuity
20. of competent management. For efficiency and effectiveness, we
21. support the Kentucky State Fair Board maintain its independence
22. as a state agency as provided in KRS 247.
23. We urge county Farm Bureaus to support and participate in their
24. local fairs and to encourage good local entries to participate in the
25. State Fair.
26. We support state funds for the continued upgrading of county fairs
27. and encourage the legislature to reinstate and fund the County Fair
28. Building Program.
29. All requirements for participating in all shows and fairs should be
30. strictly adhered to and all entries should be visually inspected and
31. certified before unloading.
32. We support fair and uniform guidelines and enforcement of
33. animal livestock inspections for shows and fairs and support proper
34. training for inspectors.
35. We suggest that penalties be increased for those interfering with
36. livestock shows, by untying livestock, etc., as this creates a major
37. safety issue for the animals and the public.

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

1. We are concerned about the number of state appointed
2. boards and commissions representing agriculture. Efforts should
3. be made to consolidate the work of these groups into one mission
4. for agriculture.
5. We recommend that a more adequate training program be
6. developed for inspectors responsible for testing equipment,
7. grading, checking moisture meters and scales. We further
8. recommend the licensing of all moisture meter operators and we
9. endorse a unified system of measuring moisture content in grain,
10. soybeans and tobacco at all purchasing stations.
11. We encourage KDA to create procedures for the sanitizing of
12. testing equipment, including probes, instruments, grinders and
13. containers, between the gatherings of grain samples.
14. We urge KDA to provide strict inspection of all scales used in
15. buying and selling agricultural products.
16. We recommend KDA continue to work with the Cabinet
17. for Economic Development (CED) and others in seeking
18. market opportunities for Kentucky commodities domestically
19. and internationally.
20. We recommend that the National Agricultural Statistics Service
21. include more detailed reports on horticultural crops. We recommend
22. improving the efficiency and conversion to computerization of market
23. data collection and utilize a more producer friendly schedule for the
24. data collection.
25. We recommend that the KDA continue to employ an equine
26. specialist to work jointly with the CED and the Tourism, Arts and
27. Heritage Cabinet (TAHC) to foster and develop both domestic and
28. foreign markets.
29. We support the KDA's and the TAHC's efforts to promote
30. Agri-tourism in the Commonwealth with city and county level
31. tourism groups.
32. We recommend that century and older farms be certified and
33. recognized in Kentucky.
34. We recommend equine inventory data be included in the
35. Kentucky Agricultural Statistics book.
36. We recommend the annual survey of Kentucky livestock
37. numbers include privately-owned, farm-raised cervids.
38. We support farmers of privately owned farm raised cervids
39. defined as livestock to be solely regulated by the KDA.
40. We support KDA's efforts to support and promote the privately-
41. owned, farm-raised cervid industry.
42. We recommend that data on the poultry industry be combined to
43. include broiler, layers, eggs, and the breeder industry in the
44. Kentucky Agricultural Statistics book.
45. We recommend continued funding for the KDA to employ
46. horticulture/aquaculture marketing specialists to better
47. communicate marketing opportunities to producers and to identify
48. local Kentucky agriculture products for wholesale buyers.
49. We support providing KDA with sufficient resources to fund
50. increased enforcement of organic standards.
51. We recommend establishment of poultry, equine and woodland
52. specialists in the KDA.
53. We recommend the KDA and both state diagnostic laboratories
54. employ poultry veterinarians to ensure the health of avian species.
55. We encourage KDA's Division of Environmental Services to be
56. more consistent in their inspections of agricultural operations.
- 57.

1. We encourage KDA to support the Kentucky Hay Marketing
2. initiative.
3. We urge KDA to fully staff the hay testing program to ensure
4. quality forages throughout the Commonwealth.
5. We recommend KDA fully staff their market news positions.
6. We support KDA's efforts to monitor proper harvesting and sales
7. of ginseng.
8. We support KDA's efforts to strengthen industrial hemp
9. production in the state of Kentucky.
10. We recommend KDA enter into reciprocal agreements, or
11. establish legal documents, with other state's governing agencies to
12. establish a Boll Weevil Eradication Program, and to allow out-of-
13. state commercial agricultural chemical applicators the ability to
14. operate in Kentucky.
15. We support KDA as the Commonwealth's primary agency for
16. implementation of the produce safety rule of the Food Safety
17. Modernization Act.
18. We encourage KDA to use science-based information when
19. forming any regulations dealing with crop production.
20. We believe that all Kentucky farmers should be under the same
21. regulations set by the KDA.

FARM AND FAMILY CREDIT

- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
26. We favor continuation of adequate agriculture credit at the
27. lowest possible cost.
28. We believe farmers should be able to access credit from
29. available equity, rather than having credit access based on
30. cash flow.
31. We continue to support the cooperative associations in the Farm
32. Credit System (FCS) now completely farmer-owned. We oppose
33. any restructuring of the FCS which would replace farmer-
34. elected members of system boards or grant commercial banks
35. access to money procured by virtue of the agency status enjoyed
36. by the FCS or otherwise threaten the viability of the system. We
37. support legislation that would prohibit Farm Credit Banks from
38. exiting the FCS.
39. We recommend that efforts be made to establish a method of
40. financing farms through the use of local, state, federal or other
41. funds that would enable young people to start farming.
42. We urge our farmer-members to be aware of special financial
43. schemes that require "up-front" fees.
44. We support the Farm Service Agency assisting farmers who
45. cannot qualify for other financing.
46. We recommend the United States Department of Agriculture
47. expedite the processing of loans under the Rural Economic
48. Development Loan and Grant Program to farmers to allow ample
49. time to make farming decisions before planting season. We further
50. recommend providing loans that will be sufficient to carry out
51. farming operations for a full year or rejecting the loan.
52. We support uniform anti-predatory lending standards for
53. mortgage companies and consumer lenders.
54. We recommend medical liabilities not be listed as a derogatory
55. on a credit report.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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

AGROTERRORISM

- 48.
- 49.
- 50.
- 51.
52. We condemn acts of terrorism and support the protection of our
53. people, resources, and industry.
54. In order to ensure national security, we recommend that all
55. farmers adopt biosecurity measures and work with agroterrorism
56. officials whenever necessary.
- 57.

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
12. Homeland Security.

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 cleanout.

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.

57.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

1.

2.

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.

15.

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18.

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.

29.

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34.

35. We believe in the principle that the government should protect
36. the rights of life, liberty and property, and we support a strong law

37. enforcement and first responders policy.

38. We support law enforcement agencies and believe they should
39. be equipped with safety items for their officers, including but not
40. limited to, bullet resistant glass and hands free communication

41. devices to limit distractions while on duty.
42. We urge the courts to be more diligent in dealing with those who

43. violate the law. Furthermore, we support swift action by the courts
44. including dealing with juveniles who violate the law and believe that the

45. names of juveniles who commit felony offenses should be made public.
46. We recommend that small claims court actions be increased to

47. \$5,000 to reflect modern financial conditions.
48. We support parents being held more responsible for cases of

49. vandalism and destruction by juveniles.
50. We urge strict enforcement of our anti-pornography laws with

51. harsher penalties imposed when children are involved.
52. We support the segregation of juvenile offenders from

53. adult criminals.
54. We recommend a prompt and thorough trial by jury in all cases

55. where indictments have been returned by a grand jury. We believe
56. that "plea bargaining" should be used only when guilt is acknowl-

57. edged and a minimum penalty has been fixed by statute.

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

CRIME PREVENTION

- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
38. We oppose any violent crime targeting a first responder and
39. recommend the offender be prosecuted to the fullest extent of
40. the law.
41. We support recyclers and consignors to record the name,
42. address, and obtain a copy of a photo ID of individuals who bring in
43. recyclables to discourage the recycling of stolen equipment. All
44. items should be held for a period of five days by recyclers before
45. processing.
46. We encourage and support activities on the part of extension
47. homemakers' organizations, Farm Bureau women and other groups
48. developing programs associated with rural crime prevention.
49. We recommend that rural crime prevention programs, including
50. DNA kits for children, be continued by the state and county Farm
51. Bureaus and that all members be encouraged to participate.
52. We urge the Career and Technical Education and the FFA
53. Chapters to implement the rural crime prevention program and
54. develop model programs with county Farm Bureaus.
- 55.
- 56.
- 57.

DRUG CONTROL

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

MECHANICS LIEN LAW

- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
38. We urge the state and county Farm Bureaus to inform the
39. membership about the provisions of the Kentucky Mechanics Lien
40. Law and the advisability of farmers protecting themselves against
41. having to pay the same bill twice for services and materials.
42. We support a modification of the statutory liens statute to
43. specifically list hay sold as an inclusive in the persons who may
44. apply an agister's lien on farm animals and property.

REGULATORY AGENCIES AND COMMISSIONS

- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.
50. We oppose state regulations that are more stringent than federal.
51. Any new regulation should not restrict expansion or sale of
52. existing agricultural operations.
- 53.
- 54.
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LINE FENCES

- 1.
- 2.
3. We support the Kentucky line fence law which allows an owner
4. of agriculture property to file an amendment in district court
5. requiring the construction or the replacement or repair of a
6. boundary line fence. We also support the provision of language
7. which allows the district court flexibility in determining what type of
8. fence is to be used.
9. We support amending the Kentucky fence law to award
10. reasonable attorney fees and court costs to the prevailing party in
11. the event of litigation required to resolve a fencing dispute.
12. We support that developers be required to build a boundary
13. fence when a residential, commercial or industrial development
14. adjoins farm property.
15. We support the provision in the line fence law that says each
16. landowner shall stand in the center of his boundary line facing each
17. other, and each shall be responsible to build and maintain that
18. portion of fence to his right.
- 19.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
23. We oppose a change in the Constitution which would allow
24. residents to get proposed changes in the Constitution on a ballot by
25. obtaining signatures from any percentage of the state voters.
26. We recognize the need for the General Assembly to have
27. greater control over the enactment and implementation of
28. regulations, appointment oversight, and budget revisions.
29. We support the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture being a
30. cabinet post whether elected or appointed.
31. We recommend the office of Constable be abolished.
- 32.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
36. We recommend that charitable and nonprofit organizations be
37. exempted from laws that require an auctioneer to be licensed. We
38. support attorney's fees on foreclosures of real property being
39. limited only to hourly fees and expenses, as opposed to a
40. percentage of the total indebtedness.
41. We recommend daylight saving time be retained year-round.
42. We oppose mandating that an attorney be present at real
43. estate closings.
44. We recommend that regulations on unsolicited spam on Internet
45. Services be put in force similar as to "No Call List" on phones.
46. We support asking the phone company to make larger print
47. directories.
48. We encourage the General Assembly, universities and local
49. communities to use caution when considering making changes to,
50. or removal of items of historic significance.
51. We oppose any government mandate that forces school districts
52. to provide transgender bathrooms.
53. We oppose any infringement or additional restrictions on our
54. right to bear arms.
- 55.
- 56.
- 57.

1. We oppose the continuation of state pension fund diversions and
2. recommend the state legislature take the necessary actions to
3. stabilize and create sustainability in the Kentucky Employees
4. Retirement System (non-hazardous).
- 5.

STATUS OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
10. It is our policy to keep our resolutions as current as possible
11. without specifically restating all details of continuing policies every
12. year. We therefore reaffirm resolutions passed at the four (4)
13. previous meetings, except insofar as they have been dropped,
14. fulfilled, modified or supplemented by later resolutions.
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2019 State Resolutions Committee Members

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