

61. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW USES AND NEW MARKETS

We support:

1. Developing innovative uses for and increased consumption of farm commodities and co-products.
2. Developing promotional programs for businesses and restaurants that use U.S.-produced commodities in their daily business and efforts to develop programs which encourage consumption of Illinois-grown farm products.
3. The right of restaurants to market and sell agricultural products and prepared menu choices, without restrictions by local units of government, provided the products are legally produced using best management practices and industry standards.
4. Efforts to develop and procure financing for processing, distribution, and marketing systems for value-added farm commodities with added emphasis on streamlining and expediting the approval process for farmer-owned projects.
5. Efforts to develop new local marketing points for specialty crops.
6. Cooperation with farmer-invested checkoff groups, organizations, and agencies seeking expanded domestic and export markets, placing special emphasis on value-added products.
7. Increased funding of grants and guaranteed loan programs to foster research and development of farm commodity and livestock value-enhanced initiatives. A majority of those funds should be targeted to enable farmers to form farmer-owned processing cooperatives.
8. Research on existing and proposed identity-preserved processes in order that government entities may lend their credibility to voluntary industry standards for certification of identity-preserved agricultural products.
9. Promoting the use of Illinois-grown produce in Illinois schools and state-funded institutions.
10. An expanding sheep wool, goat hair, and other animal fiber (e.g. angora, mohair, alpaca, llama) industry in Illinois and recognize the need for continued promotion and development of value-added processing and marketing.