

1. PHILOSOPHY OF FARM BUREAU

Illinois Farm Bureau recognizes freedom, the dignity and worth of the individual, equal opportunity, initiative and compensation for accomplishment, as basic concepts responsible for our country's progress and stature among the nations of the world. We believe the strength of every civilized society is the family. The encouragement of the family unit where morals, obligations, responsibilities, and work ethics are exemplified and taught is of paramount importance. This must be considered an individual and local responsibility. We believe in the sanctity of private property and individual rights as provided by the U.S. Constitution, as the basis of American freedom and progress. The principles of our economic system derive from and are consistent with our religious values and goals. Through this system the American people have produced abundant goods and services for themselves and for people of other nations and have enjoyed widespread educational advantages and religious opportunities.

We believe in incentives, individual responsibility, initiative, freedom and the right to work without governmental dependence. If our organization and our country are to continue to be free and strong, we must act to determine our own destiny.

Each individual must assume active responsibility for maintaining and strengthening the principles upon which our government was founded and vigorously oppose all programs and policies which erode its foundation. We deplore irresponsible acts of defiance and lack of respect for laws enacted by our elected governmental representatives at all levels.

Illinois Farm Bureau philosophy must represent the thinking of a majority of its members so their organization can achieve maximum effectiveness and influence. The autonomy of the local unit must be maintained to preserve a strong grass roots organizational base.

Illinois Farm Bureau is an organization through which farm people can work together and cooperate with others to strengthen agriculture's role and influence as a vital part of a strong, prosperous economy in a free America.

We will assist members in understanding, influencing, and adapting to the changing realities in production agriculture, the rural economy, and rural family life.

Our national life is founded on spiritual faith and belief in God. We favor leaving "In God We Trust" on coins and currency and "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.