

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Policy #	Page #
1. Philosophy of Farm Bureau	1
2. Activation and Status of Resolutions	1
3. Competition/Monopolies	2
4. Farm Income and Structure	2
<i>Education</i>	
5. Agricultural and Vocational Education	3
6. Agriculture in the Classroom	3
7. Community Colleges	3
8. Education	4
9. Higher Education	6
10. University of Illinois Extension	6
<i>Energy</i>	
11. Energy	7
12. Nuclear Energy	8
13. Renewable Fuels	8
14. Solar Energy	9
15. Utilities and Pipelines	10
16. Wind Energy	12
<i>Natural Resources</i>	
17. Aboveground Fuel Storage Tanks	12
18. Agricultural Environmental Protection	12
19. Atmospheric Quality	14
20. Disposal of Waste	14
21. Drainage and Stormwater Management	16
22. Due Process	17
23. Endangered Species	18
24. Farming Methods	18
25. Forestry	19
26. Global Climate Change	19
27. Highly Erodible Land	19
28. Mined Lands	19
29. Mineral Interests	20
30. Organic Nutrient Management	21
31. Pesticide Application, Education, and Recordkeeping	22
32. River Conservancy Districts	23
33. Rivers, Levees and Floodplains	23
34. Soil Conservation	26
35. Voluntary Ecosystem Preservation	27
36. Water Quality and Watershed Projects	28
37. Water Withdrawals	28
38. Weed Control	29
39. Wetlands	30
40. Wildlife Management	31
<i>Land Use and Ownership</i>	
41. Eminent Domain	33
42. Farmland Ownership	33
43. Governmental Property Acquisition and Ownership	34
44. Heritage Areas and Corridors	36

Policy #	Page #
45. Land Use and Farmland Preservation.....	36
46. Legal Advocacy.....	39
47. Private Property Rights.....	39
<i>Marketing and Commodity Programs</i>	
48. Agricultural Cooperatives.....	40
49. Agricultural Research.....	41
50. Agricultural Tourism.....	42
51. Animal Agriculture.....	42
52. Animal Health and Identification.....	44
53. Apiculture.....	45
54. Biosecurity.....	45
55. Biotechnology.....	45
56. Commodity Checkoffs.....	47
57. Commodity Exchanges.....	47
58. Commodity Groups.....	48
59. Contract Production and Marketing.....	48
60. Dairy Marketing.....	49
61. Big Data, E-Commerce, Privacy, and Ownership.....	50
62. Development of New Uses and New Markets.....	50
63. Direct Food Marketing.....	51
64. Equine Agriculture.....	51
65. Farmer Protection for Payment of Grain.....	52
66. Grain and Hay Grading.....	52
67. Industrial Hemp Production.....	53
68. Livestock Pricing and Marketing.....	53
69. Organic Agriculture.....	54
70. Packers and Stockyards Act.....	55
71. Plant Patents and Plant Variety Protection.....	55
72. Specialty Crops.....	55
73. Trade.....	56
74. USDA Reporting and Operations.....	57
<i>National Affairs</i>	
75. Government Conservation Programs.....	58
76. Farm Credit.....	60
77. Government Economic Policies.....	60
78. Government Farm Policies.....	61
79. Labor.....	64
80. Risk Management/Crop Insurance.....	65
81. Social Security.....	67
<i>Public, Political, and Organizational Relations</i>	
82. Communication and Public Image.....	67
83. Farm Bureau Relationship with Affiliated Companies.....	68
84. Government Regulations.....	68
85. Involvement of Members in Farm Bureau.....	69
86. Legislative and Agricultural Leadership.....	69
87. Political Involvement.....	69
88. Uniform Cooperative Agreement.....	70
<i>Quality of Life</i>	
89. 9-1-1 Telephone System.....	70
90. Farm Safety.....	70

Policy #	Page #
91. Food Labeling.....	70
92. Food Quality Protection Act.....	71
93. Food Safety	72
94. Health Care	72
95. Nutrition	75
96. Public Aid	75
97. Rural Development.....	76
<i>State and Local Government</i>	
98. Business Climate in Illinois.....	77
99. Compensation of Public Officials.....	77
100. Elections.....	78
101. Farm Equipment.....	78
102. Fence Law.....	79
103. Firearms	79
104. Illinois Banking Structure.....	79
105. Illinois Department of Agriculture	80
106. Intergovernmental Cooperation.....	80
107. Judicial Reform.....	80
108. Law and Order.....	81
109. Legislative Bodies	81
110. Local Government.....	82
111. Mandated Programs.....	83
112. Private Lands Cooperative Initiative.....	83
113. Probate and Family Laws.....	84
114. Public Building Acts.....	84
115. Public Employee Collective Bargaining.....	84
116. Special Service Areas	84
117. Tort Reform and Insurance Liability	85
118. Trespass, Vandalism, and Private Land Access.....	86
<i>Taxes-Government Finance</i>	
119. Federal Estate Taxes	87
120. Property Tax Administration	87
121. Sales Tax	88
122. State and Local Finance.....	88
123. State Income Tax	91
124. Tax Reform	91
<i>Transportation</i>	
125. Transportation	92
126. Transportation--Highways	93
127. Transportation--Railways	95
128. Transportation--Vehicle Regulations.....	96
129. Transportation--Unmanned Aircraft Systems.....	98

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

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, values, parental responsibilities, and strong 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 excelled and 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.

2. ACTIVATION AND STATUS OF RESOLUTIONS

Policies of the Illinois Agricultural Association are subject to review at any official meeting of the voting delegates.

Resolutions adopted at this annual meeting state the current position of the Illinois Agricultural Association.

The voting delegates authorize the renumbering, placing, and arranging of the resolutions adopted at this annual meeting with the appropriate subject matter for publication in the current resolutions booklet.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

3. COMPETITION/MONOPOLIES

The rapid consolidation of agricultural businesses that serve farmers is a growing concern. We will seek information on the merger and acquisition of agricultural businesses and how such mergers and acquisitions will help or hinder our members.

We support:

- 1. Congress, and the relevant federal agencies, working together to closely monitor the agribusiness sector with the objective that current anti-trust laws are applied and enforced to the fullest extent in order to allow full and fair pricing competition to flourish.
- 2. Improvements to existing laws and regulations to empower appropriate agencies to conduct expanded anti-trust review and oversight.
- 3. Anti-trust laws or department operations providing increased protection to competitive markets.
- 4. Limitations enforced on mergers, acquisitions, and joint ventures by the major competitors in agricultural markets dominated by relatively few firms.
- 5. Giving the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) broader regulatory authority to include regulation of anti-competitive business behavior to protect farmers as well as consumers.
- 6. Including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the decision-making procedure with respect to proposed mergers and acquisitions.
- 7. The Illinois Attorney General's office to investigate agricultural monopolies in Illinois and cooperate with other State Attorneys General and USDOJ in investigating regional monopolies.

We oppose mergers, acquisitions, or leveraged buyouts that create a monopoly of production, marketing, and transportation situations or reduce competition in acquiring, pricing, or transporting agricultural commodities and products.

4. FARM INCOME AND STRUCTURE

The economic well-being of Illinois farmers will continue to be the NUMBER ONE PRIORITY issue of the Illinois Agricultural Association. We encourage opportunities for all segments of agriculture.

We support:

- 1. The freedom of individual farmers to make their own economic decisions.
- 2. Programs and legislation of an innovative nature which increase net farm income.
- 3. Programs and legislation which could include items such as agricultural recapitalization, farm asset transfer plans, lowering input costs through technology, and beginning farmer education and loan programs.
- 4. Provisions that will protect farmers' investments, even as unsecured creditors, in prepaid agricultural inputs.
- 5. Research and development of new marketing, finance, computer, farm business management, and personal development programs as needed to improve member income and efforts to increase members' use of those programs.
- 6. Monitoring and encouraging appropriate federal and state agencies, and to monitor the retail-to-farm price spreads for all major agricultural commodities.
- 7. Open markets to link members with economic opportunities, including cooperative ventures, presented by rapid changes in agriculture.
- 8. Facilitating value-added opportunities for farmers.
- 9. Monitoring trends affecting farmers and strive to place an increased emphasis on educational programs for farmers on various opportunities available.
- 10. Research into the delivery location, pricing and other factors associated with grain marketing so producers may receive the best possible price for their crop.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

5. AGRICULTURAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

We support:

1. Continuation of agricultural education programs with emphasis placed on the recruitment and training of qualified agricultural instructors.
2. Efforts by county Farm Bureaus working closely with their local school districts to establish and ensure the maintenance, improvement and continuation of agricultural education programs and FFA. High school agricultural education and the FFA are vital programs for development of the talent and leadership needed in farming and agricultural service industries.
3. Vocational and technical programs including post high school training and retraining.
4. Retention of primary administrative responsibility for vocational programs at the state and local levels.
5. Efforts by county Farm Bureaus to work with their school districts to implement an updated agricultural education curriculum to meet the needs of today's agriculture. The curriculum should include technology, agricultural science, vocational courses or other classes that would meet the criteria needed to receive credit for a college prep course.
6. The inclusion of agricultural projects in school science fairs.
7. The restoration of state level funding for agricultural education programs.
8. The recognition of agricultural education as a Teaching Shortage Area by the Illinois State Board of Education and/or Illinois General Assembly.
9. Encouraging colleges and universities to offer an internship program as part of their curriculum for students studying to become vo-ag instructors. The purpose of the internship would be to gain real world experience by providing hands-on experience working on a farm, at an agriculture business or for agriculture related organizations. To provide a variety of opportunities the internship should not be limited to any one type of farm operation.

6. AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

We support an effort to enhance the image of agriculture and promote the positive activities of farmers and agribusiness. This effort enables students and teachers in the classroom to understand the importance and contribution of American agriculture to the U.S. economy and all its citizens. We recommend that a higher priority be placed on increasing resources for Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom programs. Instruction should be directed to all students of all grade levels about environmental, nutritional, agronomic, and animal agriculture issues, and will correlate materials to the standards as prescribed by the Illinois State Board of Education.

We encourage all county Farm Bureaus to participate in Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom and in all agricultural education activities.

7. COMMUNITY COLLEGES

We support:

1. Requiring the state to provide a major part of the operating funds for the Illinois Community College program.
2. Special emphasis on vocational, technical and semi-technical training.
3. The charging of tuition as partial support for community colleges.
4. Area-wide representation for Community College Boards.
5. County Farm Bureaus surfacing and supporting candidates from rural areas for Community College Boards.

- 1 6. Efforts to revise current associate agricultural degree programs to make the agriculture
2 curriculum more contemporary.
3
4
5

6 8. EDUCATION

7
8 To ensure quality education for all Illinois children, we endorse the principles of accountability,
9 adequacy, and equity and will actively work to include these principles in any commission, task
10 force, or legislative proposal.

11
12 Accountability is the efficient use of taxpayers' dollars to provide a comprehensive education to
13 achieve goals with measurable outcomes.
14

15 It includes the size and structure of school districts, the operation/administration of school districts
16 and performance of school districts in achieving desirable educational outcomes.
17

18 We support:

- 19 1. Seeking significant long-term solutions to the problems of financing a quality education for
20 all students through political, legislative, or judicial means.
21 2. Seeking full funding for general state aid and transportation funding to school districts.
22 3. Timely delivery of meaningful state incentives to support voluntary school consolidation
23 and other forms of school district reorganization.
24 4. Teacher/staff professional development to improve teaching quality and to address
25 challenges associated with the School Recognition Process.
26 5. Seeking the removal of tenure and replacing it with a merit program for teacher evaluation.
27 6. The goal of preserving and strengthening local control of schools.
28 7. School district reorganization when determined locally by each district and if approved by
29 front door referendum. The requirements of a reorganization vote should consist of the
30 following:
31 A. Either each board of education initiate the reorganization vote or petitions
32 requesting the reorganization vote from 10 percent of the registered voters in each
33 district be required for a referendum.
34 B. A majority of those voting on the reorganization be required for passage in either a
35 unit or dual district.
36 C. Referendum consideration should be restricted to general elections only.
37 D. Taxpayers in the proposed consolidation area should be given the property tax
38 implications of the proposed consolidation in advance of the referendum vote.
39 8. Efforts to allow school district annexation proceedings to occur through approval of the
40 Regional Board of Trustees provided public notice and hearing requirements are met.
41 9. The formation of co-operative high schools when such co-operatives would broaden and
42 enhance academic opportunities and will result in economic efficiencies.
43 10. Innovative pilot efforts that include creative partnerships with business and industry, higher
44 education and government; encourage exploration of new ideas and new approaches to
45 make schools more effective and efficient. Ideas and approaches should include, but not
46 be limited to, Charter Schools, Distance Learning, and new approaches to Vocational
47 Education, Special Education, and transitioning to a new educational model centered on
48 classrooms that emphasize creativity, innovation and teamwork while helping individual
49 students identify their passions earlier in their educational experience.
50 11. Policies allowing local initiatives to increase academic time such as restructuring the
51 school day, calendar and schedule.
52 12. County Farm Bureaus to establish programs which assist members in understanding and
53 participating in their schools. Such programs may include meetings with school boards
54 and school administration to establish open communications about district operations,
55 curriculum development, budgeting and finance.
56

- 1 13. Full funding of state and federal education mandates by the entity proposing the mandate
- 2 and a full review of those mandates every three years.
- 3 14. Seeking legislation limiting the requirement for schools to fund special education to the
- 4 education component only. The State of Illinois should be required to provide student
- 5 housing and medical care within state or federal agencies.
- 6 15. Requiring a hearing by local school boards before levying a tax for Life Safety and Energy
- 7 Conservation bonds if such bond issues exceed \$100,000.
- 8 16. Evaluating the legislation and rules concerning the waiver of mandates requested by local
- 9 school districts. The legislature needs to evaluate each request on its own merit.

10
11 Adequacy is financing education at a level sufficient to fund a comprehensive educational
12 program.

13
14 We support:

- 15 1. The concept of using a foundation level of funding as determined in the Education Funding
- 16 Advisory Board report. This level should be recalculated annually and be based on the
- 17 desired level of outcome.
- 18 2. The use of prior year Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) to provide accurate information
- 19 for school budgeting and fiscal management.
- 20 3. Retention of categorical grants that address special needs and allow all schools to benefit.
- 21 Revenue from other categorical grants, which are competitive, should be included in the
- 22 general state aid formula.
- 23 4. A State funded capital program to assist school districts in modernizing existing facilities.
- 24 This program should include funding for the Americans With Disabilities Act.

25
26 Equity is fairness in educational opportunities for students and fairness in the way education is
27 funded.

28
29 We support:

- 30 1. The concept of leveling up (defined as reducing overall variation by increasing the
- 31 expenditure/revenue per student at the lower end of the distribution).
- 32 2. A local individual income tax for education, by front door referendum. The local income tax
- 33 rate should be a fixed flat rate for all school districts. The revenues from such a tax could
- 34 be used as local tax effort, to replace property tax revenues, to enrich educational
- 35 opportunities above the foundation level or some combination thereof.
- 36 3. Requiring an equitable local tax effort in every school district as an important part of
- 37 achieving fairness in educational opportunities for students and fairness in the way
- 38 education is funded.
- 39 4. Increased State investment in technology to increase productivity, enhance student
- 40 achievement, expand learning time and staff development.
- 41 5. Efforts to improve and expand the curriculum and delivery of services in small and rural
- 42 schools through development of a statewide two-way telecommunication system or other
- 43 means of communication technology.
- 44 6. Cooperation between school districts through inter-governmental agreements.
- 45 7. Working with the State Board of Education to simplify grant application requirements.
- 46 8. The general concepts of the Education Funding Advisory Board (EFAB) of the Illinois
- 47 General Assembly relating to property tax relief, adequate funding for schools, and school
- 48 reorganization.
- 49 9. Teaching concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in public
- 50 schools in the State of Illinois. We support amending these teaching concepts to include
- 51 agriculture: Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Math (STEAM).
- 52 10. Monitoring the work of the Vision 20/20 elementary and secondary education reform
- 53 coalition.
- 54 11. Increasing engagement of students in local, state, and federal activities in an effort to gain
- 55 a better understanding and knowledge of the political process and the importance of civic
- 56 engagement.

1 We oppose shifting responsibility for the state's contribution to the Teachers Retirement System
2 (TRS) on the local school districts.
3
4
5

6 **9. HIGHER EDUCATION**

7
8 We support:

- 9 1. Eligibility guidelines for publicly financed college scholarships, loans and grants to ensure
10 farm youth have equal opportunity.
- 11 2. Retention and enhancement of agricultural curriculum and research at institutions of
12 higher learning.
- 13 3. A coordinated long-range plan developed by the state institutions of higher learning to
14 maintain quality agricultural education and research facilities.
- 15 4. Student loans and continued efforts to recover principal and interest from persons who
16 have defaulted on their government-backed guaranteed student loans.
- 17 5. Co-Curricular agricultural organizations which allow hands-on experience for students to
18 further develop their leadership skills.
- 19 6. A balance between professors' classroom instruction and research time at institutions of
20 higher learning.
- 21 7. Continued collaboration between state supported higher education institutions to
22 implement standardized curricula, including credit hours awarded and requirement fulfilled
23 for the course, to make it easier for students to transfer between all levels of institutions of
24 higher learning.
- 25 8. The continuation of the University of Illinois "South Farms." Further university expansion
26 and community development should not sacrifice the advantages which the "South Farms"
27 currently provide for the teaching and research needs of agriculture.
- 28 9. The continuation and funding of the existing University of Illinois outlying research centers.
29 Before any long term changes are made at any of the centers, we encourage seeking
30 input from local stakeholders at or near the center.
- 31 10. The study of funding quality and cooperation of agricultural programs at institutions of
32 higher education.
- 33 11. Changing the selection process for all state of Illinois funded public university Boards of
34 Trustees in order to make the board more accountable to the voters and taxpayers of the
35 state. We will also seek changes in how these Boards of Trustees conduct their meetings
36 in order to ensure items cannot be added to the agenda and voted on without public
37 debate and input.
- 38 12. Colleges and universities giving significant weight, recognition, and credits where available
39 to agricultural courses within their admission process.
- 40 13. The current unified Southern Illinois University Board of governance with multiple
41 campuses to better provide cost effective administration and better use of taxpayer's
42 dollars.

43
44 We oppose:

- 45 1. Efforts of the Illinois Board of Higher Education to mandate additional course requirements
46 for entrance to Illinois public universities.
- 47 2. The selling and privatization of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's secondary
48 market student loan portfolio.
49
50
51

52 **10. UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION**

53
54 A viable University of Illinois Extension will help individuals, families, farms, businesses, and
55 communities adapt to change in an increasingly technical world. The University of Illinois
56 Extension and the Land Grant University system must maintain the expertise needed to train

1 competent people for programs in agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer
2 science, 4-H and youth development, and community and economic development. To meet these
3 goals, the University of Illinois Extension should:

- 4 1. Be a conduit for information exchange between the research community, farmers, and the
5 citizens of Illinois.
- 6 2. Increase clientele access to and understanding of multi-media data information systems.
- 7 3. Assess the needs of their clientele and focus their efforts on these needs.
- 8 4. Maintain fair and equal access to the University of Illinois Extension resources,
9 information, and programs.
- 10 5. Give counties more flexibility in the hiring practices of educators. The university should
11 develop options where units may join together to hire specialist(s) to help more farmers
12 and individuals at the county level.
- 13 6. Educate the general public that the University of Illinois Extension is a part of the U.S.
14 Department of Agriculture.
- 15 7. Educate the general public about production agriculture's primary contribution to the food,
16 fiber, nursery and greenhouse growing industries and other U.S. food sources.

17
18 We support:

- 19 1. Continued public funding of the University of Illinois Extension and urge county Farm
20 Bureaus to participate in the development of the University of Illinois Extension as an
21 efficient educational organization in their county and support the continuation of basic
22 agricultural education programs for Illinois families.
- 23 2. Requiring a full accounting of all transactions of the Extension Unit to be presented to that
24 Unit's Advisory Council at each regular meeting.
- 25 3. Maintaining the conference judging format in order to ensure maximum 4-H member
26 participation and encourage public display of these projects.

30 11. ENERGY

31
32 We support:

- 33 1. The development of a national energy policy to define the energy needs of the nation and
34 how these needs can best be met consistent with the use of natural resources, protection
35 of the environment, sound land use, and the welfare of the people. In addition, this policy
36 should continue to reduce dependency on foreign energy sources with a focus on national
37 energy security.
- 38 2. Independent studies that would compare the different energy programs for our nation's
39 needs (such as the conversion of wind energy to ammonia) and see how these will impact
40 the agricultural community.
- 41 3. Working with legislators to enable more U.S. oil and gas production by opening known oil
42 and gas reserves in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve (ANWR), off shore and on the
43 U.S. mainland, exploring for additional oil and gas sites, and building new oil and gas
44 refineries.
- 45 4. Efforts to expedite the pipeline permitting process to bring Canadian crude oil to the
46 United States.
- 47 5. Promotion of programs encouraging the increased use of Illinois coal as an important
48 component of a national energy policy and source of rural economic development.
- 49 6. Energy conservation and development of information programs to encourage conservation
50 of all fuels by all sectors of our economy. We encourage universities and others to institute
51 and conduct appropriate research and education programs designed to inform the public
52 about energy conservation including the design and promotion of more energy efficient
53 equipment.
- 54 7. Research, education, and incentives to further the development of methane and
55 renewable sources such as wind, solar, biomass energy, and methane digester systems.

- 1 8. Renewable Energy Standards to encourage the development of more renewable sources
- 2 for energy production.
- 3 9. The market system as the best long-term means of allocating scarce energy resources
- 4 and encouraging development of adequate energy supplies.
- 5 10. Further research of coal gasification technology.
- 6 11. Upgrading the electricity generation and delivery infrastructure to provide consumers
- 7 access to reliable low-cost energy.
- 8 12. The basic goals and objectives of the 25x'25 Alliance in promoting renewable energy.
- 9 13. Development of electricity delivery systems that are in the best interest of rural and farm
- 10 residents.

12. NUCLEAR ENERGY

16 We support:

- 17 1. The use of existing nuclear power generators as a source of needed energy along with
- 18 adequate safeguards to ensure its safe and environmentally sound use.
- 19 2. The construction of a new generation of nuclear power facilities and work to repeal the
- 20 State of Illinois' moratorium on construction of new nuclear facilities.
- 21 3. Programs to provide farmers with adequate protection for themselves, their crops and their
- 22 livestock from radiation contamination from nuclear plants or nuclear materials.
- 23 4. Efforts to insure that utilities operating nuclear reactors maintain the appropriate legal and
- 24 financial responsibility for damage to property, livestock and personal health caused by
- 25 the operation or malfunctioning of such reactors.
- 26 5. Federal research on the safe development and use of small and efficient reactors to
- 27 assure the long-term supply of electricity.
- 28 6. The proper agencies of the federal government to address immediately the problem of
- 29 permanent storage or re-use of radioactive waste.

30
31 We oppose the siting of nuclear waste facilities near known aquifers where pollution could occur.

13. RENEWABLE FUELS

37 We support:

- 38 1. Expanding the use of all renewable fuels.
- 39 2. Approval and use of greater ethanol blends in high-octane fuels to help automobile
- 40 manufacturers meet increasing regulatory standards.
- 41 3. Making permanent state and federal tax credits and other programs that provide
- 42 incentives for the use of bio-based fuel additives, renewable fuels, cellulosic fuels, and the
- 43 renewal of these tax credits.
- 44 4. State incentives that stimulate an increase in the demand for ethanol.
- 45 5. Local ordinances requiring self-service filling stations to sell mid-grade E-15 fuels.
- 46 6. The Renewable Fuels Standard 2 (RFS 2) as passed in the Energy Independence and
- 47 Security Act of 2007.
- 48 7. Government-supported research directed toward reducing production costs, improving
- 49 conversion technology, and developing new feedstocks which shall not be limited to
- 50 cellulosic and biomass renewable fuel production.
- 51 8. An increase in the ethanol blending standard.
- 52 9. Programs and efforts to increase renewable fuel production in Illinois.
- 53 10. Investment in and development of the appropriate infrastructure (including, but not limited
- 54 to, the funding of biofuel blender pumps and the standardization of all new gasoline
- 55 dispensers to be UL Certified for a minimum of E-25) to support the expanded use of
- 56 renewable fuels.

- 1 11. The continuation of a renewable fuels use requirement on all state owned and/or leased
- 2 vehicles when and where available.
- 3 12. The cost of purchasing biodiesel as an allowable expense in the Congestion Mitigation Air
- 4 Quality (CMAQ) program.
- 5 13. Federal research for better performing engines that run on E85 fuels.
- 6 14. Research on new uses and markets for co-products of renewable fuels production and
- 7 investigation of synergistic relationships in renewable fuels production systems and other
- 8 potential markets.
- 9 15. Continued research into ruminant and non-ruminant feed utilization of renewable fuels
- 10 Distiller's Dried Grains with solubles (DDGs) co-products and farmer education on
- 11 appropriate use of DDGs in livestock diets.
- 12 16. Quality control standards at renewable fuel plants that result in uniform, high quality co-
- 13 products from renewable fuels.
- 14 17. Testing of ethanol at terminals to ensure uniform quality prior to blending.
- 15 18. Nationwide adoption and implementation of American Society of Testing and Materials
- 16 (ASTM) standards for all renewable fuels.
- 17 19. Requiring retailers to display the percentage blend of biodiesel blend and its content upon
- 18 development of accepted standards and accurate tests to measure those blends.
- 19 20. Efforts to educate consumers and industry on the benefits of biofuel blends higher than
- 20 ten percent.
- 21 21. Federal renewable fuels tax incentives to promote the use of domestically-grown
- 22 commodities for domestically-produced renewable fuels.
- 23 22. The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and other agricultural and allied
- 24 organizations and industries in aggressive public information campaigns which support
- 25 renewable fuels and challenge any misinformation.
- 26 23. Encouraging farmers, affiliated companies, and other agricultural businesses to use
- 27 renewable fuels.
- 28 24. Renewable fuel use by school districts and units of local government.
- 29 25. Development of engines and air-cooled outdoor power equipment using a higher
- 30 percentage of renewable fuels.
- 31 26. Renewable fuels as an octane or cetane enhancer, fuel source, or lubricity agent to
- 32 improve air quality.
- 33 27. Encouraging automakers to produce more flex-fuel vehicles and those that can run on
- 34 mid-level blends with the goal of eliminating the so-called "blend wall."
- 35 28. U.S. Department of Defense adoption and use of renewable fuels.
- 36 29. Efforts to expand the use of renewable fuel in commercial aviation, maritime, and other
- 37 large-volume users.

38
39 We oppose:

- 40 1. Attempts to defund, repeal, or rollback implementation of the RFS.
- 41 2. EPA's misuse of its "inadequate supply" waiver authority for the purposes of reducing the
- 42 amount of renewable fuel blended.
- 43 3. Expiration of remaining renewable fuel tax credits.
- 44 4. Use of federal renewable fuels tax incentives for imported renewable fuels or renewable
- 45 fuels produced with imported agricultural commodities.

46

47

48

49

50

51

We support:

52

53

54

55

56

1. Solar energy generation as a component of the energy portfolio of the U.S.
2. Public and private efforts to develop solar energy projects in the State of Illinois.
3. The establishment of statewide standards for commercial solar energy conversion systems that provide adequate protection of public health and safety, protect private property rights, and allow for reasonable development of commercial solar energy

- 1 conversion system projects. Such standards should include, but are not limited to,
2 farmland preservation, protection of natural resources, and ensuring adequate funds are in
3 place for decommissioning.
- 4 4. Requiring an Agriculture Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) to be filed with the Illinois
5 Department of Agriculture for all commercial solar energy projects.
 - 6 5. A statewide standard for assessing solar energy projects.
 - 7 6. Legislation requiring the owner of the solar energy project to pay 100% of the property
8 taxes associated with their solar energy generation at the time they are due.
 - 9 7. Efforts to locate solar energy projects on marginal or underused lands, including
10 brownfield sites, rather than highly productive, tillable farmland.
 - 11 8. County Farm Bureau efforts to work with their county officials to develop appropriate solar
12 land use regulations for their county.
 - 13 9. Legislation allowing the landowner the option to terminate a solar lease agreement if the
14 solar panels fail to produce energy for a period longer than 12 consecutive months.
 - 15 10. Written notice of intent to construct given to drainage districts and neighbors with tile
16 outlets passing thru the proposed solar farm. Right to repair tile shall be maintained.

17
18 We oppose:

- 19 1. Giving private solar energy or solar development companies public utility status.
 - 20 2. Statewide regulations requiring a notice of intent to construct for solar energy projects.
 - 21 3. Statewide regulations requiring a public hearing prior to the construction of a solar energy
22 project.
- 23
24
25

26 15. UTILITIES AND PIPELINES

27

28 We support:

- 29 1. Continuation of work for quality rural telephone, broadband, and electric service with just
30 and reasonable rates.
 - 31 2. The development of a higher visibility and formal involvement in electric rate issues by:
32 A. Cooperating with other intervenors in major rate cases involving farmers.
33 B. Interacting with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) and utilities seeking to
34 modify rate designs to favor agricultural users of electricity.
35 C. Monitoring utilities and the ICC to ensure that "cost of service" rate designs and
36 regulations are not put in place which would economically harm agriculture.
 - 37 3. Building a coalition of groups and organizations with identifiable common interests
38 regarding electric rate issues.
 - 39 4. Strengthening the working relationship with the rural electric cooperative system.
 - 40 5. Working to simplify and streamline the regulation of the utility business while maintaining
41 the goal of prompt, effective, and efficient regulation.
 - 42 6. The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) to assume the role of arbitrator in certain
43 utility cases involving farmland. Where requested, we will recommend language for
44 inclusion in landowners' right-of-way agreements that would appoint the IDOA, Bureau of
45 Farmland Protection as arbitrator in certain cases where disputes arise. Upon request, we
46 will hold meetings with landowners before and after completion of the project to address
47 questions and concerns of landowners.
 - 48 7. Working with American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) to seek federal legislation
49 requiring all federally permitted utility projects to have minimum construction standards in
50 place before granting permits to utility companies wishing to construct on farmland.
 - 51 8. Efforts to encourage electric suppliers in Illinois to participate in the development and
52 management of wind and solar power generation.
 - 53 9. Working with electric and gas suppliers in Illinois to evaluate potential load requirements
54 for agricultural operations and develop a long-range plan to upgrade existing infrastructure
55 to handle future demand loads.
- 56

- 1 10. The appointment of the ICC and encourage the appointment of at least one commissioner
2 who is knowledgeable about agriculture.
- 3 11. Regulations requiring all pipeline companies to manage existing pipelines shallower than
4 two (2) feet and maintain to a level of five (5) feet of cover from existing grade within two
5 years of discovery, subject to the landowner discretion.
- 6 12. Legislation requiring all future underground pipelines being buried across agricultural
7 lands to follow the contour of the surface maintaining a minimum topcover of 60 inches.
- 8 13. Action by the ICC to adjust all Illinois utility companies' summer rate time period cut-off
9 dates in order to achieve a statewide September 15 summer ending date.
- 10 14. Legislation that would provide for some form of constitutional taxation of underground
11 pipelines by the State of Illinois and payment in lieu of taxes to benefit local units of
12 government where pipelines are located.
- 13 15. Regulatory oversight of anhydrous ammonia pipelines by the Surface Transportation
14 Board due to the monopolistic nature of the industry.
- 15 16. Legislation that would create a surcharge or a fee-based "Pipeline Fund" to address
16 potential environmental problems caused by abandoned pipelines.
- 17 17. Legislation requiring pipeline companies to remove abandoned or obsolete pipelines from
18 the ground and to ensure that the affected areas be returned to the original productivity.
- 19 18. Efforts to assess telecommunication needs in rural areas and ensure that
20 telecommunication providers in partnership with rural communities meet those identified
21 needs.
- 22 19. Legislation requiring utility companies to remove municipal taxes from bills of rural
23 residences.
- 24 20. Requiring appropriate landowner, trustee, or tenant notification in all utility easement
25 agreements.
- 26 21. Requiring all utilities installing equipment on the right-of-ways to inform the adjacent
27 property owner at least 30 days prior to the proposed change so the landowner can inform
28 the utility of field drainage tiles, and if needed, watch the work conducted to make sure
29 that the field tile is not damaged. If damaged, the utility should be required to properly fix
30 any damage as soon as possible or within 90 days at the discretion of the landowner or
31 tenant.
- 32 22. Seeking to develop a positive approach, to protect farmland, farm owners, and operators
33 from losses caused by utility installations. The utilities should be constructed in a manner
34 to cause the least possible interference with agriculture.
- 35 23. Efforts to further enhance the 8-1-1 internet-based location service to accommodate whole
36 field utility location services, using whole field boundaries.
- 37 24. Seeking the requirement, that upon notice to a utility company that owns or controls
38 underground utilities, including fiber optic equipment and lines, by an individual or entity
39 who is planning on excavating under or over such lines, the utility company shall excavate
40 a minimum area to expose such line. This minimum area excavated by the utility company
41 shall be large enough to allow the individual or entity planning on excavating to conduct
42 their needed work in a way as not to damage the line.
- 43 25. Seeking legislation requiring all utility and pipeline projects that are constructed/buried
44 across agricultural land complete an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) with
45 the IDOA before landowners are contacted about the project.
- 46 26. Seeking legislation that requires pipelines and utilities to enter into an AIMA agreement
47 with the IDOA and allows for the enforcement of the AIMA by the IDOA when the
48 agreement has been violated by a utility or pipeline company and the project can be
49 stopped until the project violation has been corrected.
- 50 27. Seeking legislation to establish an obligation on the part of the ICC to require a finding
51 from the IDOA that minimum construction standards are required for any proposed utility
52 projects before companies are granted permits to construct improvements.
- 53 28. Seeking further study on the proper means to compensate farmowners affected by utility
54 installations. This should require certain minimum standards for compensation
55 agreements or annual payments for certain structures. Compensation should include cost
56 of repairs to damaged infrastructure and crop losses as a result of damaged infrastructure.

- 1 29. Seeking legislation to require all utilities, proposing acquisition of rights-of-way for utility
- 2 projects, to send written notice of intention to acquire such right-of-way to landowners and
- 3 lessees at least 90 days prior to any personal contact with the landowners and lessees for
- 4 purposes of negotiating such right-of-way acquisition.
- 5 30. Legislation that any blanket easement created after January 1, 2018, (or other appropriate
- 6 future date) shall be void and considered against public policy and wholly unenforceable.
- 7 31. Seeking legislation to amend the Expedited Review provisions of the Illinois Public Utilities
- 8 Act to better protect the property rights of landowners who may be impacted by utility
- 9 projects. Also remove the 45-day deadline the ICC must follow when ruling on eminent
- 10 domain requests for electric transmission line projects filed under expedited review and
- 11 instead, request a reasonable timeline for the ruling.
- 12 32. Seeking to eliminate the practice of Citizens Utility Board (CUB) literature being inserted in
- 13 vehicle license renewal notices.
- 14 33. Establishing minimum setbacks for overhead transmission lines from sensitive structures
- 15 (private and public schools, licensed daycare facilities, residences, hospitals, agricultural
- 16 irrigation systems, and agricultural livestock production facilities) of at least the following
- 17 distances -- unless waived by agreement -- from the edge of respective power line
- 18 easements for new electrical transmission line projects.
- 19 A. 100 feet for 50-138 kV line.
- 20 B. 150 feet for 139-339 kV line.
- 21 C. 250 feet for 340 kV or larger line.
- 22
- 23
- 24

16. WIND ENERGY

We support:

- 28 1. Wind energy generation as a component of the energy portfolio of the U.S.
- 29 2. Continuation of the current property tax assessment method and rate for commercial wind
- 30 turbines in Illinois.
- 31 3. The establishment of statewide standards for commercial wind energy conversion systems
- 32 that provide adequate protection of public health and safety, protect private property
- 33 rights, and allow for reasonable development of commercial wind energy conversion
- 34 system projects. Such standards should include, but are not limited to, property setbacks,
- 35 other siting issues, performance bonds, and ensuring adequate funds are in place for
- 36 decommissioning.
- 37 4. County Farm Bureau efforts to work with their county officials to develop appropriate
- 38 commercial wind energy conversion systems land use regulations for their county.
- 39 5. Written notice of intent to construct given to drainage districts and affected landowners
- 40 with tile outlets passing through the proposed commercial wind energy conversion
- 41 systems; right to repair tile shall be maintained.
- 42
- 43
- 44

17. ABOVEGROUND FUEL STORAGE TANKS

We support revisions to rules regarding aboveground fuel storage tanks to allow each farm to have enough aboveground fuel storage to receive a transport load of each specific fuel.

18. AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

We support:

- 55 1. Agricultural practices that recognize economic benefits and the ability to manage risks
- 56 involved with production agriculture.

- 1 2. Working with other interested agencies and organizations to assure pollution standards
2 and tolerances are scientifically formulated and economically feasible.
- 3 3. Farmer participation in voluntary, third-party environmental assessments as a means to
4 demonstrate compliance prior to an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)
5 inspection as a means to meet IEPA requirements.
- 6 4. A farmer's right to build livestock buildings and other agricultural structures without the
7 threat of litigation as long as they abide by current regulations and guidelines at the time of
8 site approval.
- 9 5. Efforts to provide adequate funds to state and federal agencies for the purpose of aiding in
10 the construction of agricultural pollution control devices and implementation of other
11 agricultural practices to meet mandated standards.
- 12 6. Working closely with IEPA to develop communication strategies to livestock farmers that
13 are not intimidating, do not involve media or press releases, and develop reasonable
14 timelines to address enforcement issues.
- 15 7. Modification of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) to exclude
16 farms from the provisions of the Act. Reporting and notification requirements in SARA are
17 too stringent and inappropriate for farming operations.
- 18 8. Efforts to exempt farmers from liability provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental
19 Regulatory Cleanup and Liability Act (CERCLA).
- 20 9. Research and information examining the effects of crop protection and animal health
21 products on the food chain and the environment.
- 22 10. The development of an overall rating system to measure the acute and chronic effects of
23 oral and dermal exposure to crop protection and animal health products.
- 24 11. Exempting property owners from financial responsibility for pollution that resulted from
25 previously-accepted farming practices.
- 26 12. The removal of setbacks on chemical application in conjunction with tile inlet structures
27 unless proven necessary by scientific data.
- 28 13. Changes in the Worker Protection Standards so posting of field entrances does not unduly
29 alarm consumers about the use of certain crop protection products.
- 30 14. Legislation which will require a verified name and address from the complainants on all
31 pollution complaint reports.
- 32 15. Increased government funding to ensure that landowners are adequately compensated
33 whenever farmland is used for purposes intended to achieve the government's natural
34 resource goals.
- 35 16. Increased dollars for educational, promotional, incentive-based, and technical assistance
36 programs and developing the guidelines for the implementation of programs at the local
37 level. We also support developing a separate source of funding either under conventional
38 agricultural conservation programs or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural
39 Development for the establishment of buffers.
- 40 17. Legislation indemnifying farmers and farm owners for the cost of clean-up and other
41 damages arising from the pollution of their land by the willful or negligent acts of others.
- 42 18. Congress setting specific guidelines and restraints on federal agencies charged with
43 implementing and enforcing federal law. We believe that Congress should provide for
44 strong congressional oversight of regulatory and significant agency actions as well as a
45 willingness to override unacceptable agency actions. We support congressional scrutiny of
46 agencies to prohibit regulatory agencies from administering laws, to deter adoption of
47 agency rules and actions that circumvent statutory intent. Specific efforts should be made
48 to oversee and to reform the inspection and rule-making authority of the U.S.
49 Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).
- 50 19. Environmental regulations clarifying that any discharge occurring prior to the operation of
51 a livestock farm does not require the owner/operator of the farm to obtain a National
52 Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the operation of the
53 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO).
- 54 20. Efforts by the IDOA to protect pollinators that involve farmer stakeholders and arrive at
55 reasonable solutions that protect both crops and pollinators.
- 56

1 21. The planting of milkweed for Monarch Butterfly habitat in parks, wildlife preserves, urban
2 gardens and other non-linear areas that will not create a problem for production
3 agriculture.

4 22. The planting of pollinator habitat on land currently enrolled in USDA programs.
5

6 We oppose:

- 7 1. Efforts to place restrictions or moratoriums on a farmer's ability to manage his or her
8 farming operation in a manner consistent with BMPs. Existing operations should not be
9 restricted from expansion nor have undue limits placed upon them due to the
10 encroachment of others.
- 11 2. Regulations for septic systems that are not science-based and do not take into
12 consideration the economic impacts on the homeowner and on the local government.
- 13 3. Requiring a NPDES permit for pesticide applications when the applicator complies with the
14 Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
- 15 4. The requirement of a CAFO to need an NPDES permit if it does not discharge.
- 16 5. Efforts by the IEPA to regulate stored hay as a stored feed.
17
18
19

20 19. ATMOSPHERIC QUALITY

21
22 We support:

- 23 1. Policies that keep agriculture viable and address the costs and benefits of those programs
24 using sound, economic analysis.
- 25 2. Alternative energy sources which will minimize atmospheric pollution.
- 26 3. Providing incentives to industries seeking to become more energy efficient or to reduce
27 emissions of identifiable atmospheric pollutants.
- 28 4. Cooperation of organizations and governments, foreign and domestic, to develop better
29 understanding and research on the implications of atmospheric pollution and the means of
30 preventing it.
- 31 5. Providing incentives to individuals seeking to reforest fragile lands that are currently in
32 agricultural production.
- 33 6. The development of engines that utilize affordable technology to reduce pollution.
- 34 7. Requiring the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to use science-based methods
35 when identifying violations for atmospheric pollution.
- 36 8. Passage of a Congressional resolution which strips the Environmental Protection Agency
37 of its authority to regulate greenhouse gases.
- 38 9. Research on greenhouse gases.
39

40 We oppose:

- 41 1. Restrictions on existing off-road equipment emissions.
- 42 2. Any changes in the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards that reduce the
43 availability of trucks.
44
45
46

47 20. DISPOSAL OF WASTE

48
49 We support:

- 50 1. Waste volume reduction at the source. Every effort should be made to avoid generating
51 waste products.
- 52 2. Recycling and reuse. We encourage manufacturers to develop cost-effective uses for
53 recyclable products. We will work towards the development of incentives to create
54 additional markets and uses for these recycled products.
- 55 3. Retailers and consumers using returnable, recyclable, and degradable containers.
- 56 4. Research on voluntary recycling options for agricultural plastics.

- 1 5. Source separation, which includes:
 - 2 A. Incentives for the return of all glass, plastic, or metal beverage containers.
 - 3 B. Local recycling programs.
 - 4 C. Composting. We support research on the effects of using yard waste on
 - 5 agricultural land.
- 6 6. Research on the effects of energy recovery from incineration.
- 7 7. Combustion for volume reduction. Where it can be shown to be economically feasible and
- 8 environmentally safe, incineration of solid waste before disposing in a landfill.
- 9 8. Landfilling as a final alternative.
- 10 9. Legislation specifying that publication requirements for public hearings on the siting of
- 11 solid waste disposal facilities be the same as those of the Illinois Truth in Taxation Act.
- 12 10. The ability of a municipality to reject the location of a landfill within 1 1/2 miles of the
- 13 municipality's boundary.
- 14 11. Appropriate local governments providing refuse disposal services at a reasonable cost to
- 15 residents within their area if no private services are available.
- 16 12. Efforts for more stringent local enforcement of littering laws.
- 17 13. Improvement of regulations to ensure safe transportation of hazardous waste.
- 18 14. Enforcement of existing laws and regulatory programs which require environmentally safe
- 19 waste disposal systems.
- 20 15. Encouraging county Farm Bureaus to actively monitor permit applications for siting of non-
- 21 agricultural pollution control facilities submitted to their County Boards.
- 22 16. Delegation agreements granting counties authority to regulate landfill operations within
- 23 their jurisdiction, including hours of operation and the height of landfills.
- 24 17. Efforts to impose appropriate fines and penalties on waste disposal violations.
- 25 18. Reasonable disposal fees on residential waste to help avoid dumping in rural areas.
- 26 19. Allowing local governments to charge a higher fee, tax or surcharge on special waste and
- 27 out-of-area waste than on local residential waste.
- 28 20. Efforts to have Illinois classify out-of-state waste as stringently as its classification in the
- 29 state of origin.
- 30 21. Regular and thorough inspection of waste disposal sites.
- 31 22. "Landfarming" of contaminated soils to preserve limited space available in landfills.
- 32 23. Research into laser gasification for mining of landfills and disposal of garbage.
- 33 24. Allowing farmers to burn or bury old agricultural buildings and brush on existing sites.
- 34 25. Allowing the burning and burying of building debris in cases of natural disasters.
- 35 26. Changes to the laws and policies regarding used tire collections, including:
 - 36 A. An increase in the number of times an individual can participate in a tire clean-up
 - 37 event.
 - 38 B. Allowing non-governmental organizations to sponsor a used tire collection
 - 39 program.
 - 40 C. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) setting up drop off areas for
 - 41 used tires.
- 42 27. Investigation into alternative methods for disposal of urban sludge containing heavy
- 43 metals and continued research on the safe application of urban sludge on agricultural
- 44 farmland. Agencies should make research results on immediate and long-term effects of
- 45 sludge application available to farmers.
- 46 28. An environmentally safe and financially acceptable method to dispose of or recycle used
- 47 oil and unwanted farm and home chemicals.

48
49 We oppose:

- 50 1. Transportation of solid waste over long distances for disposal.
- 51 2. Efforts which lead to the importation of solid waste into rural areas without proper
- 52 consideration being given to residents neighboring the disposal site.
- 53 3. Attempts to weaken the role of local governments or the criteria by which the sites are
- 54 judged in the siting of non-agricultural pollution control facilities.
- 55
- 56

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

21. DRAINAGE AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Drainage

We support:

1. More coordination among drainage districts and other government entities in a common watershed.
2. Landowners within an inactive drainage district to reactivate the district or to consolidate the district with that of an active neighboring drainage district. In the event that reactivating or consolidating a drainage district is not feasible, we encourage all property owners, including state and federal entities, to maintain drainage systems on their property.
3. Uniform interpretation of regulations to allow stream and drainage ditch maintenance practices consistent with good husbandry, such as removing silt, trees, restoring stream banks, and restoring drainage ditches to their optimal condition without the requirement of a permit.
4. Coordination among the various district offices of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) serving Illinois to foster more fair and consistent administration of the Clean Water Act and other laws and regulations.
5. Working with other groups to develop appropriate means to resolve drainage problems arising from land development and road construction. Such means should include holding developers financially responsible for damages done to agricultural drainage.
6. Mandating that units of local government require developers to provide surety bonds to guarantee full compliance with the drainage law in regard to land development and road construction.
7. Techniques and voluntary programs through agencies such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that put more emphasis on stabilization of stream banks.
8. Enforcement of the concepts within the Illinois Drainage Code which prevent all governmental agencies from using public right-of-way to channel drainage water onto private land without considering the volume of water being drained or the absorption rate of the soils receiving the water.
9. A requirement that soil erosion control be considered as a part of all drainage plans.
10. A reasonable use standard for management of agricultural drainage.
11. Making NRCS the lead agency in determining if a drainage project needs a 404 permit and providing the local contact for that permitting process. If a 404 permit is needed, we support making the Corps the only agency in charge of issuing a permit for drainage projects.
12. Means to require any incorporated area or drainage district with a population of 5,000 or more to pay downstream drainage districts for maintenance and expansion of waterways that receive the accumulated increase in water flow.
13. Drainage districts as independent units of local government and their right to retain control.
14. Educational programs for drainage district commissioners concerning their duties, state and federal regulations impacting them, and the need to properly and routinely maintain the district's drainage facilities.
15. Drainage commissioners' authority to accumulate or build up a fund which shall not exceed an amount equal to the total of five years annual maintenance assessment.
16. Efforts to exempt prior constructed waterways to drainage channels from archaeological study requirements.
17. Efforts to remove beavers and their structures when they alter drainage resources.

We oppose:

1. Unwarranted interference with drainage work.
2. Legislation that would forcibly diminish or usurp the power and authority of drainage districts.

1 **Stormwater Management**

2 We support:

- 3 1. Requiring money collected for stormwater management be used exclusively for control of
- 4 runoff in the watershed where it was collected, not in an unrelated watershed.
- 5 2. Representation on any county stormwater management commission to have mandated
- 6 broad-based makeup, including municipal, engineering, agricultural, industrial,
- 7 commercial, and homeowner voting members.
- 8 3. Requiring municipalities to integrate stormwater management control structures and plans
- 9 into any new or existing development.
- 10 4. The use of tax credits, abatements, or incentive payments to property owners who
- 11 construct, maintain, and use approved stormwater management devices (e.g. catch
- 12 ponds, lagoons, holding basins, terraces, contour farming, pasture land, timberland).
- 13 5. Efforts requiring that new commercial and residential developments be planned for
- 14 anticipated runoff and constructed with the structures necessary to control it.
- 15 6. Encouraging local governmental units to unite to solve stormwater problems stemming
- 16 from impervious surfaces in watersheds within their jurisdictions so long as the power and
- 17 authority of drainage districts are not forcibly usurped or diminished. For purposes of
- 18 stormwater management, farmland would not be considered an impervious surface.
- 19 7. Efforts to amend the Soil and Water Conservation District Act to expand the role of the
- 20 Soil and Water Conservation Districts to address urban wetland and stormwater
- 21 management problems. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts should make every
- 22 effort to coordinate and cooperate with other organizations and agencies within the district
- 23 to achieve these goals.
- 24 8. Amendments to the enabling legislation of stormwater management agencies that would
- 25 explicitly exempt agricultural land and practices.
- 26 9. Reducing the amount of taxes and fees assessed against property for stormwater
- 27 management purposes by the amount of taxes and fees assessed against that property by
- 28 a drainage district.

29
30 We oppose:

- 31 1. Granting any stormwater management authority the power to regulate farmland drainage.
- 32 2. The establishment of a county stormwater runoff management planning commission
- 33 without voter approval.
- 34 3. The use of eminent domain by a stormwater commission except for specific and
- 35 immediate use for stormwater runoff control.
- 36 4. The involuntary dissolution of agricultural drainage districts and their administration and
- 37 taxing levy being assumed by the county stormwater commission.
- 38 5. Any efforts to require agriculture to pay for more than its fair share of any taxing plan or
- 39 any effort to force agricultural lands to receive excessive and unobstructed runoff caused
- 40 by upstream development that lacks reasonable stormwater management structures.

41
42
43 **22. DUE PROCESS**

44
45
46 We support:

- 47 1. Requiring all governmental agencies to notify landowners and farm operators of possible
- 48 violations in writing, stating specific findings and charges on all farm visits.
- 49 2. Landowners and farm operators be given a reasonable amount of time to correct the
- 50 possible violations before legal action is taken by the governmental agency.
- 51 3. Governmental agencies being required to prove intent to violate as a part of every
- 52 prosecution.
- 53 4. Any conviction being based on due process, including trial by jury.
- 54 5. Governmental agencies, should they lose a court case, being held accountable for court
- 55 costs and associated costs to landowners and farm operators.

1
2
3 **23. ENDANGERED SPECIES**

4 We support:

- 5 1. A moratorium on additional listings under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in its current
6 form until such time as it is amended and updated to accommodate the needs of both
7 endangered and threatened species and humans with complete respect for private
8 property rights within the framework of the United States Constitution.
- 9 2. Endangered and threatened species protection that is achieved through providing
10 incentives to private landowners and public land users rather than by imposing land use
11 restrictions and penalties.
- 12 3. The burden of proof for listing being on the petitioner, the United States Fish and Wildlife
13 Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (together, the Agencies), rather than on
14 the general public.
- 15 4. Scientific and peer-reviewed data being used as the basis for listing a species, as well as
16 the basis for the development of regional or state conservation plans involving those
17 species.
- 18 5. A legitimate state-level process of involving stakeholders, including farm organizations, the
19 Illinois Department of Agriculture, and agricultural representatives, in discussions around
20 listing decisions and conservation planning.
- 21 6. A more efficient process for the delisting of species that allows the Agencies to achieve
22 the stated objectives of the ESA: to recover and delist species.
- 23 7. Reasonable assurance mechanisms at the federal and state level that allow farmers to
24 conduct normal farming activities without fear of liability under the ESA and Illinois'
25 Endangered Species Protection Act.

26 We oppose:

- 27 1. The recognition of species that are considered under threat versus endangered to be a
28 factor in liabilities to private landowners.
- 29 2. A definition of critical habitat that includes areas without the current presence of an
30 endangered species.
- 31 3. The listing of the monarch butterfly as a threatened or endangered species.
- 32 4. Any group that receives funding pursuant to the ESA or as a result of litigation associated
33 with the ESA, from being able to petition, support or encourage the listing of a species.
34
35
36
37

38 **24. FARMING METHODS**

39 We support farming methods that result in:

- 40 1. Profitability.
- 41 2. Environmental stewardship.
- 42 3. The production of a safe food supply.
- 43 4. An adequate supply of high-quality agricultural commodities to meet current and future
44 demand.
45

46 We support:

- 47 1. Research aimed at reducing overall inputs needed to sustain a profitable farming
48 operation.
- 49 2. Incentives that encourage farmers to accept the risk of testing non-traditional means of
50 farming.
- 51 3. Efforts to provide information to farmers on proven means of improving the efficiency of
52 inputs.
- 53 4. Research to study soil health and its future productivity.
- 54 5. The use of an integrated pest management program to control pests in crop production.
55

56 We oppose any attempt to mandate low input methods of farming.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

25. FORESTRY

We support:

1. Incentives for the development of private forest resources in Illinois.
2. The planting of trees on land that is unable to meet conservation compliance standards to help control soil erosion and increase timber resources.

26. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

We support:

1. Science-based research, not consensus, to conclusively determine the causes and impact of global climate change.
2. Scientific research to document the regional value of agricultural practices in carbon sequestration. The U.S. Department of Agriculture should be the lead agency on researching carbon sequestration values for agriculture.

We oppose any regulations or treaties relative to global climate change that will unfairly impact U.S. agriculture and the U.S. economy.

27. HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND

We support:

1. Altering Highly Erodible Lands (HEL) determination and classification to reflect the applied permanent conservation practices (i.e. terraces and diversions) that reduce the soil loss factor on soils that would normally be highly erodible. If the reduction in soil loss makes the land NON-HEL, the land should be so classified and remain so classified as long as the permanent conservation practices are maintained as designed.
2. Variances in conservation practices for livestock farmers so they can utilize crops or crop residue without jeopardizing conservation compliance regulations. These practices should include, but not be limited to, pasturing livestock, chopping silage, harvesting crop residues, and manure incorporation.
3. Local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel working directly with farmers in coordinating the repair of damage from normal farming practices to fields with an HEL designation. The NRCS should consider field condition limitations before imposing penalties for non-compliance.

28. MINED LANDS

We support:

1. Working with private, county, state, and federal groups and agencies in the development and strict enforcement of regulations for mined and undermined lands which will give proper consideration to needs and priorities of agriculture as well as energy and which will protect and restore agricultural lands.
2. Working with other interested groups in developing reasonable solutions to problems of subsidence and means to minimize subsidence in future mining operations. The landowner shall receive fair compensation for any subsidence which occurs.
3. The Office of Mines and Minerals including irrigation and other agricultural wells in the protection clauses under Illinois regulations concerning subsidence from underground mines.

- 1 4. A bonding requirement for coal companies that receive fly ash from coal combustion
- 2 plants to address groundwater concerns and cleanup.
- 3 5. Developing an educational program on mineral and subsidence rights for landowners.
- 4 6. Mining methods that maintain property values.
- 5 7. The review of the impact of mining activity and how it affects the market value of property.
- 6 Should this effect be negative, we will seek legislation to compensate landowners for this
- 7 loss.
- 8 8. Requiring mine operators to compensate landowners and tenants for production losses.
- 9 9. Requiring mine operators to compensate landowners and tenants for increased cost of
- 10 federal crop insurance when the farmland has been rerated due to mining operations.
- 11 10. County Farm Bureaus becoming involved in reviewing proposed reclamation plans prior to
- 12 the issuance of mining permits and to closely monitor such reclamation plans after mining
- 13 to see they are being properly implemented.
- 14
- 15
- 16

29. MINERAL INTERESTS

17
18
19 We support:

- 20 1. A requirement that data from core tests of coal and fluorspar exploration be made
- 21 available to the public after one year in the same manner that data on oil and gas wells
- 22 are made available to the public.
- 23 2. Legislation to require the owners of oil and gas interests that have been severed from the
- 24 existing surface ownership to provide to the surface owner:
 - 25 A. A 30-day notice before entry is made onto the surface for oil and gas exploration
 - 26 and recovery.
 - 27 B. Compliance with minimum reclamation standards to minimize surface impacts of
 - 28 such operation and full clean-up of oil and gas sites.
 - 29 C. Complete compensation payable to the surface owner or tenant for damages
 - 30 incurred during such operation and annual production losses incurred by the
 - 31 presence of roads, tank batteries, well heads, and oil and gas production
 - 32 equipment.
 - 33 D. Complete compensation for the loss in land value due to drilling operations.
- 34 3. Legislation requiring the operator of an oil and gas well to bury all electrical lines to a
- 35 depth not less than 36 inches from the surface unless otherwise agreed to by the
- 36 landowner.
- 37 4. Continued efforts to strengthen and clarify existing rules and regulations relating to oil and
- 38 gas well site reclamation, well capping and well waste disposal, and to inform members of
- 39 those regulations.
- 40 5. Establishing regulations for hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling on site preparation,
- 41 drilling, well-casings, pipelines, waste-storage, and other appropriate safeguards in order
- 42 to protect land and water resources.
- 43 6. Legislation requiring all new underground flow lines constructed as part of a high-volume
- 44 horizontal fracturing well site, production facility, or any oil or gas drilling operation which
- 45 crosses agricultural land, shall be buried following the contour of the surface with a
- 46 minimum of 60 inches of topcover.
- 47 7. Legislation which requires an operator of an oil or gas well to post and maintain a
- 48 performance bond to protect the surface owner in the event that the operator abandons
- 49 drilling, fails to plug the well(s) or restore the surface; or fails to provide complete
- 50 compensation to the landowner for damage.
- 51 8. Legislation requiring individuals or companies seeking to acquire oil and gas mineral
- 52 interests from landowners to provide the landowner a written summary of the landowner's
- 53 legal and property rights relating to the actual exploration and production of oil and gas
- 54 prior to any negotiation for the lease or purchase of such mineral interests.
- 55 9. Efforts by government agencies or private sector to address salt water contamination from
- 56 abandoned oil wells.

- 1 10. A dedicated fund to address environmental problems related to abandoned oil and gas
2 wells. Consideration should be given to additional funding for these activities.
- 3 11. Efforts by government agencies or the private sector to create and maintain an accurate
4 and current listing of mineral rights owners for each tract of ground.
- 5 12. Legislation that would revert ownership interests of coal, oil, gas, and all other minerals (if
6 unclaimed, unused, or dormant for a period of up to 20 years) back to the surface estate
7 owner.
- 8 13. Landowners and owners of rural property being justly compensated by coalbed methane
9 operators when landowner's property is being drilled upon in the absence of an agreement
10 with the landowner.
- 11 14. Legislation that would revert ownership rights of utility, pipeline, and underground gas
12 storage easements or leases back to the surface owner if unused, abandoned, or dormant
13 for a period of 20 years.
- 14 15. Efforts by the Illinois County Assessment Officers Association to require oil and gas
15 operators and first purchasers of oil and gas to report well production with accuracy to
16 county assessing officials within a workable timeframe each year or be subject to a fine for
17 failure to report. This would include each county assessing official, where oil and gas
18 production occurs, receiving an annual free copy of all pipeline reports.

19
20 We oppose:

- 21 1. The transfer or production of mineral rights or related rights (including subsidence rights)
22 by any public body without first offering those rights back to the current owner of the
23 surface estate.
- 24 2. Any moratorium on horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing in Illinois.

25 26 27 28 **30. ORGANIC NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT**

29
30 Manure is a plant nutrient material. It is a valuable resource and, when combined with bedding
31 material, a residue source.

32
33 We believe:

- 34 1. County Farm Bureaus should develop a better understanding among farmers and the
35 public of issues concerning organic nutrient management.
- 36 2. Ongoing research should be encouraged to determine air quality and odor parameters that
37 provide scientifically-proven levels for livestock health and worker safety.
- 38 3. There must be no direct discharge from manure storage systems or livestock facilities to
39 surface waters, drainage ditches, or field tiles due to negligence, poor management, and
40 faulty structural design. Direct discharges due to natural causes should be exempt from
41 civil and punitive penalties and damages.
- 42 4. Research on manure management is a high priority including such topics as odor
43 reduction, waste and nutrient management, and artificial wetland remediation of nutrients.
44 Some flexibility should be allowed in wetlands management.
- 45 5. Any proposed law, rule, or regulation which would restrict a farmer's nutrient management
46 plan shall only be implemented if consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs)
47 developed at the state level with the cooperation and assistance of our state land grant
48 institutions with considerations given for local conditions.
- 49 6. Government agencies must utilize proven scientific practices and cost/benefit analyses
50 when developing policies concerning organic nutrient management facilities and
51 application of manure.
- 52 7. Additional government cost-share funding should be made available to farmers for
53 constructing manure handling facilities to correct existing problems.
- 54 8. That the development and enforcement of organic nutrient management standards are
55 best handled at the state level but any dialog on national environmental standards or
56 legislation for organic nutrient management must be based on proven science and

1 generally-accepted agricultural BMPs and should comply with the above points. The
2 authority for enforcement and implementation of these standards should be clearly defined
3 to protect farmers from differing interpretations by state or federal agencies.

4
5 We support:

- 6 1. Programs to educate farmers on techniques regarding properly-managed organic nutrient
7 systems.
- 8 2. A public relations program to emphasize methods by which farmers protect the
9 environment by using properly-managed organic nutrient systems.

10 We oppose requiring livestock operations to obtain permits for application of livestock manure.
11
12

13 **31. PESTICIDE APPLICATION, EDUCATION, AND RECORDKEEPING**

14
15 Proper understanding and handling of crop protection products is important to every farmer.
16

17 We support:

- 18 1. The pesticide applicator certification as a means to assure society that farmers and other
19 licensed applicators are trained and knowledgeable.
- 20 2. Encouraging pesticide applicators and farmers to be aware of liabilities for drift and
21 volatilization potential to all crop and non-crop land that is pesticide-sensitive.
- 22 3. Encouraging non-agricultural users of pesticides to become better educated on their safe
23 use and potential environmental impacts.
- 24 4. Urging the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) to review any incorrect Illinois
25 Pesticide Applicators' License exam answers to give applicants the opportunity to become
26 more knowledgeable.
- 27 5. Giving individuals the option of either taking training and testing of all license categories
28 online or in the classroom.
- 29 6. Amending current private applicator license procedures to create a license that is valid for
30 five years. Any new training requirements added during the term of the license will be
31 considered endorsements to the license. These endorsements should not trigger testing
32 for an overall new license.
- 33 7. Federal law that mandates U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to use university data
34 and other credible agricultural industry sources to determine actual pesticide usage levels.
- 35 8. Restricted use pesticide recordkeeping that protects the interests and confidentiality of
36 farmers and their records.
- 37 9. Making IDOA the lead state agency to implement and administer all pesticide
38 recordkeeping.
- 39 10. Increased funding for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to increase
40 credible information on pesticide use collected by the National Agricultural Statistics
41 Service (NASS).
- 42 11. A change in statute and/or regulations that would allow a custom applicator service to be
43 assigned the responsibility of keeping pesticide application records for landowners and
44 operators.
- 45 12. Consideration being given to IDOA pesticide misuse complaint findings, when determining
46 liability for pesticide damage.
- 47 13. Continuation and development of research programs through state university agricultural
48 departments that identify the optimum timing for application of herbicides to achieve the
49 greatest weed control, while reducing any potential negative impact to crop plant
50 development.
- 51 14. Farmer participation in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)
52 registration discussions on products important to Illinois agriculture.
- 53 15. Interagency cooperation during the registration process of crop protection tools and traits.
54
55
56

- 1 16. Illinois Farm Bureau participation in the State of Illinois Interagency Committee on
2 Pesticides.
3

4 We oppose any pesticide recordkeeping requirements that create additional farmer liability for
5 applying pesticides according to label instructions.
6
7
8

9 **32. RIVER CONSERVANCY DISTRICTS**

10
11 We support:

- 12 1. Legislation requiring petition signatures containing at least 10 percent of the registered
13 voters within a proposed district be secured in order to place the question of creating a
14 new district on the ballot.
15 2. Legislation providing means for disconnecting lands not benefited from an established
16 district.
17 3. Legislation requiring wider publication and notice of public hearings.
18
19
20

21 **33. RIVERS, LEVEES AND FLOODPLAINS**

22 **Rivers**

23
24 We support:

- 25 1. The ability of Congress to earmark discretionary funds for specific projects in a transparent
26 way that identifies the purpose and intended beneficiaries.
27 2. Pursuing actions in Congress and appropriate federal and state agencies to ensure that
28 we have an efficient and competitive transportation system through which we can
29 effectively move agricultural and commercial products.
30 3. Working with other interested groups to improve the lock and dam systems on the
31 Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. As a part of that effort, we support construction of 1,200-
32 foot locks on the Mississippi River at least at Keokuk and below and on the Illinois River at
33 least at Peoria and below.
34 4. A Midwestern, multi-state effort to review results of existing river and related studies and
35 identify impacts of associated state and federal regulations. Based on these studies, we
36 will promote a multiple-use strategy for the Upper Mississippi River and its navigable
37 tributaries to serve agriculture, industry, recreation, transportation, and the environment. A
38 comprehensive plan must be fair, clear, and equitable for all counties adjacent to or
39 affected by river flooding. Money appropriated for projects should be used by that project if
40 at all possible.
41 5. The development of a balanced and comprehensive river management plan by the U.S.
42 Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under the auspices of the Mississippi River Commission
43 (MRC).
44 6. Encouraging the MRC to use its authority to promote improvements to navigation,
45 economic development, flood control, recreation, and environment within the Upper
46 Mississippi River basin.
47 7. Seeking representation on the MRC to include at least one member from the Upper
48 Mississippi River area.
49 8. Encouraging members of Congress to become actively involved in the Mississippi River
50 Congressional Caucus.
51 9. Efforts to increase the Operations and Maintenance budget to maintain navigation,
52 recreation, and flood control systems.
53 10. Encouraging the consideration of Public Private Partnerships (P3) as a way to capitalize
54 Corps of Engineers' infrastructure projects.
55
56

- 1 11. An analysis of the effects of changing the hours of operations of any lock and dam. This
- 2 analysis should look at the effect on the Corps, local communities, and the businesses
- 3 who use or are affected by the lock and dam. Public input should be sought.
- 4 12. Appropriations for the maintenance and operation of the Kaskaskia River lock and dam.
- 5 13. Requiring government agencies to send notification about new streambank initiatives to
- 6 landowners whose property is adjacent to and may be impacted by those initiatives.

7 8 **Levees**

9 Illinois has greatly benefited from the construction of flood control levees and their associated
10 systems along its rivers. Many have now exceeded their life expectancy and flooding poses a
11 significant threat to surrounding property.

12
13 We believe federal and state government agencies should be committed to assisting with the
14 timely repair and maintenance of levees on the main rivers and their tributaries. After a disaster
15 occurs, repairs should be made in "emergency" mode. We believe adequate funds should be
16 made available to the Corps, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other appropriate
17 agencies to assist in the repair of levees on the main rivers and their tributaries.

18
19 The Corps of Engineers should be the lead agency for setting standards used to certify levees as
20 protecting against certain levels of flooding. These standards should include provisions to allow
21 reasonable flexibility in administration of the rules such as:

- 22 1. If the capacity of the levee is found deficient, adequate time should be allowed for repairs
- 23 before decertification.
- 24 2. Rules should account for acceptable levels of permeability in sand levees and the
- 25 capability to bolster levees during flood fights.

26
27 We support:

- 28 1. Efforts to remove silt from rivers and to promote the use of that material behind the levee
- 29 for strengthening the levee system.
- 30 2. Efforts to secure federal and state funds for constructing certified levees and associated
- 31 systems on major rivers. To evaluate the appropriateness of that funding, we support the
- 32 concept of using Risk Informed Decision Framework (RIDF) that would address four
- 33 evaluation areas: national economic development, environmental quality, regional
- 34 economic development, and other social effects. The RIDF approach should recognize the
- 35 potential for future economic development.
- 36 3. The use of regional economic development benefit:cost ratios in addition to other
- 37 considerations in determining support for waterway and flood control projects.
- 38 4. Equitable treatment of intangible benefits in calculating the benefits of levee construction
- 39 projects. We encourage the Corps to fully restore damaged levees to no less than pre-
- 40 existing conditions in a timely fashion. Those levees that are purposely destroyed by the
- 41 Corps should be fully restored prior to the next normal high water season.
- 42 5. Efforts to allow drainage and levee districts to restore a levee to its highest approved flood
- 43 frequency design and/or profile without being limited by water level mitigation
- 44 requirements.
- 45 6. A uniform federal floodplain standard (also adopted by the states) allowing a one-foot rise
- 46 in floodwater height for flood protection projects on major rivers and other bodies of water
- 47 bordering two or more adjoining states.
- 48 7. Streamlining the process of permitting the repair and/or construction of levees and other
- 49 flood control devices while maintaining the strict adherence to that section within the
- 50 Illinois Rivers, Lakes and Streams Act that requires permitting prior to repair and/or
- 51 construction.
- 52 8. Using hydrology studies and other pertinent information developed within the
- 53 Comprehensive Plan to expedite the permitting process for flood control projects within the
- 54 scope of the plan. A timeline should be developed to establish target beginning and
- 55 completion dates for each project within the Comprehensive Plan to help move those
- 56 projects along in a more efficient and timely manner.

- 1 9. Legislation that provides the Corps the authority and funding to develop and construct
2 streambank and shoreline protection projects to prevent erosion damages to
3 infrastructure.
- 4 10. Adoption of Base Flood Elevation impact mitigation standards for construction within the
5 floodway in Illinois similar to those in Iowa or Missouri so that the same level of activity can
6 occur on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River as does in those adjoining states.
- 7 11. The Corps' Comprehensive Plan with the following conditions:
 - 8 A. The Plan must include reconstruction of existing levees and ancillary flood
9 reduction system components to ensure they function at their approved design
10 capacity.
 - 11 B. Existing levees within the reach of the Plan that are of sufficient height but lack
12 other necessary features (such as seepage wells and proper slope) should be
13 allowed to be improved to qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency
14 (FEMA) certifiable 100-year flood frequency protection.
 - 15 C. The Len Small Levee and Drainage District should be incorporated as part of the
16 Plan. It should enjoy the same right to pursue improvement and rehabilitation as is
17 afforded other levee districts not eligible for 500-year flood frequency protection.
 - 18 D. All acres currently protected by levees should maintain at least their current level of
19 protection.
- 20 12. Federal funding for improvement to levees to maintain the existing level of flood frequency
21 protection when induced increases in floodwaters occur due to the adoption of a
22 Comprehensive Plan for Flood Control.
- 23 13. Urging the Corps to adopt water flow management policies that avoid the flooding of
24 farmland situated below any reservoir, dam, or behind any levee system managed or
25 controlled by the Corps.
- 26 14. Urging state and federal agencies to provide timely assistance to local levees during a
27 crisis.
- 28 15. Eliminating the duplication of levee inspections with resulting cost savings to be used for
29 levee improvements.

30 **Floodplains**

31 The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) should be designed to provide insurance, not
32 regulate land use. It should not be designed to revert the floodplain to its (historic, former)
33 undeveloped state. Furthermore, rules and regulations regarding floodplain management should
34 not supersede private property rights.
35

36 Agriculture in a floodplain should be given recognition as providing positive benefits to the
37 environment and the public good. These intangible benefits should receive the same
38 consideration in benefit: cost analysis as do other environmental benefits.
39

40 A one-size-fits-all approach to floodplain regulations does not accommodate the unique physical
41 differences among floodplains. Regulations, including NFIP, should recognize those differences,
42 which range from the expansive floodplains of major rivers to narrow riverines to non-riverine
43 depressions.
44

45 We will seek revisions in FEMA regulations to:
46

- 47 1. Fund and allow the Army Corps of Engineers to coordinate all flood fighting efforts.
- 48 2. Increase efforts to improve the coordination and cooperation of FEMA and other
49 government agencies in order to streamline the process to deliver emergency assistance
50 in a timely manner during a disaster and the disaster recovery process.
- 51 3. Allow the limited issuance of certain construction permits by units of local government
52 where the applicant has assumed all risk for flood damage to the structure without
53 jeopardizing the receipt of NFIP funds and other federal monies for those who wish to
54 participate in federal insurance, disaster, and loan programs.
- 55 4. Provide NFIP and disaster payment eligibility for production agriculture facilities and farm
56 residences protected by a levee, including levees that provide protection from less than

1 100-year floods. The insurance offered for such structures should be at a rate which
2 reflects the degree of protection provided by the levee.
3 5. Allow structures located in a floodplain that are “substantially damaged” by means other
4 than a flood to be rebuilt without regard to NFIP regulations and to maintain flood
5 insurance eligibility.
6

7 We support:

- 8 1. Amendments to federal regulations and policy that would require dewatering of agricultural
9 land as part of flood recovery efforts.
- 10 2. FEMA interim guidelines for wet flood-proofing of agricultural structures and efforts to
11 make them permanent.
- 12 3. Allowing the replacement construction costs of a structure to be used instead of market
13 value to measure the damage to a structure for purposes of determining whether
14 “substantial damage” has been done.
- 15 4. Revising NFIP regulations to allow counties and municipalities, at the local unit’s
16 discretion, to sell to private owners those properties bought out by FEMA. In such cases,
17 the property should include an easement restricting surface development rights but
18 allowing normal agricultural practices.
- 19 5. Continuation of NFIP exemption of property behind properly designed, built, and
20 maintained 100-year certified levees, dams, and other flood control infrastructure.
- 21 6. Efforts to educate and inform legislators, regulators, media, farmers, environmental
22 leaders, and the public about the economic and societal benefits and issues associated
23 with the agricultural and commercial use of expansive floodplains.
- 24 7. Working to preserve statewide permits authorized by the Illinois Department of Natural
25 Resources-Office of Water Resources for certain construction, transportation, and
26 infrastructure maintenance projects in floodplains at no cost to individuals, businesses, or
27 units of government.
28

29 If a levee’s flood level protection certification would be lowered due to a revised flow frequency
30 study, structures that existed behind the levee prior to the re-certification should be grandfathered
31 and managed under the NFIP as though the higher flood protection certification still applies.
32 Structures built after the levee’s re-certification should be managed under the rules that apply
33 with the then current certified flood protection level.
34
35
36

37 **34. SOIL CONSERVATION**

38
39 Soil erosion is a threat to the long-term productivity of agriculture. Farmers and landowners
40 should strive to implement soil conservation practices.
41

42 We support:

- 43 1. Efforts to maintain local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices, while
44 improving efficiencies, to provide technological assistance and project certification.
- 45 2. Soil conservation programs using education, voluntary compliance, financial incentives
46 and other non-punitive means to encourage compliance. Farmers should not be penalized
47 for a “first offense” failure to meet residue requirements if they have made a good faith
48 effort to follow their conservation plan, or for failure to obtain mandated residue cover
49 following crop failure. Any penalties for subsequent violations should not exceed the farm
50 program benefits on the tract number in violation. The provision of cost sharing by
51 government agencies must be a prerequisite to any compliance program.
- 52 3. Increasing funding and technical support for various state and federal programs to assist
53 farmers, landowners, and drainage districts in controlling erosion and runoff, including
54 streambank stabilization. Available resources should be targeted to those areas where
55 greatest problems exist and programs are being implemented.
56

- 1 4. Using available funding sources, such as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- 2 or Illinois EPA Section 319 grants, to support SWCD efforts.
- 3 5. Inclusion of conservation practices that address soil erosion, sediment control, and water
- 4 quality concerns brought on by community development in the Natural Resources
- 5 Conservation Services' (NRCS) National Handbook of Conservation Practices.
- 6 6. Unrestricted technical and educational services of NRCS to municipalities, other local
- 7 governments, and non-governmental entities within funding parameters.
- 8 7. Legislation that would protect landowners from liability resulting from the malfunction of
- 9 terraces and structures constructed according to NRCS guidelines.
- 10 8. Amendment of the election process currently used by Soil and Water Conservation
- 11 Districts (SWCDs) to allow SWCD directors to be elected with the stipulation that the
- 12 election be structured so that no more than one director may be elected from any township
- 13 in any election.
- 14 9. Maintaining county SWCDs under the administration of the Illinois Department of
- 15 Agriculture and funding for SWCD staff at compensation levels comparable to that of state
- 16 employees.
- 17 10. Research on the concept of economic benefits of green payments to farmers.
- 18 11. Concepts would include guaranteeing farmers a payment for implementing new
- 19 conservation practices. This could be initiated through a public/private partnership
- 20 program.
- 21 12. Including funding for technical assistance in the overall costs to implement government
- 22 programs addressing natural resource or environmental issues.
- 23 13. Adequate state and federal funding for updating soil surveys.
- 24 14. Amending the Prevailing Wage Act so it does not apply to state funded conservation
- 25 incentive payments.
- 26 15. Public/private partnerships to provide consumer education programs on conservation
- 27 practices.
- 28 16. Encouraging local governments and developers to utilize all practical means to control
- 29 non-farm soil erosion.
- 30

31 We oppose the use of state or federal conservation funds for conservation practices on land that
 32 is in the process of being developed. The SWCD and/or the NRCS shall require monies to be
 33 returned if land is converted to non-production agriculture use in ten years or less after receipt of
 34 state or federal funds. This may include land that has been platted or sold to a developer.

35. VOLUNTARY ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION

37
 38
 39
 40 We believe there is an opportunity to preserve in a natural condition at least a portion of Illinois
 41 ecosystems. We are willing to work with others to accomplish this goal.

42
 43 A preservation habitat program should:

- 44 1. Be voluntary.
- 45 2. Provide the ability for the landowner to terminate the agreement.
- 46 3. Not use eminent domain.
- 47 4. Not rely on property taxes.
- 48 5. Have no negative impact on adjoining property owners.
- 49

50 Furthermore, drainage must be maintained through wildlife refuges and conservation areas to
 51 keep ditches, rivers, and other drainage conveyances free of sand, silt, and vegetation so that
 52 neighboring lands are not ill affected by the reduction of water capacities.

1
2
3 **36. WATER QUALITY AND WATERSHED PROJECTS**

4 We support:

- 5 1. Sound scientific peer-reviewed data being used as the basis for treatment of non-point
6 sources under the Clean Water Act or other similar water quality laws at the federal or
7 state level.
8 2. Funding research on best management practices (BMPs) of agricultural crop production
9 products.
10 3. The involvement of agriculture, including county Farm Bureaus and drainage districts, in
11 watershed group planning efforts.
12 4. Increased funding for comprehensive watershed planning and voluntary, incentive-based
13 implementation of BMPs as a result of the planning.
14 5. Programs to educate farmers and the general public of the need to protect and/or improve
15 water quality and the various BMPs to accomplish those goals.
16 6. Farmer adoption of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS) through voluntary
17 implementation of BMPs.
18 7. The development of new and the enhancement of existing incentives for adopting
19 voluntary BMPs on all private land to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.
20 8. Policies made regarding the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone to be backed by reliable, broad-
21 based, scientific research. We should unite with other like-minded stakeholders to form a
22 coalition on the issue to:
23 A. Coordinate a plan of action.
24 B. Communicate with each other, the general public, elected officials, and members
25 regarding the hypoxia area.
26 C. Evaluate current research data and encourage further research on the hypoxic
27 area and issues related to it.
28 D. Use all means at our disposal to address the issue in a way that gives proper
29 consideration to the impact it has on agricultural production.
30 9. A portion of water consumption fees collected from any user of water from a drinking water
31 supply lake be used for payments to landowners and tenants who adopt conservation
32 practices within the watershed of the lake.

33 We oppose:

- 34 1. Using mandatory methods to address agricultural, non-point source issues related to Total
35 Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) of pollutants in streams.
36 2. Any increased regulation on tile drainage from farm fields, including designating water flow
37 from farm fields through or over conveyances, such as drain tile or grass waterways, as a
38 point source of pollution under the Clean Water Act.
39 3. Fines, assessments, and penalties on non-point source pollutions allegedly caused by
40 agriculture but not confirmed by sound scientific peer-reviewed data.
41 4. Water management programs that restrict the ability of landowners to provide effective
42 drainage and flood control in rural and urban areas.
43
44
45

46 **37. WATER WITHDRAWALS**

47
48 We believe that the ability of a landowner to reasonably use water on or beneath his property is a
49 right to be enjoyed. This right should not be taken without due process of law. Just compensation
50 should be given to those regions or individuals whose ability to use the water is diminished.
51

52 We believe agricultural uses must receive a high priority in the allocation of water supplies.
53 Consideration should be given to businesses or consumers which would feel an economic impact
54 from water restrictions.
55
56

1 We believe it is the duty of all users to conserve water to avoid waste of a critical natural
2 resource. Conservation programs should encourage use of water recycling where feasible.
3 Industry should be encouraged to use recycled effluent water produced by local municipal
4 wastewater treatment facilities in the production process.
5

6 We support:

- 7 1. The establishment of water authorities by referendum of affected property owners, for the
8 purpose of managing the water resource. Water authorities should be established within
9 aquifers or recharge lines and be governed by elected or appointed directors who are
10 resident landowners representing the various water users in the district. Regulations,
11 developed by authorities, should be based upon the availability of supply and needs and
12 desires of affected property owners.
- 13 2. Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) should
14 receive support to implement provisions of the Water Use Act to collect necessary data on
15 water wells.
- 16 3. Water withdrawal regulations recognizing the responsibility of all users to construct and
17 maintain proper wells. Illinois Department of Public Health regulations provide the
18 guidelines for well construction, and should be based on facts and research data collected
19 from scientifically valid groundwater studies.
- 20 4. Continuing research on groundwater availability, recharge and the efficient use of water
21 resources. Such research should be designed to develop a conservation program with
22 emphasis on individual, local and state participation.
- 23 5. Local, state, and federal appropriations to bring about groundwater research and technical
24 assistance from state agencies to assist local water planning and management efforts.
- 25 6. The Illinois State Water Survey monitoring groundwater movement in aquifers to
26 determine where water shortages may potentially arise.
27

28 We oppose the granting of eminent domain authority for water resource exploration.
29
30
31

32 **38. WEED CONTROL**

33

34 We support:

- 35 1. Seeking to improve the enforcement of the Illinois Noxious Weed Law.
- 36 2. Efforts by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Illinois Department
37 of Agriculture (IDOA) to restrict the importation and sale of viable Niger Thistle seed.
- 38 3. Providing information to counties on the process by which weeds can be classified as
39 noxious.
- 40 4. Seeking to improve the purity of crop and bird seed and sterilization of all weed seed
41 included in bird seed to deter the spread of viable weed seed.
- 42 5. Working with the Farm Service Agency and other governmental agencies in developing an
43 effective eradication program for multiflora rose.
- 44 6. The development of a control program for autumn olive and bush honeysuckle, and seek
45 the necessary funds from the state and federal government to adequately eradicate the
46 weed.
- 47 7. Legislation to require all governmental agencies to develop, coordinate, and implement
48 proper management practices to control the population and spread of noxious and other
49 weeds on all their properties.
- 50 8. Working to add Shattercane, Bull Thistle, Tall Thistle, and Poison Hemlock to the Illinois
51 Noxious Weed List.
- 52 9. Encouraging the IDOA to notify the county boards whenever there is a change to the
53 Illinois Noxious Weed Law and/or rules.
- 54 10. USDA requiring that seed for program acres be free of pesticide resistant weed seed such
55 as Palmer Amaranth.
56

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

39. WETLANDS

We recognize that while our country has had a history of programs encouraging the conversion of wetlands to uses considered more productive, public opinion now sees significant benefits in protecting wetlands. We agree wetlands provide certain benefits and support reasonable efforts to discourage their conversion. However, this should not mean that in all instances wetland conversion is unnecessary or that private landowners should solely bear the cost of protecting wetlands. Any effort to protect wetlands should recognize the rights of private property owners and drainage districts.

We support:

1. A definition that requires all three benchmarks of hydric soil, hydrophytic vegetation, and standing water during a predominance of the growing season, supported by a minimum of three consecutive years of sampling data, before a wetland designation is made. Any definition should be subject to public review and legislative approval.
2. Scientific soil vegetation sampling on all lands that are to be designated a wetland. Data should be made available to the landowner and be maintained by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as long as that parcel continues to be designated a wetland.
3. An equitable wetland designation appeals process for landowners.
4. A mapping program, as a prerequisite to regulation, which:
 - A. Accurately identifies land which has a predominance of hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation and standing water.
 - B. Has been subject to the review of locally affected landowners and operators.
 - C. Has a standard interpretation from the state NRCS office which ensures equality across county lines.
5. The exemption from regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Swampbuster of prior converted cropland and any land that has been cropped in at least six of the last ten years.
6. Compensation to property owners when their ability to make management decisions as to the best economic use of their property is restricted by laws or regulations aimed at protecting wetlands.
7. The ability for private wetland landowners to be able to mitigate wetland conversion on an acre-for-acre or value-for-value basis.
8. Compensation to local units of government which lose tax revenue due to governmental development or acquisition of wetland areas.
9. Education programs which seek to inform landowners of the benefits of wetlands and to urge voluntary conservation of wetland areas.
10. State regulatory control of wetlands programs if they are administered through the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA). State regulations should be no more restrictive than federal regulations.
11. The ability to maintain existing drainage structures and tile lines without prior permits or permission.
12. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) NRCS being responsible for identification and regulations of all wetlands.

We oppose the delineation of these areas as linear wetlands:

1. Man-made drainage ditches.
2. Fence lines.
3. Either existing waterways or land previously used for natural drainage.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

40. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

We believe agriculture maintains a vital role in ensuring a safe food supply for future generations. The role of farmers in this system is to be responsible managers of the land and the business operations. In order to achieve these goals, effective wildlife management is essential.

The following basic principles are key to effectively implementing wildlife management:

1. Programs that strengthen a landowner's and operator's ability to control wildlife that cause damage on property they own or operate.
2. Educational and informational programs for landowners and operators that promote wildlife management and provide additional income opportunities.

Hunting and Trapping

We support:

1. Quality wildlife management based on economic, biological, and sociological practices.
2. Hunting and trapping because we recognize their vital role in wildlife management, their economic benefit to the state and its citizens, and that they are a legitimate form of recreation that provides positive influences in our society.
3. Streamlining the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) licensing and permitting process to make it more efficient and beneficial for the landowner.
4. Programs to control wildlife populations on public lands and in urban areas, including agricultural land within urban areas, where problems exist.
5. Expanded access, with the landowner's permission, to public and private lands to allow more hunting opportunities.
6. Efforts to extend all firearm, muzzle loading, and late winter antlerless-only deer seasons.
7. The IDNR issuing combination permits consisting of one antlered and two antlerless deer and bonus doe-only permits to hunters to control over-population of deer and reduce health and safety concerns.
8. Encouraging the IDNR to pursue enterprising methods, such as youth or handicap hunts, to control wildlife in areas where problems exist.
9. The opportunity for agricultural landowner participation in the initial decision-making process to release wildlife that would have potential impact on agriculture. We also support the requirement for public notification and public hearings in the proposed release area 90 days prior to the final decision concerning this wildlife release. Landowners should have the right to stop a release on their property.
10. Encouraging IDNR to allow landowners/tenants to purchase additional firearm deer and turkey permits without having to surrender their landowner/tenant free permits.
11. Encouraging the IDNR to allow the harvest of both hens and toms during any turkey season in those counties where population control is necessary.
12. The establishment of an additional fall firearm season for hen-only after the regulation turkey season is complete in those counties where population control is necessary.
13. Legislation or administrative rule to allow landowners to assign free landowner/tenant permits for deer or turkey to family members outside of the household.
14. The IDNR providing landowner's extra free doe permits for firearm and archery seasons.
15. Legislation requiring the IDNR to amend the permitting process allowing for fair, non-preferential access and earlier permit acquisition (February or March) at reasonable fees to non-resident hunters. We also support requiring the IDNR to eliminate the cap on non-resident archery permits and to issue all permits allowed by law. We will aggressively pursue legislation to eliminate the cap on non-resident archery permits.
16. Programs that encourage and educate youth on hunting and retain hunters in order to enhance the economic viability of agriculture.
17. Eliminating the law requiring landowner(s) and immediate family members to purchase habitat stamps to hunt on property they own or operate.
18. Legislation to allow individual members of farm partnerships and non-resident landowners to obtain free landowner deer and turkey permits.

- 1 19. The ability of landowners to obtain a muzzleloader permit without going through the lottery
- 2 system.
- 3 20. An increase in the number of resident and non-resident firearm permits issued in each
- 4 county.
- 5 21. An increase in bag limits for the turkey season and also support an extension of the paid
- 6 permit season.
- 7 22. A year-round season for Illinois residents to hunt, trap, or dispatch resident Canada
- 8 geese.
- 9 23. The removal of resident geese from protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1916
- 10 24. Assisting the University of Illinois Extension to develop a basic fee hunting lease
- 11 agreement.
- 12 25. Requiring that deer and turkey hunting permits be issued without charge to the lineal
- 13 descendants of an Illinois resident who owns at least 40 acres of Illinois land, provided
- 14 that the lineal descendants hunt only upon that landowner's land.
- 15 26. The late winter antlerless-only deer season shall be open in those counties with a firearm
- 16 or muzzleloader season.
- 17 27. Amending the rules for issuance of firearm deer and turkey hunting permits to allow
- 18 landowners/tenants the ability to buy a hunting permit and be eligible for the first drawing
- 19 of hunting permits.
- 20 28. The ability of landowners to lease their land for hunting. Landowners should not be
- 21 required to have a minimum number of acres or be required to become an outfitter.
- 22 29. Continue to work with IDNR and others to monitor and fine tune the definition of outfitters,
- 23 the registration program, and the guidelines for outfitters.
- 24
- 25

Nuisance Programs

We support:

- 27 1. A wildlife nuisance permit program that embodies three elements to control nuisance
- 28 animals causing damage to crops and property. Those elements are:
- 29 A. Harvest time and management flexibility.
- 30 B. Transferability of permits.
- 31 C. Sufficient permits to reduce property damage.
- 32 2. Assisting members in utilizing the law which provides for an IDNR permit to control wildlife
- 33 where it is causing damage to crops or property.
- 34 3. The American Farm Bureau Federation in seeking landowner authority to control federally
- 35 regulated wildlife that is creating a nuisance.
- 36

Assistance/Incentives for Landowners

We support:

- 39 1. Assistance for landowners and operators in implementing management practices that
- 40 enhance wildlife populations conducive to the economic well-being of landowners and
- 41 operators. We support legislation or administrative rule changes, including those that
- 42 govern controls in urban/adjacent agricultural areas, in order to achieve these goals.
- 43 2. Incentive programs to enhance wildlife habitat, especially on environmentally-sensitive
- 44 areas.
- 45 3. Efforts to compensate landowners and operators for damage to agricultural crops,
- 46 property, and livestock arising from wildlife especially on private property near areas
- 47 managed by IDNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and acknowledgement
- 48 by IDNR as well as FWS in the vital role of farm owners and operators in the feeding of
- 49 the various forms of wildlife present on lands under our control. This should include
- 50 compensation to owners/operators for the value added to wildlife community present on
- 51 our lands.
- 52 4. Providing incentives to hunters through the Sportsmen for Hunger program and various
- 53 other means to help manage the doe population.
- 54 5. Serving as a source of information for landowners on how they can benefit from voluntary,
- 55 fee-based programs for recreational activities on their land, how landowners can
- 56

1 participate in these voluntary programs, what programs (such as Access Illinois Outdoors)
2 currently exist, and further investigate other possibilities.

3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11

Trespassing

We support:

1. Efforts to protect rights of farmers and farm owners with problems of trespassing or unauthorized entry by individuals and to require potential users to ask for written permission from landowners or tenants before using the land.
2. Legislation that would make trespassing, when associated with deer driving, a class C misdemeanor.

We oppose the release of elk in Illinois.

12
13
14
15

41. EMINENT DOMAIN

We will seek legislation providing:

1. That a public hearing be held before any land could be optioned or purchased by a public body for any purpose.
2. That property owners' rights should be fully explained at the hearing.
3. That at least 60 days prior to the hearing, the public body proposing the acquisition send written notice of its intentions to property owners whose land would be taken or damaged.
4. For a cause of action and standing for nearby landowners in court cases involving eminent domain. This should allow landowners in the impacted area the opportunity to seek monetary damages when their property values are adversely affected by such acquisitions.
5. The elimination of eminent domain being used to acquire property for recreational uses.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

We support:

1. Legislation to restrict the use of eminent domain to acquire property for wetlands mitigation, buffer zones, water diversion, or retention as part of a river flood management plan.
2. Restricting the use of eminent domain by a public utility for the installation of pipelines and other utilities.
3. Legislation in which fair market value compensation of private property taken as a part of an eminent domain proceeding receives an exemption from capital gains taxes.

30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38

We oppose:

1. The granting of quick-take powers to economic development authorities.
2. The use of eminent domain to acquire properties intended for future sale.
3. The use of eminent domain in the taking of private property for the purpose of economic development by private parties.
4. The use of eminent domain for the purposes of economic development when the project in question has not received approval for construction.

39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48

42. FARMLAND OWNERSHIP

The type of domestic ownership of farmland, farm facilities, or farm commodities should not infringe on the economic opportunities of the individual farmer.

49
50
51
52
53

We support:

1. Insisting that all foreign investors be required to conform to all local, state and federal tax laws.

54
55
56

- 1 2. Continuing to monitor the effect of foreign investment in agriculture, food distribution,
2 banking, insurance and other businesses in the United States.
- 3 3. The continuation of programs to require the reporting of foreign ownership of farmland in
4 the United States.
- 5 4. State and national programs and policies which encourage and facilitate the ownership of
6 farmland by farmers and those directly involved with the practice of farming.
- 7 5. Continuing to monitor the effects of the entry of non-agricultural entities into farming or
8 farm ownership.
- 9

10 We oppose preferential tax treatment of foreign investments in agricultural land under federal tax
11 law or treaty provisions.

12 13 14 15 **43. GOVERNMENTAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND OWNERSHIP**

16
17 We support legislation:

- 18 1. Preventing any involuntary net loss of private property ownership in any state. All future
19 forced acquisition or sanctioning of property by federal, state, or local government
20 agencies except by universities for agricultural research must be balanced by
21 disbursement or sales of property of equivalent value from government inventories within
22 the state.
- 23 2. To prohibit additional purchases of real estate for recreational or preservation purposes by
24 any level of government unless the property remains on local tax rolls at the prevailing tax
25 rates and prevailing assessed value of similar local properties.
- 26 3. Providing for a method of compensating units of local government by the state or federal
27 government where the amount of land taken by the state or federal government severely
28 reduces property tax revenues or where the demand for local services related to the state
29 or federal-owned or managed property is substantially increased.
- 30 4. Requiring governmental units maintaining highways, parks or other areas which increase
31 road use or require added police or fire protection or other emergency services to
32 compensate the appropriate local bodies maintaining those roads or providing such
33 services.
- 34 5. Providing for a hearing and a referendum of registered voters in the county or counties in
35 which land is sought by a local governmental unit for recreational, forest or conservation
36 purposes. Existing public lands should be developed for the purpose for which it was
37 purchased before additional property is acquired.
- 38 6. Providing that agricultural land owned by local governmental units may be rented for
39 agricultural purposes until developed.
- 40 7. To ensure that those government-owned lands, which are commercially farmed and
41 produce a cash crop, should not be farmed by government, but instead are leased to
42 farmers with the exception of those used for agricultural research.
- 43 8. Requiring the governmental unit to offer land for resale to the previous owner or their heirs
44 at the lower of the original purchase price or current market value if the property acquired
45 by an agency will not be used for the original purpose for which it was acquired or to
46 adjacent landowners if the original landowner or their heirs do not exercise the right to
47 purchase. If the original or adjacent landowner does not exercise the right to purchase
48 within one year of the offer to sell, then the governmental unit should be allowed to sell
49 such property to other interested parties. We support a sunset time limit of ten years for
50 the property to be used as intended or the buy-back provisions go into effect.
- 51 9. Providing that on land owned by the State or local taxing authority where benefits from
52 barter or income are received from such land, a portion of this income or exchange will be
53 returned to the county in which the land is located in lieu of taxes.
- 54 10. Requiring units of government acquiring railroad right-of-way property (i.e. for trails) to
55 follow the same provisions for fencing and farm crossings as the railroad was required to
56 follow.

- 1 11. Requiring public bodies making acquisition of property for public purposes to make
2 financial settlement within 60 days of the date that the purchase price is determined or be
3 required to pay the property owner the prime interest rate plus 2 percent interest per year
4 on the purchase price until final settlement is made.
- 5 12. To limit state and federal agencies in their purchase of additional recreational or wildlife
6 habitat until existing sites, other than farmland, are developed and maintained for the
7 purpose for which they were intended.
- 8 13. That would require governmental agencies to document the impact on agriculture of any
9 infrastructure projects, show whether that impact is justified, and if so take all reasonable
10 steps to reduce or eliminate any negative impact.
- 11 14. That clearly defines scenic easements, establishes parameters on the use of such
12 easements, and restricts the ability of the government to use federal highway funds to
13 purchase scenic easements.

14
15 We oppose:

- 16 1. Any effort to establish buffer areas around parks, preserves, or other areas being
17 protected for their environmental or ecological value without just compensation to affected
18 landowners.
- 19 2. The formation of any state or federal wildlife refuges, recreational or conservation areas
20 until such time as the boundaries of such projects are clearly defined and the property
21 targeted for acquisition is clearly identified.
- 22 3. The creation or expansion of local, state, and federal refuges, recreational or conservation
23 areas when the aggregate acreage of such proposed focus areas account for more than
24 two percent of the county's farmland.
- 25 4. The formation of state or national wildlife refuges, recreation, or conservation areas that
26 impede the existing natural and artificial drainage systems of landowners in the
27 watershed.
- 28 5. The continued encroachment of federal and state agencies and local governments on
29 agricultural and forest lands.
- 30 6. The closing of Illinois State parks and state historic sites since they are valuable assets for
31 the social and economic survival of rural Illinois.

32
33 We will work with state and federal agencies to allow the farming of lands acquired under the
34 Open Lands Trust or other federal or state grant programs. Applications for Open Lands Trust
35 funds to be used for wetlands or riparian areas must include a mosquito abatement and
36 management plan. The timetable for development of the land acquired through such grant
37 programs shall be established by the unit of local government but is not to exceed ten years.

38
39 We encourage public universities to utilize more equitable and risk-sharing adjustable rate leases
40 rather than a competitive bidding cash rent lease process on university-owned farmland. All
41 lessees of Illinois farmland controlled by public Illinois universities shall be Illinois based farmers.

42
43 When evaluating farm lease policies on farmland owned by the University of Illinois and other
44 public universities, the long-term land stewardship commitments, the full potential local effects on
45 rural communities and their economies, and future university relations with possible land donors
46 should be considered in addition to the immediate economic benefits for the universities.

47
48 When determining farmland lease policies, the public institutions should consider taking the
49 opportunity to use best management practices on the universities' owned farmland consistent
50 with the information being provided through the University of Illinois Extension Service.

51
52
53
54
55
56

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

44. HERITAGE AREAS AND CORRIDORS

We oppose heritage areas and corridors, heritage rivers, scenic byways, and any other such federal or state programs that:

- 1. Have regulatory authority.
- 2. Have the power of eminent domain.
- 3. Are involuntary.
- 4. Are not grassroots, consensus-based programs that actively involve agricultural interests in their creation, development, and execution.
- 5. Do not provide a means for a private property owner, a county, or other state or municipal authority to opt out of the program.

45. LAND USE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Municipal Annexation

We support:

- 1. Legislation requiring notification of landowners by the petitioners via certified mail at least 90 days prior to any formal petition to incorporate their land into a municipality as defined in Illinois Statutes.
- 2. Legislation that allows only the landowners in a territory being considered for annexation to be allowed to sign and submit a written petition to the corporate authorities.
- 3. Efforts to reduce the impacts of municipal annexation on agriculture by reducing to 10 acres the size of the parcel that may be forcibly annexed, and/or establishing a fixed minimum period of time during which agricultural practices may continue.

We oppose:

- 1. Strip and excessive annexation by municipalities.
- 2. Non-contiguous annexation agreements and the ability of municipalities to apply their ordinances to parcels that have not been annexed.

Whenever the governing body of any municipality has adopted a resolution to annex any unincorporated area of land, such municipality shall, before proceeding, present at a public hearing the following information:

- 1. A map and description of the area to be annexed.
- 2. Evidence that such annexation is reasonable and necessary to the proper development of the municipality.
- 3. Evidence of the ability to furnish normal municipal services to the unincorporated area at the time of annexation.

Farmland Preservation

While protecting the constitutional rights of landowners, we support:

- 1. Legislation to broaden the legal basis for farmland preservation approaches and efforts to implement and utilize the following farmland preservation tools:
 - A. Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) to be implemented at the state, county, or local levels or in collaborative arrangements between entities.
 - B. Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) to be supported and implemented at the state, county, or local levels.
 - C. Growth Management Laws including limited annexation rights for municipalities where prime agricultural land is involved and agricultural protection zones based on referendum secured from encroachment of conversion.
 - D. Mitigation standards requiring that conversion of farmland to a non-farm use be considered only if an equal amount of equal quality land is protected by an agricultural conservation easement.

- 1 2. Efforts to encourage preservation of appropriate lands for agriculture and open space
2 uses through land use programs which include:
- 3 A. A policy statement by all counties to:
- 4 1) Preserve Class I and II farmland as defined by the Natural Resources
5 Conservation Service.
- 6 2) Conserve Class III and IV farmland.
- 7 3) Protect all classes of farmland from indiscriminate conversion to non-farm
8 use.
- 9 B. Establishment of a review process with local involvement prior to acquisition of real
10 property by public agencies for public uses.
- 11 C. Identification of the various classes of farmland in all counties.
- 12 D. Identification of land in each county appropriate for development because of class,
13 size or location.
- 14 E. The concept of agricultural areas as found in the Illinois Agricultural Areas
15 Conservation and Protection Act. We will take a strong leadership role in
16 strengthening the Act to ensure that it becomes an effective farmland preservation
17 tool.
- 18 3. Requiring consideration of the impact on agriculture and the local tax base and the desires
19 of local voters in proposals to take agricultural lands for any public use.
- 20 4. Encouraging counties and municipalities to implement boundary and land use agreements
21 that protect farmland. Boundary agreements should not be used as a tool in lieu of the
22 purchase of development rights.
- 23 5. Seeking legislation that limits the term of county/municipal boundary agreements to five
24 years in length and subjects such agreements to public notice and public hearing.
- 25 6. Maintaining involvement in reviewing federal, state and local proposals to convert
26 farmland to non-farm purposes.
- 27 7. Monitoring actions by state agencies regarding implementation of the Farmland Protection
28 Act.
- 29 8. Working with major urban interests to develop policies and programs which will encourage
30 compact cities and discourage conversion of farmland. We support the concept of cluster
31 development if the remaining property in the original parcel of property will be preserved
32 for agricultural or conservation purposes.
- 33 9. Cooperating with other organizations on farmland preservation issues.
- 34 10. Encouraging municipalities to explore all possible avenues to redevelop areas within their
35 borders before annexing farmland.
- 36 11. The consideration of impacts on farmland in the development of Environmental Impact
37 Statements as being as significant as the impacts to other environmentally sensitive areas
38 (i.e., historical sites, wildlife/waterfowl refuges, and publicly owned parks and recreational
39 areas). We will work with state and federal agencies to develop an Environmental Impact
40 Statement methodology that increases the contributory value of farmland to the public
41 good.
- 42 12. Legislation authorizing a graduated conversion fee program for agricultural land that is
43 converted to non-agricultural use based on the parcel's Land Evaluation score. The
44 collected fees would support local PACE programs.

45
46 We oppose the use of condemnation by governmental bodies to acquire farmland for farmland
47 preservation.

48
49 The federal government should assist in funding the purchase of agricultural conservation
50 easements for agricultural purposes from willing sellers as a means of preserving farmland
51 without intruding on private property rights. Information about federal, state, local, and private
52 efforts to acquire private property using tax money should be catalogued and publicized through a
53 state-level clearinghouse.

Planning & Zoning

We support:

1. Requiring members of a county zoning Board of Appeals to reside within the area covered by the county zoning ordinance.
2. Making it mandatory that County Boards require zoning Boards of Appeal to read and include the report of the Soil and Water Conservation District concerning all zoning applications in the hearing and in the report on the application which is made to the County Board.
3. Basing the extent of the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and zoning capability outside its boundaries on the population of the municipality. The smaller the municipality, the smaller its reach of ETJ and authority should be. No ETJ and municipality's zoning authority should extend beyond 1 1/2 miles.
4. Limiting the ETJ and zoning capabilities of a municipality to either a municipality's utility boundary or corporate limits, whichever lies closer to the city core.
5. Removing the veto power of municipalities over proposed agricultural areas within their 1 1/2 mile jurisdiction.
6. Assisting counties and municipalities in considering adoption of zoning.
7. Assisting counties and municipalities in considering the adoption of a comprehensive land use plan.
8. Encouraging zoned counties to design and implement land use and zoning techniques to protect the integrity of agricultural practices including the option of strict agricultural protection zones.
9. Establishing reverse setbacks, comparable to those in the Livestock Management Facilities Act, for new rural residences built near established livestock facilities.
10. Ensuring local land use administrators have the resources necessary to properly develop and implement land use plans which accommodate production agriculture and ensure the effective and efficient administration of the plan.
11. Incorporating the use of a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system in evaluating the suitability of land for agriculture/development.
12. Incorporating the principles of the Land Use Evolution and Impact Assessment Model (LEAM) and encourage its use in planning efforts.
13. Developing legislation giving counties protest rights over municipal zoning and planning proposals within the unincorporated area of a county, thus requiring a municipality to have a supermajority vote.
14. Requiring municipalities to have at least one voting representative from the 1 1/2 mile extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) on their planning commission with the possibility of additional representatives from the ETJ based on the population of the municipality.
15. Maintaining active involvement in county planning and zoning and in the establishment of agricultural areas as tools to guide development and limit farmland conversion.
16. Encouraging the State of Illinois to develop a statewide zoning model that can be used by county boards and municipal corporate authorities in adopting and amending zoning ordinances that accommodate agriculture and agricultural tourism. Such a model should account for current agricultural-related federal and state laws and regulations.
17. The provisions of the Local Legacy Act and the Local Planning Technical Assistance Act and work to secure state funding for them by reallocations within the Department of Commerce and Economic Development.
18. Supporting legislation that would exempt agriculture from zoning imposed by municipalities within the extraterritorial area outside municipal boundaries.
19. Encouraging county Farm Bureaus to develop relationships with local zoning boards to allow an exchange of information on proposed zoning changes that will impact agriculture on the county level.
20. Seeking legislation requiring 30 days advanced written notification of all landowners and governmental entities whose property or district boundary is within 1 1/2 miles of any parcel in an unincorporated area for which a zoning change is proposed or on which a special use permit is sought. If a petition of protest from 20 percent of those landowners or a written notice from that governing board opposing the change or permit is presented, the

- 1 amendment shall not be passed nor the special permit issued except by the favorable vote
2 of 3/4 of all the members of the county board. Landowners also need to be given 30 days
3 written advance notice of any new or proposed changes to municipal future planning area
4 or land use.
- 5 21. Seeking legislation that strengthens the Illinois Counties Code to limit the arranging of “by-
6 right” lots between a proposed rural subdivision and neighboring property owners in a
7 manner intended to extinguish the neighbors’ protest rights.
- 8 22. Encouraging townships with planning commissions to have township government
9 approved land use plans or goals with corresponding policies that reflect a consensus of
10 the townships’ residents. These plans, goals, and policies should be used as a basis for
11 recommendations to the county board.

12
13 **Other**

14 We support:

- 15 1. Working with units of local government to enact “Right to Farm” ordinances or resolutions.
16 2. Efforts to disclose to potential buyers of rural residential property those conditions
17 associated with living in an agricultural or rural area. These efforts should include state
18 legislation linking such notice to the Residential Real Property Disclosure Act.
- 19 3. Encouraging county Farm Bureaus to distribute The Code of Country Living to potential
20 new residents of rural areas so that they better understand rural living.
- 21 4. Seeking changes in the process of development of Greenway Plans or other related
22 Illinois Department of Natural Resources plans.
- 23 A. Where proposed passive or active greenways are targeted, the landowners should
24 have direct input on the creation of the plan.
- 25 B. Before their county board votes on a plan, the board should be given sufficient time
26 to study the plan and get input from citizens of the county.
- 27 C. If a county board has approved a plan, there should be the option the county can
28 withdraw from the plan in the future.
- 29 D. If a plan is developed, it should include provisions to ensure that greenways remain
30 voluntary.

31
32
33 **46. LEGAL ADVOCACY**

34 We support a national legal advocacy strategy that actively addresses legal or regulatory actions
35 taken by governments, groups, or third parties that impact our members' private property rights
36 and production agriculture.

37
38
39 **47. PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS**

40 We believe in the sanctity of private property and individual rights as provided by the U.S.
41 Constitution, as the basis of American freedom and progress. Private property should be defined
42 to include all land, timber or other valuable considerations associated with land ownership.

43 We support:

- 44 1. Developing and seeking legislation defining how private property rights are impacted by
45 government regulations and takings. Such legislation should provide for compensation to
46 affected property owners for a total or reasonably measurable partial loss of use of
47 property resulting from governmental regulations and takings including expanded setback
48 requirements.
- 49 2. Efforts to assist landowners when the rightful ownership of land is questioned by an
50 organized group outside the control of the state in which the land was originally deeded.
51 This assistance should include legal and financial assistance from the State of Illinois.

- 1 3. Allowing landowners to select who does the field tile repairs, at the cost of the utility
- 2 company or government entity, on their land when private or public projects go through
- 3 and damage their tile lines.
- 4 4. Legislation reforming Illinois law on the partition of property owned by heirs to provide due
- 5 process protections like the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act.
- 6 5. The requirement that an individual must indicate how they are directly impacted by an
- 7 issue when filing public comments on legislation, regulation, or related rules, to the county,
- 8 to the State of Illinois, the U.S. Government, and/or their agencies.
- 9

10 We oppose:

- 11 1. Any effort to take away or transfer the right of a landowner to grant or deny easements
- 12 especially on land where easements have previously been given for other purposes.
- 13 2. Legislation allowing the public access to private property without the consent of the
- 14 property owner.
- 15
- 16
- 17

18 **48. AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES**

19

20 We support:

- 21 1. Voluntary participation in cooperative marketing to better serve Illinois Agricultural
- 22 Association and county Farm Bureau members, study and develop successful marketing
- 23 programs consistent with good business practices and encourage affiliates to follow these
- 24 guidelines.
- 25 2. Encouraging and assisting cooperatives to expand member information and involvement
- 26 programs.
- 27 3. Encouraging all agricultural cooperatives to have an aggressive revolving stock
- 28 redemption policy.
- 29 4. Evaluating processing or further integration into the marketing of farm products as a
- 30 means of increasing members' income.
- 31 5. Encouraging co-ops to play a larger role in the meat industry by building or acquiring
- 32 packing house/processing cooperatives.
- 33 6. Encouraging cooperatives to resist entry into production agriculture that would directly
- 34 compete with cooperative farmers.
- 35 7. Encouraging farmers, when direct competition in production agriculture is involved, to
- 36 resolve disputes through their cooperative boards (including discontinuation of enterprises
- 37 that compete with the individual stockholder). In the event voluntary efforts are
- 38 unsuccessful to provide resolution to these competitive issues, we will seek avenues to
- 39 equitably resolve disputes between cooperatives and their shareholders/members when
- 40 the issue is whether the cooperative is directly competing with any shareholder/member in
- 41 production agriculture activities. Such avenues may include arbitration or mediation.
- 42 A. The following competition guidelines should be addressed:
- 43 1) Competition could exist between a cooperative and its members if:
- 44 a) A cooperative purchases or rents ground for the sole purpose of
- 45 producing agricultural commodities.
- 46 b) A cooperative engages in custom farming service.
- 47 c) A cooperative owns livestock or grows out livestock owned by
- 48 others.
- 49 2) If a cooperative member decides to enter a venture in competition with the
- 50 cooperative, he/she does not have cause to find fault if the cooperative was
- 51 already engaged in that activity.
- 52 3) Competitive production activities should not include seed sales, grain
- 53 trucking, the application of plant health products such as fertilizer, lime and
- 54 crop protection products (e.g. pesticides).
- 55
- 56

- 1 B. The following guidelines of remedy should be considered:
- 2 1) Member must make a written request to the cooperative that it cease
- 3 production activity.
- 4 2) The cooperative shall have a specific period of time to resolve the dispute.
- 5 3) If the dispute cannot be resolved with the cooperative board, the member
- 6 may seek to be released from the cooperative. Upon release, the member
- 7 shall receive the retained earnings allocated plus any outstanding stock,
- 8 patronage or otherwise, which is held by the member seeking release. The
- 9 only earnings considered are those on the books of the cooperative that are
- 10 specifically credited to the account of the named member/patron.
- 11 4) The cooperative may refuse services to released members and/or require
- 12 them to reinvest to obtain future services.
- 13 5) Provisions should be made to allow members to legally waive their rights of
- 14 redemption and release.
- 15 C. Promoting ongoing personal contact between state and county Farm Bureaus and
- 16 local cooperatives to raise issues and to resolve problems.
- 17 D. A federated cooperative structure whereby the regional cooperative continues to
- 18 assist local cooperatives in serving their farmer members.
- 19
- 20
- 21

49. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

We support:

- 25 1. The meaningful involvement of food and agriculture stakeholders in priority setting,
- 26 funding, and accountability for federal and state food and agricultural research, extension,
- 27 and education programs.
- 28 2. Determining the need and financing necessary to provide appropriate incentives for
- 29 building and maintaining a critical mass of well-trained scientists in the public sector to
- 30 support and ensure that the U.S. remains the leader in global agricultural production.
- 31 3. A national council with an emphasis on food and agricultural research.
- 32 4. Research funding efforts for the Illinois Council for Food and Agricultural Research (C-
- 33 FAR).
- 34 5. Redesigning the system of research farms and other pilot scale research facilities to
- 35 assure that new information and technologies generated in public and/or private efforts
- 36 around the world are rapidly selected for and adapted to Illinois conditions.
- 37 6. Awarding some federal special grants on a competitive basis that address high-priority
- 38 objectives identified by stakeholders and requiring large-scale, well-coordinated efforts by
- 39 federal and state institutions and agencies working in cooperation with food and
- 40 agriculture organizations and firms.
- 41 7. Annual increases in the federal investment in public food and agriculture research,
- 42 extension, and education programs to adjust for inflation in costs.
- 43 8. Federal investment in research that provides a mix of formula, competitive, and special
- 44 grants.
- 45 9. Continued federal funding for Cooperative State Research, Extension and Education
- 46 Service (CSREES) programs to support but be limited to the broad scope of research,
- 47 extension, and education programs that reflect activities in the U.S. food and agriculture
- 48 sector. Research, extension, and education programs should be tailored to the unique
- 49 situations of regions, states, and locales. We support the use of both federal and state
- 50 funds to support basic, developmental, and adaptive research and technology transfer.
- 51 10. Allocation of funds based upon scholarship and quality of science in determining who
- 52 should receive funds to carry out federal, state, and local research, extension, and
- 53 education programs.
- 54 11. A major personnel building effort in Illinois to restore and improve its public institutional
- 55 capacity for food and agriculture research, extension, and education.
- 56

- 1 12. A major capital program in Illinois to provide modern facilities and equipment for its food
- 2 and agriculture research, extension, and teaching programs.
- 3 13. The integration of research, extension, and education programs to ensure an effective and
- 4 efficient transfer of knowledge and technology to farmers.
- 5 14. Funding for the Plant Genome Research Project.
- 6 15. Reauthorization of the competitive research facilities program for land grant universities.
- 7 16. Maintaining viable, competitive regional agriculture research centers.
- 8 17. Securing foreign investment in U.S. agriculture research where foreign countries stand to
- 9 benefit from the outcomes derived from such research.
- 10 18. Programs to educate consumers about the necessity of research and its integral position
- 11 in the creation of a long-term, competitive, desirable agricultural growth industry.
- 12 19. Land grant colleges keeping research facilities in the public sector.
- 13 20. An increase of research dollars in the public and private sector dedicated to the
- 14 development of new domestic uses of agricultural products and commodities.
- 15 21. Production research on efficient nutrient uptake, water quality and usage, and improved
- 16 pest and disease resistance for crops and livestock.
- 17 22. An increased role for the Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC) in
- 18 reaching the 25% phosphorus reduction goal stated in the Illinois Environmental
- 19 Protection Agency (IEPA) nutrient reduction strategy. We advocate facilitating this activity
- 20 by restructuring the NREC research committee to include a representative from the
- 21 southern region of the Illinois Wheat Association and a farmer producer from the southern
- 22 region appointed by Illinois Farm Bureau. This enables input from parties familiar with
- 23 conditions and opportunities in the priority phosphorus watersheds.
- 24
- 25
- 26

50. AGRICULTURAL TOURISM

29 We recognize that agricultural tourism serves as an important marketing strategy and also helps
30 to educate the public about where and how food and farm products are grown.

31 We support:

- 32 1. Recognizing agricultural tourism as an economic development tool for rural areas and
- 33 support public policy that encourages the growth of agricultural tourism.
- 34 2. Continuing to build a working relationship between agricultural tourism operations, state
- 35 agencies, and other associations.
- 36 3. Encouraging the development and implementation of a statewide strategic plan for
- 37 agricultural tourism with industry input and support.
- 38 4. Promoting collaborative projects to raise the awareness of the importance of agricultural
- 39 tourism to the state's economy and expand growth opportunities in agricultural tourism for
- 40 Illinois farms including maintenance of appropriate existing databases and websites.
- 41 5. A law establishing a broader protection for agritourism operators and facilities/grounds.
- 42 6. Encouraging the insurance industry to offer insurance policies for agricultural tourism
- 43 farms that provide farm owners with coverage for nuisance lawsuits, property damage,
- 44 and liability, including liability for injuries to visitors invited to the farm.
- 45
- 46
- 47
- 48

51. ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

51 We will aggressively work to encourage growth and enhancement of the livestock industry in
52 Illinois.

53 We support:

- 54 1. Seeking legislation to preempt anticipatory nuisance claims against owners of proposed
- 55 livestock facilities or expansions to existing facilities, provided that such facilities are in
- 56

- 1 compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and the construction or expansion
- 2 of the facility has been approved by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) under the
- 3 Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA).
- 4 2. Encouraging the IDOA to cease interpretation of cases or specific situations as "inherent
- 5 in the law" when no documented or otherwise noted explanation can be found in the LMFA
- 6 (especially with using this language to explain that any expansion leads to the requirement
- 7 of construction of a storage facility).
- 8 3. Encouraging all agencies involved with livestock facilities management jurisdiction to
- 9 interact and cooperate so as to develop greater consistency, uniformity, and practicality in
- 10 rules and regulations.
- 11 4. The care of livestock through accepted management practices which will provide for better
- 12 health and safety for the livestock while maintaining acceptable production levels.
- 13 5. The research and development of approved alternatives to livestock rendering including
- 14 incineration, composting systems, and approved burial methods.
- 15 6. Encouraging farmer participation and adoption of quality assurance programs.
- 16 7. Informing the general public and the food industry concerning livestock handling
- 17 procedures which complement accepted livestock management practices, and we will be
- 18 involved in the development of any standards.
- 19 8. IDOA being the entity which shall administer the laws and regulations regarding the care
- 20 of livestock and companion animals.
- 21 9. Participating in supply chain coalitions to proactively address issues threatening the future
- 22 viability of the livestock industry.
- 23 10. The use of signage notifying employees that the use of unauthorized audio, photographic,
- 24 and video devices of any kind are prohibited in the workplace. Educational programs on
- 25 employee-employer relationships and issues should be offered to members.
- 26 11. Establishing a more aggressive and visible role in monitoring animal activists' activities,
- 27 such as identifying sources of funding, legislative initiatives, and membership enrollment.
- 28 We will work with these groups as needed to ensure complete and accurate public
- 29 statements about animal agriculture.
- 30 12. Counter efforts against the livestock industry by continuing to develop a public relations
- 31 and public information strategy in cooperation with other agricultural interests to provide
- 32 accurate information to the media concerning animal agriculture.
- 33 13. Enforcement of the laws which protect animal production and continue to support criminal
- 34 penalties for trespassing and damage that disrupts livestock production and/or research
- 35 facilities.
- 36 14. Providing information in conjunction with the county Farm Bureaus to the media and the
- 37 public about the importance of the livestock industry. Assistance should also be provided
- 38 to individual farmers to help them to deal with the public relations challenges faced by the
- 39 livestock industry.
- 40 15. Encouraging livestock exhibitors to only use practices based on responsible animal
- 41 husbandry. Livestock exhibitors should continue to be educated with regard to what
- 42 constitutes responsible, ethical, and accepted animal welfare practices, as they relate to
- 43 the competitive exhibition of livestock.
- 44 16. Encouraging livestock show officials to enforce the "Code of Ethics" and penalize violators
- 45 appropriately.
- 46 17. Seeking amendments to the Humane Care for Animals Act and the Illinois Administrative
- 47 Code that limit the authority of approved volunteer animal investigators that are contracted
- 48 through the county Humane Societies, to companion animals only, and make those
- 49 investigators primarily responsible to the IDOA.
- 50

51 We oppose federal, state, or local legislation and regulations that are promoted in the name of
52 "humane" treatment in situations where science shows those regulations would, in actual
53 practice, adversely affect the health, longevity, or productivity of livestock and the economic
54 viability of the operation.
55
56

52. ANIMAL HEALTH AND IDENTIFICATION

We support:

1. Illinois State Fairs having a zero tolerance for animals testing positive for illegal drugs. The Illinois State Fairs should work with the livestock industry and the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) to regularly update a public listing of these illegal drugs.
2. The Illinois State Fair allowing approved compounds to be present in tissue tests provided they exist below tolerance levels established by the Food and Drug Administration at the time of slaughter.
3. The Illinois State Fair allowing for the tissue presence of compounds administered off-label under veterinarian guidance in consultation with Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) and Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA) protocols. Withdrawal time prior to slaughter must still be met for these off-label compounds.
4. Changing U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) response plan from a focus on eradicating infected animals to implementing a widely-available vaccination control program.
5. State and federal disease eradication programs for livestock, and research designed to develop and utilize swift and accurate tests to diagnose these diseases.
6. The quarantine of animals from herds and flocks known to be infected with reportable diseases and the destruction of animals which are infected with zoonoses which may enter the human food chain.
7. USDA assistance for farmers with infected herds and flocks to develop an approved plan to clean up or depopulate their herds and flocks within a reasonable period of time.
8. Federal legislation, regulations or programs which will:
 - A. Encourage greater uniformity and reciprocity among states for the health requirements necessary for interstate transportation of livestock.
 - B. Provide, at the state and federal levels, a voluntary management program for Johne's Disease.
 - C. Encourage beef, dairy, goat, sheep, and cervid farmers to test their animals for Mycobacterium paratuberculosis, the causative organism for Johne's Disease.
 - D. Encourage cooperation between livestock farmers and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in identifying animals from herds originating from nations which have confirmed cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).
 - E. Provide for regionalization by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to modernize animal movement regulations.
 - F. Work with stakeholders to develop a process which provides assurance among livestock producers, veterinarians, and packers which will allow for the timely marketing of animals from herds that have been infected with a non-reportable disease, yet are deemed safe to travel, will not spread the disease, and will not negatively impact the food supply.
 - G. Allow farmer/owner consumption of fallen stock.
 - H. Allow slaughter of injured stock at either a federal inspected packing house or a state inspected local slaughter plant to be used for human consumption.
9. Implementation of an animal disease traceability program that:
 - A. Does not create a burdensome cost to livestock farmers.
 - B. Encourages uniformity between states.
 - C. Can quickly and accurately trace an animal in the event of a disease outbreak.
 - D. Initially uses minimal standards for identification and tracking.
 - E. Meets the expectations of foreign governments and our customers overseas.
 - F. Places a high priority on ensuring the U.S. reputation as a reliable supplier of meat to foreign markets.
 - G. Uses low-cost tags and a "bookend" approach (the times an animal enters commerce and harvest) to track an animal's movements and allows for the replacement of lost tags.
 - H. Allows for private sector incentives and disincentives for livestock that are uniquely identified.

- 1 I. Requires all exhibition livestock in Illinois to have a unique identification number
- 2 (appropriate for each species) and premises number before allowing the animal to
- 3 show.
- 4 10. Encouraging the Illinois Department of Agriculture to appoint a food animal practitioner to
- 5 the position of Illinois State Veterinarian.
- 6 11. Encouraging USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to make any
- 7 announcements related to BSE testing after the markets have closed.
- 8 12. Encouraging the use of electronic animal health papers with the ability to include actual
- 9 digital photos of the animal for relevant species.
- 10 13. Encouraging producers to take advantage of educational opportunities regarding biological
- 11 risk management (BRM) and implement these procedures in their operations.
- 12
- 13
- 14

15 **53. APICULTURE**

16
17 We support and encourage legislation or administrative rules for Illinois beekeepers, regarding
18 the harvesting and marketing of honey, that are no more stringent than those of neighboring
19 states.

20 21 22 **54. BIOSECURITY**

23
24
25 We support:

- 26 1. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) placing agricultural screening and inspections as
- 27 a high priority with its Customs and Border Patrol officers.
- 28 2. State and federal legislation to establish an indemnity program and contract relief when
- 29 acts of terrorism result in losses in production and/or marketability of agricultural products.
- 30 3. Import and export protocols that prevent the introduction of foreign animal and plant
- 31 diseases.
- 32 4. The concept of looking at animal health issues beyond our own borders and examining
- 33 them as "North American" issues.
- 34 5. Educational programs for farmers that will assist them in the early identification, treatment,
- 35 and required reporting of animal and plant diseases.
- 36 6. The testing and development of crops that are resistant to diseases not currently present
- 37 in the United States. The research should be conducted in non-sensitive areas so that the
- 38 spread of diseases would not cause any loss of value to U.S. agricultural production.
- 39 7. Continuing to work with state agencies such as the Illinois Environmental Protection
- 40 Agency, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Illinois Department of Agriculture to
- 41 establish and implement uniform biosecurity protocol for all personnel to follow that is
- 42 consistent with scientific biosecurity guidelines.
- 43
- 44
- 45

46 47 **55. BIOTECHNOLOGY**

48 We will actively encourage and educate farmers to be good stewards of biotechnology in order to
49 maintain the integrity and image of the U.S. food and grain supply, ensure technology remains
50 effective through regulatory compliance, and preserve opportunities for future biotech products
51 and processes.

52
53 We support:

- 54 1. Increased efforts through biotechnology to more rapidly develop traits which have
- 55 recognized consumer benefits in order to:
 - 56 A. Increase the marketability of our products.

- 1 B. Enhance the environment.
- 2 C. Increase net farm income.
- 3 D. Improve product quality.
- 4 E. Enhance U.S. agriculture's competitiveness in the world market.
- 5 F. Ensure worldwide consumers of stable, ample, safe, and nutritious U.S. products.
- 6 2. The coordinated analysis of biotechnology products by United States Department of
- 7 Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Environmental Protection
- 8 Agency (EPA) before they are approved for domestic use and commercialization.
- 9 3. Utilizing science, including unbiased third-party research, on the development and use of
- 10 biotechnology enhanced products.
- 11 4. Ongoing monitoring of the process of biotechnology product research and approval.
- 12 5. Increased efforts to educate the public worldwide regarding the safety and benefits of
- 13 products developed through biotechnology.
- 14 6. Maintenance of U.S. export markets by securing foreign regulatory acceptance of
- 15 biotechnology products, including the following priorities:
- 16 A. Manufacturers of biotechnology enhanced products must assume major
- 17 responsibility for this acceptance.
- 18 B. Companies offering biotechnology enhanced products for commercialization in the
- 19 U.S. must first have approval for most major uses and markets, domestic and
- 20 international.
- 21 C. Companies must provide adequate and accurate information on acceptable
- 22 markets and market restrictions in writing to farmers prior to purchase of the
- 23 original input product.
- 24 D. An ongoing, written reporting system should be maintained for informing farmers
- 25 what markets do not accept or might be adversely affected by currently
- 26 unapproved varieties.
- 27 E. Responsible production, marketing, and delivery of agricultural products by those
- 28 growing varieties not approved for all major uses in all major markets.
- 29 7. Global commercialization and production of biotechnology-enhanced crops provided that
- 30 U.S. farmers are not disadvantaged by business practices compared to our foreign
- 31 competitors, and continued monitoring and reporting of biotechnology fees in the U.S. and
- 32 other countries.
- 33 8. Seed tags on packages of agricultural seed stock that clearly indicate the varietal (and
- 34 genetic) purity of seed contained therein. We will also support legislation which allows
- 35 farmers to recover all damages in those instances where the seed does not conform to the
- 36 genetic purity indicated on the seed tag.
- 37 9. New or enhanced marketing methods for biotech and non-biotech seeds provided that
- 38 they do not restrict market options and offer farmers:
- 39 A. Improved cropping options.
- 40 B. More cost-effective inputs.
- 41 C. Better transportation, handling, planting, and yields.
- 42 D. Uniformity in unit size (seed count per unit).
- 43 E. Uniformity in seed size.
- 44 10. Efforts to establish specific standards for biotechnology enhanced and non-biotechnology
- 45 enhanced product certifications.
- 46 11. Adequate testing methods for all commercialized crops in order to protect farmers from
- 47 liability and ensure the integrity of our grain supply, moreover:
- 48 A. Tests should keep pace with the latest technology and product introductions.
- 49 B. Sufficient competition should exist in the testing market to ensure cost-
- 50 effectiveness.
- 51 C. Tests should be accurate, verifiable, and acceptable to end users.
- 52 D. The first-purchaser should be responsible for testing upon taking delivery.
- 53 E. The cost of testing should be shared along the agri-food chain.
- 54 12. Harmonization of international standards for biotech and non-biotech content, testing,
- 55 adventitious presence, etc. via the World Trade Organization and Codex Alimentarius.
- 56

- 1 13. Strict adherence to contracts and sales agreements covering the production, marketing,
2 and use of biotechnology products.
- 3 14. The strict enforcement of 100 percent quarantine for the research, production, and
4 processing of pharmaceutical and industrial crops that are not approved for food and feed
5 use in the United States in order to protect the commercial grain industry and food safety.
- 6 15. Full compensation to farmers for market losses due to lack of enforcement of 100 percent
7 quarantine on experimental crops.
- 8 16. Biotechnology products that are coming off patent to have:
9 A. A product development clause allowing researchers to work with that trait, with
10 proper stewardship restrictions, before the patent expires. This product
11 development clause should allow for continued product development and the
12 seeking of export market approvals, so products can be brought to market as soon
13 as patents expire.
14 B. A system to provide timely access to data collected by the patent holder for the
15 biotechnology regulatory process. The patent holder should receive fair
16 compensation for sharing its data.

56. COMMODITY CHECKOFFS

We support:

- 23 1. Voluntary checkoffs for market promotion, development and research that are collected
24 only once from individuals, marketing agencies or Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)
25 loans when forfeited and only if the farmer can have his checkoff refunded.
- 26 2. Legislated mandatory checkoffs for market promotion, development and research if such
27 checkoffs contain provisions calling for:
28 A. The program to be voted in or out by the farmers affected;
29 B. Control of the program by an independent committee of farmers;
30 C. A full refund of monies upon request to farmers until such time as a refund
31 referendum (not a poll) is approved/disapproved by a majority of farmers voting;
32 D. The monies to be used only for purposes intended;
33 E. The checkoff to apply to all imported products;
34 F. Checkoff-funded research grants for end-user products that have royalty or
35 licensing agreements, where feasible, signed with the research institution.
- 36 3. Providing information to farmers which supports the need for increased funding of
37 programs designed to expand domestic and foreign markets for commodities and
38 commodity products.
- 39 4. The use of technology to increase voting participation.
- 40 5. Working with commodity checkoff groups to emphasize value-added benefits to farmers
41 and to focus on higher net returns for farmers.
- 42 6. Efforts to revise rules and regulations governing election of directors of commodity
43 checkoff boards.

57. COMMODITY EXCHANGES

We support:

- 50 1. The integrity of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Group as a pricing mechanism
51 for commodities.
- 52 2. Regulation of the commodity futures business by the Commodity Futures Trading
53 Commission (CFTC).
- 54 3. Encouraging the commodity exchanges to have an active and viable agriculture advisory
55 committee that meets on a regular basis.

- 1 4. Monitoring expanded trading regulations and encourage Illinois Agricultural Association
2 representation on advisory committees to the Commodity Exchanges.
- 3 5. Urging the CFTC to minimize price manipulation and ensure the markets are effective as a
4 price discovery mechanism.
- 5 6. Reviewing price-setting mechanisms and make recommendations for the most effective
6 price-discovery systems for identity-preserved grains.
- 7 7. Encouraging the CFTC to work with the CME Group to provide accessibility, usability, and
8 affordability of river terminals, and to increase the number of terminals to be used as
9 delivery points to fulfill hedged grain contracts. This should result in a means to force
10 convergence between the cash and futures market at expiration of the contract.
- 11 8. Encouraging the CME Group to offer “mini” energy and fertilizer futures contracts to better
12 allow farmers and others to hedge their input costs.

13
14 We oppose new or unnecessary fees being imposed on market price information.
15
16

17 18 **58. COMMODITY GROUPS** 19

20 We support:

- 21 1. Working closely with commodity groups operating in the state and encourage county Farm
22 Bureaus to work closely with local representatives of commodity groups. In addition, we
23 encourage increased cooperation between these commodity groups in Illinois.
- 24 2. Offering contractual relationships to those commodity groups desiring such assistance and
25 services.
- 26 3. Scheduling and holding a regular meeting or meetings with representatives of commodity
27 groups affiliated or contractually related to Illinois Agricultural Association for purposes of
28 exchanging information and coordinating legislative and regulatory positions and actions.
- 29 4. Encouraging all commodity groups to pool resources to create and continue a direct
30 concentrated effort to educate consumers on the facts associated with the production of
31 livestock and other agricultural commodities using accepted best management practices.
32
33
34

35 **59. CONTRACT PRODUCTION AND MARKETING** 36

37 We support:

- 38 1. Monitoring the current changes in marketing practices for many farm commodities, which
39 are moving from farmer to buyer without entering the open market, but are being produced
40 and marketed by contractual specifications.
- 41 2. The representation of agriculture and assistance in the area of contract marketing. We
42 support the assignment of staff to research contracts being considered and provide
43 education, information, and advice to attorneys representing farmer members about the
44 ramifications of contracts being entered into and ensure that farmers engaging in contract
45 production and marketing are adequately protected.
- 46 3. Seeking measures to ensure that adequate price discovery remains in place for all
47 noncontracted farmers.
- 48 4. An improved United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodity price reporting
49 system based upon required price reporting by first purchasers.
- 50 5. Seed and chemical companies to include local elevators in the premium structure, thus
51 making specialty crops available to more farmers.
- 52 6. Individual member farmers in their efforts to negotiate fair and equitable production
53 contracts by developing an information clearinghouse and glossary of terms for production
54 contracts.
- 55 7. Educating farmers about the risks involved with buyers call provisions and ensuring that
56 these provisions include:

- 1 A. Specific delivery periods with negotiated final delivery date.
- 2 B. Payments to seller if delivery period exceeds original contracted delivery period or
- 3 if buyer "calls" for delivery prior to the contracted delivery period.
- 4 C. Pricing ability to and beyond delivery.
- 5 8. Working to develop contract language that will limit farmer liability for grain quality or type
- 6 to the initial point of delivery.

60. DAIRY MARKETING

We support:

- 13 1. Input from leaders of the dairy industry and jointly search for solutions to dairy problems
- 14 which are satisfactory to both our organization and the dairy industry. We urge the
- 15 American Farm Bureau Federation to work constructively on a national dairy policy that
- 16 can jointly be supported. Such policy should include a program that:
 - 17 A. Is market oriented, reflect current marketing conditions, and send the appropriate
 - 18 signals to dairy farmers to cause adjustments in the production of milk components
 - 19 according to market needs. It should allow farmers to look to the marketplace for
 - 20 their long-term economic prosperity.
 - 21 B. Enhances net farm income and ensure an adequate supply of milk.
 - 22 C. Provides for a worldwide free trade policy.
 - 23 D. Continues the present purchase-based price support program.
 - 24 E. Maximizes the use of the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP).
 - 25 F. Does not include dairy quota-type marketing concepts, but are willing to consider a
 - 26 flexible supply management system.
 - 27 G. Does not include state or regional dairy compacts.
 - 28 H. Supports risk management tools that will protect dairy farmers from catastrophic
 - 29 swings in feed and milk prices.
 - 30 I. Encourages development of new products targeted towards the export market.
- 31 2. Changes in milk content standards on a national basis under the Pasteurized Milk
- 32 Ordinances so as not to interfere or obstruct interstate movement of milk.
- 33 3. The principle whereby Boards of Directors of dairy cooperatives can vote for their
- 34 members in milk marketing and state promotion plans. However, each farmer, whether or
- 35 not a member of a cooperative, should have the right to cast his own ballot in any
- 36 referendum.
- 37 4. The increased use of dairy products by the school lunch program and by the armed
- 38 forces.
- 39 5. Working with the dairy industry to coordinate federal and state inspections to eliminate
- 40 duplication and to continue to allow the shipment of milk between states.
- 41 6. Implementing a performance-based system that would allow for fewer inspections of dairy
- 42 farmers that are achieving high ratings from the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- 43 7. Monitoring the potential for dairy processor closures or losses of markets and work to
- 44 inform our membership on alternatives for milk marketing.
- 45 8. The pasteurization of raw milk for sale to the public. We also recognize there is a segment
- 46 of consumers that prefer to purchase raw, unpasteurized milk. For those farmers who sell
- 47 unpasteurized milk to consumers, the following guidelines should be followed:
 - 48 A. Sales occur directly from farmers -- on the farm -- to consumers provided they
 - 49 bring their own containers.
 - 50 B. No wholesalers, retailers, grocery stores or third parties be allowed to sell these
 - 51 products.
 - 52 C. Farmers receive a raw milk permit from the Illinois Department of Public Health to
 - 53 produce and sell raw milk, subject to semi-annual inspections.
- 54 9. Changes to national requirements to the legal limit of Somatic Cell Count (SCC) in bovine
- 55 milk to 400,000 cells per milliliter and less.

1 **61. BIG DATA, E-COMMERCE, PRIVACY, AND OWNERSHIP**

2
3 We support:

- 4 1. Efforts to better educate stakeholders regarding utilizing new technology or equipment that
5 may receive, record and/or transmit data and the opportunities and risks associated with
6 big data and e-commerce.
7 2. Requiring companies that are collecting, storing, and analyzing data to provide full
8 disclosure of their intended use of the data.
9 3. Development of an alternative dispute resolution system for internet transactions.
10 4. Industry discussions regarding development of industry wide protocols including, but not
11 limited to proper disclosure, privacy and use agreements.
12 5. Encouraging participants in data sharing use agreements to recognize the value
13 associated with data allowing farmers to receive fair compensations.
14 6. Efforts to educate farmers about the utilization and impacts of Global Positioning
15 Systems/Geographic Information Systems (GPS/GIS).
16 7. Uniform ownership standards for the collection, use and release of GPS/GIS data and
17 other forms of data so it becomes the private property of the person who paid for it or
18 whose assets are being utilized.
19 8. Requiring the consent of the farmer for the release of all personal and farm data.
20 9. Standardization of formats and protocols developed and used by industry for GPS/GIS
21 applications.
22 10. Efforts to prevent the use of personal and farm data for illegal activities.
23 11. Research to determine the appropriate role of government in the implementation of
24 GPS/GIS systems.
25 12. The neutral and fair transfer of legal data between users by internet service providers.
26
27
28

29 **62. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW USES AND NEW MARKETS**

30
31 We support:

- 32 1. Developing innovative uses for and increased consumption of farm commodities and co-
33 products.
34 2. Developing promotional programs for businesses and restaurants that use U.S.-produced
35 commodities in their daily business and efforts to develop programs which encourage
36 consumption of Illinois-grown farm products.
37 3. The right of restaurants to market and sell agricultural products and prepared menu
38 choices, without restrictions by local units of government, provided the products are legally
39 produced using best management practices and industry standards.
40 4. Efforts to develop and procure financing for processing, distribution, and marketing
41 systems for value-added farm commodities with added emphasis on streamlining and
42 expediting the approval process for farmer-owned projects.
43 5. Efforts to develop new local marketing points for specialty crops.
44 6. Cooperation with farmer-invested checkoff groups, organizations, and agencies seeking
45 expanded domestic and export markets, placing special emphasis on value-added
46 products.
47 7. Increased funding of grants and guaranteed loan programs to foster research and
48 development of farm commodity and livestock value-enhanced initiatives. A majority of
49 those funds should be targeted to enable farmers to form farmer-owned processing
50 cooperatives.
51 8. Research on existing and proposed identity-preserved processes in order that government
52 entities may lend their credibility to voluntary industry standards for certification of identity-
53 preserved agricultural products.
54 9. Promoting the use of Illinois-grown produce in Illinois schools and state-funded
55 institutions.
56

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.
11. Development of regional food hubs, a business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified food products primarily from local and regional producers.
12. The expansion of online market sales of agricultural and processed food products.

63. DIRECT FOOD MARKETING

We support:

1. Farms disclosing whether products will originate from a single farm or multiple farms.
2. Farms utilizing Good Agriculture Practices and abiding by any state or federal statutes regarding food safety to prevent any food safety risk, including contamination.
3. The acceptance of government nutrition programs at Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), farmers markets, and farm stands.
4. Farms operating as a CSA, in the event of any product substitution, notifying shareholders by providing a list of products and the physical address of the originating farm of where the product was grown.
5. Farms maintaining records per applicable law including origin of all products, physical address and contact information to ensure traceability of CSA shares for a period of five years.
6. Standardized statewide regulations governing refrigeration, freezer, and hand washing station requirements for farmers markets and other direct food sales opportunities.
7. Interstate commerce for farmers markets.

64. EQUINE AGRICULTURE

We support:

1. Relationships with entities that would allow establishment, access, and maintenance for equine trail activities on publicly-owned recreational trails.
2. Simplifying the process allowing volunteers to assist state/federal workers in trail maintenance and camping areas and to accept donations of items to enhance trails and camping areas.
3. Education programs to promote a viable and growing equine industry. Such programs may include: responsible ownership, animal husbandry, regulations affecting the equine industry, and disease awareness.
4. Efforts to provide insurance and liability coverage that is accessible and reasonable for equine owners and participants involved in equine related activities.
5. Seeking legislation allowing equine harvesting in Illinois.
6. Options for end-of-life alternatives for equine including humane harvesting and processing for human consumption, or other uses to produce marketable products, provided all state and federal guidelines are observed.
7. Continued full funding of federal meat inspectors for equine harvesting facilities.
8. The expansion and economic welfare of the horse racing industry.
9. Encouraging equine owners to work with veterinarians in practicing regular equine health standards.
10. Performing an annual Coggins Testing to identify Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA).
11. Administering vaccinations, relevant to travel, and exposure to regional disease and infection.
12. Using a routine schedule and strategy for treating and preventing internal equine parasites.

- 1 13. County Farm Bureaus creating and maintaining county and/or multi-county equine
- 2 committees.
- 3 14. Efforts to develop and execute an Illinois equine census.
- 4 15. Seeking legislation classifying equine as livestock.
- 5

6 We oppose closing existing equestrian trails on federal and state property other than property
7 where irreversible damage could occur.

8
9
10
11 **65. FARMER PROTECTION FOR PAYMENT OF GRAIN**

12
13 We support:

- 14 1. The review of civil and criminal penalties to determine if they are adequate and enforced
- 15 to the full extent of the law.
- 16 2. Changes in the U.S. Warehouse Act which would allow any state which has a warehouse
- 17 law which is more restrictive and more protective than the federal law, to require
- 18 warehouses operating in the state to comply with the state's provisions rather than the
- 19 federal statute.
- 20 3. The maintenance of the current state powers of licensing of warehouses and grain
- 21 dealers, and general regulation of the grain industry, as embodied in the Illinois Grain
- 22 Code, and oppose federal preemption of state authority.
- 23 4. Educating farmers of the potential risks involved in selling grain to unlicensed parties and
- 24 how to better identify licensed grain buying facilities.
- 25 5. The concept that farmers who buy more than 100,000 bushels of grain on an annual basis
- 26 from other farmers for use as seed or feed, and use price-later contracts, must provide a
- 27 bond to the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) to guarantee payment for all
- 28 purchases of grain, except no bond shall be required in those situations where a tenant
- 29 purchases, from his landlord, grain produced by the tenant.
- 30 6. The requirement of a reminder notification being made by licensee to the farmer no less
- 31 than 30 days prior to the end of the 365-day period of coverage for price-later contracts.
- 32 7. Continuing educational programs to inform members of potential problems of marketing
- 33 grain under priced later or deferred price contracts. Farmers should be encouraged to
- 34 request prompt payment available to them under laws and regulations. Farmers should be
- 35 informed of the risks and costs involved in selling grain without receiving payment.
- 36 8. Maintaining the target balance of the Illinois Grain Insurance Fund at a level that is
- 37 commensurate with the cash value of Illinois grain commodities.
- 38 9. Legislation requiring that arbitration be voluntary on the part of both parties to a grain
- 39 contract. This should be accomplished by specifying that both parties to a grain contract
- 40 must agree to arbitration in writing after the dispute arises, as opposed to allowing farmers
- 41 to be forced to give up their right to use the courts as part of a take-it-or-leave-it contract.
- 42 10. Continuing active dialogue and cooperation with IDOA to ensure it has inspectors and
- 43 examiners in adequate numbers to fulfill the regulatory obligations of the Illinois Grain
- 44 Code.
- 45
- 46
- 47

48 **66. GRAIN AND HAY GRADING**

49
50 We support:

- 51 1. The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) efforts to improve standards for
- 52 grain which will reflect storability and highest potential use.
- 53 2. Moisture as a measurement of quantity, not quality.
- 54 3. The development and funding of a voluntary certification process for identity-preserved
- 55 grain.
- 56

- 1 4. Maintaining close liaison with USDA to ensure proposed grade changes are in the best
2 interests of farmers with particular attention to the proper role for grade factors such as
3 test weight, foreign material, and other quality factors such as breakability.
- 4 5. Working with the American Farm Bureau Federation to increase farmer representation on
5 the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Act (GIPSA) Grain Inspection Advisory
6 Committee.
- 7 6. An effective grain discount schedule that is determined at the time of contract instead of at
8 the time of delivery.
- 9 7. Working with the USDA, private agencies and the State Department of Agriculture to
10 develop and adopt more accurate equipment and procedures for testing moisture
11 percentage and test weights in grain.
- 12 8. The State of Illinois and USDA to continue testing, developing grading standards, and
13 identifying various qualities of hay and grain.
- 14 9. Changes in grain grading standards to compensate farmers for high quality products.
- 15 10. Research that identifies the advantages and disadvantages of selling grain on a value-
16 based or component-pricing basis.
- 17 11. Efforts to maintain grain quality in transit.
- 18 12. Efforts to standardize and certify testing equipment and operators for all grain toxins.
- 19 13. Changes to have processors and elevators show documented economic justification,
20 including actual cost of correction, for all discount rates concerning grain quality
21 degradation, i.e., test weight, off-color, odor, or moisture.
- 22 14. Basing moisture and drying schedules for grain based on one-tenth increments of actual
23 moisture recorded over the allowable moisture content instead of the current practice of
24 rounding up to the nearest one-half point.
- 25 15. 15 percent grain moisture for corn to be recognized as the industry standard for all
26 disposition excluding storage.

30 **67. INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCTION**

31
32 We support:

- 33 1. Legislation which would remove industrial hemp from being classified as a controlled
34 substance.
- 35 2. The production, processing, commercialization, and utilization of industrial hemp.

38 **68. LIVESTOCK PRICING AND MARKETING**

39
40
41 We support:

- 42 1. Legislation, on a state and national basis, establishing the Grain Inspection Packers and
43 Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) as the overall authority and provider of oversight to
44 ensure livestock contracts are clearly-written, confidentiality concerns are addressed,
45 investments are protected, and contractors honor the terms of contracts.
- 46 2. Providing GIPSA with the authority to enforce contract standards that enhance price
47 transparency and price discovery with livestock contracts.
- 48 3. Including monthly slaughter capacity reporting in mandatory price reporting by packers.
- 49 4. GIPSA be provided enforcement authority to ensure that all instruments used in
50 quantifying quality factors for value determination for livestock are performing to a set
51 standard.
- 52 5. The inclusion of time and date stamp for reporting prices of livestock.
- 53 6. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and industry representatives
54 examining the practicality of an industry wide, uniform grading system for pork that
55 includes a quality grade.

- 1 7. The development and implementation of value-based marketing systems which convey
- 2 the value of product quality from the retail market to the farm.
- 3 8. Farmers fully understanding the risks involved with using but not participating in a market
- 4 to set a price.
- 5 9. Cooperating with the USDA, livestock groups, and university researchers to develop and
- 6 utilize alternative price discovery methods.
- 7 10. Illinois Department of Agriculture seeking the most efficient method for sale barns to report
- 8 prices for distribution to farmers.
- 9 11. Working with the CME Group, other industry groups, and livestock packers to develop a
- 10 market mechanism that allows for improved forward pricing contracts and flexible pricing
- 11 opportunities for farmers.
- 12 12. The CME Group and the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) recognizing
- 13 packing plants as delivery points to fulfill livestock contracts, resulting in means to bring
- 14 convergence between the cash and futures market at expiration of the contract.
- 15 13. The Illinois Livestock Development Group working with livestock packers in order to
- 16 facilitate the expansion of livestock buying stations in Illinois.
- 17 14. All efforts to improve the livestock price reporting system.
- 18 15. All reporting system changes that will generate reported market prices calculated on
- 19 premium prices paid as well as price lows in the quality range.
- 20 16. Livestock packers securing at least 20 percent of their purchases from the cash market.
- 21 17. Additional funding from USDA needed to enable GIPSA to conduct these activities.

22
23 If a packer is offering a contract that is based upon a cash market, the packer needs to participate
24 in this market and help set a price.

25
26 It is imperative that GIPSA has the oversight on mandatory price reporting – not Agricultural
27 Marketing Service (AMS).

28
29
30
31

69. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

32
33 We support:

- 34 1. All methods of agricultural production and marketing provided they offer opportunities to all
- 35 farmers who qualify or meet required standards.
- 36 2. Efforts to enhance marketing opportunities for producers of organically-grown
- 37 commodities just as we support such efforts for conventionally-produced crops.
- 38 3. The requirement that all farmers, handlers, and retailers must be certified by a United
- 39 States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-accredited certifying agent to sell, label, or
- 40 represent their products as organic.
- 41 4. The current program requirement that organic farmers be responsible for taking
- 42 appropriate measures (e.g., buffer strips) to protect their crops from pollen drift or other
- 43 factors affecting the integrity of their crops.
- 44 5. Enhanced auditing and enforcement of the USDA-certified organic program in line with its
- 45 increasing economic importance and growth.
- 46 6. Broad availability of information on the USDA-certified organic program, certification
- 47 process, and labeling requirements, as well as other unbiased information on organic
- 48 products or production.
- 49 7. Farmers selling organic products being required to display the USDA Certified Organic
- 50 logo and their certification number.
- 51 8. The term organic being defined as a production standard set by the USDA National
- 52 Organic Program for marketing label use (Title 7, Subtitle B, Chapter I, Subchapter M, Part
- 53 205).

54
55
56

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

70. PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT

We support:

1. The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Trade Commission, with the support of the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), enforcing current anti-trust laws pertaining to packer mergers, market concentrations, packer feeding, and contracting.
2. Open, competitive markets which include access to slaughter space and the number of contracted slaughter days should be monitored and enforced if necessary.
3. The DOJ monitoring for a potential monopoly on a regional, rather than a national basis.
4. Including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the decision-making procedure with respect to proposed mergers and acquisitions of meat packing firms.
5. Legislation that grants GIPSA authority to prosecute violators and seek restitution for farmers in cases involving agricultural production, processing, and marketing violations.
6. Incorporation of a dealer trust provision to the Packers and Stockyards Act. The bonding requirement for livestock dealers and packers should be reviewed on an annual basis and be adjusted to reflect the volume of the maximum financial exposure to farmers and/or their brokers and then be made available to the public.
7. Changes to the administration of the Illinois Livestock Auction Market Law that will clarify, as well as strengthen, language relating to the use of custodial accounts by livestock auctions.

23 We oppose packers owning livestock before slaughter with the exception of farmer-owned closed
24 cooperatives and farmer-owned livestock fed and retail-marketed within the provisions of a
25 specialty product marketing alliance.
26
27
28

29
30

71. PLANT PATENTS AND PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION

31 We support:

- 32 1. Plant and utility patents as well as the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) as ways to
33 enhance innovations in plant performance that benefit farmers.
- 34 2. PVPA as the statute governing the Intellectual Property Rights for the breeders of plant
35 varieties.
- 36 3. Maintaining the international and domestic gene/germplasm banks/stores. These should
37 remain easily accessible to the public.
- 38 4. Continued plant variety research in the public sector.
- 39 5. Compensation for the public contribution in a joint public-private venture.
40
41
42

43
44

72. SPECIALTY CROPS

45 Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and
46 nursery crops including floriculture.
47

48 We support:

- 49 1. Enhancing the industry's image and recognize the importance of its contribution to the
50 agricultural economy.
- 51 2. Providing programming, legislative, and marketing efforts for the continued growth and
52 development of various specialty crops that are not already defined as such within the
53 Farm Bill.
- 54 3. An indemnification program that provides for losses of plants and nursery stocks that need
55 to be eradicated to control the spread of serious communicable diseases. The program
56

1 should be funded by state/federal sources and the indemnity payments should be based
2 upon current market values.
3
4
5

6 73. TRADE

7
8 We support:

- 9 1. Increased agricultural exports to efficiently utilize the productive resources of American
10 agriculture to enhance farm income and improve the farm economy through various trade
11 policies and long-term investments.
 - 12 2. Trade negotiating authority for the President of the United States in order to achieve:
 - 13 A. A full round of World Trade Organization (WTO) trade negotiations including all
14 industry sectors and giving agriculture a full seat at the table. The overall goal
15 should be to lower both tariff and non-tariff barriers for U.S. exports around the
16 world.
 - 17 B. Science-based binding agreements that resolve sanitary and phytosanitary issues
18 as quickly as possible.
 - 19 C. Tariff equalization and increased market access by requiring U.S. trading partners
20 to eliminate tariff barriers within specified timeframes.
 - 21 D. Changing international agreements and U.S. law to shorten dispute resolution
22 procedures and processes.
 - 23 E. The use of all existing international agreements under the WTO and U.S.
24 countervailing duty laws to prevent the dumping of subsidized agricultural products.
 - 25 F. Immediate, unrestricted trade and distribution of U.S. approved agricultural bio-
26 tech products.
 - 27 G. Immediate harmonization of domestic food safety and quality standards with our
28 international trading partners based on the guidelines set by the WTO and
29 increased funding to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food
30 and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure adequate food inspections at the borders.
 - 31 H. Uniform intellectual property protection standards.
 - 32 3. Improved market access and reduced trade barriers through support of bilateral, regional,
33 and multi-lateral free trade agreements.
 - 34 4. International Monetary Fund (IMF) efforts provided their actions are based upon sound
35 fiscal and economic policies and further facilitate world trade.
 - 36 5. Educating our members, legislators and others on the importance of global currency
37 relationships to agricultural trade and foreign competition.
 - 38 6. Increased funding for, promotion of U.S. agricultural products through United States
39 Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs like Market Access Program (MAP) and
40 Foreign Market Development (FMD).
 - 41 7. Congressional approval of any embargoes of agricultural products proposed by the
42 President.
 - 43 8. Developing a program that compensates farmers through market loss payments:
 - 44 A. For competitive disadvantages to U.S. farmers resulting from burdensome
45 domestic regulations or standards that are more strict than those in other countries.
 - 46 B. If currency values harm U.S. farm trade and if it can be achieved within WTO
47 guidelines.
 - 48 9. Resumption of normal trading relations and "most favored nation status" with Cuba.
 - 49 10. Inspections of imports to the U.S. to protect our domestic production capacity and supply
50 of agricultural products from infestations.
 - 51 11. Improving informational, organizational, and marketing linkages between and among
52 North and South American farmers.
 - 53 12. A U.S. Foreign Aid Program that:
 - 54 A. Provides leadership in enhancing global food security and economic development.
 - 55 B. Increases federal commitment to food and agricultural assistance programs.
- 56

- 1 C. Provides foreign aid in the form of agricultural products and value-added
- 2 agricultural products rather than cash, whenever feasible.
- 3 D. Encourage recipient nations to use or purchase U.S. agricultural goods and
- 4 services.
- 5 E. Gives emergency food relief needs the highest priority in foreign aid programs.
- 6 F. Does not stimulate production or distribution of farm commodities for export that
- 7 are in competition with the U.S.
- 8 G. Included P.L. 480 as an important part of a broader strategy for expanding U.S.
- 9 food aid.

10

11 We oppose:

- 12 1. Any U.S. policies that restrict agricultural exports.
- 13 2. The subsidization of any direct foreign competition.
- 14 3. Use of the Precautionary Principle.
- 15 4. Monetary policies that harm U.S. trade.
- 16 5. Shipping restrictions that adversely affect agricultural products.

17

18

19

20

74. USDA REPORTING AND OPERATIONS

21

22

We support:

- 23 1. Continuance of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a cabinet level
- 24 department.
- 25 2. Efforts of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Illinois Agricultural
- 26 Statistics Service, and all other governmental agricultural agencies to transition from
- 27 survey-based data collection to fact-based data collection by using previously collected
- 28 data from said agencies, and encourage members to provide their most accurate factual
- 29 data when requested for crop, livestock and other reports on a voluntary basis.
- 30 3. The USDA improving the accuracy and timely release of national and international
- 31 statistics, and maintain the confidentiality of individual farm reports.
- 32 4. Legislation to reinstate public access of the Common Land Unit (CLU) data to Natural
- 33 Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Data Gateway.
- 34 5. Educational efforts to inform the American consumer that the USDA serves a variety of
- 35 consumer interests and not just those of the farm population.
- 36 6. Locally-elected farmer county committees to administer and oversee USDA farm and
- 37 agricultural credit programs.
- 38 7. Maintaining the NRCS within the USDA.
- 39 8. The USDA to adequately fund, staff, and train local offices to enhance farmer services.
- 40 9. Maintaining the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) budget at levels no lower
- 41 than the 2007 budget appropriation.
- 42 10. Long-term funding of the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA).
- 43 11. USDA plans to create a new soybean yield estimate model for the September crop report
- 44 that reflects the significant changes in soybean production models.
- 45 12. The USDA including the number and origin of imported and destination of exported
- 46 livestock in monthly livestock reports.
- 47 13. USDA efforts to enhance and expand electronic filing of USDA forms and dissemination of
- 48 information.
- 49 14. Upgrades of computer technology and appropriate software to allow the NRCS, Farm
- 50 Service Agency (FSA), RMA, and NASS to utilize and share the same farm program
- 51 enrollment and production information, provided appropriate privacy disclosures and
- 52 safeguards are utilized.
- 53 15. A thorough review, including local input, of any proposed closure of a local USDA or FSA
- 54 office before a decision is made.
- 55 16. NASS to regularly report data on the production and use of ethanol co-products used for
- 56 livestock feed.

1 We oppose the expansion of the locally-elected county committees by the addition of appointed
2 committee members.

3
4
5
6 **75. GOVERNMENT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

7
8 We support:

- 9 1. Conservation programs with a focus on protecting environmentally sensitive areas with
10 filter strips, buffers, and other beneficial practices while reducing overall program costs.
11 2. Legislation which ensures that both tenant and landlord interests will be fairly protected.
12 3. Limitations on participation rates so as not to adversely affect local farm land rental rates.
13

14 **FSA Programs**

15 We support:

- 16 1. The continued funding of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through current
17 methods, plus private sources or contributions (e.g. conservation groups, hunting groups,
18 and environmental groups) to remove fragile lands from production.
19 2. Basing the judging criteria for CRP enrollment upon the land's erosion potential as
20 cropland and not on its current erosion status.
21 3. An expansion of the continuous sign up CRP acreage to include:
22 A. Filter strips along waterways.
23 B. Greater widths of waterways, filter strips, field borders, and riparian buffers.
24 C. Setbacks at road intersections.
25 D. Crop protection product setbacks around tile inlet structures.
26 E. Up to one-acre filter strips around standpipes and other intakes where surface
27 water enters directly into subsurface water.
28 F. Grassed terraces.
29 G. Buffers around villages, timbered areas, irrigation reservoirs, ponds, and
30 stormwater retention basins.
31 H. Expanding the statewide allocations on field borders and upland restoration
32 projects.
33 I. Approving a 20 percent incentive for all projects using native prairie grasses, forbs,
34 shrubs, or trees.
35 J. Allowing enrollment of and acceptance of "infeasible to farm" acres (an area that is
36 too small or isolated to be economically farmed).
37 K. Farms declared not insurable in the crop insurance program because of wildlife
38 crop damage to be eligible to be enrolled in the CRP.
39 4. The practice of planting vegetative filter strips along both sides of ditches and waterways
40 to improve water quality. Strips of variable widths should be eligible for the CRP.
41 5. Programs being made available to give farmers viable economic options to traditional crop
42 production following expiration of CRP contracts.
43 6. The ability of all drainage district easements to be included in the CRP filter strip program.
44 7. Provisions that would allow farmers and landowners to terminate participation in the CRP
45 if the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) cannot meet the agreed contractual
46 payment amount within 30 days of its due date or is forced by budget constraints to
47 reduce the annual payment amount as set forth in the CRP contract. If the farmer opts out
48 of the CRP all past due monies will be paid with accrued interest.
49 8. Continuation of CRP on fragile and environmentally sensitive lands formerly enrolled in
50 CRP if the CRP is not continued at current levels. Qualified land areas should be
51 determined by county Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and the Natural
52 Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
53 9. Encouraging the USDA to give adequate credit during CRP sign-ups for areas throughout
54 the nation that experience wind erosion on sandy soils.
55 10. The broadening of criteria for enrollment or re-enrollment of land in CRP. Examples of the
56 criteria include but are not limited to:

- 1 A. Land with the highest Environmental Benefits Index (EBI).
- 2 B. Land targeted based on type of CRP cover or conservation practice, with priority
- 3 given to land in trees, alley cropping, or with special conservation attributes.
- 4 C. Land targeted based on water quality, air quality, soil quality, and wildlife.
- 5 D. Land that, if cultivated, would be most damaging to the environment. For example,
- 6 land that would likely opt out of farm programs and conservation compliance due to
- 7 high compliance costs.
- 8 11. The elimination of the Erodibility Index as an exclusionary consideration for concentrated
- 9 CRP sign up.
- 10 12. Wildlife habitat improvement, especially on CRP acreage.
- 11 13. The Conservation Reserve Program's State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)
- 12 practice that provides financial incentives to producers.
- 13 14. Recognition in the EBI that qualifying established cover practices on acreages being re-
- 14 enrolled in the CRP provide certain benefits over destroying existing stands to plant
- 15 preferred species.
- 16 15. The evaluation of all CRP property by the county NRCS office staff to ensure that
- 17 previously recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been maintained
- 18 before the property can be re-enrolled in CRP.
- 19 16. Haying and grazing of CRP acres at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture in
- 20 weather-related or other emergency situations in a timely manner.
- 21 17. Each state Farm Service Agency (FSA) office determining CRP rates and acreage
- 22 qualifications as opposed to the national USDA office.
- 23 18. Increasing the enrollment of filter strips in the CRP and offering incentives for re-
- 24 enrollment.
- 25 19. The continuation and expansion of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- 26 (CREP) with full funding.
- 27 20. Any increase to national CRP acreage cap that prioritizes continuous sign up selection of
- 28 most environmentally sensitive ground and limit acres for future sign up.

29
30 We oppose:

- 31 1. Any effort to allow the public to automatically use or have access to private property that is
- 32 enrolled in CRP.
- 33 2. Further changes in CRP which would allow conservation acreage to be brought back into
- 34 permanent production before the ten-year contract expires.
- 35 3. The use of CRP land for biomass fuel production without a corresponding reduction in
- 36 CRP payments.

37 38 **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs**

39 We support:

- 40 1. Allowing an exemption to the NRCS manual for Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- 41 (EQIP) money to be used for streambank stabilization practices prior to the adjacent land's
- 42 expiration in a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract or a Conservation Reserve
- 43 Enhancement Program (CREP) contract.
- 44 2. The continuation and expansion of the EQIP and the Conservation Stewardship Program
- 45 (CSP) with full funding, as long as these programs complement - but do not replace -
- 46 programs in the new farm bill.
- 47 3. Providing a clear explanation of the CSP that would create interest and help more farmers
- 48 qualify for this program.

49 50 **State of Illinois Programs**

51 We support the Illinois Department of Agriculture creating and implementing conservation

52 programs for Illinois farmers.

53

54

55

56

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37

76. FARM CREDIT

We support:

1. The availability of adequate sources of credit for all agricultural interests.
2. Agricultural lenders publicizing their rates and loan policies.
3. Farm Service Agency (FSA) assistance to those borrowers who cannot obtain credit otherwise.
4. Continued graduation of FSA borrowers who exhibit the ability to obtain credit from conventional sources and continue to work with FSA in developing improved and flexible programs with more effective use of FSA funds.
5. FSA in providing adequate levels and terms of credit in a constructive and responsible manner.
6. Reviewing and recommending appropriate FSA agency policy on loan term limits, loan size limits, and interest rate subsidies.
7. FSA loans be secured by adequate collateral and reasonable repayment capacity.
8. The use of past business performance, when available, as a strong indicator of future performance when considering approval of an FSA loan for a farmer.
9. Educational programs for members and agricultural lenders on financial management and marketing programs.
10. Lenders cooperating with federal and state programs designed to help farmers with financial stress.
11. Illinois Finance Authority's (IFA) current agricultural loan programs and will cooperate with IFA in the expansion of existing programs and the development of new programs.
12. Legislation so that persons who have made prepayments to failed licensees for production inputs or services will receive a 100 percent refund of those payments, making the purchaser of the inputs first in line as a secured creditor.
13. Increased funding for federal guaranteed farm loan programs. These programs should be made more user friendly for both bankers and farmers by allowing increased flexibility of repayment terms and minimizing paperwork.
14. Seeking legislation so alfalfa and grassland forages are considered farm storage facility loan commodities.
15. The Farm Credit System (FCS) remaining available to the farmer-owners through the cooperative system as an alternative to commercial banks.
16. Commercial banks, the FCS, and other lenders seeking opportunities to cooperate in meeting the financing needs of farmers.
17. Elimination of the "exit provision" in the Farm Credit Act.

We oppose:

1. Any move by commercial banks and/or bankers to alter the structure of the FCS, including attempts to replace farmers on boards of directors with commercial bankers.
2. Commercial banks having access to money procured by virtue of the agency status enjoyed by the FCS.
3. The sale of district FCS banks to commercial or private banking interests.
4. All efforts to limit access to credit by major credit suppliers or to limit competition or to artificially set interest rates by government edict.

48
49
50

77. GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICIES

51 We support:

- 52 1. Government policies designed to encourage economic stability, increased productivity, and a greater ability to compete in the international market.
- 53 2. Using a federal budget surplus to reduce the federal debt and to cut taxes.
- 54 3. Federal policies bringing about lower real interest rates.
- 55 4. A reduction in the size of the federal government.
- 56

- 1 5. A constitutional amendment to require the federal government to operate on a balanced
- 2 budget.
- 3 6. A constitutional amendment to restrict the spending authority of the federal government to
- 4 a realistic percentage of the gross national product (GNP).
- 5 7. A requirement that federal and state government agencies return unspent money to their
- 6 respective treasuries without a budget cut or penalty for the new fiscal year.
- 7 8. Legislation or a constitutional amendment to require the federal government to fund
- 8 programs which it mandates on state or local governments.
- 9 9. A requirement that new programs be adopted only when existing programs are reduced or
- 10 eliminated as a means to control government spending.
- 11 10. Requiring competitive bidding for any state or federal project.
- 12 11. Privatization of governmental services that could provide savings to the taxpayer and
- 13 render government services more economical.
- 14 12. A sustained long-term monetary policy which will minimize inflation and deflation of prices.
- 15 13. An independent Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System that includes
- 16 individuals with a working knowledge of agriculture.
- 17 14. A full and complete independent annual audit of all activities of the Federal Reserve
- 18 System.
- 19 15. Making the adoption of sound economic policies by the state and federal government a
- 20 major priority.
- 21 16. The inclusion of a citizenship question on the U.S. Census.

22
23 We oppose:

- 24 1. Awarding federal grant monies to citizen action groups.
- 25 2. Increased taxes unless accompanied by significant spending cuts. In such cases, the tax
- 26 base should be broadened rather than increasing existing tax rates.
- 27 3. Efforts to shift programs "on budget" or "off budget" in order to mask the true economic
- 28 condition of our nation.
- 29 4. The financing of gambling facilities through tax exempt industrial development bonds or
- 30 state guaranteed loans.

31
32
33
34

78. GOVERNMENT FARM POLICIES

35
36 We believe United States agriculture should be an integral part of the solution for hunger, energy,
37 environment, food security, our balance of trade, and national security. In order to accomplish
38 these goals, the farm bill must address world competition, humanitarian need, and world trade
39 obligations. A stable, safe agricultural production system is essential to the United States'
40 economy and national security.

41
42 To accomplish this objective, we believe:

- 43 1. Consumers should have a reliable, abundant, safe, and nutritious food supply.
- 44 2. In enhancing U.S. agriculture's competitiveness in the world market.
- 45 3. In minimizing world hunger and nutrition deficiencies.
- 46 4. In creating a long-term, competitive, desirable agricultural growth industry.
- 47 5. In improving the quality of rural life by increasing rural economic development.
- 48 6. In providing revenue protection to farmers thus protecting net farm income.
- 49 7. The market should give accurate economic signals to consumers and farmers.
- 50 8. There should be less reliance on government and more on the market.
- 51 9. Improvements to the environment can be achieved through expanded soil conservation,
- 52 water and air quality initiatives, and advanced technological procedures that are science-
- 53 based and are economically feasible.
- 54 10. Farmers should be compensated for their positive impact on habitat, wildlife, and the
- 55 environment.
- 56

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

We oppose:

1. Severing the essential link between the nutrition title and the commodity title of the Farm Bill.
2. Any type of government supply control or acreage reduction program, with the exception of conservation programs.
3. A Farmer Owned Reserve for agricultural commodities.
4. The extension of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) commodity loans beyond the current nine-month term.

We support:

1. Appropriate income assistance until reforms in taxation, regulation, and market access and growth are achieved.
2. Maintaining the sanctity of contracts established in the farm bill.
3. Allowing tenants with multiple landlords to treat each farm as a separate entity for compliance with the farm bill.
4. Not holding tenants responsible for landlord's actions of farm program payments and eligibility. This should hold steady as long as the tenant had no involvement in what took place. The farm in question should go through the hearing process but other farms should not be affected. Actions by a landlord should not place any tenant farm program payments in jeopardy. The tenant should be able to maintain eligibility for all farms.
5. The ability of landlords to refuse payment from the farm program and allow tenants the ability to obtain complete payment from the farm program (even if a combination lease exists between the landlord and tenant).
6. The elimination of any United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirement to report the specific cash rental amounts outlined in lease agreements between a landlord and a tenant in an effort to protect a farmer's right to privacy. We do, however, support the requirement to report the type of lease agreement.
7. Strengthening the criteria for non-landowner persons eligible for farm program payments by requiring a significant contribution of active personal management in the farm decision-making process and labor in the farming operation. The current exemption for crop share landowners should be continued.
8. Farmers ability to improve existing drainage systems without being penalized. Land that has been in production, including pasture, should be exempt from the sodbuster and swampbuster provisions.
9. The implementation of more efficient processes, systems, and procedures in order to consolidate and simplify farm program participant visits to the USDA.
10. Consolidation of the power of attorney form to enable the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) to honor the same power of attorney forms.
11. Open enrollment of land in the farm program that was not previously in the program and has changed tenancy or ownership during the duration of the farm bill.
12. Government agencies serving farmers by adjusting hours to accommodate the needs of farmers with off-farm employment and increased use of internet for electronic filing.
13. The means to implement and administer programs being in place prior to starting dates for new programs.
14. Adding alfalfa and grassland forages as covered commodities.
15. Requirement changes to the Conservation Stewardship Program that would allow government owned land into the program if it is leased by a farmer for the duration of the contract period.
16. Allowing a compliant entity to be eligible to participate in USDA programs on all parcels that are not in violation of swampbuster or sodbuster regulations.
17. The payment of CSP grants for all entities as direct deposits in the same manner as other FSA or CRP payments, not as System for Award Management (SAM) payments as is done at present.
18. Eliminating the requirement for reporting non-program grass waterways/fallow areas that are baled for forage. If eliminating the forage reporting on non-program acres is

- 1 unachievable, we support reporting acres only at the time when the principal field crop is
2 reported.
- 3 19. A commodity loan program.
- 4 20. Raising loan rates above levels established in the 2008 farm bill for current program
5 commodities and loan repayments be credited back to CCC to maintain budget neutrality.
- 6 21. Payments or programs that compensate farmers for activities deemed socially or
7 environmentally beneficial.
- 8 22. Encouraging production and stewardship decisions that will attract public support.
- 9 23. Allowing farms that have not been participating in farm programs and are not eligible to
10 receive program benefits to establish a base and enroll in future farm programs.
- 11 24. The continuation of and funding for Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).
- 12 25. Livestock Disaster and Emergency Program provisions.

13 14 **Future Farm Policy**

15 IFB members believe the farm bill must be WTO-compliant, provide price and revenue protection
16 for farmers, and link nutrition and commodity programs. Crop insurance remains our top priority in
17 the farm bill. The bill must continue to feature commodity program choice - revenue and price -
18 and encourage production and stewardship decisions that attract public support. We support
19 robust conservation programs that will help farmers achieve state nutrient loss reduction goals.

20 21 **Crop Insurance**

22 We support:

- 23 1. Maintaining the current level of federal risk premium support.
- 24 2. A livestock disaster program for multi-year disasters with improved coverage levels and
25 partially subsidized premiums.
- 26 3. Maintaining producer privacy on indemnity payments.

27 28 **Commodity Programs**

29 We support:

- 30 1. A floating commodity loan program that increases loan rates, addresses conservation
31 goals and the credit needs of beginning farmers.
- 32 2. Farm program payments should be based on the location of the land, not administrative
33 county.
- 34 3. A one-time sign up for the farm program that is automatically renewed each year for the
35 duration of the program if there are no changes in the farming operation.
- 36 4. Adjusting the current yield and price formula to calculate ARC-CO payments.
- 37 5. The option to update yields, reallocate base acres, and reclaim base acres from expiring
38 CRP acres returning to production.
- 39 6. Making more timely commodity program payments based on calendar or fiscal year, not
40 marketing year.

41
42 We oppose any expansion of conservation compliance provisions to commodity program
43 participation.

44 45 **Conservation Programs**

46 We support:

- 47 1. An increase in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage.
- 48 2. Annual updates to county soil rental rates that better reflect current rental market
49 payments and minimize impact on tenant farmers.
- 50 3. Limiting the size of pollinator tracts with an emphasis on smaller tracts.
- 51 4. A conservation program to retire environmentally sensitive land for a period of 3 to 5
52 years.
- 53 5. NRCS and FSA continuously updating cost-share conservation programs to specifically
54 reward practices that allow farmers to address Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy
55 (NLRs) goals.
- 56

- 1 6. CRP recipients should have to demonstrate that they are “actively engaged,” as farmers
2 do for other farm programs.
3

4 **Trade Programs**

5 We support a fully funded Market Access Program (MAP) and a fully funded Foreign Market
6 Development (FMD) program in the next farm bill.
7

8 **Credit Programs**

9 We support:

- 10 1. Raising the loan limit and simplifying the process for FSA beginning farmer loans.
11 2. Allowing farmers to re-apply for FSA beginning farmer loans to diversify their operations.
12 3. Waiving the requirement for beginning farmers to provide three years of financial
13 statements.
14 4. Eliminating the “graduation clause” that raises interest rates or requiring the applicant to
15 close a loan when a beginning farmer’s financial condition improves.
16 5. Increasing the FSA current loan guarantee limit.
17

18 **National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)**

19 We support:

- 20 1. Shorter NASS surveys to improve farmer response rates and survey accuracy.
21 2. Oversampling operators instead of landlords.
22

23 **Dairy Programs**

24 We support:

- 25 1. Classifying milk as a commodity for federal crop insurance purposes.
26 2. Revenue protection insurance with risk premium support.
27 3. Updating the Margin Protection Program to better reflect feed costs and provide better
28 coverage.
29
30
31

32 **79. LABOR**

33
34 We support:

- 35 1. A proactive and positive effort to pursue a dialogue with organized labor to identify
36 common ground and common goals to achieve a common good.
37 2. The effective and prompt administration of existing laws to resolve secondary boycotts or
38 other illegal actions which disrupt the orderly flow of commerce.
39 3. Maintaining the agriculture exemption for overtime pay provisions under the Illinois
40 Minimum Wage Law.
41 4. A study by the appropriate state agencies regarding the programs and activities of
42 federally funded Legal Services Corporation entities in Illinois. Such a study would review
43 the impact of such programs on agricultural operations.
44 5. American Farm Bureau Federation efforts in lobbying Congress to investigate the Legal
45 Service Corporation's behavior and scrutinize its budget.
46 6. The minimum wage rate at its current level and support an increase only when it is
47 believed to be non-inflationary.
48 7. The passage of federal legislation to establish an improved program for agricultural guest
49 workers that assist all crop and livestock farmers in finding, retaining, and maintaining an
50 adequate, legal, and cost-competitive labor supply.
51 8. Permanent employment-based immigration visas for those individuals who have a
52 demonstrated work history and can pass an appropriate background screening.
53

54 We oppose:

- 55 1. The use, by either labor or management, of force, coercion, intimidation, secondary
56 boycotts or other such means designed to force its will upon the other.

- 1 2. Lawsuits which are filed against agricultural growers by Legal Services Corporation
- 2 entities which create economic hardship for the agricultural operations involved and
- 3 appear to be intended only to harass the employer of farm labor into providing additional
- 4 benefits without justification.
- 5 3. All legislation which increases the revenue base for legal assistance activities in the State
- 6 of Illinois.
- 7 4. Legislation that would require state licensure and inspection for electrical work performed
- 8 on agricultural property and single-family residences.
- 9 5. The elimination of the present family farm exemption in the child labor provisions of the
- 10 Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).
- 11 6. Amnesty (as defined as a general pardon for offenses against the laws of the United
- 12 States of America) for undocumented immigrants.
- 13
- 14
- 15

16 80. RISK MANAGEMENT/CROP INSURANCE

17
18 We encourage continued farmer education of risk management alternatives, efforts to refine
19 existing risk management tools, and the development of new crop insurance and other risk
20 management tools.

21 Risk Management

22 We support:

- 23 1. Providing leadership in seeking new ways for farmers to manage risk through the private
- 24 sector.
- 25 2. The use of pilot programs that would serve to assist farmers in learning to utilize various
- 26 risk management tools for all products, including livestock. Farmers willing to participate in
- 27 the pilot program should be allowed to choose from a variety of approved risk
- 28 management methods designed to substantially manage the risk of the farming operation.
- 29 The cost of implementing the chosen risk management method should be subsidized
- 30 during the pilot program.
- 31 3. Education programs that provide risk assessment and risk management as well as
- 32 professional education for farmers in marketing, financial management, and government
- 33 regulations.
- 34 4. The necessary legislative and regulatory changes to establish a Farmer Investment
- 35 Savings Account into which a farmer could contribute pre-tax dollars for self-insurance and
- 36 be allowed to make withdrawals at the contributor's discretion.
- 37 5. Fully funding the Standard Reinsurance Agreement at the levels outlined in the 2014 Farm
- 38 Bill.
- 39
- 40

41 Crop Insurance

42 We support a crop insurance program which:

- 43 1. Provides payments for actual losses, including losses incurred from delayed or prevented
- 44 plantings, arising from natural causes.
- 45 2. Requires consistent interpretation and implementation of all federal crop insurance
- 46 provisions, especially Prevent Plant provisions.
- 47 3. Provides coverage that is written and losses paid on the basis of dollars per acre rather
- 48 than based on a guaranteed level of production.
- 49 4. Is offered and serviced through private companies, willing and able to assume some level
- 50 of risk, as opposed to Farm Service Agency offices.
- 51 5. Can be affordably reinsured through the federal government.
- 52 6. Eliminates federally mandated requirements in order to be eligible to participate in the
- 53 federal farm programs.
- 54 7. Allows the Secretary of Agriculture the right to extend the planting deadline for crop
- 55 insurance purposes for untimely plantings due to weather delays.
- 56

- 1 8. Allows farmers and/or landlords to opt out of crop insurance coverage, but in so doing
2 would not be eligible for federal disaster payments on crop losses.
- 3 9. Requires that the individual county final yield averages needed for Area Risk Protection
4 Insurance policies be released one month prior to the deadline for the crop insurance
5 sales closing date for the federal crop insurance program. This date should be uniform for
6 all regions involved in the program.
- 7 10. Allows individual units to be insured on a Farm Service Agency (FSA) optional unit basis.
- 8 11. Requires all United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies accepting
9 production data, including acreage and yield data that has been certified, to reconcile the
10 data in order to streamline the reporting process and reduce the potential for fraud and
11 abuse.
- 12 12. Requires the automatic extension of the Risk Management Agency (RMA) acreage
13 reporting deadline in the event the FSA certification deadline is extended. The extension
14 of the deadlines should maintain the existing time period between the deadlines.
- 15 13. Promotes the use of Soil Productivity, derived from existing County Natural Resource
16 Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Surveys, as a guide for establishing base T yields for
17 Federal Crop Insurance.
- 18 14. Utilize pricing data for insurable crops during multiple months throughout the growing
19 season in order to establish a revenue guarantee for revenue-based crop insurance
20 policies.
- 21 15. Maintains both a fall pricing and spring pricing option for revenue policies.
- 22 16. Studies the elimination of Catastrophic (CAT) coverage and applying those subsidy dollars
23 to higher coverage levels.
- 24 17. Allows Written Agreements, once granted, to remain effective until loss ratios dictate
25 otherwise.
- 26 18. Achieves actuarial soundness by crop, county and state by devoting additional resources
27 to allow annual review of RMA rates for all crops in all states, with priority given to:
28 A. Adjusting insurance rates to completely and expeditiously reflect mandated loss
29 ratios.
30 B. Full implementation of rate reductions for states with consistently low loss ratios.
31 C. Including non-insured ground in production review in order to receive the most
32 accurate assessment possible of each county's production capacity.
- 33 19. Devotes additional research dollars to improve existing policies to develop new insurance
34 tools and foster the development of new and innovative delivery systems.
- 35 20. Requires clear delineation during the sales process and the billing process to clearly
36 distinguish between federal crop insurance policies and private company add-on products.
- 37 21. Separates basic or enterprise units by practice - for example - initial- or double-crop
38 soybeans, where a claim calculation of one practice has no effect on the other practices
39 and the lengthening of planting dates to better reflect variety maturity, growing season
40 length, Land Grant University or processor recommendations, geographic areas, and
41 weather conditions.
- 42 22. Allows double-cropped feedgrains to be insured as a separate unit if best management
43 practices are followed.
- 44 23. Allows the use of all elevator quality factors conducted by certified graders using certified
45 testing equipment. These factors include moisture, foreign material, test weight and
46 damage.
- 47 24. Offers replant benefits that accurately reflect actual cost of replanting the damaged crop.
- 48 25. Allows farmers and landlords to receive replant benefits reflective of their share of the
49 expenses to replant the damaged crop, regardless of the crop insurance company or type
50 of crop insurance policy they or the landlord/tenant have.
- 51 26. Requires RMA claim guidelines to take into consideration economic justification when Best
52 Management Practices are used to determine treatment thresholds and timeliness of
53 applications.
- 54 27. Allows crop insurance agents to be involved in the claims process to provide enhanced
55 and seamless service to farmers.
- 56 28. Collects premiums for spring-planted crops no earlier than October first.

- 1 29. Allows beginning farmers to use county yield estimates instead of the calculated T-yield
2 when establishing yields for federal crop insurance.
3
4
5

6 **81. SOCIAL SECURITY**
7

8 We support:

- 9 1. Studies and pilot programs testing the feasibility of private sector alternatives to Social
10 Security as a means to devise long-term solutions to maintain the solvency of the Social
11 Security trust fund and to ensure retirement benefits for all Americans.
12 2. Stabilizing benefits rather than increasing Social Security taxes.
13 3. Continued separate deductions for Social Security taxes to make them clearly identifiable.
14 4. Correction of the inequity in the method of determining earnings of self-employed persons
15 subject to Social Security taxes when a substantial portion of the earnings are related to a
16 return on investment in business property. A rent equivalent should be made an allowable
17 deduction from earnings for this purpose.
18 5. Allowing self-employed persons to deduct their Social Security taxes as a business
19 expense.
20 6. Repeal of the Social Security offset law.
21

22 We oppose:

- 23 1. Regulations which classify Conservation Reserve Program payments to Social Security
24 recipients as earned income. They should be considered as rent.
25 2. Social Security payments to alien workers who reside outside the U.S. or its territories.
26 3. The use of a total farm payroll test to determine if wages are subject to Social Security
27 taxes.
28 4. Using Social Security funds for purposes other than Social Security.
29
30
31

32 **82. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC IMAGE**
33

34 We will be a leading voice for Illinois agriculture.
35

36 We support:

- 37 1. Programs to improve the visibility and contributions of IAA and of county Farm Bureaus.
38 2. Creating public relations programs and promoting to news outlets a favorable view of
39 farmers and agriculture while actively monitoring public opinion toward agriculture.
40 3. Centralized, up-to-date information so that members can respond to issues of public
41 concern.
42 4. Web-based resources to help county Farm Bureaus respond quickly and consistently to
43 local issues.
44 5. Programs that help non-farmer members understand and support IFB's goals and
45 objectives.
46 6. The use of scientific names by the media, governmental agencies and healthcare
47 professionals in referring to viruses and diseases.
48 7. News reporting that balances benefits with possible risks to both agriculture and
49 consumers.
50 8. Challenging individuals and organizations that misrepresent scientific evidence and harm
51 farmers' financial well-being or their credibility.
52 9. Encouraging agribusinesses, through their advertising, to present a positive and
53 professional image of farmers and agriculture.
54 10. Encouraging companies that provide animal feed, shelter and health products to advertise
55 the positive aspects of animal production in addition to their products.
56

- 1 11. The work of non-profit agricultural organizations whose mission is to improve the image of
2 agriculture and to confront negative messages.
- 3 12. County Farm Bureau partnerships with other farm organizations to improve public
4 understanding of agriculture.
- 5 13. The training of farmer spokespersons to convey a knowledgeable and professional
6 message in response to all media requests especially those of a national platform on
7 agriculture.

8 9 10 11 **83. FARM BUREAU RELATIONSHIP WITH AFFILIATED COMPANIES**

12
13 We believe that Farm Bureau members are the foundation upon which all affiliated companies
14 were built.

15
16 We support:

- 17 1. County Farm Bureaus maintaining and improving working relationships with affiliated
18 company boards of directors and management through interlocking board members and
19 other means.
- 20 2. Holding periodic affiliated company and Farm Bureau joint board meetings on both the
21 state and county level and to hold regular county Farm Bureau and affiliated company joint
22 staff meetings.
- 23 3. Affiliated companies to consult with the Illinois Agricultural Association (IAA) and county
24 Farm Bureaus before initiating major changes in products, services, policies, and
25 operating procedures that impact the Farm Bureau organizations or Farm Bureau
26 members.

27 28 29 30 **84. GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS**

31
32 We support:

- 33 1. Regulations to protect the public health, safety and welfare, provided:
 - 34 A. The regulations are based upon scientific data which has been subject to
35 replication and peer review.
 - 36 B. The costs as well as the benefits of the regulations have been carefully weighed.
 - 37 C. The regulations have been subject to independent analysis and public scrutiny.
 - 38 D. Alternatives to regulation have been considered, especially the provision of market-
39 based incentives.
 - 40 E. The regulations respect the practicalities of doing business in the industry being
41 regulated.
- 42 2. Cooperating with American Farm Bureau Federation, on the regulatory process to better
43 protect agriculture's interest during rule-making.
- 44 3. Requiring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to collaborate with the U.S.
45 Department of Agriculture (USDA) in developing regulations impacting agriculture.
- 46 4. Member involvement in the regulatory process by responding during comment periods.
- 47 5. The review of all state and national regulation to ensure legislative intent is being followed.
- 48 6. Legislation to reduce and eliminate duplicative services, programs, and burdensome
49 government regulations.

50
51 We oppose establishing law through Executive Orders that circumvent Congress, do not allow for
52 public review and input, exceed constitutional and statutory guidelines, or impose significant
53 economic impact on citizens, businesses, and local or state governments.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

85. INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS IN FARM BUREAU

We believe the county Farm Bureaus are the strength of the Illinois Agricultural Association. We recognize that county Farm Bureaus are important to the individual members and it is these individual members that become the most integral parts of the Illinois Agricultural Association. The support and direction of the individual members are of utmost importance to the organization.

The thinking, direction and support of all members are needed in our organization. We urge active involvement of men and women of all ages in the committee structure on the state and county level. We will continue efforts to strengthen county and state member programs to enhance the value of Farm Bureau membership.

We especially urge county Farm Bureaus to appoint at least one member of the Women's, Promotion and Education, and Young Farmer/Young Leader Committees to serve on county Farm Bureau standing committees. The representatives of each county committee should meet regularly with their Board of Directors.

We encourage county Farm Bureaus to present opportunities for active members to gain the background and experience necessary to be effective leaders.

The Young Farmer/Young Leader Committee is important in assuring the maximum opportunity for young farmers to participate in Farm Bureau programs.

Counties are encouraged to follow the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Young Farmer and Rancher program age limits so that county Young Farmer and Young Leader Committees will be eligible for the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) Young Leader and AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher programs.

86. LEGISLATIVE AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP

We will:

1. Take aggressive positions in the development of legislation and regulations.
2. Involve county Farm Bureau leaders and members in the legislative and regulatory process.
3. Involve various groups and organizations in the development of such legislation and regulations when there is common interest in order to find the best solutions to the complex problems facing us.
4. Cooperate with county Farm Bureaus in developing and implementing programs to familiarize legislators with rural problems and concerns and to familiarize rural leaders with urban problems and concerns.

We urge the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Illinois Agricultural Association to take a leadership role in working with groups and organizations with common goals to help develop a common policy position on national legislation and regulations.

87. POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

We support:

1. A person's right to individually or collectively contribute time and money to candidates of his or her choice.
2. The participation in the political process, both as individual citizens and members of the Illinois Agricultural Association (IAA).

- 1 3. Equal access to government for all citizens regardless of political engagement.
- 2 4. The expansion of political involvement programs to promote Farm Bureau policy by aiding
- 3 and promoting candidates for public office who, through their actions, have supported the
- 4 goals and purposes of the IAA.
- 5
- 6
- 7

8 **88. UNIFORM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

9
10 We urge county Farm Bureau boards of directors to review annually the Uniform Cooperative
11 Agreement between the county Farm Bureaus and the Illinois Agricultural Association (IAA).
12 Attention should be given to the need for counties and the IAA Board of Directors to support
13 policy positions once adopted by the IAA delegates.
14

15
16 **89. 9-1-1 TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

17
18 We support:

- 19 1. The enhanced 9-1-1 telephone system.
- 20 2. Providing input into the implementation of the local system.
- 21 3. All funding intended for 9-1-1 systems should carry through to those facilities.
- 22 4. Increasing the 9-1-1 surcharge on cell phones to adequately support the 9-1-1 telephone
- 23 system.
- 24 5. Requiring the State of Illinois to forward 9-1-1 fees to the 9-1-1 operating systems within
- 25 30 days of receiving such fees.
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29

30 **90. FARM SAFETY**

31
32 We support:

- 33 1. Encouraging all county Farm Bureaus to develop and maintain an aggressive farm safety
- 34 education program to help protect our current and future generations. It is important that
- 35 youth receive age appropriate training in farm safety.
- 36 2. Working to enhance the safety of farmers by encouraging them to use and, when
- 37 necessary, replace safety lighting, markings, and reflective devices that are of extreme
- 38 importance when used on farm machinery.
- 39 3. Encouraging the use and placement of reflective material and safety lighting on farm
- 40 equipment that conforms with the American Society of Agricultural and Biological
- 41 Engineers (ASABE) marking standards.
- 42 4. Encouraging all county Farm Bureaus to work with local farmers, elevators, and
- 43 emergency response personnel to provide adequate grain safety training. Training should
- 44 include information pertaining to safe grain handling as well as grain emergencies.
- 45
- 46
- 47

48 **91. FOOD LABELING**

49
50 We support:

- 51 1. Promotion of increased use of nutritional information on food labels.
- 52 2. Proper labeling of foods, fibers, and other agricultural products.
- 53 3. Including information on the source of protein (animal or plant-based) on labels.
- 54 4. Establishing criteria for a certification process and corresponding legislation for country of
- 55 origin labeling. The process should support farmer self-certification of origin of livestock;
- 56

- 1 operate under a presumption of domestic origin; and not be financially burdensome to
- 2 farmers in establishing record keeping criteria.
- 3 5. Enactment of a similar labeling law in the United States like other nations to separate
- 4 different classes of beverages to specify milk as a product of an animal's mammary gland.
- 5 6. Development of a "U.S. Product" label for products that are originated, produced, and
- 6 processed in the U.S.
- 7 7. A voluntary labeling and/or traceability system for identity-preserved agricultural and food
- 8 products that is based on a clear and factual certification process in order to ensure the
- 9 health, safety, and integrity of the product, and enhance the ability of the farmer to capture
- 10 a value-added return.
- 11 8. Voluntary labeling of biotech or non-biotech products when an approved certification
- 12 process is in place including:
- 13 A. The development of a consumer-friendly icon or label indicating presence of
- 14 genetically modified materials in food.
- 15 B. Positive labeling of biotech products that is science-based, truthful, and not
- 16 misleading.
- 17 9. The science-based labeling policies of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA),
- 18 including:
- 19 A. No special labeling unless a food is significantly different than its traditional
- 20 counterpart, or where a specific constituent is altered (e.g., nutritionally or when
- 21 affecting allergenicity).
- 22 B. Voluntary labeling using statements which are truthful and not misleading.
- 23 10. Vigorous enforcement of FDA food labeling guidelines for domestic and imported
- 24 products.
- 25 11. Enforcement of federal statute that specifies commodities at a farmer's market in Illinois
- 26 must disclose the address of the farm where each product is produced.
- 27 12. The definition of meat to include only animal flesh produced by the natural growth of living
- 28 animals.

29
30 We oppose:

- 31 1. Negative labeling of food products as being derived from the use of biotechnology.
- 32 2. Labels that state or imply organic food is superior to traditional agri-food products or that
- 33 imply negative consequences of consuming non-organic foods over organic products.
- 34 3. The use of "all natural" and "GMO free" synonymously with "organic" as a way to avoid
- 35 farmer certification as an organic grower.

36 37 38 39 **92. FOOD QUALITY PROTECTION ACT**

40
41 In its review and implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), as originally

42 intended, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must:

- 43 1. Commit to use science, as intended by Congress, in fulfilling the FQPA mandate.
- 44 2. Establish a fair and transparent decision-making process.
- 45 3. End the practice of using unduly conservative end points, safety factors, and default
- 46 assumptions.
- 47 4. Give higher priority to making scientific decisions rather than completing final tolerance
- 48 reassessments by statutory deadlines. Sound science requires good data and valid
- 49 methodologies, which require time to develop.
- 50 5. Avoid removing uses that pose theoretical risk based on unreasonable, worst case
- 51 assumptions.
- 52 6. Abandon the idea of wholesale revocation of tolerances for the organophosphate
- 53 insecticides.
- 54 7. Develop proposed policies and methods for risk allocation and submit them for public
- 55 notice and comment review.

- 1 8. Redress the current resource imbalance between tolerance reassessment and new
2 chemical/new use registration and accelerate the pace of making decisions on new
3 products and uses.
- 4 9. In the event of registration cancellation, allow time for pesticide users to make a
5 reasonable transition to alternative products.

93. FOOD SAFETY

10
11 We support:

- 12 1. Implementing a communications strategy on food safety issues to provide accurate
13 information to the media, to educate the public, and to raise public awareness of the
14 actions farmers are taking to produce a plentiful, high-quality supply of food at fair prices.
- 15 2. Measures to improve food inspection and safety through the United States Department of
16 Agriculture (USDA) Inspection Service to assure consumers of a safe food supply. These
17 measures should reinforce consumer confidence while being cost effective.
- 18 3. Protection of our food supply by requiring that imported food products be subjected to the
19 same high safety standards and testing as food produced in the United States.
- 20 4. Consumer education through labeling regarding safe cooking and storage procedures.
- 21 5. National uniformity in pesticide residue standards. Consideration should be given to the
22 benefits of crop protection products.
- 23 6. The concept of negligible risk rather than zero tolerance.
- 24 7. Cooperative efforts with food processors, chemical companies, governmental agencies,
25 scientists and others who are responsible for the food supply of our nation to provide
26 factual information on the safety of our food supply.
- 27 8. Open communication, not confrontation, with responsible environmental groups.
- 28 9. The use of modern technology in the processing and handling of food to assure food
29 safety and promote consumer confidence in the food supply.
- 30 10. USDA as the federal agency responsible for food inspection and safety.
- 31 11. National (USDA) and state food inspection programs that guarantee adequate inspectors
32 and funding for businesses in both domestic and imported food products.
- 33 12. The establishment of a USDA-approval process for state-inspected slaughter and
34 processing plants that allows them to ship interstate.
- 35 13. Immediate and longer-term actions by USDA and the Department of Homeland Security
36 (DHS) to raise the priority of, and resources devoted to, federal safety and inspection
37 services, including: the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), Animal and Plant Health
38 Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS).
- 39 14. The establishment of voluntary guidelines which minimize microbial food safety hazards
40 for fresh fruits and vegetables. The guidelines should:
 - 41 A. Be based on science.
 - 42 B. Remain generic in nature, not commodity specific, to accommodate the diversity of
43 the fresh fruit and vegetable industry.
 - 44 C. Be implemented in a manner that does not impede our ability to export.

94. HEALTH CARE

Rural Health Care Quality and Accessibility

50
51 We support:

- 52 1. Increasing awareness of the health care resources available to rural populations.
 - 53 2. Providing additional health care resources where needed.
 - 54 3. Efforts to direct state funding to medical schools to train additional qualified family
55 physicians who will practice medicine in rural areas.
- 56

- 1 4. Residency programs to provide post-graduate family physician and primary care training
2 away from major metropolitan-based medical training centers.
- 3 5. Programs and incentives to encourage doctors, nurses, and other health care
4 professionals to practice in rural Illinois.
- 5 6. The development and implementation of programs to assess rural hospital programs, rural
6 health care facilities, and alternative methods of delivering rural health care.
- 7 7. Efforts to develop mobile medical equipment and facilities to bring basic health care
8 services to rural areas of the state.
- 9 8. Adequate ambulance service in all rural areas.
- 10 9. State regulations to allow the development of limited service hospitals to meet emergency
11 care and other needs where the market will not support a traditional full-service hospital.
- 12 10. Legislation that provides exemptions to new state and federal regulations for volunteer fire
13 departments and ambulance services.
- 14 11. The maximum possible use of the private sector in providing health care.
- 15 12. Increased funding and improved delivery of mental health services to rural populations.
- 16 13. Exemptions in the two Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) rule to allow rural
17 ambulances to proceed to the scene of an emergency call.
- 18 14. Granting continuing education credit to EMTs for their time spent responding to
19 emergency calls.
- 20 15. The expansion of the size and scope of the Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program
21 (RNPSP).
- 22 16. An increase in state appropriations for programs that allow for recruitment, training, and
23 retention of additional health care professionals to serve rural counties of Illinois.

24
25 We will:

- 26 1. Encourage county Farm Bureaus to host or sponsor community forums of interested
27 professional and lay groups to assess rural health care and facilities in their county.
- 28 2. Encourage county Farm Bureaus to host or sponsor rural health and awareness activities
29 including making screening and testing available to their members.
- 30 3. Continue to support the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP) in its
31 efforts to provide medical practitioners for rural communities in Illinois. We encourage
32 expansion of that program to meet the changing health care needs of rural Illinois.
- 33 4. Encourage the American Farm Bureau Federation to place a higher priority on its
34 continuing study of the problems of the delivery of health care services in the United
35 States.
- 36 5. Support an Agricultural Physicians and Nursing Program that would educate health care
37 professionals in dealing with agricultural accidents and injuries.
- 38 6. Work with the Illinois Department of Public Health to reinstate and maintain all levels of
39 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training and testing at convenient locations
40 throughout the state as administered prior to the elimination of EMT basic level testing in
41 Illinois. This will ensure that adequate volunteer services can be retained as a Basic Life
42 System (BLS) and minimize additional mandatory training placed on Emergency Medical
43 Technician Basics (EMT-B). Additional unfunded mandates will impose hardships on the
44 rural volunteer emergency ambulance services. The state of Illinois should look at ways to
45 provide funds for any additional mandates.
- 46 7. Encourage funding to rural ambulance services to increase their ability to employ
47 additional certified Pre-Hospital Registered Nurse (PHRN), strengthening their rural
48 emergency response and treatment capabilities.
- 49 8. Work to establish a unified EMT and Fire Service Training/Cadet program in which high
50 school students who meet the requirements of the State of Illinois and of the program are
51 able to serve in rural areas.
- 52 9. Support the concept of providing health insurance through the market place by allowing
53 portability including insuring pre-existing conditions.

54
55
56

Payment for Health Care Services

We support:

1. Allowing Medicare recipients to purchase private health care plans that are actuarially equivalent to the current Medicare plan. The plan would receive a payment from Medicare to cover some or all of the costs of the premium.
2. Incentives which could be provided to Medicare recipients to allow them to participate in private or alternative plans.
3. Efforts to eliminate or significantly reduce cost shifting from Medicaid and Medicare to individuals and third-party payers.
4. Privately funded optional care delivery systems such as Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO's) and Preferred Provider Organizations (PPO's).
5. Efforts to encourage the medical profession to accept Medicare assignments. Rural and urban hospitals should be reimbursed equally for providing services to Medicare and Medicaid patients.
6. Relaxation of state and federal mandates which require that certain provisions be included in all health insurance policies. Consumers should be given choices as to what provisions are included in their health insurance programs.
7. Further expansion of medical savings accounts that would qualify for a tax credit to allow individuals and their employees to set aside money in anticipation of future health care costs.
8. Removing the caps on the annual maximum contribution amount for all health savings accounts (HSAs).
9. Eliminating the high deductible health plan mandate from HSA eligibility requirements, allowing more individuals to access the health savings plan.
10. Allowing HSA funds to be used for health insurance premiums.
11. Lifting restrictions placed on the use of HSA funds for Over-The-Counter medicines.
12. Consideration of a voluntary regional insurance purchasing cooperative to permit individuals and small companies to receive the same price advantages that corporations receive.
13. Efforts to simplify and make uniform all insurance forms to reduce the cost of processing.
14. Efforts to detect fraud and abuse of Medicare and Medicaid. We encourage swift and vigorous prosecution of those who are found guilty of defrauding these programs.

We will seek legislation to allow non-penalty and tax-free transfers from IRAs to health savings accounts for major medical emergencies.

We urge repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and support a more market-oriented system of health care delivery.

We oppose:

1. Mandated employer-provided health insurance.
2. Any movement to a single-payer health care system.
3. All tax increases to solve the Medicare problem.
4. Any further tightening of Medicare provider reimbursement.
5. Increasing Medicaid eligibility, in an effort to have national health care reform, that would result in increased cost shifting to the states.

Health Care Delivery Cost

We support:

1. Programs to reduce the inflation in health care costs.
2. The development and implementation of programs to provide incentives for consumers to practice wellness and disease prevention.
3. Tort reform to reduce the practice of defensive medicine (i.e. redundant, excessive or unnecessary testing primarily for purposes of liability concerns rather than diagnostic purposes).

- 1 4. Every possible effort to affect cost management while providing accessible high-quality
- 2 health care.
- 3 5. State and federal efforts to reduce medical malpractice insurance costs, including
- 4 limitations on certain punitive and non-economic damage awards, pre-filing mediation
- 5 boards, and peer review.
- 6 6. The use of innovations such as surgical centers or outpatient facilities to allow consumers
- 7 to opt out of expensive hospital costs when they are unnecessary.
- 8 7. The development of an aggressive education-information program for health care
- 9 consumers to assist them in selecting the most cost-effective health care procedures.
- 10 8. Encouragement of regional hospitals to specialize in specific treatment areas with shared
- 11 access to eliminate unnecessary duplication of equipment and personnel.
- 12 9. A periodic review of state regulations and licensing requirements for hospitals and medical
- 13 professionals to determine the appropriateness of the regulations and licensing
- 14 requirements in light of changes in the health care delivery system.
- 15 10. Efforts to allow consumers to purchase medications that are physician prescribed, as
- 16 opposed to having to accept a substitute, in order to receive any reimbursement from their
- 17 insurance carrier.

18
19
20
21 **95. NUTRITION**

22
23 We support:

- 24 1. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) efforts to expand the use of dietetically
- 25 wholesome and nutritious foods in all school meals and other nutrition programs and shall
- 26 not be limited to locally-grown or organic production.
- 27 2. Renaming high fructose corn syrup to corn sugar.
- 28 3. Greater flexibility with the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs to ensure local
- 29 school districts are able to determine how to meet the nutritional needs of their students.
- 30 4. Equal access of pasteurized dairy products, including whole milk, by the USDA national
- 31 school lunch program and by the armed forces.

32
33 We oppose financial penalties on local school districts for serving meals that do not meet current

34 federal mandates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs.

35
36
37

38 **96. PUBLIC AID**

39
40 **Government Assisted Nutrition Programs**

41 We support:

- 42 1. Programs to provide a basic nutrition benefit to need-based individuals.
 - 43 2. Benefit allotments based on a fair value amount that accounts for the true cost of food,
 - 44 geographical food price variation and time costs for food preparation.
 - 45 3. Incentives for purchasing fruits and vegetables.
 - 46 4. Educational programs and incentives for participants to utilize benefits to purchase food
 - 47 meeting nutrition dietary guidelines.
 - 48 5. All program participants utilizing benefits for home-delivered groceries not including
 - 49 service fees and delivery charges.
 - 50 6. The acceptance of benefits at Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), farmers markets,
 - 51 online grocery stores, and farm stands.
 - 52 7. Charitable food provider access and funding to purchase domestically produced United
 - 53 States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities for distribution to need-based
 - 54 individuals.
- 55
56

- 1 8. Illinois Health and Human Services staff contacting nutrition program recipients who
2 request a replacement Electronic Benefits (EBT) card more than twice in a 12-month
3 period.
- 4 9. Increasing food bank funding for food and nutrition assistance programs, cold storage, and
5 distribution costs.
- 6 10. Work or educational training requirements for able-bodied recipients.

7
8 We oppose public aid programs so lucrative that there is an economic advantage in becoming a
9 recipient.

10 11 12 **97. RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

13
14
15 We support:

- 16 1. Placing rural development as one of our highest priorities.
- 17 2. Examining private and government rural development programs to determine their viability
18 and practicality in improving the rural economy and quality of life in Illinois.
- 19 3. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Business and Industry Guaranteed
20 Loan Program to make loan guarantees to farmer-owned projects sited in urban or
21 urbanizing areas if the locations are the most economically viable to return benefits to the
22 rural owners of the project.
- 23 4. Monitoring the impact of the new definition of "Micropolitan Areas" and, if negative
24 economic effects of rural areas are observed, support changes to that definition to better
25 serve rural areas.
- 26 5. Developing a comprehensive program for coordinating rural development activities within
27 the state and county Farm Bureau levels.
- 28 6. Entrepreneurial programs that promote rural economic development including business
29 incubator programs in rural high schools.
- 30 7. Identifying specific rural initiatives which our organization will support during the
31 development of our comprehensive program.
- 32 8. Providing county Farm Bureaus advice and guidance on rural development programs.
- 33 9. County Farm Bureaus taking a leadership role in rural, community and economic
34 development programs and activities in cooperation with local business, political and
35 agricultural leaders.
- 36 10. The federal government fully funding Rural Partners and similar projects. Additional
37 federal funds should be provided to these types of projects which use volunteers instead
38 of government agencies to solve rural problems.
- 39 11. Additional USDA Rural Development funding and targeting a greater portion of all funds
40 towards stimulating commerce in rural areas.
- 41 12. Increased USDA Rural Development funding for technical and marketing assistance to
42 provide value-added opportunities for farmers.
- 43 13. Integrating community services through a single, local economic unit (such as a school)
44 through voluntary local initiatives.
- 45 14. A government-based clearinghouse at both the federal and state levels to provide one-
46 stop-shopping for information, coordination of all information regarding government
47 sponsored or aided rural development programs, and information on allied non-
48 governmental programs.
- 49 15. Legislation to assist local governments to develop integrated Geographical Information
50 Systems (GIS).
- 51 16. Local governments, when considering offering incentives for the purpose of spurring
52 economic development, to:
 - 53 A. Balance new-growth incentives against those available to existing businesses;
 - 54 B. Make incentives contingent on promised performance;
 - 55 C. Carefully examine program costs relative to the increase in economic activity and
56 tax revenue generated by the development.

- 1 17. Program development and funding for low-interest loans to assist small business owners
2 in identifying and training a successor who would then purchase the business and
3 continue its operation.
- 4 18. Landowners granting easements that improve rural services in areas that need the access
5 to better water services.
- 6 19. Multiple sources and increased levels of funding for developing and expanding broadband
7 access to rural areas.
- 8 20. Studies regarding the quality of life and well-being of rural Illinois residents by the state of
9 Illinois, universities and similar interest groups.

98. BUSINESS CLIMATE IN ILLINOIS

10
11
12
13
14
15 We support:

- 16 1. Moderating the increasing cost of unemployment compensation.
- 17 2. Reducing costs involved in providing Worker's Compensation benefits.
- 18 3. Repealing the prevailing wage laws relating to public works projects. Failing to repeal, we
19 will support legislation reducing the burden of the prevailing wage on public bodies outside
20 of major metropolitan areas.
- 21 4. Bringing Illinois' minimum wage law in line with federal minimum wage law.
- 22 5. Working directly with Illinois' regulatory agencies to improve their efficiency in issuing the
23 permits for business, economic, and natural resource development projects.
- 24 6. Ongoing analyses using state and federal statistics and support reporting of the economic
25 performance of natural-resource-based and mineral-based economies across Illinois'
26 counties.

27
28 We oppose:

- 29 1. The creation of a state or local tax on any financial transaction, including a tax on any
30 commodity, currency, or securities.
- 31 2. Efforts to incorporate into law the doctrine of "comparable worth" as it relates to
32 compensation levels for various types of jobs.

99. COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

33
34
35
36
37
38 We support:

- 39 1. Legislation requiring Congress and the Illinois General Assembly to vote by a roll call vote
40 on any legislation that would increase their pay or pension of its members.
- 41 2. Pay and pension legislation being voted on separately and not being tied to unrelated
42 legislation.
- 43 3. Legislation that would deny all state employment-related benefits to any state employee
44 who is convicted under any federal, state, or local law of theft, embezzlement, or
45 accepting bribes in connection with the employees service as a state employee. We
46 support an amendment to the Illinois Pension Code and/or other current law to the extent
47 necessary to implement this proposed legislation.
- 48 4. Capping the pension amount that a state legislator can receive regardless of their length
49 of service or the position(s) they hold with the state after leaving the legislature.
- 50 5. Enabling elected local and state officials having access to a 457 plan rather than a
51 taxpayer-funded pension.
- 52 6. Requiring public employees to contribute a greater amount to their own pensions.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

100. ELECTIONS

We will actively participate in any legislation and other activities that will involve electoral reforms.

We support:

1. State legislation modifying the present consolidated election law so that the right of secret ballot is protected.
2. Shortening political campaigns by moving primaries closer to general elections, provided county clerks have ample time to prepare for the general election.
3. A limit on campaign spending and franking privileges.
4. Reforming federal campaign laws to include:
 - A. A strengthening of campaign spending limitation laws to prevent abuse through the use of "soft money" and independent expenditures.
 - B. An increase in the allowable contribution an individual may make to a candidate.
5. Requiring individuals registering to vote, and during voting, presenting government issued photo identification.
6. Consolidating elections in order to streamline the system and reduce taxpayers' expense.
7. Reducing the number of required election judges from five to three for every precinct in counties with a population of 250,000 or less should the local election authority so desire.
8. Greater oversight and enforcement of voter fraud of elections by the Illinois State Board of Elections.
9. Uniform signature requirements, on nominating petitions, regardless of political party for candidates seeking public office.

We oppose:

1. The use of the Internet for voting in any local, state, or federal election.
2. The current Illinois Undervote Notification Law and will support legislation to repeal it.
3. The use of campaign phone calls that are made to households that are on a do-not-call list.
4. Same day voter registration unless the following conditions are met:
 - A. All voter registrations done on Election Day take place at a county designated government facility.
 - B. A valid photo ID is required at the time of registration.
 - C. Full funding of same day voter registration be provided by the State of Illinois to ensure this is not a burdensome unfunded mandate on local governments.
 - D. Legislation be passed to require uniform statewide standards for the voter registration process.

38
39
40
41
42

101. FARM EQUIPMENT

We support:

1. Clarifying and simplifying the vehicle code and regulations relating to farm vehicles.
 2. Proper use of the slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblems, retailers providing information regarding proper use and law enforcement agencies enforcing proper use of SMVs.
 3. Seeking legislation to increase the fine for the misuse of SMV emblems to at least \$75.00 for the first offense.
 4. State and county Farm Bureaus developing an SMV and lighting campaign to encourage farmers to update their older equipment with new amber flashing lights and SMV emblems.
 5. Development and utilization of standardized specifications for pesticide containers and equipment connectors for closed pesticide application systems.
 6. Farm equipment manufacturers and American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) working together to create an improved system for new equipment
- 55
56

- 1 that would better indicate turns, such as sequentially-flashing red arrows, making them
2 more noticeable for vehicles that are approaching or following.
3 7. Development and utilization of standardized wire color/function for any trailer licensed for
4 over-the-road use or any towed implement of husbandry.
5 8. A farm equipment owner's right to maintain, service, repair, and rebuild their vehicle or
6 farming equipment on their own accord or by the repair shop of their choice.
7

8 We oppose:

- 9 1. Licensing farm tractors and other implements of husbandry.
10 2. Mandatory retrofitting of lighting on farm equipment beyond that which was required by
11 law as of 2018.
12
13
14

15 **102. FENCE LAW**

16
17 We support:

- 18 1. The equitable cost sharing of division fences between adjoining landowners.
19 2. Developers and subsequent owners installing and maintaining a new line fence on
20 subdivided property.
21
22
23

24 **103. FIREARMS**

25
26 We support:

- 27 1. Active promotion of gun safety programs.
28 2. The Firearm Owners Identification Act and reasonable fees for Firearm Owners
29 Identification cards based on the administrative costs of the program.
30 3. The Firearm Concealed Carry Act issuing permits to carry concealed firearms to qualified
31 Illinois' citizens through an appropriate application process.
32 4. Current laws that requires background checks and waiting periods for handgun purchases.
33 5. Legislation to allow active military personnel residing in Illinois the opportunity to obtain a
34 concealed carry permit without regard to state of residence.
35 6. Strict enforcement of current laws.
36 7. The opportunity for school districts to allow school personnel to voluntarily carry a
37 concealed firearm while on duty and on school property.
38 8. An Illinois State Police endorsed certification/training program for school personnel who
39 are approved by their school district to carry a concealed firearm on school property.
40 9. Statewide efforts to explore the use of non-lethal weapons as an alternative to lethal
41 weapons in schools and other government institutions where children are usually present.
42 10. School districts engaging with law enforcement to provide active shooter training
43 programs.
44

45 We oppose any type of gun registration program or new, more stringent gun control laws or rules.
46
47
48

49 **104. ILLINOIS BANKING STRUCTURE**

50
51 We support:

- 52 1. An adequate supply of competitively priced credit for all credit worthy farmers.
53 2. Competent staff in local banks who understands agriculture and the unique risks with
54 which farmers must deal.
55 3. Fair competition for banks of all sizes and in all locales.
56 4. Fair competition with other types of lenders.

- 1 5. Economic decision making that is not concentrated in the hands of a few large financial
- 2 institutions.
- 3 6. Constant or a net inflow of capital into the area in which financial institutions are being
- 4 acquired, merged or consolidated.
- 5 7. Greater scrutiny of an investigation into anti-trust ramifications and violations in relation to
- 6 mergers and other acquisitions.

7
8
9
10 **105. ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

11
12 We support:

- 13 1. The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) as a stand-alone agency.
- 14 2. Strengthening the IDOA including its role in regulatory concerns as they apply to
- 15 agriculture.
- 16 3. Strengthening Illinois county fairs, the Illinois State Fair, and the DuQuoin State Fair as
- 17 agricultural expositions.
- 18 4. The State of Illinois fully funding its portion of premium dollars at Illinois county fairs.
- 19 5. The establishment of a charitable foundation to solicit donations and sponsorships to grow
- 20 and improve the Illinois State Fair and the DuQuoin State Fair.
- 21 6. The IDOA and the State of Illinois putting a five-to-10-year plan in place to move the
- 22 Illinois State Fair up at least one week.
- 23 7. Sufficient meat inspectors on staff so as to be readily available and not hinder the ability of
- 24 local meat lockers to harvest as needed.

25
26
27
28 **106. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION**

29
30 We support:

- 31 1. Expanded use of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act by units of local government.
- 32 2. The shared use of buildings, equipment, personnel and programs by units of local
- 33 government to reduce the cost to each unit.
- 34 3. County Farm Bureaus working with local government officials and other interested parties
- 35 to encourage local government cooperation.

36
37
38
39 **107. JUDICIAL REFORM**

40
41 We support:

- 42 1. An amendment to the Illinois Constitution permitting downstate judicial districts to choose
- 43 by referendum between election of judges or appointment of judges from candidates
- 44 recommended by advisory commissions made up of laymen and lawyers.
- 45 2. Working with members of the legal profession and legislative bodies on a state and
- 46 national level to substantially reform the judicial system by addressing issues such as tort
- 47 reform, attorney contingency fees, incompetent or unqualified judges, and lengthy trials.
- 48 3. Limiting the tenure of judges at the local and state level.
- 49 4. Providing adequate information to the public regarding the qualifications of individuals
- 50 seeking election or retention to judicial office.

1
2
3 **108. LAW AND ORDER**

4 We support:

- 5 1. Vigorous enforcement of the current driving under the influence laws and legislative efforts
6 to improve those laws.
- 7 2. Firm, fair, and prompt enforcement of existing laws.
- 8 3. Increased enforcement of existing littering laws.
- 9 4. Providing aid to victims of crime.
- 10 5. Greater member involvement in recruiting and electing qualified local law enforcement
11 professionals.
- 12 6. Requiring that the County Sheriff and State's Attorney be notified when an inmate from
13 their county is released from a correctional institution.
- 14 7. Reducing the fiscal impact imposed on local governments by giving them flexibility to meet
15 minimum federal jail standards.
- 16 8. Law enforcement officials seizing vehicles used in the commission of a theft involving
17 agricultural commodities, supplies or equipment.
- 18 9. Legislation where needed to prevent the illegal production, importation, manufacture, or
19 distribution of drugs and related drug paraphernalia.
- 20 10. Making the Illinois medical cannabis pilot program permanent and expanding the
21 conditions allowed to be treated with medical cannabis to those proven by medical
22 research to benefit from medical cannabis treatment.
- 23 11. Work programs for prisoners.
- 24 12. The establishment of Juvenile Justice Councils.
- 25 13. Seeking legislation to provide for severe and mandatory sentences for crimes committed
26 with weapons.
- 27 14. Clearly defining the legal definition of the defense of one's property.
- 28 15. Developing coalitions to address the problems with and education about
29 methamphetamine production and use.
- 30 16. The development of an economical additive for anhydrous ammonia to prevent its use for
31 the production of methamphetamine or other illegal purposes.
- 32 17. Seeking legislation imposing stiffer penalties for theft of anhydrous ammonia for
33 methamphetamine production.

34 In the event that recreational use of marijuana is legalized in Illinois, we will call for its taxation
35 and regulation and call for the use of said taxation to increase funding for its regulation.

36
37 We oppose:

- 38 1. The "early release program" as a solution to prison overcrowding.
 - 39 2. The use, production and distribution of marijuana for recreational purposes.
- 40
41
42

43 **109. LEGISLATIVE BODIES**

44
45 We support:

- 46 1. Legislation prohibiting members of the General Assembly from receiving remuneration
47 from any taxing body for other than incidental services rendered on a part-time basis.
- 48 2. Legislation to provide for a "sunset" of all new state or federal rules issued by
49 departments, agencies, executive order or commissions or explicit reauthorization of those
50 rules at "sunset" which spend tax resources.
- 51 3. Limiting the Governor's amendatory veto power to only technical corrections and matters
52 of form.
- 53 4. A restructuring of the Illinois legislative redistricting process that will be conducted by an
54 unbiased third party, will not be based on political affiliation and prior election results, and
55 districts will be compact, contiguous, and impartial to party or incumbency. Districts should
56 follow county, township, and municipal boundaries as much as possible.

- 1 5. An amendment to the Illinois Constitution that addresses limiting the passage of lame
2 duck legislation and requires a 3/5 vote on all legislation in the second year of a General
3 Assembly session after May 31.
- 4 6. Creating term limits on both minority and majority leadership positions within the Illinois
5 House of Representatives and Senate.
- 6 7. Creating term limits on all statewide offices and state legislators in Illinois.

110. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

12 We support:

- 13 1. The principle of strong local government.
- 14 2. The assignment of responsibility for government services to that unit of general
15 government which best serves the people and can economically provide the service.
- 16 3. Maximizing efficiency and eliminating waste in all units of government.
- 17 4. Providing uniform requirements, including the printed full name of the voter, for signers of
18 all public petitions.
- 19 5. Permitting consolidation of additional county functions between counties.
- 20 6. Ensuring that any electronic registry of mortgage loan information shall not affect the
21 current system of recording documents affecting title to real property with the county clerk
22 or recorder.
- 23 7. Providing for salaries of all local officials to be set by the appropriate local unit, rather than
24 by the state legislature.
- 25 8. Requiring at least 15 percent of registered voters as signers on petitions within any
26 territory proposed to become a new taxing district or within any area proposed to be
27 annexed to an existing taxing district.
- 28 9. Requiring that a referendum to expand a taxing district be approved by a majority of voters
29 in both the existing district and in the area proposed to be annexed. When a new taxing
30 district is to be created encompassing both incorporated and unincorporated areas, the
31 referendum should require approval by voters within the incorporated area and a separate
32 approval by voters in the unincorporated area.
- 33 10. Extending the time limit from 30 days to 60 days to get the necessary percentage of
34 registered voters' signatures on petitions concerning backdoor referendums.
- 35 11. More clearly defining what issues are appropriate for non-binding advisory referenda for
36 units of local government.
- 37 12. Prohibiting individuals from serving concurrently as an elected mayor and an elected
38 county board member.
- 39 13. Allowing townships with annual revenue less than \$850,000, when required to have a CPA
40 audit, to have the audit performed on a cash basis rather than an accrual basis.
- 41 14. Providing for the absorption, consolidation, disconnection, and dissolution of units of local
42 government by front door referendum. Only that unit's governing board or registered
43 voters residing within the unit of government should be allowed to initiate the front door
44 referendum.
- 45 15. Waiving the residency requirement for the office of Highway Commissioner in a road
46 district with a population of less than 500, only if, no qualified candidate willing to serve the
47 office exists within the township. All other requirements for the office shall remain.
- 48 16. Requiring special purpose units of local government, excluding drainage districts, that go
49 dormant (no projects or expenditures) for more than two years to go before the voters
50 within the district to determine if the unit should continue in existence.
- 51 17. Codifying case law dealing with prohibited activities to include serving on a unit of local
52 government board and be an employee of that unit of government.
- 53 18. The shifting of additional responsibilities from the federal government to state
54 governments if, at the same time, adequate access is made to the tax structure to allow
55 for the financing of such programs by the states and a commensurate reduction is made in
56

- 1 federal taxes. We will support state and local governments in the development of their
- 2 capabilities to discharge these added responsibilities.
- 3 19. The shifting of responsibilities from the state government to local governments only if the
- 4 state government reduces its taxes proportionately or provides local governments the
- 5 resources to carry out such responsibilities.
- 6 20. State provided training and education for local government officials.
- 7 21. Efforts by local government officials, county Farm Bureaus and other organizations to
- 8 increase public participation in the overall functions of local government.
- 9 22. Ensuring that citizens who do not currently live in a library district but wish to receive
- 10 library services can receive equal and affordable access to the public library system.
- 11 23. Encouraging local governments to make compensation breakdowns and pension
- 12 sweeteners more readily available to public scrutiny.
- 13 24. Amending the Cemetery Oversight Act, so that the provisions of the law are not overly
- 14 burdensome for cemeteries.
- 15 25. Elected and appointed government officials being held to ethical standards including
- 16 prohibiting nepotism.

17
18 We support seeking legislation for:

- 19 1. Selection of special district board members by election.
- 20 2. Uniform fiscal years, classification of accounts, budgets and audits for all taxing bodies.
- 21 3. Additional authority for forest preserve districts to sell real estate, including farmland.
- 22 4. A referendum of registered voters in the township or townships to approve the site where
- 23 municipalities propose to annex property for the location of any type of waste disposal
- 24 facility, prison or other entity which could directly affect the lives of people residing in the
- 25 area.
- 26 5. The requirement that any municipality or any other unit of local government considering
- 27 annexation of farmland notify affected landowners by registered or certified mail at least
- 28 30 days prior to the filing of such annexation.
- 29 6. The capability of counties, townships, and special districts to levy impact fees to support
- 30 local services during the time between construction of a project and when tax revenues
- 31 would normally be received and to levy impact fees to support local infrastructure
- 32 improvements in areas of new development.
- 33 7. The elimination of the liability of bonded indebtedness to areas that are annexed and then
- 34 vote by referendum to disconnect from a taxing district which had previously incurred debt
- 35 before the annexation. The annexed and then disconnected territory would only be liable
- 36 for indebtedness occurring while they are a part of the district.

37
38 We oppose all efforts to mandate inclusion of areas not currently served by a library district into

39 existing library districts.

40

41

42

43 **111. MANDATED PROGRAMS**

44

45 We will oppose state and federal legislation mandating local programs, unless full funding for

46 such programs is provided on a continuing basis. We will support an amendment to the Illinois

47 Constitution prohibiting the state from mandating programs on local governments and school

48 districts without providing full state funding.

49

50

51

52 **112. PRIVATE LANDS COOPERATIVE INITIATIVE**

53

54 We support development of state laws and policies promoting voluntary and incentive-based

55 private land initiatives to:

- 56 1. Encourage economic stability in communities through long-term private land ownership.

- 1 2. Enhance on-farm income through recreation-based resource development.
- 2 3. Increase community revenue through expanded economic activity.
- 3 4. Improve public recreational opportunities on private land.
- 4 5. Provide liability protection to landowners.
- 5 6. Increase economic activity in depressed rural communities.
- 6 7. Promote cooperation between government bodies and private landowners.

7
8
9
10 **113. PROBATE AND FAMILY LAWS**

11
12 We will support:

- 13 1. Major reform of probate laws and procedures which will increase the promptness, reduce
- 14 the cost, and simplify the procedures for settling estates.
- 15 2. Revisions to family law that fairly recognize capital cost for purposes of determining net
- 16 farm income and include allowances for deduction of either depreciation or debt service.

17
18
19
20 **114. PUBLIC BUILDING ACTS**

21
22 We will support legislation further limiting the use of the Illinois Building Authority Act and the

23 Illinois Public Building Commission Act.

24
25
26
27 **115. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

28
29 We will work to inform our leaders and members of the basic provisions of the current public

30 employee collective bargaining laws in Illinois.

31
32 We urge our leaders and members to use various innovative consensus and nonadversarial

33 approaches to resolve public employee disputes to minimize the potential of work stoppages by

34 public employees.

35
36 We will cooperate with major public employee and employer groups in the State in pursuit of

37 reasonable solutions to disputes in the public sector.

38
39 We will support binding arbitration only when agreed to by both negotiating parties.

40
41 We will continue to oppose all laws which provide for:

- 42 1. Mandatory membership in any bargaining group, or mandatory financial support of such
- 43 group by non-members.
- 44 2. Strikes by public employees which might jeopardize public health, safety, welfare and
- 45 education.
- 46 3. Inclusion of administrative, supervisory or management personnel in a collective
- 47 bargaining unit.

48
49
50
51 **116. SPECIAL SERVICE AREAS**

52
53 We will seek legislation to amend the Special Service Area Law to permit, by petition of at least

54 10 percent of the voters in the proposed area, the calling of a binding referendum to determine if

55 a special service area shall be established, if taxes are to be extended, or if certain areas are to

56 be included in the service area.

1 We will support legislation:

- 2 1. To ensure that special service areas be restricted to providing those services that are not
- 3 ordinarily provided by county government.
- 4 2. Which provides procedures for the dissolution of special service areas.
- 5 3. Which provides that only counties may establish and govern any special service area
- 6 which includes territory not incorporated within a municipality.

10 **117. TORT REFORM AND INSURANCE LIABILITY**

11 We support:

- 12 1. Coordination of efforts between state and county Farm Bureaus, medical associations,
- 13 insurance organizations, and other organizations for solving the increasing problems of
- 14 cost and availability of liability insurance.
- 15 2. Efforts to reduce the costs of product liability insurance and other important classes of
- 16 liability insurance. Reduction of these costs will benefit the ultimate consumers.
- 17 3. Legislation to help protect landowners and tenants from liability claims made by
- 18 trespassers, licensees, or invitees coming upon the landowners' property and legislation to
- 19 ensure landowners and tenants owe no duty of care to trespassers, regardless of age.
- 20 4. Legislation that will protect the private landowner from liability claims arising from
- 21 conditions or risks created by storms or other natural disasters.
- 22 5. Limitations upon an attorney's contingency fee.
- 23 6. Modification of the law on joint and several liability and comparative negligence to prevent
- 24 inequitable division of compensation from defendants.
- 25 7. Removal of the authority of local units of government to use profits generated from tax-
- 26 created liability protection funds for other purposes.
- 27 8. Development of informational programs to educate our membership and the public
- 28 regarding issues relating to tort reform and the insurance liability crisis.
- 29 9. Laws or regulations absolving farmers from liability claims of environmental pollution:
- 30 A. When complying with federal or state approved label instructions.
- 31 B. When building, managing, or operating livestock facilities according to federal or
- 32 state guidelines such as the Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA) and the
- 33 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) rules.
- 34 10. Legislation at the state and federal level to place reasonable limitations on attorney's fees
- 35 generated by class action lawsuits.
- 36 11. Efforts to limit punitive damages in odor lawsuits.
- 37 12. An amendment to the Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act in order to limit the
- 38 liability of landowners who voluntarily open their land for educational and recreational
- 39 activities at no charge while maintaining the landowner's ability to determine who to allow
- 40 on their property.
- 41 13. Legislation that would encourage liability litigation to be filed and commenced in the
- 42 jurisdiction where the medical service was provided.
- 43 14. The expansion of the restitution language that will allow the recovery of both out-of-pocket
- 44 expenses and lost wages.
- 45 15. Requiring the cost of defense to be paid by the complaining or suing parties and their
- 46 representatives in the event the defendant prevails.
- 47 16. Legislation to minimize the liability of farm equipment drivers and/or owners when Illinois
- 48 Department of Transportation design standards force their equipment to travel across the
- 49 center line.
- 50
- 51

52 We will support at the state and federal level and will urge the American Farm Bureau Federation
53 to support a "Voluntarism Protection Act" to grant immunity from personal civil liability under
54 certain circumstances to volunteers, officers and directors working in behalf of non-profit and
55 charitable organizations and government.

1 We will seek legislation to require the payment by the plaintiff or plaintiffs of costs and reasonable
2 attorney fees incurred by a prevailing defendant in any nuisance action in which a proposed farm
3 (as defined in the Farm Nuisance Suit Act) or expansion of an existing farm which is alleged to be
4 a nuisance.
5
6
7

8 **118. TRESPASS, VANDALISM, AND PRIVATE LAND ACCESS**

9

10 We support:

- 11 1. Encouraging courts to punish vandals by requiring them to clean up and repair their own
12 vandalism at their own expense or perform some other constructive work. We urge judges,
13 when setting sentences, to require reimbursement of Crime Stoppers or similar reward
14 programs, as a part of the sentence.
- 15 2. Legislation to protect landowners and tenants from property seizures, claims, and costs
16 caused by unauthorized activities of trespassers and licensees entering upon and using
17 the landowners' property.
- 18 3. Efforts, including legislation and working with law enforcement agencies and prosecutors,
19 to increase the enforcement of criminal trespass laws.
- 20 4. Legislation specifying that, in criminal damage to property cases where the damage was
21 caused by the unauthorized operation of a vehicle on private property, the threshold of
22 felony status be elevated from its current \$300 to a level better suited to the crime and one
23 that would help to remove the law enforcement community's hesitancy to prosecute those
24 violators. In such cases, a minimum fine should be established with required restitution to
25 the victim for property damages caused and the violator's license should be suspended for
26 six months.
- 27 5. Legislation linking criminal violations of the Illinois Vehicle Code and acts of criminal
28 trespass or criminal damage to property to the driver's license record of anyone convicted
29 of these crimes for the unauthorized operation of a motor vehicle on private property.
- 30 6. Legislation creating an owner responsibility provision in law that obligates the owner of a
31 vehicle to compensate for damages caused to private property by the use of the vehicle
32 on that property without the landowner's authorization unless the vehicle was stolen or the
33 vehicle's owner took reasonable precautions against misuse of the vehicle.
- 34 7. Efforts to educate law enforcement officials and the general public - especially youth -
35 about the property damage caused by the unauthorized operation of vehicles on private
36 property and the liability and penalties for any resulting property damage.
- 37 8. The development and dissemination of programs and materials on private property rights
38 and the associated portions of trespass and criminal law. We encourage county Farm
39 Bureaus to pursue similar efforts on the local level.
- 40 9. Efforts to educate farmland owners and farmland operators about their legal rights and
41 responsibilities relating to trespass; also, efforts to educate them about insurance
42 coverage relating to liability and property damage caused through trespass. We
43 encourage county Farm Bureaus to pursue similar efforts on the local level.
- 44 10. Efforts to establish riding areas for ATVs and other off-highway vehicles and efforts to
45 generate revenues for that purpose from those who use the vehicles for recreation.
- 46 11. Efforts to make it clear that persons going to or from rivers, streams, and bike trails over
47 another's land or hunting on another's land without the owner's or rightful occupant's
48 specific permission, without regard to the presence of any posted notices, are trespassers
49 for the purposes of determining liability of a landowner for any injury which might occur to
50 the trespasser.
- 51 12. Legislation that will require owners of recreational trails and their facilities to compensate
52 owners of land adjacent to the trail or facility for any property damage, theft, littering,
53 and/or vandalism caused by users of the trail or facility except where the actual
54 perpetrator can be identified and make restitution.
55
56

- 1 13. Efforts to educate farm owners and operators about their legal rights as they pertain to
2 utilities and governmental or private surveying companies. We would encourage all
3 surveyors to notify affected landowners and use public property whenever possible.
- 4 14. Efforts to educate farm owners and farmers about their legal rights as landlords or
5 managers of residential properties.
- 6 15. Landowners being an additional named insured for all government and public utility project
7 work that is being done on private property.
- 8 16. Efforts to enforce regulations on hot air balloons regarding their potential trespass on
9 private property and their potential for endangering livestock.
- 10 17. A program to reward informants who provide information leading to the arrest and
11 conviction of persons who commit theft, arson, or vandalism to the property or premises of
12 Illinois Agricultural Association (IAA) members.
- 13
- 14
- 15

16 **119. FEDERAL ESTATE TAXES**

17 We will support:

- 18 1. The repeal of federal estate taxes while still retaining a stepped-up basis at the time of
19 inheritance.
- 20 2. The exemption from federal estate taxes for heirs who are actively farming a farm property
21 which is restricted by a voluntary conservation easement.
- 22 3. Elimination of the \$850,000 ceiling and limitation on the percentage of the total value of
23 the estate allowed in determining the existing exemption under Internal Revenue Code
24 2032-A for agricultural productive value.
- 25 4. Increasing the maximum gift tax exclusion per recipient to \$50,000 per year.
- 26
- 27

28 We oppose any reduction in the current federal estate tax exemption. Until repeal becomes
29 politically feasible, we support an increase in the exemption to \$10 million to ease the movement
30 of farms and small businesses from one generation to the next. The exemption should be indexed
31 for inflation.

32 **120. PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION**

33 We will seek legislation allowing by local referendum the dissolution of consolidated township
34 assessing districts.

35 We will support legislation to improve the administration of local assessments including:

- 36 1. Provisions to specifically define property as real estate or personal property on an
37 equitable basis statewide. We will continue to work with the State Department of Revenue
38 (DOR) and local assessing officials on specific problems in this regard.
- 39 2. A change in the method of valuing mobile or manufactured homes for assessment and
40 collection of taxes from the Mobile Home Local Services Tax Act (privilege tax) to an Ad
41 Valorem Tax (measured by value).
- 42 3. Reduction of costs for property assessment publications by allowing counties to utilize
43 online publication in lieu of printed publication. This type of publication would be in addition
44 to the required individual property assessment mailings to property owners.
- 45 4. Allowing counties to eliminate the office of Township Assessor by a county-wide
46 referendum in which a majority of voters in the county and a majority of voters in the
47 majority of townships approve.
- 48
- 49
- 50
- 51
- 52
- 53

54 We will seek uniform and equitable implementation of the Farmland Assessment Law, in
55 cooperation with county Farm Bureaus.

56

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

We will:

- 1. Work with county Farm Bureaus to inform members of the limits of their responsibilities in providing information to assessing officials.
- 2. Continue to cooperate with the DOR and the Association of Assessing Officials in developing educational materials for use by taxpayer groups.
- 3. Strongly urge the members of the Illinois General Assembly not to change the present formula for calculating the assessed value of farmland.
- 4. Support the appointment of Supervisors of Assessment versus elected Supervisors of Assessment.
- 5. Encourage county Farm Bureaus, in cooperation with local officials, to periodically hold information/education meetings for taxpayers.
- 6. Work with the DOR and the Association of Assessing Officials to achieve uniformity in depreciation (for assessment purposes) of all depreciable agricultural facilities.
- 7. Work with the Illinois DOR and the Association of Assessing Officials to encourage the assessment of all qualifying agricultural property, regardless of size, under the farmland assessment law.
- 8. Work with appropriate state agencies and other state officials to develop Conservation Management Plan rules that permit landowners to apply for a plan without submitting overly burdensome and prohibitive proposals.

We oppose legislation removing either the State DOR or the local Board of Review from the administrative process of approving or denying property tax exemptions. The DOR should continue to have final authority.

121. SALES TAX

We will seek legislation to:

- 1. Remove the Retailer's Occupation Tax (ROT) and the Use Tax from sales of LP gas used primarily in production agriculture.
- 2. Remove the ROT and the Use Tax from sales of feeds, including hay when sold by farmers to feed livestock including horses and poultry for marketing, or for producing dairy products or eggs or other consumer by-products.
- 3. Eliminate the practice of charging state sales tax on motor fuel.

We support agricultural exemptions in Illinois state sales tax codes.

122. STATE AND LOCAL FINANCE

The overall tax structure for state and local governments in Illinois should include a state income tax, a moderate local real property tax, sales tax, motor fuel tax, cigarette tax, liquor tax and other special taxes.

We will analyze any proposed increase in the state sales tax rate as to the effect such an increase would have on the economy and competitiveness of the State of Illinois in relation to the sales tax rates imposed by neighboring states and take the appropriate action on such proposed increase.

We will support legislation:

- 1. Providing property tax relief through a combination of state revenue surpluses and various state-wide taxes.
- 2. Including townships and road districts along with counties and municipalities in the formula for the distribution of the Local Government Distributive Fund.

- 1 3. Extending to two years the time landowners have to disconnect their property from any
2 special purpose taxing district formed or expanded without a referendum and which does
3 not provide emergency life-sustaining services. During that period, all property tax
4 revenues collected by the district from landowners within the new taxing area should be
5 held in escrow and refunded or credited to those taxpayers if they choose, by referendum,
6 to disconnect.
- 7 4. Extending the time limit from 30 days to 60 days to get 10 percent of registered voters'
8 signatures on petitions concerning backdoor referendums.
- 9 5. Providing for restricted and specific criteria in order to qualify areas for creation of Tax
10 Increment Financing (TIF) districts by municipalities and counties in order to reduce
11 negative fiscal impacts on existing businesses and local governments, including schools.
12 Further, we believe the economic advantages of the new business or production alone
13 should be enough to justify expansion or location in an area.
- 14 6. Limiting the tort immunity levies to the actual costs incurred by the local taxing bodies. We
15 support vigorous enforcement of current laws and regulations specifying use of these
16 funds.
- 17 7. Allowing local citizens to establish a maximum tax rate lower than the statutory maximum
18 rate when creating a new taxing district by referendum.
- 19 8. That requires a referendum ballot question which proposes the creation of a new taxing
20 body also state the statutory maximum tax rate and debt level for the proposed new taxing
21 district.
- 22 9. Allowing a Fire Protection District to retain the real estate taxes for a period of 10 years,
23 whenever a territory is disconnected from a Fire Protection District and annexed to a
24 municipality.
- 25 10. Providing that taxing districts shall give public notice of, and hold a public hearing on, their
26 intent to annex property.
- 27 11. Limiting taxing districts, including school districts, from incurring future bonded
28 indebtedness, without a referendum, where such bonds are to be repaid with property tax
29 revenue.
- 30 12. To require referendums which authorize any new real estate tax levy to state the
31 maximum statutory tax rate in the referendum question.
- 32 13. To allow all taxing bodies to reduce their levy after the levy has been submitted to the
33 county clerk.
- 34 14. To allow impact fees to be imposed on new residential construction for school capital
35 needs.
- 36 15. To allow townships that are currently under the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF)
37 program to opt out.
- 38 16. To exempt undeveloped farmland in unincorporated areas from municipal local
39 improvement taxes and fees.
- 40 17. Requiring that any tax credits be based on fiscal policy that promotes long-term economic
41 stability and prosperity.
- 42 18. To amend the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Act to allow some of the
43 revenues funding the act to be used to provide maintenance and improvement to existing
44 state parks.
- 45 19. Amending the Illinois County School Facility Tax Act to require school districts to issue a
46 public statement of intent a minimum of 30 days prior to the election.
- 47 20. Amending the Illinois County School Facility Tax Act to ensure that counties benefiting
48 from the School Facility Tax Act would not be prevented from, or placed at a disadvantage
49 for, receiving school construction dollars from the state.
- 50 21. Amending the Illinois County School Facility Tax Act to require that a portion of the money
51 collected is used in property tax relief if the school district(s) has outstanding bonds for
52 capital purposes.
- 53 22. Amending the Illinois County School Facility Tax Act to require a sunset clause of 20 years
54 or re-approval by voters to continue the tax.
55
56

- 1 23. Requiring local governments to publicly disclose information on tax increment financing
- 2 districts including the locations of the districts, funds generated, use of funds, and any
- 3 contractors.
- 4 24. That calls for a more stringent audit of all state expenditures.
- 5 25. Eliminating the Illinois estate tax, but until that is accomplished, support using the
- 6 corresponding federal exclusion amount, but not less than \$5 million and having a tax rate
- 7 structure no greater than the maximum 16 percent currently in law.
- 8 26. To impose a tax on the owner or lessee of non-renewable natural resources, excluding oil
- 9 and gas, upon the severance and production of that resource. A significant portion of the
- 10 tax revenue shall be distributed to the county of origin.
- 11 27. Maintaining and creating property assessment levels that encourage the creation and use
- 12 of grassed-backed terraces, grassed waterways, filter strips, two stage ditches,
- 13 bioreactors, and other approaches to improve water quality through these practices.
- 14

15 We will seek legislation:

- 16 1. Prohibiting extension of real estate taxes on farmland by special taxing districts which
- 17 provide non-essential services such as library districts, park districts, and forest preserve
- 18 districts.
- 19 2. To change the backdoor referendum to a front door referendum in the library code that
- 20 relates to annexation of contiguous territory.
- 21

22 We will work to form a coalition of statewide associations and other interested and like-minded

23 parties to work for tax reform to reduce the reliance on real estate taxes.

24

25 We will oppose legislation:

- 26 1. Imposing additional taxes or increases in tax rates upon property unless approved by a
- 27 referendum of local voters at a primary or general election. We oppose the use of a
- 28 backdoor referendum.
- 29 2. Imposing a state property tax.
- 30 3. Increasing exemptions from real estate taxation.
- 31 4. That allows the use of (TIF) or enterprise zones for production agriculture.
- 32 5. Authorizing non-refundable fund transfers beyond those allowed in the standard
- 33 budgeting process or via voter approval.
- 34 6. Creating a gross receipts tax or value-added tax by the State of Illinois.
- 35 7. Selling or leasing the Illinois State Lottery.
- 36 8. Authorizing the transfer of funds from dedicated and special state funds for any reason
- 37 beyond their original intended purpose.
- 38 9. Enacting a quarter-cent sales tax on purchases throughout the Chicago metropolitan
- 39 area, as defined by the counties in the Regional Transportation Authority Service area
- 40 (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties).
- 41

42 We oppose:

- 43 1. A severance tax on current, low production oil and gas wells. We believe that if there is a
- 44 severance tax on new, high capacity oil and gas wells it should be at a level that will not
- 45 impede the development or operation of those wells.
- 46 2. A constitutional amendment to remove or permit removal of the present 8 to 5 state
- 47 income tax ratio between corporations and individuals.
- 48 3. Rolling preexisting TIF parcels into a newly created TIF District.
- 49

50 We urge county Farm Bureaus to implement comprehensive local programs to determine and to

51 critically evaluate how and from what sources local government revenues are being raised and

52 how these funds are being spent. We will assist county Farm Bureaus in such programs.

53

54 We encourage the Illinois General Assembly to undergo a more comprehensive and diligent

55 method of prioritizing appropriations to meet the current needs of its citizens.

56

1 We support speeding up tax appeal decisions that affect local government budgets.

2
3 We believe the state of Illinois should meet its responsibilities in regards to funding those
4 organizations and programs for which funds have been appropriated in the state budget.
5
6

7 8 **123. STATE INCOME TAX** 9

10 We prefer a flat rate state income tax, and support deductions and credits benefiting agriculture
11 and agricultural processes, and an exemption at some realistic level. We support the State of
12 Illinois following Federal Depreciation rules regarding bonus depreciation.
13
14

15 16 **124. TAX REFORM** 17

18 Higher federal marginal income tax rates are inconsistent with economic growth and lower
19 interest rates. We support continued retention of the indexing of income taxes.
20

21 We will seek:

- 22 1. A reasonable Investment Tax Credit program and provision for the use of all carryover
23 investment tax credits.
- 24 2. Immediate provisions to allow individuals who purchase their own health insurance an
25 exemption or deduction for health insurance costs.
- 26 3. Further reductions in capital gains tax and/or indexing capital gains tax for inflation.
- 27 4. Establishment of a "Farmer Savings Plan" (FSP) that allows for an allocation of income
28 into a tax exempt FSP for emergencies. Plan contributions should include earnings and
29 gains from a farm operation's proceeds and capital items. Contributions should be tax
30 deductible at the time of contribution and be taxed at the time of distribution.
- 31 5. An exemption allowing the cash rental of farmland to a family partnership or corporation
32 without the 15.3 percent self-employment tax on the rents.
- 33 6. A modification of federal tax code 1031 like-kind exchanges that:
 - 34 A. Relaxes the requirements on the reinvestment of the proceeds from agricultural
35 land sales.
 - 36 B. Changes from 45 days to six months the time allowed to identify a non-taxable
37 exchange, and from six months to one year the time allowed to close and receive
38 property.
- 39 7. Tax incentives for persons who sell or lease property, including but not limited to land,
40 machinery, and other farm assets to beginning farmers.
- 41 8. Legislation which eliminates self-employment tax on Conservation Reserve Program
42 (CRP) payments.
43

44 We will support the repeal of the amendments made to the 1099 IRS reporting in the Patient
45 Protection and Affordable Care Act. Farmland taken through eminent domain, or as a result of the
46 threat of eminent domain, which has been owned by the current owner or his immediate family for
47 10 or more consecutive years should be exempt from capital gains taxes on that property.
48

49 We oppose any tax and/or government-imposed user fee on commodity futures or options
50 transactions.
51

52 We support the investigation and complete study of a federal flat rate income tax proposal to
53 show its possible long-term effects on production agriculture.
54

55 We support the extension of the Federal Bonus Depreciation component of the Job Creation and
56 Worker Assistance Act of 2002.

1 We support the unrestricted use of cash accounting regardless of the level of gross receipts of
2 the primary farm or the cumulative gross receipts of all businesses related to the primary farm.
3
4
5

6 **125. TRANSPORTATION**
7

8 We support development of a long-range national transportation policy that views transportation
9 as a holistic system serving the needs of both passengers and freight across all modes and
10 recognizes the importance of connectivity between modes. It should encourage exploration of
11 public/private partnerships and be designed to support global competitiveness while developing
12 the most economical and energy efficient methods of meeting future transportation needs.
13

14 **Land Use**

15 We will support:

- 16 1. Regulations which:
 - 17 A. Provide improved noxious weed and brush control by state and local road
18 authorities on the full width of highway rights-of-way.
 - 19 B. Maintain safe levels of visibility.
 - 20 C. Protect farmers' crops from unwarranted or careless spraying.
 - 21 D. Ensure that ditch and roadside vegetation maintenance practices do not impair
22 drainage to or from adjoining farm fields.
 - 23 E. Preserve vegetative cover adequate to prevent soil erosion on roadsides and in
24 ditches.
- 25 2. Enforcement of noxious weed and brush control by railroad authorities on railroad rights-
26 of-way, including the use of a soil conserving cover crop whether the railroad is in
27 operation or abandoned.
- 28 3. Giving counties the power to levy a fine of \$500 per acre of railroad rights-of-way where
29 noxious weeds are not eradicated or controlled.
- 30 4. Enforcement of drainage laws and regulations on railroad rights-of-way.
- 31 5. Oversight of railroad construction projects and design standards by appropriate
32 government agencies to minimize disturbance to adjoining farmland and farming
33 operations and to adequately protect or repair drainage and drainage systems.
- 34 6. Efforts to ensure that highway construction and improvement projects do not cause
35 serious, adverse impact to drainage nor cause erosion on adjacent land.
- 36 7. Utilization of marginal farmland or poorer grades of land for new railroad or highway
37 construction projects where feasible in order to preserve tillable farmland.
- 38 8. Utilization of existing rights-of-way for new highways to the maximum extent feasible in
39 order to minimize acquisition of new lands for highway purposes.
- 40 9. More equitable compensation to landowners for disruption of farming operations by
41 highway construction.
42

43 **Other**

44 We support efficient mass transportation. We will support legislation or regulations to allow
45 disconnection of counties by referendum from mass transportation authorities.
46

47 We encourage the use of biodiesel and ethanol by mass transit systems.
48

49 We support efforts to streamline the transportation project delivery process to reduce
50 unnecessary time delays including:

- 51 1. Simplifying the environmental process for projects with few impacts.
- 52 2. Involving appropriate reviewing agencies early in the process to help expedite overall
53 project schedules.
- 54 3. Requiring greater coordination among federal reviewing agencies and setting time limits
55 for their review.
56

- 1 4. Use of the Design-Build project delivery method or other innovative construction
2 strategies.
3

4 We support efforts to educate policy makers and the public to ensure they understand:

- 5 1. The value and necessity of efficient and effective transportation infrastructure.
6 2. The complexity and cost of both long-term maintenance and expansion of transportation
7 infrastructure to meet future needs.
8 3. The importance of interconnectivity between modes.
9 4. Requiring reconstruction projects be completed as quickly and reasonably as possible
10 minimizing impacts on the traveling public.
11
12
13

14 **126. TRANSPORTATION -- HIGHWAYS**

15 **Finance**

16 We will support:

- 17
18 1. Legislation which provides that user fees such as motor fuel taxes, licensing and
19 registration fees are the basic means for funding highway transportation systems in Illinois
20 at both state and local levels.
21 2. A moderate increase of the State of Illinois motor fuel tax. The current distribution formula
22 should be left intact.
23 3. As an alternative to increasing the flat motor fuel tax, the creation of a new tax as a
24 percentage of the wholesale price of fuel. This new tax would be distributed under the
25 current motor fuel tax distribution formula.
26 4. Legislation collecting road user fees from hybrid, alternative fuel and electric highway
27 vehicles.
28 5. Legislation to increase the share of state-collected highway user fees allocated to units of
29 local government for road and bridge construction and maintenance needs.
30 6. Legislation increasing the state's township bridge program fund to at least \$30 million
31 annually.
32 7. Legislation providing for a more equitable formula for allocating motor fuel tax funds to
33 counties based on both vehicle registration and road mileage.
34 8. Use of all highway user fees including that part of motor fuel tax funds derived from
35 highway use solely for construction and maintenance of roads, streets, and bridges.
36 9. Legislation permitting establishment of transportation impact districts by road districts and
37 counties.
38 10. Repeal of current Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) requirements stipulating
39 that contractors must have federally approved apprenticeship and training programs to be
40 considered a responsible bidder for road projects.
41 11. Legislation to prevent the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority from constructing any new
42 toll highways or extending any existing toll highways unless state law is changed to allow
43 for strict accountability to the Illinois General Assembly.
44

45 We will seek legislation that holds the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority accountable and
46 responsible for the repair and maintenance of all overpass decks that are the result of tollway
47 construction.
48

49 We believe Illinois highways currently funded by tolls should remain as toll roads.
50

51 We will oppose:

- 52 1. The creation of a Statewide Vehicle Mileage Tax (VMT) which would tax citizens based
53 upon the number of miles driven annually.
54 2. Legislation which would abolish motor fuel tax refunds for non-highway use.
55 3. Mandatory bike paths on rural roads without adequate state funding.
56 4. The sale or lease of any Illinois highway system.

- 1 5. Formation of any new toll highway authority in Illinois unless existing state law is changed
- 2 to allow for strict accountability to the Illinois General Assembly.
- 3 6. Selling or leasing of Illinois' toll highways.

Infrastructure

6 We will support:

- 7 1. Proper administrative authorities in the development of standards for the construction of
- 8 local roads and bridges that correspond with the physical needs of the highway system
- 9 and the economic ability of local authorities to pay for them.
- 10 2. The use of weight limit postings and associated permits only for the purpose of protecting
- 11 the physical integrity of the road.
- 12 3. Legislation requiring weight limit postings intended to protect roadway surfaces during the
- 13 spring thaw timeframe be based on a per-axle limit rather than on a gross vehicle weight
- 14 limit.
- 15 4. Legislation granting vehicles hauling agricultural commodities from the field to the first
- 16 point of delivery, an additional axle weight tolerance. That tolerance should match what is
- 17 allowed by the state statute pertaining to the harvest season permit, but without the need
- 18 for a written permit.
- 19 5. Greater emphasis on roadway improvements and maintenance of existing state highways
- 20 while incorporating new construction technologies, with reduced emphasis on new
- 21 expressways and interstates.
- 22 6. An approach to funding the replacement and/or maintenance of roads and bridges by the
- 23 IDOT through improved consultation with the local highway officials and the public as to
- 24 the necessity of each project considered.
- 25 7. Requiring improvements to major highways be designed to a higher standard providing for
- 26 significantly longer life before repairs are needed.
- 27 8. The revision of IDOT design standards on state highways to consider the size of modern
- 28 farm equipment.

Access

31 We will support:

- 32 1. Legislation that would ensure the continuity of local collector road systems by requiring
- 33 those routes be continuous, regardless of jurisdiction, between logical beginning and
- 34 ending points such as county or state highways or major traffic generating facilities, or that
- 35 a reasonable, viable alternate route be made available.
- 36 2. Funding to assist in upgrading highways that retain business traffic through rural
- 37 communities (where locally desired) while improving safety and traffic flow.
- 38 3. Requiring all road authorities that seek to make any change to an existing road, that will
- 39 result in establishment of a lower weight limit, to develop a plan for ingress and egress to
- 40 existing livestock and other agricultural facilities that have an established access to that
- 41 roadway. The plan must be functional, economically feasible, and reasonable with
- 42 agreement by both parties.

44 We will seek legislation:

- 45 1. Allowing local jurisdictions, at their discretion, to permit the movement of vehicles hauling
- 46 for production agriculture which exceed size or weight limits on posted roads where
- 47 necessity dictates the need for the shipment to or from a specified farm.
- 48 2. That requires a unanimous decision to permanently post a reduced weight limit or close a
- 49 road district road be shared equally with the highway commissioner, the county engineer
- 50 and a majority of the elected board members associated with that road district.

Other

53 We will support:

- 54 1. Legislation permitting temporary signs within a reasonable distance of federal and state
- 55 highways, other than interstates, directing traffic to seasonal farm produce outlets.

56

- 1 2. Legislation establishing an adopt-a-highway program for rural sections of all roads in the
2 state.

3
4 We encourage:

- 5 1. Road maintenance officials to offer landowners/land managers/operators the chance to
6 accept or refuse soil removed from adjacent road ditches.
- 7 2. State and local highway officials to provide farm and field entrances that accommodate the
8 needs of modern agriculture. This includes encouraging state, county, and township
9 highway departments to use a plastic, bendable marker post instead of metal posts where
10 object markers are used.

11

12

13

14

127. TRANSPORTATION -- RAILWAYS

15

16

Finance

17

We support:

18

- 19 1. Strengthening of existing state laws so the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) can deal
20 effectively with unfair rent increases imposed by railroads upon their tenants, and
21 unrealistic sale prices for land offered by the railroads to tenants or other prospective
22 buyers of railroad property.
- 23 2. Legislation requiring full disclosure of the railroad grain transportation bidding process to
24 the individuals who participate in the process after all bids have been made and rail cars
25 have been allocated.

25

26

We oppose diversion of railroad earnings to holding companies or non-railroad businesses at the
27 expense of maintaining a viable railroad.

28

29

Infrastructure

30

We support efforts to have more at-grade highway/railroad crossings signalized with warning
31 lights and gates. Where closure of the crossing would impose undue hardships on users of the
32 road, greater flexibility should be shown by the ICC on safety considerations. Efforts should be
33 made to ensure that the ICC considers accident history and emergency access along with other
34 locally important issues in decisions on petitions to close railroad crossings.

35

36

We support protocols that maintain public safety by requiring railroads to give a minimum of two
37 weeks advance notice of construction intentions to local residents and local government bodies
38 prior to taking formal action on permit applications and prior to temporary railroad crossing
39 closures.

40

41

We oppose parallel branch line mergers of rail systems and the granting of railroad
42 abandonments which tend to lessen overall transportation competition or where there is or could
43 be proven traffic potential.

44

45

Land Use

46

We support legislation and regulations to provide that in the case of a railroad abandonment, the
47 current owner of the tract of land from which the railroad right-of-way was obtained be given the
48 right of first refusal for such land, including mineral rights, based upon the fair market value for
49 comparable property rights in the area. If the current owner fails to exercise such option, the
50 adjacent landowners will be offered the next right of refusal.

51

52

Access

53

We support:

54

- 55 1. Expedient placement of "exempt" postings at public road crossings on railroads which are
56 abandoned.

56

- 1 2. A requirement that a notice of proposed crossing closure be posted at crossings 30 days
- 2 in advance of a hearing to consider closure of the crossing.
- 3 3. The prompt communication, assessment of damages, cleanup and processing of claims
- 4 incurred by both private landowners and units of local government following a train
- 5 derailment.
- 6 4. Oversight by the ICC of median barriers and crossing safety devices placed in the
- 7 approach to grade crossings which prohibit and/or hinder the flow of agricultural
- 8 equipment through grade crossings.
- 9 5. Legislation that will allow the Surface Transportation Board, on petition of a state, to
- 10 declare all or part of a state to be an area of inadequate rail competition, with special rail
- 11 customer remedies that would apply in such areas.

Other

We support:

- 15 1. Giving authority to the state to force a railroad to temporarily cease operations on a given
- 16 stretch of track due to emergency conditions.
- 17 2. Maintaining state oversight of railroads under the purview of the ICC.

We will:

- 20 1. Work with the railroad industry and the ICC to establish regulations that require parked
- 21 trains to maintain a 500-foot distance from ungated and/or unsignaled at-grade crossings
- 22 in unincorporated areas to provide safe visibility for motorists. Trains parked at businesses
- 23 should be exempt from this requirement when it is necessary while loading or unloading,
- 24 but still maintain the maximum setback distance possible.
- 25 2. Meet with railroad officials to determine ways to improve rail service to agriculture across
- 26 Illinois.
- 27 3. Encourage rail passenger services to maintain or improve service and increase efforts to
- 28 become self-sufficient.
- 29 4. Continue to monitor high speed rail projects. We will oppose the implementation of these
- 30 projects unless the following conditions are included:
- 31 A. Safe and convenient public access is provided across the railroad.
- 32 B. Owners of private crossings are provided continued access.
- 33 C. Landowners are fairly compensated for any takings associated with the project.

128. TRANSPORTATION -- VEHICLE REGULATIONS

Vehicles

We will support:

- 41 1. Redefinition of "commercial motor vehicle" from the 10,001-pound threshold to that used
- 42 for the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program - 26,001 pounds.
- 43 2. Legislation to reduce the requirement for semi-annual truck safety inspections to an
- 44 annual inspection.
- 45 3. Legislation to require recreational motor vehicles and recreational trailers to pass a safety
- 46 inspection on the same basis as trucks and trailers.
- 47 4. Legislation permitting second division vehicles with expired safety test decals to be driven
- 48 to a repair facility and to a safety test lane.
- 49 5. Efforts to develop regulations which encourage the establishment of more truck safety test
- 50 lanes in the state.
- 51 6. Legislation that would allow annual reporting of mileage on mileage plates.
- 52 7. Efforts to allow low-mileage operations to pay a flat annual fee in lieu of submitting
- 53 quarterly reports as a means of complying with the International Fuel Tax Agreement
- 54 (IFTA).
- 55 8. Legislation to remove the requirement to post a bond to purchase a mileage plate.

- 1 9. Proration of renewal fees for farm truck and trailer plates based on the month of
- 2 application.
- 3 10. Legislation establishing uniform maximum weights for all truck and trailer license plate
- 4 classifications that share the same letter designation.
- 5 11. Regulation establishing uniform release mechanisms on all seat belts on newly
- 6 manufactured vehicles.
- 7 12. Programs and actions that encourage the inclusion of automatic Daytime Running
- 8 Lights/Lamps (DRLs) and automatic headlights on newly manufactured vehicles.
- 9 13. Legislation to expand the applicability of the harvest season permit to include perishable
- 10 produce.
- 11 14. Legislation to establish higher weight limits for farm wagons and non-licensed trailers.
- 12

13 We will seek legislation to:

- 14 1. Require that trailers submit to safety test inspections at the same weight classification as
- 15 required for trucks.
- 16 2. Establish a low mileage license for trucks with a reduced number of allowable miles and a
- 17 commensurate reduction in fee.
- 18 3. Decrease the cost of a "farm" truck plate until that cost falls at or below 50 percent of the
- 19 cost of a flat weight plate.
- 20 4. Require all rural mail delivery vehicles to have flashing yellow lights on top of the vehicle
- 21 and a sign on the rear of the vehicle reading "U.S. Postal Service Mail Carrier."
- 22 5. Establish uniform truck and trailer lengths on Class III routes, other state highways, local
- 23 roads, and streets.
- 24 6. Change federal regulations to keep written warnings from appearing on Compliance,
- 25 Safety, and Accountability (CSA) reports.
- 26 7. Allow all second division vehicles registered for 8,000 lbs to qualify for Covered Farm
- 27 Vehicle (CFV) designation.
- 28

29 **Drivers**

30 We will support:

- 31 1. Enhanced driver education related to slow moving vehicles, large trucks, horses, and
- 32 horse drawn vehicles.
- 33 2. Limiting the need for bi-annual Department of Transportation (DOT) driver physicals to
- 34 only those drivers required to have a CDL.
- 35 3. A policy change within law enforcement agencies whereby officers will direct trucks to a
- 36 nearby safe area to conduct their inspection, thus avoiding closure of a traffic lane for that
- 37 purpose.
- 38 4. Drivers being allowed to make minor adjustments and/or repairs during a roadside
- 39 inspection and at weigh stations to avoid any down time and costly unnecessary service
- 40 calls.
- 41

42 We will seek legislation to allow a CDL applicant to have a checklist with them during the pre-trip

43 inspection portion of the CDL testing process.

44

45 We oppose the federal regulation requiring that state-licensed physicians submit to training and

46 certification to be eligible to perform DOT physical examinations for truck drivers.

47

48 **Government Oversight**

49 We will support:

- 50 1. Efforts to bring about greater uniformity and reciprocity among states on regulations
- 51 affecting trucks and truck operators.
- 52 2. Efforts to ensure uniform interpretation and application of motor vehicle regulations by all
- 53 government administrative and enforcement personnel.
- 54 3. Efforts to clarify and simplify the Vehicle Code and regulations relating to farm trucks and
- 55 trailers.
- 56

- 1 4. Encouragement of the Division of Motor Vehicles to accept truck license plate renewals at
- 2 all driver services facilities.
- 3 5. Efforts to have the County Engineer's office act as a clearing house for overweight and
- 4 over dimension permits on all county and road district roads.
- 5 6. Having more Commercial Drivers License testing facilities be made available in the state
- 6 for written and driving examinations.
- 7

8 We will seek legislation to:

- 9 1. Allow alternative means of posting bond, such as credit cards, for traffic and weight
- 10 violations by all drivers licensed in the State of Illinois.
- 11 2. Permit second division vehicles, designed for pulling or carrying freight or cargo, that are
- 12 visibly empty to forego the procedure of weighing at the scales in order to reduce truck
- 13 traffic congestion at weigh stations.
- 14 3. Recognize vehicle license registered weight rate, rather than the vehicle manufacturer's
- 15 gross vehicle weight rating, to determine the eligibility of any vehicle for the purpose of the
- 16 driver skills test to acquire a driver's license.
- 17

18 **Other**

19 We will support:

- 20 1. The establishment of a state agency/transportation industry group designed as a
- 21 coordinating mechanism to resolve problems associated with the regulation of motor
- 22 vehicles.
- 23 2. Allowing anhydrous ammonia to be transferred from a cargo tank motor vehicle with a
- 24 maximum capacity of 12,000 gallons into containers of 3,000 gallons capacity or less
- 25 mounted on farm vehicles or into containers of 6,000 gallons mounted on motor-driven
- 26 applicators provided that the cargo tank motor vehicle has been converted to proper
- 27 industry standards and engineered and regulated equipment.
- 28

29 We urge local law enforcement officials and local civic and public service organizations to

30 promote all-terrain vehicle safety programs.

31

32 We will encourage recreational users of roadways (runners/walkers/bikers) to wear reflective

33 materials when on the road from dusk to dawn.

34

35 We will seek legislation to:

- 36 1. Establish a notification procedure that would provide property owners with the necessary
- 37 information to identify vehicles that are towed from their property.
- 38 2. Exempt transportation of agricultural products from farm to market from USDOT number
- 39 and UCR registration.
- 40

41 **129. TRANSPORTATION -- UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS**

42

43

44

45 We support:

- 46 1. The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for commercial purposes (i.e., agricultural,
- 47 forestry, and other natural resource use).
- 48 2. Working with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to review the legal and technical
- 49 issues related to agricultural UAV use.
- 50 3. Reasonable FAA regulations regarding agricultural use and permitting for private and
- 51 commercial applications.
- 52 4. Requiring the operator of the UAV to gain the consent, in writing, of the landowner or
- 53 tenant, if the UAV will be surveying or gathering data above the private property.
- 54 5. The development of guidelines for the safe operation of UAVs for all users.
- 55 6. Landowners and tenants to be able to fly their fields, for any reason, without it being
- 56 considered a commercial activity.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

7. Protecting property and privacy rights of farms and livestock operations while encouraging legitimate commercial and recreational uses of UAVs.

We oppose:

1. Federal, state, and law enforcement agencies using UAVs for the purpose of regulatory enforcement, litigation, and as a sole source for natural resource inventories used in planning efforts.
2. FAA regulations that classify UAVs as fixed-wing aircraft.
3. FAA regulations that require a private pilot's license and third-class medical certification to operate UAVs under 55 pounds.

1

1031 LIKE-KIND EXCHANGES91
109991

4

457 PLAN77
4-H7

8

8-1-1 11

9

9-1-1 70

A

ABANDONED OIL WELLS20
ACQUISITION 2, 12, 30, 31, 33, 34,
35, 37, 89, 92
ACTIVE SHOOTER 79
AD VALOREM TAX87
ADDITIONAL NAMED INSURED87
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 31, 32, 45
ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY95
ADVERTISING67
AFFILIATED COMPANIES9, 68
AGRICULTURAL AREAS 32, 37, 38
AGRICULTURAL CREDIT57
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION3, 6, 7
AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS56, 57
AGRICULTURAL IMPACT MITIGATION
AGREEMENT 11
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE54
AGRICULTURAL PHYSICIANS AND NURSING
PROGRAM73
AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS14
AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS14
AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION 13, 15
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION 14, 28, 41,
45, 54, 55, 61
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS42, 45, 46,
50, 56, 57, 70, 98
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS6
AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION ZONES ..36, 38
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH 34, 41, 57
AGRICULTURAL WELLS19
AGRITOURISM42

AIMA10, 11
ALFALFA AND GRASSLAND FORAGES ..60, 62
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION9,
10, 32, 49, 53, 64, 68, 69, 73, 85
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL
AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERS70, 78
AMNESTY65
AMS54
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA 11, 81, 98
ANIMAL AGRICULTURE3, 42, 43
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION
SERVICE44, 72
ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY44
ANIMAL FEED67
ANIMAL HEALTH 13, 44, 45
ANIMAL MEDICINAL DRUG USE
CLARIFICATION ACT44
ANIMAL PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION
SERVICE45
ANNEXATION4, 36, 83, 90
ANTI-TRUST2, 55, 80
ANWR7
APHIS 44, 45, 72
APICULTURE45
AQUIFERS8, 29
ARBITRATION40, 52
ARBITRATOR10
ARC-CO63
ARCHERY PERMITS31
ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESERVE7
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS 16, 23, 25
ASABE70, 78
ASSESSMENTS28, 87
ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICIALS ..88
ASTM9
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION 14
ATMOSPHERIC QUALITY 14
ATV86
AUDIT54, 61, 82, 90
AUTUMN OLIVE29

B

BAG LIMITS32
BALANCED BUDGET61
BANKING34, 60
BASIC LIFE SYSTEM73
BCAP63
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ...21, 28, 35,
48, 50, 59, 66
BINDING ARBITRATION84
BIODIESEL9, 92
BIOFUEL8, 9

BIOLOGICAL RISK MANAGEMENT	45
BIOMASS	7, 8, 59, 63
BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	63
BIOREACTORS	90
BIOSECURITY	45
BIOTECH	45, 46, 71
BIOTECHNOLOGY	45, 46, 47, 71
BLANKET EASEMENT	12
BLENDING STANDARD	8
BMPS	14, 21, 22, 28, 59
BONDED INDEBTEDNESS	83, 89
BONDING	20, 55
BOUNDARY AGREEMENTS	37
BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY	44
BOYCOTTS	64
BRIDGES	93, 94
BRM	45
BROADBAND	10, 77
BSE	44, 45
BUFFER ZONES	33
BUFFERS	13, 58
BUSH HONEYSUCKLE	29
BUSINESS CLIMATE	77
BUY BACK	34
BUYERS CALL PROVISIONS	48

C

CAFE	14
CAFO	13, 14, 85
CAMPAIGN PHONE CALLS	78
CAMPAIGNS	9, 78
CANADIAN CRUDE OIL	7
CAPITAL GAINS TAX	33, 91
CARBON SEQUESTRATION	19
CASH ACCOUNTING	92
CASH RENT	35, 62, 91
CCC	47, 62, 63
CDL	96, 97
CELLULOSIC	8
CEMETERY OVERSIGHT ACT	83
CERCLA	13
CFTC	47, 48, 54
CFV	97
CHECKOFFS	47
CITIZEN ACTION GROUPS	61
CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD	12
CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT	85
CLEAN WATER ACT	16, 28, 30
CLOSED COOPERATIVES	55
CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT	37
CMAQ	9
CME	47, 48, 54

COAL	7, 8, 20, 21
CODE OF COUNTRY LIVING	39
CODE OF ETHICS	43
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS	46
COGGINS	51
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING	84
COMMERCIAL BANKS	60
COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE	96
COMMODITIES	2, 9, 18, 33, 40, 42, 47, 48, 50, 52, 54, 57, 60, 62, 63, 71, 75, 81, 94
COMMODITIES FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION	54
COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION	47, 62
COMMODITY EXCHANGES	47, 48
COMMODITY FUTURES	47, 91
COMMODITY GROUPS	48
COMMODITY LOAN PROGRAM	63
COMMON LAND UNIT	57
COMMUNITY COLLEGE	3
COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE	51, 75
COMPANION ANIMALS	43
COMPARABLE WORTH	77
COMPENSATION	1, 11, 19, 20, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 35, 39, 47, 55, 77, 83, 85, 92
COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS	77
COMPETITION	2, 40, 46, 56, 57, 60, 61, 79, 95, 96
COMPLIANCE, SAFETY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY	97
COMPOSTING	15, 43
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	23, 24, 25
CONCEALED CARRY	79
CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION	13, 85
CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY	9
CONSERVATION	5, 7, 13, 17, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 57, 58, 59, 62, 63, 66, 67, 87, 88, 91
CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE	19, 59, 63
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS	17
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN	88
CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM	59
CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM	58, 59, 63, 67, 91
CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM	59, 62
CONSOLIDATION	2, 4, 62, 82
CONTRACT MARKETING	48
CONTRACT PRODUCTION	48
CO-OPERATIVE HIGH SCHOOLS	4
COOPERATIVE MARKETING	40

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION SERVICE	41
COOPERATIVES	40, 41, 49, 50
CO-PRODUCTS	9, 57
CORN SYRUP	75
CORPORATE AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY	14
CORPS	16, 23, 24, 25
CORPS OF ENGINEERS	23, 24
COUNCIL FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH	41
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	70
COUNTY ASSESSMENT	21
COVERED FARM VEHICLE	97
CREDIT	3, 6, 58, 60, 63, 64, 73, 74, 79, 98
CREP	59
CROP DAMAGE	58
CROP INSURANCE	58, 63, 65, 66
CRP	58, 59, 62, 63, 64, 91
CSA	51, 97
CSP	59, 62
CSREES	41
CUB	12
CUBA	56

D

DAIRY EXPORT INCENTIVE PROGRAM	49
DAMS	26
DATA COLLECTION	57
DATA SHARING	50
DAYTIME RUNNING LIGHTS/LAMPS	97
DDGS	9
DEALER TRUST PROVISION	55
DECOMMISSIONING	10, 12
DEER	31, 32, 33
DEER DRIVING	33
DEFENSIVE MEDICINE	74
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	38
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	87
DEPRECIATION	84, 88, 91
DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS	26, 37
DEWATERING	26
DHS	45, 72
DIARY MARKETING	49
DISCHARGE	13, 14, 21, 83
DISPOSAL OF WASTE	14
DOE	31, 32
DOT	93, 97
DRAINAGE	10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 35, 58, 62, 82, 92
DRAINAGE TILES	11
DRIVERS	85, 97, 98
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	81

DRLS	97
DRUGS	44, 81
DUE PROCESS	17, 28, 40
DUQUOIN STATE FAIR	80

E

E-25	8
E85	9
EARLY RELEASE PROGRAM	81
EASEMENTS	12, 21, 35, 40, 58, 77
EBI	59
E-COMMERCE	50
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	7, 23, 24, 33, 42, 56, 61, 76
EDUCATION	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 22, 26, 27, 30, 41, 42, 48, 51, 65, 69, 70, 72, 73, 75, 81, 83, 84, 88, 97
EGGS	88
EGRESS	94
ELECTION DAY	78
ELECTION JUDGES	78
ELECTIONS	4, 78
ELECTORAL REFORMS	78
ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION	12
ELECTRICITY	8, 10
ELEVATORS	48, 53, 70
ELK	33
EMBARGOES	56
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN	73
EMINENT DOMAIN	12, 17, 27, 29, 33, 36, 91
EMT	73
ENCROACHMENT	14, 35, 36
ENDANGERED SPECIES	18
ENERGY	5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 19, 48, 61, 92
ENTERPRISE ZONES	90
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS	13
ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS INDEX	59
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS	58, 72
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT	37
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION	85
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	12, 13, 14, 22, 46, 68, 71
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	13, 14, 22, 46, 68, 71
ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS	21
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP	18
EPA	9, 13, 27, 46, 71
EQUESTRIAN	52
EQUINE	51, 52
ERADICATION PROGRAM	29, 44
ERODIBILITY INDEX	59
EROSION	25, 26, 58, 92

ESTATE TAXES	89, 90
ETHANOL.....	8, 9, 57, 92
ETHICAL STANDARDS.....	83
EXECUTIVE ORDERS	68
EXPEDITED REVIEW	12
EXPORTS.....	56
EXTENSION	6, 7, 32, 41, 42, 62, 66, 90, 91
EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION	38

F

FAA.....	98, 99
FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT	65
FAIR MARKET VALUE.....	33, 95
FAMILY.....	1, 7, 31, 65, 72, 73, 84, 91
FARM BILL	55, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65
FARM CREDIT	60
FARM EQUIPMENT	70, 78, 79, 85, 94
FARM INCOME	2, 46, 49, 56, 61, 84
FARM LABOR	65
FARM MACHINERY	70
FARM PROGRAMS.....	59, 63, 64, 65
FARM SAFETY.....	70
FARM SERVICE AGENCY.....	29, 57, 59, 60, 62, 65, 66
FARMER INVESTMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT	65
FARMER SAVINGS PLAN	91
FARMERS MARKETS.....	51, 75
FARMING METHODS	18
FARMLAND.....	10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20, 25, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 83, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92
FAS.....	72
FDA.....	46, 56, 71
FEDERAL BUDGET	60
FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE.....	20, 64, 65, 66, 67
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	25
FEDERAL ESTATE TAXES.....	87
FEDERAL FLAT RATE INCOME TAX.....	91
FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND RODENTICIDE ACT.....	14
FEDERAL MANDATES	74, 75
FEDERAL REGULATIONS.....	16, 23, 26, 30, 73, 97
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM	61
FEMA.....	25, 26
FENCE LAW	79
FENCING.....	34
FFA.....	3
FIELD BORDERS	58
FIELD TILE	11, 21, 40
FIFRA	14, 22

FILTER STRIPS.....	58, 59, 90
FIREARM OWNERS IDENTIFICATION ACT ...	79
FIREARM PERMITS	32
FIREARMS	79
FLEX-FUEL.....	9
FLOCKs	44
FLOODING	23, 24, 25
FLOODPLAIN	24, 25, 26
FLOW LINES	20
FLSA.....	65
FMD	44, 56, 64
FOOD AID.....	57
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.....	44, 46, 56, 71
FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABANK	44
FOOD BANK.....	76
FOOD INSPECTION.....	56, 72
FOOD LABELING	70, 71
FOOD QUALITY	71
FOOD QUALITY PROTECTION ACT.....	71
FOOD SAFETY.....	47, 51, 56, 72
FOOD SECURITY	56, 61
FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.....	44
FOREIGN AGRICULTURE SERVICE	72
FOREIGN AID.....	56, 57
FOREIGN INVESTMENT.....	34, 42
FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT.....	56, 64
FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICTS.....	83, 90
FORESTRY	19, 98
FQPA	71
FRACTURING	20
FRAGILE LANDS.....	14, 58
FRANKING PRIVILEGES	78
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT.....	56
FSA.....	57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 66
FSIS.....	72
FSP.....	91
FUEL.....	8, 9, 12, 59, 88, 93, 96
FUEL TAX.....	9, 93, 96
FUELS	7, 8, 9

G

GAS STORAGE.....	21
GASIFICATION.....	8, 15
GEESE	32
GENE.....	55
GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS	76
GERMPLASM	55
GIFT TAX.....	87
GIPSA.....	53, 54, 55
GIS.....	76

GLOBAL	19, 41, 46, 50, 56, 92
GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE.....	19
GLOBAL COMMERCIALIZATION	46
GMO	71
GOVERNMENT ASSISTED NUTRITION PROGRAMS	75
GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICIES	60
GOVERNMENT FARM POLICIES	61
GOVERNMENT REGULATION.....	39, 65, 68
GOVERNMENT-BASED CLEARINGHOUSE ..	76
GPS/GIS	50
GRAIN AND HAY GRADING	52
GRAIN CONTRACT.....	48, 52
GRAIN INSPECTION.....	53, 55
GRAIN INSURANCE FUND	52
GRAIN SAFETY TRAINING	70
GRAZING	59
GREEN PAYMENTS	27
GREENHOUSE	7, 14
GREENHOUSE GASES	14
GREENWAY PLANS	39
GROUNDWATER.....	20, 29
GROWTH MANAGEMENT LAWS.....	36
GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM.....	50, 76
GUN REGISTRATION.....	79
GUN SAFETY	79

H

HARVEST SEASON PERMIT	94, 97
HARVESTING	19, 45, 51
HAY	14, 53, 88
HAYING.....	59
HAZARDOUS WASTE.....	15
HEALTH CARE.....	72, 73, 74, 75
HEALTH INSURANCE.....	73, 74, 91
HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS ..	74
HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.....	74
HEAVY METALS	15
HEIRS.....	34, 40, 87
HEL.....	19
HEN-ONLY	31
HERITAGE AREAS	36
HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLAN.....	74
HIGH SPEED RAIL.....	96
HIGHER EDUCATION.....	4, 6
HIGHER LEARNING.....	6
HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND.....	19
HIGH-OCTANE FUELS	8
HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER	82, 94
HIGHWAY USER FEES	93
HIGHWAYS	34, 92, 93, 94, 97
HOMELAND SECURITY	45, 72
HORIZONTAL DRILLING	20, 21

HORSE	51, 97
HORSE RACING	51
HOT AIR BALLOONS	87
HSA	74
HUMANE	43, 51
HUMANE CARE FOR ANIMALS ACT	43
HUNGER	32, 61
HUNTING.....	31, 32, 58, 86
HUNTING PERMITS.....	32
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING.....	20, 21
HYPOXIA.....	28

I

IAA DELEGATES.....	70
ICC.....	10, 11, 12, 95, 96
IDENTITY PRESERVED.....	48, 50, 52, 71
IDNR	31, 32
IEPA.....	13, 14, 15, 42
ILLINOIS BANKING STRUCTURE	79
ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION....	6
ILLINOIS BUILDING AUTHORITY ACT	84
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION	10, 95
ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION	80, 82, 83
ILLINOIS COUNTIES CODE	39
ILLINOIS COUNTY SCHOOL FACILITY TAX ACT	89
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 10, 18, 22, 27, 29, 30, 43, 44, 45, 52, 54, 59, 80	
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.....	26, 31, 39
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF RANSPORTATION	85, 93
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	13, 14, 15, 42, 45
ILLINOIS FINANCE AUTHORITY	60
ILLINOIS GRAIN CODE	52
ILLINOIS LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARKET LAW	55
ILLINOIS LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT GROUP	54
ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND....	89
ILLINOIS NOXIOUS WEED LAW	29
ILLINOIS PENSION CODE.....	77
ILLINOIS PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION ACT	84
ILLINOIS PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT	12
ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.....	3
ILLINOIS STATE FAIR	44, 80
ILLINOIS STATE POLICE.....	79
ILLINOIS STATE TOLL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY	93
ILLINOIS TRUTH IN TAXATION ACT	15

ILLINOIS UNDERVOTE NOTIFICATION LAW	78
ILLINOIS VEHICLE CODE	86
IMAGE	3, 45, 55, 67, 68
IMRF	89
INCINERATION OF SOLID WASTE.....	15
INCLUSION	3, 10, 27, 53, 61, 83, 84, 97
INCOME TAXES.....	5, 91
INDEMNIFICATION	55
INDEXING	91
INDUSTRIAL HEMP	53
INFEASIBLE TO FARM.....	58
INFLATION.....	41, 61, 74, 87, 91
INFRASTRUCTURE.....	8, 10, 11, 23, 25, 26, 35, 83, 93, 94, 95
INGRESS.....	94
INPUT.....	2, 6, 24, 39, 42, 46, 48, 49, 57, 68, 70
INPUT COSTS.....	2, 48
INSPECTION.....	13, 15, 53, 65, 72, 96, 97
INSURANCE.....	25, 26, 34, 42, 51, 64, 65, 66, 74, 75, 85, 86, 91
INSURANCE LIABILITY	85
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT.....	18
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS	55
INTEREST RATES	60, 64, 91
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION.....	80
INTERNAL REVENUE CODE 2032-A.....	87
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND	56
INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT	91
INVOLUNTARY NET LOSS.....	34
IRA'S.....	74
IRRIGATION.....	12, 19, 58

J

JUDGES	80, 86
JUDICIAL REFORM	80
JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNCILS	81

K

KASKASKIA RIVER.....	24
----------------------	----

L

LABELING	54, 70, 71, 72
LABOR.....	62, 64, 65
LAGOONS.....	17
LAME DUCK.....	82
LAND EVALUATION AND SITE ASSESSMENT	38
LAND GRANT INSTITUTIONS.....	21
LAND OWNERSHIP	39, 83

LAND USE.....	7, 10, 12, 18, 25, 36, 37, 38, 39, 92, 95
LANDFILLS.....	15
LANDLORD	52, 58, 62, 66
LANDOWNER.....	10, 11, 19, 20, 21, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 40, 62, 85, 86, 98
LAW AND ORDER.....	81
LEAM	38
LEASE AGREEMENT.....	10, 32, 62
LEGAL ADVOCACY	39
LEGAL ASSISTANCE.....	65
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION.....	64, 65
LEGISLATIVE AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP	69
LEGISLATIVE BODIES	80, 81
LESSEES.....	12, 35
LEVEE	24, 25, 26
LEVEES	23, 24, 25, 26
LEVERAGED BUYOUTS.....	2
LIBRARY DISTRICT	83, 90
LIGHTING.....	78, 79
LIVESTOCK.....	8, 9, 12, 13, 19, 21, 22, 32, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 63, 64, 65, 70, 85, 87, 88, 94, 99
LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT FACILITIES ACT	38, 43, 85
LIVESTOCK PRICING.....	53
LIVESTOCK RENDERING	43
LMFA	43, 85
LOBBYING.....	64
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 25, 27, 34, 35, 39, 61, 76, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 88, 89, 90, 91, 93, 95, 96
LOCAL LEGACY ACT	38
LOCAL PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACT	38
LOCALLY-GROWN	75
LOCK AND DAM.....	23, 24
LOTTERY	32, 90
LOW INPUT METHODS OF FARMING.....	18

M

MANDATE	5, 6, 18, 71, 74, 78, 83
MANDATORY PRICE REPORTING.....	53, 54
MANURE	19, 21, 22
MAP	56, 64
MAPPING PROGRAM.....	30
MARIJUANA	81
MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM.....	56, 64
MARKET LOSS PAYMENTS.....	56
MASS TRANSIT	92
MEAT	40, 44, 51, 55, 71, 80
MEDIA	7, 13, 26, 43, 67, 68, 72

MEDIATION.....	40, 75
MEDICAID	74
MEDICAL CANNABIS.....	81
MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.....	74
MEDICARE.....	74
MEMBERS IN FARM BUREAU	69
MENTAL HEALTH	73
MERGERS.....	2, 55, 80, 95
METHAMPHETAMINE	81
METHANE	7, 21
MEXICO.....	28
MIGRATORY BIRD ACT OF 1916	32
MILK	49, 64, 71, 75
MILKWEED.....	14
MINED LANDS	19
MINERAL.....	20, 21, 77, 95
MINERAL RIGHTS	21, 95
MINIMUM WAGE.....	64, 77
MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION	23
MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS	23
MITIGATION.....	10, 24, 25, 33, 36
MOBILE HOME LOCAL SERVICES TAX ACT	87
MOBILE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	73
MONARCH BUTTERFLY	14, 18
MONETARY POLICY	61
MONOPOLY	2, 55
MOSQUITO ABATEMENT	35
MOTOR FUEL TAX	88, 93
MRC.....	23
MULTIFLORA ROSE	29
MUNICIPALITY.....	15, 36, 38, 83, 85, 89
MYCOBACTERIUM PARATUBERCULOSIS ...	44

N

NASS.....	22, 57, 64
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE.....	22, 57, 64
NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM	25
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE	18
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM.....	13
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS	75
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION POLICY	92
NATURAL DISASTER.....	15, 85
NATURAL RESOURCES	7, 10, 16, 19, 24, 27, 37, 58, 59, 90
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE.....	16, 19, 24, 27, 37, 58, 59
NEGLIGIBLE RISK.....	72

NEPOTISM	83
NEW MARKETING	50
NFIP	25, 26
NLRS	28, 63
NON-AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES	15
NON-RESIDENT.....	31, 32
NOXIOUS WEED.....	29, 92
NPDES	13, 14
NRCS.....	16, 19, 27, 30, 57, 58, 59, 62, 63, 66
NREC.....	42
NUCLEAR ENERGY.....	8
NUCLEAR WASTE	8
NUISANCE	32, 42, 86
NURSERY	7, 55
NUTRIENT.....	21, 22, 28, 42, 63
NUTRIENT LOSS REDUCTION STRATEGY	28, 63
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT	21
NUTRIENT RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COUNCIL	42
NUTRITION	51, 61, 62, 63, 75, 76

O

ODOR	21, 53, 85
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES.....	86
OFFICE OF MINES AND MINERALS.....	19
OPEN LANDS TRUST	35
OPEN SPACE LANDS.....	89
ORGANIC	21, 22, 54, 71, 75
ORGANIC NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT	21
OUTPATIENT FACILITIES	75

P

PACE	36, 37
PALMER AMARANTH	29
PATENT.....	47
PAYMENT OF GRAIN	52
PENSION.....	77, 83
PERISHABLE PRODUCE.....	97
PERMEABILITY.....	24
PERMIT	13, 14, 15, 16, 31, 32, 38, 49, 74, 79, 84, 88, 90, 94, 95, 98
PESTICIDE APPLICATORS.....	22
PESTICIDE CONTAINERS.....	78
PESTICIDE RECORDKEEPING.....	22, 23
PESTICIDES.....	22, 23, 40
PESTS	18
PHILOSOPHY.....	1
PHOTO IDENTIFICATION.....	78
PHRN.....	73

PIPELINE.....	7, 11, 21
PIPELINE FUND.....	11
PLANT GENOME.....	42
PLANT PATENTS.....	55
PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION.....	55
POLLINATOR HABITAT.....	14
POLLINATORS.....	13
POLLUTION.....	8, 13, 14, 28
PORK.....	53
POULTRY.....	88
POWER OF ATTORNEY.....	62
PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE.....	57
PRE-HOSPITAL REGISTERED NURSE.....	73
PREVAILING WAGE.....	27, 77
PREVENT PLANT.....	65
PRICE DISCOVERY.....	48, 53, 54
PRICE MANIPULATION.....	48
PRICE REPORTING.....	48, 54
PRICE TRANSPARENCY.....	53
PRIVACY.....	50, 57, 62, 63, 99
PRIVATE APPLICATOR LICENSE.....	22
PRIVATE LAND ACCESS.....	86
PRIVATE LANDS COOPERATIVE INITIATIVE.....	83
PRIVATE PROPERTY.....	1, 9, 12, 18, 25, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 40, 50, 59, 86, 87, 98
PROBATE LAWS.....	84
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT.....	47
PRODUCTIVITY.....	5, 11, 18, 26, 43, 60
PROFITABILITY.....	18
PROMPT PAY.....	52
PROPERTY RIGHTS.....	12, 20, 95
PROPERTY TAX.....	4, 5, 10, 12, 27, 34, 87, 88, 89, 90
PUBLIC AID.....	75, 76
PUBLIC BUILDING ACTS.....	84
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.....	84
PUBLIC IMAGE.....	67
PUBLIC LANDS.....	31, 34
PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.....	36, 37
PVPA.....	55

R

RAIL.....	95, 96
RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY.....	34, 95
RAILROADS.....	95, 96
RAW MILK.....	49
RECIPROCITY.....	44, 97
RECORDKEEPING.....	22
RECREATIONAL USE OF LAND AND WATER AREAS ACT.....	85

RECYCLING.....	14, 15, 29
REFERENDUM.....	4, 5, 29, 34, 36, 47, 49, 80, 82, 83, 84, 87, 89, 90, 92
REFLECTIVE DEVICES.....	70
REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.....	27
REGIONAL FOOD HUBS.....	51
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.....	90
RENEWABLE.....	7, 8, 9, 90
RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARDS.....	8
RENEWABLE FUELS STANDARD.....	8
RESEARCH... 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 53, 55, 66, 81	
RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY DISCLOSURE ACT.....	39
RESIDUE STANDARDS.....	72
RESIDUES.....	19
RESOLUTIONS.....	1, 39
RETAINED EARNINGS.....	41
RETIREMENT.....	6, 67
REVENUE PROTECTION.....	61, 63, 64
REVERSE SETBACKS.....	38
RFS.....	8, 9
RIGHT TO FARM.....	39
RIGHT-OF-WAY.....	10, 11, 12, 16
RIMSAP.....	73
RIPARIAN BUFFERS.....	58
RISK ASSESSMENT.....	65
RISK MANAGEMENT.....	49, 57, 65, 66
RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY.....	57, 66
RIVER CONSERVANCY DISTRICTS.....	23
RIVER TERMINALS.....	48
RIVERS.....	23, 25, 33, 48
RMA.....	57, 66
RNPSP.....	73
ROADS.....	20, 34, 93, 94, 95, 97, 98
ROT.....	88
RUNOFF.....	17, 26
RURAL DEVELOPMENT.....	13, 76
RURAL ILLINOIS MEDICAL STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.....	73
RURAL NURSE PRACTITIONER.....	73
RURAL PARTNERS.....	76

S

SAFE.....	8, 15, 18, 22, 31, 44, 46, 59, 61, 70, 72, 92, 96, 97, 98
SAFETY... 5, 9, 12, 21, 31, 43, 46, 51, 68, 70, 71, 72, 84, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98	
SAFETY LIGHTING.....	70
SALES TAX.....	88, 90

SARA.....	13
SCC.....	49
SCENIC BYWAYS.....	36
SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.....	49, 75
SCHOOLS.....	4, 5, 12, 50, 72, 76, 79, 89
SEDIMENT CONTROL.....	27
SEED.....	29, 40, 46, 48, 52
SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.....	98
SETBACKS.....	12, 13, 58
SHEEP.....	44, 51
SIGNAGE.....	43
SLAUGHTER.....	44, 53, 55, 72
SLUDGE.....	15
SMV.....	78
SOCIAL SECURITY.....	67
SODBUSTER.....	62
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION	
DISTRICTS.....	17, 27, 29, 58
SOIL CONSERVATION.....	26, 61
SOIL EROSION.....	16, 19, 26, 27, 92
SOIL HEALTH.....	18
SOIL PRODUCTIVITY.....	66
SOIL SURVEYS.....	27, 66
SOLAR ENERGY.....	9, 10
SOLAR POWER.....	10
SOMATIC CELL COUNT.....	49
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY.....	6
SPECIAL SERVICE AREAS.....	84, 85
SPECIALTY CROPS.....	48, 50, 55
STAMPS.....	31
STATE INCOME TAX.....	88, 90, 91
STATE LEGISLATURE.....	82
STATE OF ILLINOIS INTERAGENCY	
COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES.....	23
STATE PARK.....	35, 89
STATEWIDE ZONING MODEL.....	38
STEAM.....	5
STOCK REDEMPTION POLICY.....	40
STOCKYARDS.....	53, 55
STORAGE TANKS.....	12
STORMWATER.....	16, 17, 58
STREAMBANK.....	24, 25, 26, 59
STRIKES.....	84
STRUCTURE.....	2, 4, 25, 26, 41, 48, 60, 69, 82, 88, 90
SUBSIDENCE.....	19, 20, 21
SUGAR.....	75
SUNSET.....	34, 81, 89
SUPERFUND AMENDMENTS AND	
REAUTHORIZATION ACT.....	13
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD...	11, 96
SURFACE WATER.....	21, 58
SURGICAL CENTERS.....	75
SWAMPBUSTER.....	30

SWCDS.....	27, 58
SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT.....	62

T

T YIELDS.....	66
TAKINGS.....	39, 96
TANK BATTERIES.....	20
TAX CREDITS.....	8, 17, 89, 91
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING.....	89, 90
TAX REFORM.....	90, 91
TAXATION.....	11, 62, 81, 90
TDR.....	36
TECHNOLOGY.....	2, 3, 5, 8, 14, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 50, 57, 72
TELECOMMUNICATION.....	5, 11
TELEPHONE.....	10, 70
TENANT.....	11, 20, 31, 52, 58, 62, 63, 66, 98
TENURE.....	4, 80
TERM LIMITS.....	60, 82
TERRACES.....	17, 19, 27, 58, 90
THEFT.....	77, 81, 86, 87
TIF.....	89, 90
TIMBER.....	19, 39
TIMBERLAND.....	17
TIRE.....	15
TMDLS.....	28
TOLL HIGHWAYS.....	93, 94
TORT REFORM.....	74, 80, 85
TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS.....	28
TOURISM.....	38, 42
TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR.....	87
TRADE.....	49, 55, 56, 57, 61, 64
TRAILS.....	34, 51, 52, 86
TRAIN DERAILMENT.....	96
TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS.....	36
TRANSPORTATION.....	2, 4, 15, 23, 26, 44, 46, 92, 93, 95, 96, 97, 98
TRANSPORTATION IMPACT DISTRICTS.....	93
TRAPPING.....	31
TRESPASS.....	86, 87
TRESPASSERS.....	85, 86
TRUSTEE.....	11
TURKEY.....	31, 32

U

U.S. CENSUS.....	61
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.....	32
U.S. WAREHOUSE ACT.....	52
UAVS.....	98, 99
UCR.....	98
UNDERGROUND PIPELINES.....	11

UNIFORM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.....	70
UNIFORM PARTITION OF HEIRS PROPERTY ACT	40
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.....	22, 29, 30, 46, 48, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 62, 66, 72, 75, 76
UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.....	18
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.....	6, 7, 32, 35
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION.....	6, 7, 32, 35
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS	98
UPTAKE	42
USDA.....	2, 13, 14, 22, 29, 30, 44, 45, 46, 48, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, 66, 68, 72, 75, 76
USDA NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM.....	54
USDA REPORTING ANDOPEARTIONS.....	57
USDOT NUMBER.....	98
USE TAX	88
USEPA.....	68
USER FEES	93
UTILITIES	8, 10, 11, 12, 33, 87
UTILITY	10, 11, 12, 21, 33, 38, 40, 55, 87

V

VALUE-ADDED	2, 47, 50, 51, 57, 71, 76, 90
VANDALISM	86, 87
VEHICLE MILEAGE TAX.....	93
VEHICLE REGULATIONS.....	96, 97
VETERINARIAN	44, 45
VISION 20/20.....	5
VMT	93
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.....	3, 4
VOLUNTARISM PROTECTION ACT	85
VOLUNTARY	4, 13, 14, 16, 26, 27, 28, 30, 32, 39, 40, 44, 47, 50, 52, 57, 71, 72, 74, 76, 83, 87
VOLUNTARY ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION	27
VOTER FRAUD	78
VOTER REGISTRATION.....	78

W

WASTE	8, 14, 15, 20, 21, 29, 82, 83
WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY.....	83
WATER.....	16, 17, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 38, 42, 58, 59, 61, 77, 90
WATER QUALITY.....	27, 28, 42, 58, 59, 90
WATER RESOURCE EXPLORATION	29
WATER RESOURCES	20, 26, 29
WATER SUPPLIES	28
WATER USE ACT	29
WATER WITHDRAWALS	28
WATERSHEDS.....	17, 42
WATERWAYS	16, 28, 30, 58, 62, 90
WEATHER.....	59, 65, 66
WEED SEED	29
WEEDS.....	22, 29
WEIGHT LIMITS	94, 97
WELFARE.....	7, 43, 51, 68, 84
WELL HEADS.....	20
WETLAND	17, 21, 30
WETLANDS.....	21, 30, 33, 35
WILDLIFE ...	14, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 37, 58, 59, 61
WILDLIFE REFUGES	27, 35
WIND	7, 10, 12, 58
WIND ENERGY	7, 12
WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS	12
WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS	13
WORLD HUNGER	61
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION	46, 56
WTO	56, 63

Y

YOUNG LEADER	69
--------------------	----

Z

ZERO TOLERANCE	44, 72
ZONING	38