

ARKANSAS FARM BUREAU 2019

State Policy First Printing

PLEASE NOTE: This book includes official policy on state issues approved by county delegates to the state convention on November 30, 2018 at Hot Springs. NOT INCLUDED IS DELEGATE ACTION ON NATIONAL ISSUES, to be considered Jan. 13-16, 2019, during the American Farm Bureau Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana.



December 6, 2018

CONTENTS

AGRI TOURISM	130	31	POLLUTION CONTROL AND ECOLOGY (PC&E)	
ANIMAL CARE	145	44	COMMISSION AND ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF	
AQUACULTURE	123	27	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (ADEQ)	150.....51
AQUACULTURE RESEARCH	124	28	POULTRY	117.....20
ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT	136	35	POULTRY RESEARCH	118.....23
ARKANSAS GAME &			PREDATOR CONTROL	141.....39
FISH COMMISSION (AG&FC)	158	69	PRODUCE MARKETS	131.....31
BEEF CATTLE	115	17	PURPOSE AND MISSION OF FARM BUREAU	100.....3
BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH	116	19	RAILROADS	161.....70
CHECKOFFS/COMMODITY PROMOTIONS	133	32	REFUSE, MANURE AND LITTER	
CHEMICALS	143	41	MANAGEMENT	147.....47
COMMENDATIONS		85	RENEWABLE FUELS	140.....39
CONSUMER RELATIONS	102	3	RESEARCH AND EXTENSION	134.....32
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	135	34	RICE	105.....6
COTTON	103	4	RICE RESEARCH	106.....8
COTTON RESEARCH	104	5	RIGHT-TO-FARM	139.....38
CRIME AND LAW ENFORCEMENT	162	71	RIGHT-TO-WORK AND LABOR	167.....78
DAIRY	119	24	RIVER PORTS	173.....81
DAIRY RESEARCH	120	25	ROADS AND HIGHWAYS	155.....61
DRAINAGE, LEVEE AND IMPROVEMENT			RURAL DEVELOPMENT	159.....70
DISTRICTS	178	84	SAFETY	175.....83
EARTHQUAKE EDUCATION	176	83	SOYBEAN RESEARCH	108.....10
EDUCATION	156	62	SOYBEANS	107.....9
EMINENT DOMAIN AND			SPECIALTY CROPS	127.....29
PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS	166	76	SPECIALTY CROPS RESEARCH	128.....30
ENERGY	165	75	STATE PLANT BOARD	137.....36
EQUINE	129	30	SWINE	121.....25
FAIRS	172	80	SWINE RESEARCH	122.....26
FEED GRAIN RESEARCH	114	17	TAXES	153.....58
FEED GRAINS	113	16	TRESPASSING	169.....79
FIREARMS	168	78	UTILITIES	163.....73
FOOD SAFETY	177	83	WAREHOUSE BONDING AND BANKRUPTCY	154.....60
FORESTRY	109	12	WATER	152.....53
FORESTRY RESEARCH	110	14	WHEAT	111.....14
GENERAL	185	84	WHEAT RESEARCH	112.....15
GOVERNMENT	157	66		
GRAIN SAMPLING	144	43		
HAZARDOUS BY-PRODUCTS	149	51		
HEALTH & WELFARE	174	81		
INSURANCE	164	74		
LAND USE	146	45		
LITTERING	171	80		
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION	138	37		
MARKETING	132	31		
MEMBERSHIP	101	3		
MINERALS AND MINERAL RIGHTS	151	53		
NUISANCE SUITS	170	79		
PEST, WEED AND DISEASE CONTROL	142	40		
POLLUTION CONTROL	148	50		

PURPOSE AND MISSION OF FARM BUREAU 100

Farm Bureau is an independent, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, social advancement and promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is county, state, national and international in its scope and influence. Farm Bureau is nonpartisan, nonsectarian, nongovernmental and nonsecret in character. Farm Bureau aggressively strives to be the voice of agricultural producers at all levels.

We should also work to attract and maintain a membership base reflective of all facets of Arkansas agriculture.

The mission of Arkansas Farm Bureau is to:

- 1. Advocate the interests of agriculture in the public arena;
- 2. Disseminate information concerning the value and importance of agriculture; and
- 3. Provide products and services which improve the quality of life for our members.

MEMBERSHIP 101

- 1. A large, adequately financed, growing, active and informed membership is needed to attain the objectives of the Farm Bureau program. Additional membership recruiting efforts should focus on young farmers and ranchers and operators of “non-traditional” agricultural enterprises.
- 2. We urge each county Farm Bureau to plan a membership program promoting Farm Bureau programs, so each county may increase its membership and reach the state membership goal. The purpose of Farm Bureau is to serve its members. Many valuable services have been developed, helping to stabilize and add financial strength to the organization. The service programs of Farm Bureau will be continually reviewed and provided only to Farm Bureau members in good standing.

CONSUMER RELATIONS 102

- 1. To enhance the public knowledge so consumers can make decisions based on sound information, we recommend:
 - 1.1. Research on the environmental aspects of agricultural practices that recognize both cost and benefits and identify safe and environmentally sound practices, including

use of genetically enhanced crops, to meet the world’s demand for food and fiber.

- 1.2. Research on the process of groundwater contamination and all the variables affecting its rate and extent.
- 1.3. Public recognition that extremist views about agriculture (environmental, animal welfare, etc.) cannot meet the expanding world population’s need for food and fiber.
- 1.4. Efforts to convince the public that the food supply, including transgenic crops, is safe and wholesome.
- 1.5. Environmentally sound and economically viable farming practices by our members, who are true environmentalists. We should inform the public about farmers’ stewardship.
- 1.6. Championing the essential role of property rights in a free society.
- 1.7. Supporting and expanding informational programs to help project a favorable image of farmers and agriculture, such as the Arkansas Foundation for Agriculture Awareness Program.
- 1.8. Educating the general public through various means concerning the reason for costs of food, noting it is not the cost of the commodities but rather it is transportation and other higher costs that have the largest input on food costs.
- 1.9. We support foreign customers visiting our state for the purpose of promoting sales of our commodities.
- 1.10. We should educate the general public about the benefits of common farming practices like stubble burning and spreading chicken litter.
- 2. We strongly urge the Centers for Disease Control and other health agencies to refrain from referring to human diseases by livestock or poultry names. Terms like swine flu, mad cow, etc., have a devastating effect on demand and prices for healthy livestock and poultry meat products.
- 3. We favor consumer education on the safety of genetically enhanced crops.
- 4. We support local, state and national efforts to increase awareness and appreciation for agriculture in America.
- 5. We encourage increased dialogue and cooperation between farmers and agricultural industry leaders such as integrators, feed companies, chemical companies and animal medical supply companies. By telling the story of agriculture, it will help the general public understand the importance and necessity of agriculture.

6. We support developing a program to allow consumers to ask farmers questions about food and fiber production.

COTTON

103

1. Cotton Classing and Warehousing

1.1. We support:

- 1.1.1. Competitive warehouse charges and a competitive margin to keep Rules 3 and 5 at a comparative basis.
- 1.1.2. An extension of loans on cotton with storage charges paid on redemption of a loan.
- 1.1.3. Continued cooperation with the USDA Cotton Classing Office to further educate farmers, and encourage revision of classing standards to reflect the accurate grade of cotton.
- 1.1.4. Keeping the Cotton Classing Complex in Southeast Arkansas, preferably in Dumas.
- 1.1.5. High-volume instrument testing. Premiums should be paid for cotton exhibiting premium qualities.
- 1.1.6. Module averaging.
- 1.1.7. Mandatory classification of cotton by USDA classers all transactions involving raw cotton.
- 1.1.8. The Cotton Grades and Standards Conference and Cotton Council and make cotton producers aware of these meetings.
- 1.1.9. A cessation of producer's storage obligations when cotton is sold and the buyer takes possession of warehouse receipts.

1.2. We oppose:

- 1.2.1. Storage charges levied on cotton forfeited in the loan program.
- 1.2.2. Cotton warehouses purposely delaying shipments to mills to collect storage fees for as long as possible.

2. Cotton Promotion and Industry Relations

2.1. We support:

- 2.1.1. The National Cotton Council, Cotton Incorporated and Cotton Board.
- 2.1.2. The current cotton checkoff program, but believe it should have a provision to allow for a producer referendum at agreed-upon intervals. The assessment should be no more than \$1 per bale, plus 0.3 percent of value.

- 2.1.3. Turn-back funds to the states and recommend they be allocated to research. We should take an active role in administering these funds.

- 2.1.4. Cotton Incorporated, National Cottonseed Products Association and other appropriate organizations expand production research and develop more uses and markets for cotton and cottonseed products including the use of cottonseed protein for human consumption.

- 2.1.5. Working with Cotton Incorporated to conduct educational tours of research facilities for Arkansas growers.

- 2.1.6. Cotton Incorporated expanding its efforts to educate farmers on problems caused by contaminants in seed cotton and informing growers of the benefits of the cotton checkoff program.

- 2.1.7. Cotton Incorporated promoting greater use of U.S. cotton and domestic mill products.

- 2.1.8. Cotton, which is biodegradable, be used in place of plastic marking tape and plastic survey flags by government agencies, utility companies, etc. Where practical, government fabrics should be 100 percent cotton, grown and made in the United States.

3. Boll Weevil Eradication

3.1. We support:

- 3.1.1. The Arkansas and Beltwide Boll Weevil Eradication program.

- 3.1.2. The efforts of the State Plant Board to maintain the Boll Weevil Eradication Program and protect millions of dollars invested in this program.

- 3.1.3. The use of sound science by the State Plant Board in developing the boll weevil quarantine regulations. When they are imposed, it should be fair and based on common sense.

- 3.1.4. Mandatory certification of cotton acreage at FSA for the purpose of boll weevil eradication.

- 3.1.5. Working with the legislature and governor to help secure funding to aid in the maintenance of boll weevil eradication.

- 3.1.6. The State Plant Board to work with cotton farmers who want to graze cattle on harvested cotton stalks.

- 3.1.7. Maintenance funds continue to be provided through federal funding once boll weevil eradication has been achieved.
- 4. Farm Programs
 - 4.1. We support:
 - 4.1.1. The inclusion of seed cotton as a covered commodity for participation in Title I Farm Bill programs.
 - 4.1.2. Creation of a government loan for cottonseed. We recommend that gins and oil mills better communicate the oil mill price of cottonseed to producers.
 - 4.1.3. The planting cutoff dates for cotton should be determined by each county Extension Service office and county Farm Service Agency committee.
- 5. Regulations, Pest Management and Technology
 - 5.1. We support:
 - 5.1.1. American Farm Bureau work with private industry to continue research and development of new pesticides.
 - 5.1.2. Regulatory agencies giving rapid approval of genetically engineered cotton. We should work toward legislation that would allow genetic engineering of public cotton varieties of seed, without selling the seed variety totally to a private company. If a public variety of cottonseed is genetically altered (Roundup Ready, etc.), the grower should pay the company a technology fee for use of the gene.
 - 5.1.3. Strict enforcement of laws and regulations restricting the use of certain herbicides primarily, but not limited to, phenoxy material near cotton. We support inspections of all aerial application equipment after the use of phenoxy herbicides. We support continuation of current State Plant Board regulations for application of phenoxy herbicides. We recommend that any material that contains phenoxy-type material have the name "phenoxy" the same size as the name of the product on the label. We support research and education in development and use of alternative chemicals and application methods.
 - 5.1.4. A permitting process for the use of 2, 4-D phenoxy products between April 15 and Oct. 15 in counties, or contiguous

counties, where cotton is grown as a commercial crop. Producers may obtain a restricted use permit from the State Plant Board in those areas.

- 5.1.5. Research to develop bale packaging made of cotton.
- 5.1.6. Extreme caution be used in the release of resistant varieties until the UA has completed intensive research on volatility and drift on non-resistant crops.
- 5.1.7. The utilization of new and existing technology to provide market education to producers.
- 5.2. We oppose:
 - 5.2.1. Efforts to eliminate genetically engineered cotton.
 - 5.2.2. Spending U.S. government funds on research and development on raising cotton in foreign countries.
 - 5.2.3. The transfer of technology to foreign countries through university educational programs.
 - 5.2.4. Excessive license charges on cotton module trucks. When a permit is required, we request it be seasonal.

COTTON RESEARCH

104

- 1. We support:
 - 1.1. Research to develop bale packaging made of cotton.
 - 1.2. The Cotton Research Verification Program continue to be funded, and continued emphasis be placed on economics of the CRVP, including irrigated and nonirrigated cotton.
 - 1.3. The COTMAN program with its emphasis on termination of irrigation, crop protectant, and the initiation of defoliants and boll openers, DD60 and plant growth regulators.
 - 1.4. The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture maintain a state cotton specialist position.
 - 1.5. Funding for more specialists working in cotton.
 - 1.6. The Cotton Incorporated initiative that makes conventional varieties available and supports research to better facilitate their use.
 - 1.7. Seed companies quickly enrolling new seed varieties, especially transgenic varieties, into UA yield trials. More cotton breeding should be done by the university and kept as public varieties.

- 1.8. Seed and herbicide technology coupled to be sold and released only when both products are approved by the appropriate regulatory agencies, and vetted by the UA Cooperative Extension Service.
2. We oppose:
 - 2.1. Any restructuring or reduction in manpower or funding that would handicap research or extension efforts on cotton.
3. We recommend:
 - 3.1. Research be continued and/or expanded under a multi-disciplinary effort in the following areas:
 - 3.1.1. Preplant tillage — subsoil (economics, timing, soil types), no-till, minimum till, ridge-till, cover crops, stale seedbeds;
 - 3.1.2. Optimum planting dates by region — latest profitable planting dates;
 - 3.1.3. Varieties — high yielding, early maturity, acceptable quality, including genetically-engineered cotton, drought/stress tolerance;
 - 3.1.4. Row-spacing — narrow row versus conventional, by soil type and planting date;
 - 3.1.5. Optimum stands — soil types, physical problems, planting dates, seedling vigor, plant population;
 - 3.1.6. Herbicides — weed and grass control, over-the-top application for broadleaf and grass control, herbicide resistance, safeners, chemical buildup in soils, and biotech controls;
 - 3.1.7. Disease control — seedling disease and wilt complex;
 - 3.1.8. Fertilization — foliar application of nitrogen and potash and consideration of major and minor nutrients;
 - 3.1.9. Insects — plant bugs, stink bugs, bollworm and boll weevil under a high level of management, biological control, and improved scouting methods, including economic thresholds. We request more funds and more scientists at the University of Arkansas to research cotton insect control, primarily *Heliothis* (bollworm/bud worm), resistance to Tarnish Plant Bug (TPB), and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) concepts. We encourage more research on reniform and root-knot nematodes and lygus (plant bugs). We recommend more research on the growing problem of chemical resistance;
 - 3.1.10. Irrigation — method and rates by soil types, timing and termination including drip irrigation and fertigation;
 - 3.1.11. Growth regulators — timing and quantity for irrigated and nonirrigated;
 - 3.1.12. Defoliation — defoliant and boll openers;
 - 3.1.13. Gin trash — alternative uses, influence on crop yields;
 - 3.1.14. Modules — efficient temperature monitoring system;
 - 3.1.15. Cottonseed — to include alternative uses in marketing;
 - 3.1.16. Crop protectant drift around susceptible crops;
 - 3.1.17. Fiber quality;
 - 3.1.18. Wind damage prevention;
 - 3.1.19. Fruit shedding;
 - 3.1.20. Yield-enhancement compounds;
 - 3.1.21. Weather and environmental factors; and
 - 3.1.22. We support increased funding for weed resistance research.
 4. We recommend the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture become more involved in the following:
 - 4.1. Updating fertilizer recommendations.
 - 4.2. Precision agriculture and variable rate of fertilizer, especially P & K.
 - 4.3. Maintenance of soil nutrients.
 - 4.4. Sampling procedure for variable rate technology.
 - 4.5. Sampling intervals for variable rate technology.
 - 4.6. Drift and volatility characteristics of new products especially the new formulations of Dicamba and 2, 4-D.
 - 4.7. Best use practices to minimize potential drift.
 - 4.8. Irrigation frequency and dispersion.
 - 4.9. Plant bug resistant varieties.
 - 4.10. Identification of non-beneficial (snake oil) products.
 - 4.11. Cotton research on sandy loam soils.
 5. We oppose any restructuring or reduction in manpower or funding that would handicap research or extension efforts on cotton.

RICE

105

1. Promotion, Marketing and Trade
 - 1.1. We support:

- 1.1.1. The nonrefundable checkoff for rice promotion and research in Arkansas, and we oppose any efforts to change its structure.
 - 1.1.2. A portion of the rice checkoff funds be allocated to in-state promotion.
 - 1.1.3. Continued work to enhance the "Rice Checkoff".
 - 1.1.4. More efforts to increase domestic rice sales in the United States.
 - 1.1.5. More rice promotion at the local level and recommend that the USA Rice Council work with Arkansas public schools to encourage consumption of rice in the daily diet.
 - 1.1.6. Efforts by Farm Bureau to educate the public on the safety of U.S. rice and the U.S. rice industry.
 - 1.1.7. Efforts to open markets in other countries for both milled and rough U.S. rice.
 - 1.1.8. Country-of-origin labeling on rice products.
 - 1.1.9. Applying and enforcing the same standards on imported rice as those imposed on domestic rice, including regulation on the safety of imported food.
 - 1.1.10. Subjecting all imported rice to USDA inspections.
 - 1.1.11. Establishing procedures to apply trade restrictions or other adjustments on import rice (rough or milled) that has a country of origin in which government-established production or pricing strategies can be shown to effect advantages to the imported product over domestic production.
 - 1.1.12. The U.S. government to aggressively appeal any World Trade Organization (WTO) rulings against U.S. rice programs. We also recommend that U.S. trade officials should not negotiate away domestic rice program benefits without equivalent concessions from other rice-producing and-consuming countries.
 - 1.1.13. Efforts to create a phytosanitary protocol for U.S. rice exports to China.
 - 1.1.14. Any actions taken to address the convergence of rice futures and cash prices should enhance open interest in the futures.
 - 1.1.15. Creation of additional delivery points to make delivery on a futures contract more feasible for growers.
 - 1.1.16. Monthly USDA stock reports.
 - 1.1.17. The current August 1 start date for the rice marketing year.
 - 1.1.18. Any efforts to regain the trust of the buyers and consumers of U.S. rice due to quality and environmental factors.
 - 1.1.19. FDA adopting the Codex definition for rice.
- 1.2. We oppose:
- 1.2.1. U.S. trade officials negotiating away domestic rice program benefits without equivalent concessions from other rice-producing and-consuming countries.
 - 1.2.2. The "traceability" concept of tracking the movement of identifiable grain through the marketing chain.
2. Farm Program Implementation
- 2.1. We Support:
- 2.1.1. A more transparent process of determining World Market Price for rice.
 - 2.1.2. The world rice price, as used in determining the CCC loan repurchase price, be more closely related to the actual world rice price.
 - 2.1.3. Raising loan rates on rice to ensure production costs are met.
 - 2.1.4. Creating multiple crop insurance zones in the state of Arkansas.
 - 2.1.5. Moving the crop insurance deadline from February 28 to March 15, similar to surrounding states.
 - 2.1.6. Cut-off dates for planting rice for Risk Management Agency purposes be divided into a north-south zone, with the northern zone 10-20 days later.
3. Crop Protection Products
- 3.1. We Support:
- 3.1.1. Faster and less-costly registration of new crop protectants. Public safety should come first. However, scientific research should clearly indicate harmful effects.
 - 3.1.2. Rice crop protectants being classified as minor-use crop protectants.
 - 3.1.3. Efforts to keep all currently used crop protectants available to producers.
 - 3.1.4. Continued research on droplet size pertaining to drift.
 - 3.1.5. Allowing tank mixes with Command for aerial application.

- 3.1.6. Keeping Facet available to farmers in Arkansas.
 - 3.1.7. Efforts to modify the label for ground application of Command to provide for use in and around city limits and residences, under conditions that limit potential for offsite drift.
 - 3.1.8. Efforts to obtain full registration, Section 18 or crisis exemption for needed rice crop protectants.
 - 3.1.9. Continued cooperation between Environmental Protection Agency and Arkansas' rice industry in the Section 18 process.
 - 3.1.10. The current State Plant Board buffer zones for phenoxy herbicide application; however, we recommend the term "susceptible crops" be changed to "cotton" for the purpose of enforcement. We request that the State Plant Board, in counties where a distinct cropping division between rice and cotton is evident, allow an exemption for rice from any countywide 2, 4-D ban.
 - 3.1.11. Penalties and stringent controls of applicators to help lead to the correct usage and application of chemicals on rice.
 - 3.1.12. Appropriate action to strengthen zinc and other micronutrient labeling.
 - 3.1.13. The State Plant Board reducing current buffer zones imposed on Stratego and Tilt.
 - 3.1.14. The Cooperative Extension Service calibration testing and training and encourage__aerial applicators to participate annually.
- 3.2. We Oppose:
- 3.2.1. A ban on aerial application of 2, 4-D.
4. Variety Development and Seed Sales
- 4.1. We Support:
- 4.1.1. UA retaining ownership rights to publicly developed varieties.
 - 4.1.2. Continued funding of research and Extension activities in the development of public rice varieties.
 - 4.1.3. Cooperation between the UA Agricultural Experiment Station and private companies to develop transgenic varieties. We recommend working with all agencies and groups in the development of proper protocols for the production of transgenic rice in Arkansas.
- 4.1.4. Working with all agencies and groups in the development of proper protocols for the production of transgenic rice in Arkansas.
- 4.1.5. And urge the UA Division of Agriculture and USDA to enter into a hybrid rice breeding program. However, this should not reduce funds for the development of conventional varieties.
- 4.1.6. The current zero tolerance of red rice and sprangletop in registered and certified rice seed.
- 4.1.7. State Plant Board to monitor rice seed brought into Arkansas from other states for the presence of disease organisms not found in Arkansas. If such organisms are detected in seed produced outside Arkansas, we recommend seed from that state be quarantined.
- 4.1.8. Seed companies supplying the optimum planting date for each variety of rice on the bag for mill rate and yield rate as determined by the UA variety trials.
- 4.2. We Oppose:
- 4.2.1. Excessive pricing by seed dealers on new varieties of rice released by the University of Arkansas.
 - 4.2.2. Rice seed sales based on seed count.
 - 4.2.3. Varieties developed by rice checkoff dollars being licensed to private companies, unless license revenues are utilized to support the UA rice research program.
5. We oppose rice fields being considered aquatic areas for regulatory purposes.
6. We support Cost-share programs that would better encourage surface water systems.
7. We support the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board's commitment to use all the money from the Columbian Free Trade Agreement Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQ) for research.

RICE RESEARCH

106

- 1. Priorities in rice research by state colleges, USDA and others should include the following:
 - 1.1. Disease control
 - 1.2. Weed control
 - 1.3. Fertilization
 - 1.4. Water management
 - 1.5. Pest management
 - 1.6. Effect of herbicides on endangered species

- 1.7. Herbicide carryover in crop rotations
- 1.8. Varieties
- 2. We encourage performance testing of both public and private varieties, including genetically modified varieties.
- 3. We favor continued or intensified breeding efforts in the development of varieties that can be produced in Arkansas for Asian markets.
- 4. Biotechnology research — we favor increased research and continued development of all transgenic rice varieties, including Liberty Link and "Farmaceuticals."
- 5. We support a move to further intensify rice research and education efforts to show that transgenic rice is a safe and viable food source in the marketplace.
- 6. Genetic enhancement so that over-the-top chemicals can be used to stop red rice; and
- 7. We recommend continued research on Loyant rice herbicide and its effects on non-target crops.
- 8. Research to develop a "safened seed" is highly desirable. This treatment should enable use of soil-applied herbicides with reduced injury to rice seedlings. We encourage further research on granular Facet and Preplant Incorporated (PPI) herbicides.
- 9. Research oriented toward "maximum economic yield" rather than highest yield;
- 10. Rice production, including row width and plant population, and seedling vigor, on various soil types with special emphasis on heavy clay;
- 11. Cultural practices associated with late planting dates;
- 12. Double cropping and its effects on soil fertility;
- 13. Ways to improve rice harvesting, storage and drying methods to produce higher milling qualities;
- 14. Factors and practices that would increase milling quality of rice;
- 15. Uses of rice for products other than food;
- 16. No-till, minimum-till and stale-seedbed practices and benefits;
- 17. We recommend further research on the use of rice straw and hulls to produce ethanol.
- 18. We support more research on allelopathic cover crops for production with an emphasis being on rice.
- 19. We commend the CES and the Arkansas Experiment Stations for their work in establishing the rice outlying test plots.
- 20. We support the Rice Research Verification Trials program.

- 21. The USDA should relocate the rice variety development research from Beaumont, Texas, to Stuttgart.
- 22. We support funding for full staffing and operation of the Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center at Stuttgart.
- 23. We encourage the research only on public varieties in the Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center at Stuttgart.
- 24. We support increased funding to continue rice research at the Rice Research and Extension Center in Stuttgart.
- 25. We support the UA and Rice Research and Promotion Board effort to establish a new rice research and extension center in Northeast Arkansas.
- 26. We believe that all public funds for agricultural research and development should be spent through state universities.
- 27. We support the DD50 program.

SOYBEANS

107

- 1. We support the national soybean promotion and research checkoff program.
- 2. We oppose any changes to the soybean checkoff program.
- 3. The Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board should continue to coordinate research efforts with the United Soybean Board to prevent unnecessary duplication.
- 4. All soybean checkoff money retained in the state should be used for research, promotion and necessary Soybean Promotion Board administrative expenses. We recommend up to 20 percent of the Soybean Promotion Board funds be used for in-state promotion.
- 5. We support the United Soybean Board's Animal Agriculture Initiative.
- 6. We reaffirm our support for research and Cooperative Extension Service funding through the soybean checkoff program.
- 7. We support efforts of the Department of Finance and Administration to keep first points of sale informed of the collection procedures of the Arkansas soybean checkoff.
- 8. We urge farmers be informed on how checkoff monies are spent.
- 9. We should continue exploring the possibility of bringing prospective foreign soybean buyers into the state to study cooperative exporting.
- 10. We encourage:

- 10.1. State government and Congress continue to promote direct soybean sales to foreign countries.
- 10.2. Use of soybean oil-based ink and other soy oil-based products. We support and encourage the use of the "SOYSEAL." We recommend that all state Farm Bureau printing be done with soy ink and that the soy ink logo be used.
11. We recommend:
 - 11.1. Seed companies be required to provide breeder variety information on the seed label in addition to the brand name.
 - 11.2. Standard germination and vigor test (accelerated aging) for soybeans, with results stated on blue tag or certified soybean seed, as well as date of test.
12. We urge the State Plant Board to monitor or study the results of the soybean seed vigor study by the Agricultural Experiment Station. The results should be used to create appropriate accelerated aging regulations. Those results should be made available to soybean producers.
13. We support State Plant Board regulations requiring labels to indicate old crop/new crop blended seed.
14. We encourage:
 - 14.1. State Plant Board include seed per pound on all soybeans sold in Arkansas.
 - 14.2. State Plant Board to conduct more frequent testing of soybean seed for quality.
15. We oppose new regulations restricting the use of chemicals on soybeans until supported by sound scientific data.
16. We encourage increased emphasis on soybean market education for producers. If premiums are paid for conventional soybeans, we recommend setting up a program to help producers take advantage of this incentive.
17. We support the University of Arkansas retaining ownership rights to publicly developed varieties.
18. We encourage cooperation between the UA Agricultural Experiment Station and private companies to develop transgenic soybean varieties. The UA should receive a portion of any technology fees charged for these varieties.
19. We support the release of Dicamba-tolerant and 2, 4-D-tolerant soybeans. However, we recommend adequate funding be provided to make sure all potential drift problems are addressed before they are released.
 - 19.1. We urge all farmers to be conservative in their use of the new auxin herbicides and traits and to use only the approved herbicides and adhere to all label directions.
20. We encourage all companies to enter their soybean varieties in the UA variety tests, including Roundup-ready soybean varieties.
21. We oppose excessive pricing by seed companies and dealers on new varieties of soybeans.
22. We favor the development of an industry standard protocol for patent expirations on biotech crops similar to the one for crop protectant products.
23. We recommend soybean planting seeds or their container be color-coded to correspond to the flag color. This could greatly help to prevent the improper mixing of technologies.
24. We oppose:
 - 24.1. Restrictions on the ability of farmers to custom clean and plant any of their own seed, including patented seed, to support personal production.
 - 24.2. Seed company contracts which allow long-term inspections of farmer properties.
25. We support:
 - 25.1. Production meetings and field days to help soybean producers be more aware and utilize all information available to them.
 - 25.2. Monitoring and raising loan rates on soybeans to help ensure production costs are met.
 - 25.3. Continued efforts to monitor any outbreak of Asian Soybean Rust.
26. We encourage the state of Arkansas and the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board to continue to allocate funds for Asian Soybean Rust.
27. Crop insurance should cover Asian Soybean Rust.
28. We support moving the crop insurance deadline from February 28 to March 15, similar to surrounding states.
29. We encourage all grains bought and sold in Arkansas to adhere to Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) standards.

SOYBEAN RESEARCH

108

1. We support adequate funding through the producer checkoff for soybean research verification trials. Special emphasis should be placed on profit potential and cost-benefit analysis of research recommendations to farmers.
2. We urge use of verification type projects to address certain production concerns in problem areas.
3. We believe that governing boards of established organizations should continue to coordinate efforts nationally in soybean research.
4. Soybean research by state colleges, USDA and others should provide or be intensified through:
 - 4.1. Improved varieties, with special emphasis on Asian Soybean Rust resistance, higher protein

and oil content, indeterminate varieties, early maturing varieties: Groups 3 and 4, seedling vigor, improved yields, disease resistance, cyst nematode resistance, row-spacing and extremely early and late planting dates to include narrow row and broadcasting. We encourage additional research on privately developed varieties with comparison to publicly developed varieties and the development of edible varieties. We encourage more research on the feasibility of growing two soybean crops in the same year utilizing short-season soybean varieties. We urge more research emphasis on soybean varieties produced on either extreme of pH soils.

- 4.2. We support funding for the Foundation Seed Program and continued development of public soybean varieties, including transgenics.
- 4.3. Weed control, with special emphasis on sicklepod, thistle, copper weed, balloonvine, Palmer pigweed, cocklebur, wild cotton, ground cherry, Texas gourd, morning-glory, smartweed, teaweed, spurred anoda, Bermuda grass and perennial vines, indigo, Indian and northern joint vetch, nutsedge, hemp sesbania, Johnson grass and red rice.
- 4.4. We recommend more research on using Groups 3 and 4 soybeans for early harvest to help control red rice.
- 4.5. Disease control, with emphasis on Sudden Death Syndrome, stem canker, frog-eye leaf spot, green bean syndrome, aerial web blight, charcoal rot, Asian Soybean Rust and nematodes, including chemical control;
- 4.6. Irrigation, including timing, temperature while watering, volume, soil type, financial feasibility, tolerance of different varieties to water and systems or methods.
- 4.7. We encourage the Cooperative Extension Service to make all irrigation programs available online.
- 4.8. Double cropping and no-till, with emphasis on wheat straw and other residue management, no-tillage systems, row-spacing, markers for no-tillage systems, varieties, and weed control;
- 4.9. Drought, flood and disease tolerance in cropping systems and variety breeding; research on ranking soybean varieties for drought and water tolerance;
- 4.10. Fertilization, including micronutrients and late season research;
- 4.11. Herbicides, with emphasis on safened-type seed treatments, over-the-top herbicides, and the use of vegetable oils and other surfactants for herbicides.
- 4.12. More research is needed on the residual and carryover effects of chemical control programs. Further research is needed on reduced rates of chemicals for weed control. We encourage research and Extension to take a pro-active approach in developing an effective herbicide resistance management plan.
- 4.13. Continued soil analysis to determine problem fields and variety selections and/or number of soybean-free years needed to reduce nematodes and disease losses, and problems resulting from sodium and salt;
- 4.14. Economic insect control, with emphasis on stink bugs, grasshoppers, army worms, stem borers, bollworm and other pests;
- 4.15. New uses for soybeans, soybean oil and biodiesel and its byproducts;
- 4.16. Soil compaction and declining organic matter where crops are grown under continuous cultivation;
- 4.17. Soil type for optimum production of soybeans;
- 4.18. Systems approach method oriented toward "maximum economic yield";
- 4.19. A standardized seed vigor test;
- 4.20. Use of biotechnology;
- 4.21. Dryland soybean production;
- 4.22. Public information programs to help keep farmers better informed of research programs and projects conducted by the UA Agricultural Experiment Station;
- 4.23. We strongly urge the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board to commit the necessary funds to the UA Extension program and request the funds be used for an emergence test on soybeans planted after June 10;
- 4.24. We strongly urge additional research for grain sorghum/corn/soybeans in a rotation system;
- 4.25. Precision agriculture; and
- 4.26. We support funding on research for Glyphosate-resistant weeds especially Horseweed (mare's tail) and Pigweed.
- 4.27. We support research on the best-scouting methods, thresholds and control methods of the red-banded stink bugs.

5. We support the continuation of research on the accelerated aging test of soybean planting seed that is being conducted by the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and financed by the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board.
6. We encourage the use of the Cooperative Extension Service SOYVA variety selection program.
7. Research should be expanded on chemical screening, plant damage, low-rate herbicide use, biological pest control, and any other technology that will enhance production while decreasing inputs of pesticides or soil-robbing production practices.
8. We support additional research into the feasibility of using the "standardized" bushel, and the method of dockage used by local elevators.
9. We support seed and herbicide technology coupled to be sold and released only when both products are approved by the appropriate regulatory agencies, and vetted by the UA Cooperative Extension Service.

FORESTRY

109

1. We support the Arkansas Forestry Commission's work with private landowners as well as commercial timber interests to improve the quality and quantity of forest products.
2. We recommend collaboration with the AFC to provide tree farming information to aid county Farm Bureaus in promoting the production and marketing of forest products.
3. We support the rights of landowners to produce trees as they would any other crop, including managing production and harvesting in a way most advantageous to the landowner.
4. We oppose legislation or regulation that would require a permit before timber could be harvested by a private landowner.
5. We support:
 - 5.1. Changing the name "timber tax" to "timber fire suppression fee."
 - 5.2. The current timber fire suppression fee and the exemption of the fee on pasture land.
6. Additional funds for AFC funding should come from general revenues.
7. We favor exempting trucks transporting harvested timber, crossties, lumber, and finished wood products from being covered with a tarp.
8. We support:
 - 8.1. The highway agricultural exemption for hauling timber to be used for the most efficient routes.
 - 8.2. Funding for airplanes and pilots for the AFC to use for detecting pine beetles and forest fires, and for fighting fires. We support the AFC's request for funds to continue the air-tanker program in Arkansas. We support a 24-hour, centrally located dispatch service by the AFC.
 - 8.3. All landowner assistance programs that may be available from the Arkansas Forestry Commission, USDA or any other agencies.
 - 8.4. Efforts of the AFC and private timber companies to locate and control the Southern pine beetle in private timberland. We recommend legislation authorizing the State Plant Board to regulate and enforce the disposal of Southern pine beetle-infested timber in order to curtail outbreaks that would eventually destroy our southern Arkansas softwood forests.
 - 8.5. Means to prevent the spread of the red oak borer infestation. We recommend significant resources be made available to study the problem and work toward a solution.
 - 8.6. Improved monitoring efforts for the emerald ash borer and management practices to slow the spread of the emerald ash borer.
9. We recommend continuing to collect severance taxes on timber (logs, pulp and chips) to help fund AFC programs.
10. We recommend better communication among states concerning outbreaks of sudden oak death fungus.
11. Organizations with a producer interest in forestry should be allowed to nominate individuals for positions on the AFC.
12. We recommend the practice of controlled burning be a part of the sound management program of all public and private woodlands. State forestry officials should encourage controlled burning to prevent catastrophic fires and control undesirable species. AFC rangers should assist landowners with controlled burns, whenever practical, at low cost to the owner.
13. We support the Healthy Forests Initiative to combat devastating forest fires.
14. The U.S. Forest Service should offer for sale salvage timber in the national forest and allow roads to be built making it accessible.
15. We support the Baucum Nursery as a source of quality forestry seeds and seedlings, and support a strict quality control program. We recommend that the Baucum Nursery be better funded to provide adequate numbers of seedlings and eliminate yearly shortages. Seedling prices should

- adequately cover expenses and seedling numbers should remain adequate for growers' needs.
16. We will work with USDA to make timber bridge information available to local authorities in all states.
 17. Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) or American Tree Farm wood standards should be considered equal with Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) in the sale and use for "green" Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building design and construction.
 18. We support voluntary certification of forest lands such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and tree farms. We encourage the state of Arkansas tree farms be dual certified with FSC.
 19. We support voluntary Best Management Practices (BMP) and oppose state-mandated BMP in forestry. The AFC should apply a common sense approach to BMP standards and practices and allow BMPs to be flexible enough to be applied sensibly across the state's diverse topographic regions.
 20. We oppose EPA efforts to redefine forest management practices as point source pollution.
 21. We support the use of all prudent forestry management practices, including clear cutting when necessary and selective harvesting where applicable in state and national forests, and other public and private lands.
 22. We oppose ecosystem management.
 23. We urge the Cooperative Extension Service to provide more information and education on forest management and products marketing, including pine straw.
 24. We also encourage the establishment of a monthly timber market price report similar to Timber Mart South.
 25. We support continuance of the Center for Integrated Forest Management Strategies at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.
 26. We oppose permanent transfer of property rights allowing public access to private lands.
 27. Any purchase easements made from landowners should have a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) clause.
 28. We urge the AFC to keep forest fire equipment at the same location as the ranger, in order to reduce the response time, especially during periods of high fire risk.
 29. We support legislation to require the AFC and timber management companies to notify the proper authorities in affected counties when a controlled burn is taking place.
 30. We recommend:
 - 30.1. Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department use a minimum of 10 years of wood products' prices to determine the averages used in setting the productive capacity and assessed value of timberland.
 - 30.2. AACD review the classification of land to include marginal timberland and nonmarketable brush at lower values.
 31. We support:
 - 31.1. Legislation to strengthen Arkansas law to prevent timber theft, illegal dumping and arson and to include owner compensation for theft and/or clean up.
 - 31.2. The chip mill industry to provide an economically feasible means to thin and properly manage hardwood stands.
 - 31.3. Increased funding for the AFC and all current and future funding of the commission should be used only for forestry timber production and/or related forestry-based educational projects.
 - 31.4. AFC providing more training for rangers in each county, possibly sending them to the UA at Monticello for one- or two-week courses each summer.
 32. We request the CES and the AFC provide information on marketing, reforestation, erosion control, and best management practices for hardwood and softwood forests.
 33. We support:
 - 33.1. More frequent studies on the management and depletion of forest resources in the state.
 - 33.2. An increase in national forest timber harvest. The decision making concerning national forests should be primarily at the local level instead of centralized decision making in Washington, D.C.
 34. We recommend public schools and county roads continue to be financed from turnback funds from timber sales on national forests.
 35. We recommend the Risk Management Agency (RMA) expand insurance coverage to include natural disasters, catastrophic disease and acts of God in other commodities such as forestry.
 36. We support:
 - 36.1. 100 percent sales tax exemptions on all types of new and used forestry equipment and parts.
 - 36.2. Changes to the Arkansas tax code to include forestry products as an agricultural industry.

- 36.3. All forest land being eligible for state and federal programs involved in biomass conversion.
- 36.4. The development of a user fee and the certification process for ATV use in national forests.
- 36.5. Efforts to encourage landowners to create a management plan for forest land.
- 36.6. State and local government development of transportation infrastructure to aid in expanding the timber economy in Arkansas.
- 37. We recommend state legislation designating timber and wood products as crops.
- 38. We encourage the Arkansas World Trade Center to better assist in expansion of timber in the international markets.
- 39. The Arkansas Forestry Commission should remain under the Arkansas Agriculture Department.
- 40. We support state and private arm pass-through grants for forestry assistance.
- 41. We support the use of U.S. Forest Service roads for recreational use.

FORESTRY RESEARCH

110

- 1. We recommend the Arkansas Forestry Commission, the University of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the U.S. Forest Service properly fund research to control or eradicate southern pine beetles, ips beetles, red oak borer, emerald ash borer and all other timber damaging insects. We support landowner education.
- 2. We support forestry research on, but not limited to:
 - 2.1. Long-term productivity of hardwood forest lands;
 - 2.2. Genetics that contribute to fast growth, pest resistance and lumber strength;
 - 2.3. Southern pine beetle and turpentine beetle control;
 - 2.4. Sudden oak death fungus;
 - 2.5. Grass (especially fescue) and weed control;
 - 2.6. Site preparation;
 - 2.7. Chicken litter fertilization; and
 - 2.8. Conversion of wood products to alternative fuels.

WHEAT

111

- 1. We and the Arkansas Association of Wheat Growers, and the UA Division of Agriculture should continue to work with other states producing soft red winter wheat to address inequities and potential solutions on grading.

- 2. We support a reduction of the minimum test weight standard for U.S. No. 2 soft red winter wheat from 58 to 57 pounds.
- 3. We favor a grading system for wheat that reflects more realistic milling values. We urge Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) to develop a different set of grain grading standards for soft red winter wheat.
- 4. We oppose the establishment of a feed-class wheat.
- 5. We urge complete funding of GIPSA research planned for reviewing research options for tests to measure kernel density, soundness of kernels and value of the grain for end-product use.
- 6. We support immediate adoption and implementation as a part of official standards of the single-kernel characterization system (SKCS) 4100.
- 7. We urge GIPSA to implement the hectoliter value conversion formula to revise the test weight conversion methods so that export contracts specifying 75 kg/hl will equate to 57.0 lb/bu.
- 8. We recommend:
 - 8.1. Implementation of a standardized bushel system for wheat, based on 13.5 percent moisture and 57 pounds test weight, with premiums for better grades and discounts for grades below this standard. Premiums and discounts should be proportional to each other. We should work to reduce discounts for low cup weight in wheat.
 - 8.2. Revising grading schedules to eliminate double dockage.
- 9. To eliminate confusion, we recommend a uniform standard should be used by grain elevators in Arkansas to compute discounts on test weights.
- 10. Present grading standards for wheat should be explored thoroughly and every effort be made to ensure quality is preserved on wheat after it leaves farmers' hands.
- 11. We favor our continued role on and in support of the Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board. The AWPB should continue to use at least 75 percent of available funds for production research and the remainder for market promotion.
- 12. We recommend the AWPB continue to provide funding for the Wheat Quality Survey and to fund a trade team to recruit construction of a wheat mill in Arkansas.
- 13. We support the wheat research verification trials and urge they be conducted in all sections of our state where wheat is grown.

14. We encourage Arkansas' university systems to organize, analyze and identify customers' needs and the competitive advantage Arkansas wheat may have in gaining market access.
15. All farmers should participate in the 1-cent-per-bushel wheat checkoff.
16. We should work with Cooperative Extension Service to conduct an education program on wheat stubble burning.
17. We favor periodic updates of the Arkansas wheat production handbook, to be paid for by wheat checkoff funds.
18. We urge continued emphasis on wheat marketing information.
19. Buyers should grade all wheat in our state according to procedures established by USDA/GIPSA, thereby ensuring that farmers are not unfairly discounted for test weight.
20. We favor deprecation permits to control geese in wheat fields.
21. We support sampling of wheat for karnal bunt. We recommend that the CES educate farmers about karnal bunt disease and its control.
22. We urge our legislators to ensure that any future disaster programs allow for test weight losses.
23. We support:
 - 23.1. Efforts to get more farmer representatives on GIPSA Advisory Council.
 - 23.2. Biotech efforts in development of future wheat products. We recommend that before genetically modified organism (GMO) wheat is released it must be proven safe for human consumption and approved for food and feed use by the FDA and USDA. We recommend export market acceptance be established before bringing GMO wheat into the marketplace.
24. If a public variety of wheat and feed grains is genetically altered (Roundup Ready, etc.), the grower should pay the company a technology fee for the use of the gene. A grower should be able to save seed for his own use (not for resale).
25. We encourage the UA wheat-breeding program to carefully analyze each variety. Varieties well adapted for use throughout the state should be public, while more specialized wheat could be released through bids from private companies.
26. We support the concept of marketing groups for new public seed varieties developed by the UA.
27. If a company plans to market varieties in Arkansas, we encourage them to enter those varieties in the UA variety-testing program. We recommend the

closing date for wheat crop insurance be October 31.

28. Wheat seed less than 50 percent of any single variety should be considered as variety not stated (VNS).

WHEAT RESEARCH

112

1. We request research on wheat directed toward:
 - 1.1. Effects of wheat straw and stubble on yields of double-cropped crops;
 - 1.2. Disease control, including preventive measures, refinement of the wheat disease monitoring system, insect control with emphasis on Russian Wheat Aphid and Hessian fly;
 - 1.3. Weed control, including garlic, onions, sickle pod, ryegrass, Pennsylvania smartweed, May grass, buttercup, mare's tail, curly dock, cheat, vetch and resistant weeds;
 - 1.4. Seeding rates and seedbed preparation;
 - 1.5. Optimum crops and double-cropping practices in wheat rotation (e.g., milo, rice, soybean), specifically wheat/rice rotations;
 - 1.6. Fertilization — nitrogen sources and timing, effect of pH on varieties, P&K application timing, effects of ground-rig application, micronutrient application timing;
 - 1.7. No-till or minimum tillage in wheat stubble, including fertilization and chemical and equipment research and development;
 - 1.8. More emphasis on methods and techniques of growing wheat profitably on heavy clay soils in Arkansas;
 - 1.9. Verification trials for single- and double-cropped wheat;
 - 1.10. Soil compaction layers, plow pans and their effect on plant nutrient availability;
 - 1.11. Low test weight in wheat — we recommend more research to correct the deficiency;
 - 1.12. Varieties:
 - 1.12.1. Adapted to all regions and soil types;
 - 1.12.2. Evaluated for both forage production and high grain yield;
 - 1.12.3. Shorter season varieties;
 - 1.12.4. Performance testing of private varieties;
 - 1.12.5. High test weight;
 - 1.12.6. Blending of wheat seed;
 - 1.12.7. More screening for tolerance of Sencor;
 - 1.12.8. New public varieties,
 - 1.12.9. Continued breeding of soft red winter wheat;

- 1.12.10. Adaptation of soft white winter wheat varieties, and
 - 1.12.11. Resistance to stripe rust.
 - 1.13. Irrigation
 - 1.14. Drift from crop protectants used on other crops;
 - 1.15. Stunting — low organic matter, low buffering capacity of the soil, diseases, fertilizer injury and chemical injury;
 - 1.16. Goose damage and control; and
 - 1.17. Site-specific farming technology; and
 - 1.18. The exploration of integrating the nitrogen-fixing bacteria gene of the legume (soybean) into wheat.
2. We support additional research, education and demonstrations to encourage the feeding of Arkansas grain in the state.
 3. We recommend research to find ways other than test weight to determine the value of wheat to the consumer.
 4. We support maximum-yield research to determine the value of using additional inputs such as fungicides, high fertilization, growth regulators, micronutrients, etc. The study should place emphasis on the economic aspects of using these input items.
 5. We support designating the Northeast Research Extension Center at Keiser as the center for Arkansas wheat research housing permanent wheat research scientists there.
 6. We recommend increased emphasis on research into the health benefits of wheat products.
 7. We support research on sampling of wheat for karnal bunt.
 8. In case of a shortage of checkoff funds collected, priority should be given to funding breeding, disease control and verification trials.

FEED GRAINS

113

1. We fully support the Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Board. We urge that at least 80 percent of the corn and grain sorghum checkoff go toward this research.
 2. We support funding of variety and verification trials by AC&GSB.
 3. Improved testing for aflatoxin is needed. The current "black light test," the current chemical test and the current sampling method are not accurate. Therefore, much corn is rejected at delivery points. We urge development of a prompt and accurate test for aflatoxin. Aflatoxin testing should be regulated by the Arkansas Agriculture Department.
4. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration should reevaluate aflatoxin levels in corn for alternative markets.
 5. Current regulations regarding grain inspection are adequate if strictly enforced.
 6. We urge the Farm Service Agency to change the acreage certification dates on all spring seeded crops from July 15 to August 1.
 7. Replanting dates for corn and grain sorghum should be determined by local or county FSA committees.
 8. We support Risk Management Agency (RMA) creating multiple final corn planting dates in Arkansas for insurance purposes.
 9. We urge the Risk Management Agency RMA to change the late planting period for corn from 25 days to 15 days.
 10. We support research, education and demonstration on ways to encourage Arkansas grain usage in state.
 11. We strongly urge the establishment of marketing agreements between feed grain users, local producers, and grain storage facilities in Arkansas.
 12. Farmers should retain title for grain until they have been paid for it.
 13. We recommend the Extension Service educate growers on the proper handling and drying techniques of corn.
 14. We favor continuing the label for Atrazine.
 15. We recommend support of expanded availability of Bt corn hybrids.
 16. Bt corn should be available to plant on up to 90 percent of a farmer's field, as long as non-Bt corn is planted on the rest of the field. Current restrictions unfairly limit use of this technology by corn producers.
 17. We support the refuge-in-a-bag option be available for Southern corn growers.
 - 17.1. We support the corn refuge requirement reduced from 20 percent to 5 percent refuge-in-a-bag.
 18. We recommend the establishment of premium-rate guidelines for high grain test weight and low moisture in all grain elevators.
 19. We support:
 - 19.1. Grain stored in silo bags being eligible for CCC loan rate.
 - 19.2. A multi-state research initiative to study the sugarcane aphid.
 - 19.3. Moving the crop insurance deadline from February 28 to March 15, similar to surrounding states.

- 19.4. An annually updated cross reference varietal guide for feed grains to be provided by UA Extension.

FEED GRAIN RESEARCH

114

1. We recommend the University of Arkansas Experiment Station increase research on corn and grain sorghum production.
2. We support increased spending on educational outreach on spray technology, spray clinics, prevention of herbicide-resistant weeds and on the safety of current chemicals.
3. We support additional state funding for research and Extension programs.
4. We recommend research on the following:
 - 4.1. Weed, grass and vine control;
 - 4.2. Developing feed grain varieties, including public varieties, which can compete with mid-Western states' varieties;
 - 4.3. Planting rates and dates of grain sorghum and corn;
 - 4.4. Fertilizer rates for grain sorghum and corn, both irrigated and nonirrigated, with emphasis on high yields;
 - 4.5. Disease in feed grains, including sheath-blight, charcoal rot, anthracnose and aflatoxin;
 - 4.6. Insect control, including in-furrow application and seed treatment;
 - 4.7. Broadcast planting of grain sorghum;
 - 4.8. Rotation of feed grains with soybeans, rice and cotton, with emphasis following rice;
 - 4.9. Irrigation methods, practices, and timing;
 - 4.10. Rate and timing of 2, 4-D application;
 - 4.11. Stunting;
 - 4.12. Verification trials for corn and grain sorghum, both irrigated and nonirrigated;
 - 4.13. Oat production, including new varieties with more winter-hardy characteristics and performance testing of more private varieties;
 - 4.14. Grain sorghum varieties through outlying test plots;
 - 4.15. Causes and prevention of mycotoxin, use of mycotoxin-contaminated grain or silage and methods to decontaminate grain or silage products that has mycotoxin;
 - 4.16. Open-headed versus closed-headed varieties;
 - 4.17. Minimum-till grain sorghum following wheat when stubble is not burned;
 - 4.18. No-till or minimum tillage corn planting in soybean or milo stubble, including chemical and equipment research and development.

We favor research to find the best no-till system for a corn-wheat-soybean rotation;

- 4.19. Expanded research into the use of grain in production of ethanol;
- 4.20. Seedling vigor;
- 4.21. Effect of low and high pH soils on specific varieties;
- 4.22. Roundup drift specifically more research should be done on Roundup sensitivity of corn at different growth stages and possible cutoff dates for aerial applications; and
- 4.23. Integrating the nitrogen-fixing-bacteria gene of the legume (soybean) into corn, and grain sorghum.
- 4.24. Economically viable cover crops as a means to reduce weed pressure and improve soil health.
5. We support:
 - 5.1. Review and possible revision, of the current thresholds for spraying midge and worms in milo.
 - 5.2. More Cooperation Extension Service work investigating double-cropping corn and milo behind wheat.
 - 5.3. Seed and herbicide technology coupled to be sold and released only when both products are approved by the appropriate regulatory agencies.

BEEF CATTLE

115

1. We recommend continued efforts to maintain Arkansas' class-free brucellosis status. Emphasis should be placed on effective disease control, yet adjustments should be made to further facilitate interstate commerce.
2. We favor maintaining some form of brucellosis calfhood vaccination services available to producers.
3. We support Arkansas' Bovine Animal Health Program. We recommend current fees be authorized to fund this program for use on cattle health needs as determined by the Arkansas Livestock & Poultry Commission.
4. Should resource needs dictate, we would support the elimination of market cattle testing for brucellosis, so long as a level of monitoring is in place for effective brucellosis disease control.
5. State funds should be used to supplement those program expenditures over and above the total generated by any per-head fee. When possible, veterinarian involvement in providing vaccination services should remain an integral part of the brucellosis program.

6. We commend the Cooperative Extension Service for its efforts in coordinating county calthood vaccination activities.
7. We urge its continued cooperation with the Livestock & Poultry Commission regarding animal health information and education efforts.
8. We recommend additional emphasis on understanding the symptoms, causes and potential treatments for bovine leukosis and Johnes disease.
9. We should continue a strong educational program to get cattle owners to use brands and/or other means to permanently identify livestock.
10. We support all efforts to develop an economically feasible and effective animal identification program that does not require animal producers to sacrifice personal property rights.
11. We recommend Farm Bureau provide active leadership in developing a workable animal I.D. program, and assist with educational efforts to ease the burden of compliance for producers and others in the livestock industry.
12. We support maintaining the option for management of the animal I.D. system through non-governmental entities and the prospects of developing other services utilizing I.D. information.
13. The cost of the animal I.D. system should be shared between producers, industry and government. The production sector should be responsible for funding compliance, while industry and government funds should be used for maintenance and operations.
14. We support:
 - 14.1. Severe punishment for livestock theft.
 - 14.1.1. We recommend the Arkansas State Police create an investigative unit to address livestock theft and improve prosecution thereof.
 - 14.2. The rights of stockmen to protect their livestock and property.
 - 14.3. Statutes that define a "legal fence" as any fence that is in use to contain livestock.
15. We oppose required barrier fences on free-flowing streams which deny cattle access to drinking water.
16. We support an effort to increase the fee on the National Beef Checkoff program to \$2 per head under the authority of the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985.
 - 16.1. We support an effort to add a state assessment of \$1 to the beef checkoff program with the following stipulations:
 - 16.1.1. Assessed funds are retained for in-state advertising, education and research.
 - 16.1.2. If national assessment increases to \$2, this additional state assessment would be shared with national.
17. We oppose:
 - 17.1. Implementation or amendment to commodity checkoff programs under the Commodity Promotion Act of 1996 for commodities that have their own existing legislation. An expanded information effort is needed on the value and benefit of the Beef Checkoff before any changes in the program are made.
 - 17.2. Beef checkoff dollars being used to promote any type of live cattle sales.
18. We favor a more pro-active approach in addressing issues facing the beef industry. More emphasis is needed on accountability and communication among producers and beef checkoff organizations.
19. We support efforts to increase the consumption of beef through new product development, foreign and domestic market expansion, advertising programs and food safety education.
20. We oppose further restrictions on the use of animal health products by producers.
21. We support cooperation with Texas and Louisiana to control Buffalo gnats.
22. We recommend the support and promotion of the Arkansas Beef Quality Assurance Program.
23. We support enactment of the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative in Arkansas and involvement in this program.
24. A cost-sharing program should be made available to livestock farmers, for pasture improvement, similar to the old Agricultural Conservation Program. We support implementation of the emergency feed program.
25. We should continue to be involved in the development of Arkansas' emergency animal disease preparedness plan.
26. We support the AL&PC testing for trichomoniasis. Trichomoniasis should be classified as a reportable disease and all test-positive bulls should be sent to slaughter. AL&PC should notify neighboring herd owners of any positive trichomoniasis cases.
27. We recommend that an epidemiological investigation be performed on each trichomoniasis infected herd. Concerning such investigation we recommend that the AL&PC:
 - 27.1. Notify adjacent herd owners that their herd may have been exposed to trichomoniasis;
 - 27.2. Educate adjacent herd owners about trichomoniasis, including a recommendation

- that adjacent herd owners have their herds tested for the disease;
- 27.3. Require adjacent herd owner to test the adjacent bulls for trichomoniasis if it is indicated by the epidemiological investigation; and
 - 27.4. Any change of ownership and/or possession would require a trichomoniasis test of service age bulls.
28. We recommend:
 - 28.1. Quarantine of breeding-age animals for 6 months in herds that have tested positive for trichomoniasis; except those animals moving directly to slaughter.
 - 28.2. The virgin bull designation be changed to 16 months of age.
 29. We support trichomoniasis regulations allowing pouch or batch testing bulls for individual health papers.
 30. We support requiring bulls sold at markets without a current negative trichomoniasis test be designated for slaughter only.
 31. We support the expanded producer education in trichomoniasis management and control.
 32. We support any by-products, shown to be safe as a feed source by university-based research be available for use by livestock producers.
 33. We oppose importation of cattle and fresh or chilled beef products from any country not certified free of Foot and Mouth Disease.

BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH

116

1. We commend efforts being made to upgrade livestock and forage research and facilities of the University of Arkansas. Research should be directed to the needs of the beef cattle industry. We urge special emphasis on forage production problems, especially fescue and fescue toxicity.
2. We urge the UA to continue to pursue innovative research on new technologies that improve production efficiencies (e.g., feed additives, implants, etc.).
3. Research emphasis should be placed on product marketing and utilization as well as more efficient means of disseminating research results.
4. We commend the UA Cooperative Extension Service for encouraging producers to upgrade cow herds through performance testing.
5. We support beef cattle research demonstration projects by the UA. We recommend beef research identifying genotypes that meet environmental conditions.
6. We recommend research and/or educational emphasis on:
 - 6.1. Herd health management and disease;
 - 6.2. Vaccination protocols, Beef Quality Assurance programs, etc.;
 - 6.3. With emphasis on diseases such as, bovine leukosis, trichomoniasis and anthrax;
 - 6.4. Producer awareness of Johnes disease in cattle before any regulations are adopted, and that the USDA allocate more funds for testing Johnes disease in cattle;
 - 6.5. Reproduction problems of first-calf heifers;
 - 6.6. Herd and pasture management, including rotational grazing and application of wheat and small grain varieties for pasture and soil improvement; and
 - 6.7. Internal and external parasites, including ticks, horseflies, lice, and on anaplasmosis and other insect-borne diseases.
7. We recommend an aggressive educational program to inform beef producers of the potential economic impact of trichomoniasis and the management actions needed to avoid those losses. We encourage Arkansas Farm Bureau to work with the UA Division of Agriculture, AL&PC, Arkansas Cattleman's Association, and other livestock industry organizations to achieve this desired result. We commend the UA Bumpers College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and its agricultural division of research and extension. Specifically, we support grazing management education programs, such as grazing schools, demonstrations, etc.
8. We commend the UA for its development of systems for the disposal of large animal carcasses and encourage their utilization.
9. We urge closer cooperation between the UA Agricultural Experiment Station and the Booneville Research Center in project coordination and dissemination of research results.
10. We support additional research on the nutritive value of byproduct feedstuffs. We urge joint research efforts between the experiment station and commercial firms producing such feed materials. We recommend research by the UA on the effects on forages from various levels of poultry and swine litter.
11. We support research and extension programs to evaluate various beef cattle marketing alternatives and options for risk management.
12. Aggressive efforts should continue toward obtaining research grants from industry organizations, firms or foundations and public sources.

13. We urge continued support for the UA Animal Science Department in its efforts to improve its educational facilities and programs on the Fayetteville campus.
14. We encourage interaction with neighboring research institutions to better serve the cattle industry and avoid duplication of efforts on problems common to our region.
15. We recommend increased interaction between the UA Animal Science and Food Science departments regarding beef quality and product development research. We recommend that county Extension offices provide continued access to prussic acid tests on forages.

POULTRY

117

1. One position on the Arkansas Livestock & Poultry Commission should be filled by a producer of broilers, turkeys, or eggs.
2. With poultry being the largest revenue-producing commodity in the state, we support poultry growers having more representatives on the Arkansas Agriculture Department Board.
3. We should facilitate meetings between companies and producers at the local, state and national levels.
4. Special emphasis should be placed on the integrity of the present contractual relationship between the two, as well as exploring other basis for paying broiler growers besides the present weekly average cost basis.
5. We recommend poultry integrators establish, in all complexes, an unbiased grievance committee to settle problems between growers and integrators.
6. We support an arbitration system as an option for poultry producers who are not able to resolve their problem with their integrator. This would not cause producers to lose the ability to sue the integrator.
7. We support a poultry and livestock grower protection act that provides that:
 - 7.1. When companies pull out of the area growers should be subsidized to recoup their investment and help pay for costs of shutting down the grower's operation;
 - 7.2. We recommend improved grower contracts with longer terms, at least seven years, to all producers; and
 - 7.3. A plan must be enforced to compensate a producer's loss of income in cases of limited placements, such as pullet or breeder farms.
 - 7.4. We recommend any revenue protection for contract poultry growers, including egg

producing farms, encompass not only loss of birds but also future income losses.

8. We recommend:
 - 8.1. Performance history be supplied with each new batch of poultry delivered to growers and that the poultry companies distribute birds in a manner that is fair to all producers.
 - 8.2. Poultry integrators find ways to increase the influence of poultry growers in establishing contract conditions and changes; demonstrate effects of changes to profit and loss. Poultry producers should have rights of contract rejection based on profit and loss projections.
 - 8.3. Poultry feed returned to the poultry company be weighed accurately. We recommend the load cells on trucks be calibrated and certified the same as other scales.
 - 8.4. Pesticides, medication, and disease control costs be borne by poultry companies rather than producers.
 - 8.5. We urge a consistent and equitable compensation process to growers when losses are occurred from the avian reovirus infected hen flocks.
9. We ask that poultry companies utilize existing buildings before expanding with new construction and to place full capacity in houses. We should work to incorporate changes into poultry contracts that would protect growers from mandatory upgrades to houses and equipment within seven years of building and equipping houses to company specifications.
10. We support integrators maximizing bird capacity in a poultry house while still maintaining the necessary square foot space needed by poultry animals.
11. We support:
 - 11.1. Poultry contracts that are structured to reflect maximum weigh-out through improved bird placement based on target weights.
 - 11.2. Poultry growers being able to transfer ownership of their operations, along with their grower contract, without being required by the poultry company to upgrade the facility.
12. We recommend that poultry companies accept responsibility and expense for disposal of dead birds.
 - 12.1. Freezers are being phased out as a means of disposing of dead birds, we support an expanded and well-funded Natural Resource

- Conservation Service (NRCS) program to assist with development of grower directed dead-bird disposal projects.
13. We support the present Arkansas law concerning burial or composting of poultry carcasses after a catastrophic loss.
 14. We encourage integrators to consider indexed gas and electric costs and to develop/continue an allowance program for heating and cooling.
 15. We recommend poultry companies pay growers already in business the same per pound as growers with new houses, and pay bonuses in the same manner.
 16. We oppose:
 - 16.1. Companies requiring upgrades of facilities that are performing in the top 80 percent of the previous year.
 - 16.2. Integrators forcing more responsibility on growers with no additional compensation.
 17. We support a training program implemented by integrators, to educate and train poultry field servicemen concerning the care, operation of any upgrades and raising of poultry.
 18. We support companies better educating their catchers to respect the property of the growers.
 19. We support company personnel being properly trained in biosecurity and animal welfare protocol.
 20. We recommend the Attorney General create a poultry hotline. This would allow poultry farmers to report unethical behavior by the integrators. This information should be compiled to communicate to the integrators, poultry producers and media sources.
 21. We support voluntary Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) for poultry litter management.
 22. Regulations for application of nutrients to agricultural lands should not be more stringent than regulations pertaining to municipal, residential or recreational applications.
 23. We recommend dust, noise, and domestic animal matter be excluded from the definition of waste or nuisance.
 24. We propose at least 50 percent of the membership on the State EQIP Technical Committee be those with active farm interest.
 25. Cost-share funds should be made available to assist poultry producers to comply with federal or state regulations through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) or any other assistance programs. We want to emphasize primary funding if stacking sheds become mandatory for poultry growers.
 26. We support making grants and cost-share programs available for farmers to purchase on farm water storage or a water conservation project for poultry farms who utilize rural or municipal water supplies.
 27. We recommend test results of farm animal by-products (solid or liquid) for nutrient value be available to farmers on a more timely basis.
 28. We support the Poultry Protection Act requiring that poultry companies weigh poultry within 12 hours of the time the birds are taken off feed. We recommend that egg producers receive the same trust and prompt pay provisions extended to other poultry producers under the Poultry Producers Protection Act of 1987. Conflicts under the Packers and Stockyards Act should be referred to an administrative judge rather than dealt with through civil suit. We support legislation to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act to provide the Secretary of Agriculture with administrative authority over complaints in the poultry industry.
 29. The Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Contract Protection Act was designed to ensure that poultry production contracts are written properly and understandably, but the law is written specifically for contracts on poultry used for human consumption. We recommend that the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Contract Protection Act (Act 1253 of 2005) be amended to provide this same protection to primary breeders, those who raise pullets and poultry and provide the eggs used to hatch the poultry ultimately used for human consumption. This also includes table egg producers.
 30. We support accreditation of associations of agricultural producers to bargain with poultry companies.
 31. We recommend the Packers and Stockyards Act and the agricultural Fair Practices Act of 1967 be amended to provide the USDA with additional authority in the form of administrative enforcement and civil penalization for addressing increased concentration in the poultry industries and to ensure that producers are treated fairly in the market.
 32. Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality should recognize poultry litter as a valuable plant nutrient.
 33. We support using the term "organic nutrients" for the terms "animal waste" or "poultry waste" in all new state laws and regulations.
 34. We support legislation requiring any lab testing birds from out of state be required to report any

- diseases to the state veterinarian of the state from which the birds came.
35. We recommend state agencies charged with running diagnostic or analytical tests be required to conduct tests for contract growers, official owners of feed, livestock or poultry.
 36. We support continuation of the sales tax exemption for poultry feed, propane, natural gas and electricity.
 37. Priority should be given to the education of the state's congressional delegation and the state legislature on grower economic realities in the poultry business.
 38. We recommend alternative uses for poultry litter continue to be developed.
 39. We recommend the regulation of litter distribution be by state control rather than federal.
 40. We support a tournament system of broiler grower payment which could be by the pound or square foot of growing space that reflects a grower's hard work, know-how and equipment on a competitive basis.
 41. Currently, incentives, bonuses and compensation vary from poultry company to poultry company and complex to complex. We recommend that integrators develop consistent compensation for things such as out-time compensation and base pay contract rates.
 42. We oppose the unfair practice of paying incentives to new growers as opposed to existing growers who have equally efficient houses.
 43. We recommend:
 - 43.1. Growers in good standing be placed in approximately the same order.
 - 43.2. No more than two weeks be included in a settlement group as weather changes and other factors can cause serious problems and make it hard for growers to be compensated fairly.
 - 43.3. Integrators not combine growers receiving feed from different feed mills, except for emergency situations, in the same settlement group.
 44. The registration fee in Act 1060 of the 84th General Assembly (subtitled: Arkansas Poultry Registration Act) should be changed to be a permit fee.
 - 44.1. We support changing the poultry farm registration permit from an annual permit to a three-year permit.
 45. We favor legislation to publicly fund any publicly mandated obligations concerning environmental standards.
 46. Because a disease outbreak is devastating to the poultry industry we encourage:
 - 46.1. Poultry operations to practice basic biosecurity procedures;
 - 46.2. Implementing a mandatory vaccination program for all backyard poultry; and
 - 46.3. The AL&PC to implement additional, more strict regulations for the testing of poultry at swap meets and exhibitions.
 47. We support:
 - 47.1. Arkansas Agriculture Department in the development of an energy-assessment program which will aid poultry producers in identifying and implementing energy-saving opportunities and technology.
 - 47.2. Cooperative Extension Service educating poultry farmers on making their poultry houses more energy efficient.
 - 47.3. We recommend that integrators provide an electricity allowance during summer months similar to the gas allowance.
 48. We urge FSA to include production history when applying for poultry house loans.
 49. We strongly urge county poultry chairmen and their committees to become pro-active in the 'animal welfare' issue. It is urgent for them to begin working with their integrators to persuade them to include growers on any animal well-being program such as Tyson's Farm Check.
 50. When it is necessary for the Laryngotracheitis (LT) vaccine to be given, we recommend signs showing the status of the vaccination be posted on the door of poultry houses.
 - 50.1. We support that during an epidemic breakout of poultry diseases such as avian influenza and Laryngotracheitis (LT), dead and infected birds be disposed of on the affected farm and not transported to a central location.
 - 50.2. Flocks vaccinated for Laryngotracheitis (LT) should not be in the same settlement with flocks not vaccinated.
 51. We support having contract growers included in the indemnification from APHIS plans.
 52. We recommend the Risk Management Agency (RMA) expand its insurance coverage to include protection for contract livestock producers which includes the poultry and swine industry. The coverage should include input costs, as well as income losses due to integrator placement schedules.
 - 52.1. The coverage should include:
 - 52.1.1. Input cost losses due to mechanical failure.

- 52.1.2. A loss of power causing a catastrophic loss caused by:
 - 52.1.2.1. Acts of God
 - 52.1.2.2. Sabotage
 - 52.1.2.3. A power interruption not caused by contract grower. Contract grower should make every attempt to protect their operation in case of a power interruption with provisions for mechanical failure (example: generator).
- 53. Revenue protection - revenue mechanism for producers when producer's income is not enough to pay loan note due to market, production, plant closure, company relocation or natural disaster.
- 54. We support changes to APHIS plans to use normal mortality rates when determining compensation instead of using "remainder of the flock" for purposes of determining compensation.
- 55. We recommend if a poultry farm test positive for avian influenza, the integrator and/or a government organization needs to be responsible for euthanizing the flock. The integrator and/or a government organization also needs to be responsible for the disposal of the dead birds and the sanitation process of the poultry houses and have a clear and concise plan to make the sanitation process as smooth and quick as possible.
- 56. We encourage the poultry industry to consider using hydrogen peroxide for sanitizing and reducing bacteria on eggs in order to prevent losses on farms due to the pressure to raise chickens without antibiotics.
- 57. We favor when a poultry integrator requires certain biosecurity measures that a cost-share program should be provided by the integrator.
- 58. We recommend out-time for meat birds should not be greater than three weeks (21 days) and calculated, first-day birds caught and last-day birds are placed back in houses. The grower should receive payment after 21 days.
- 59. If integrators cut density, we support growers be reimbursed for the difference in cost based on price per pound to offset the change in density.
- 60. We recommend integrators provide a cash flow plan to show projected farm income for new producers.
- 61. We support poultry grower's associations in their efforts to promote their segment of the agricultural industry.
- 62. Integrators should not be allowed to prevent growers from installing photo or video surveillance equipment on their farms. It is essential to prevent theft, agri-terrorism, discrepancies with integrators about feed delivery, birds caught or damages caused by deliveries.
- 63. We oppose retaliation of integrators against contract growers for following and reporting issues as requested by integrators such as reporting animal welfare concerns.
- 64. We encourage integrators to allow alternative types of poultry bedding as long as they are not detrimental to the health of the chickens.
- 65. We recommend that if the Assessment Coordination Department (ACD) impose a rate increase that old houses be treated the same as at present. During phase-in period for new houses, we encourage ACD to establish a work group to determine the appropriate tax rate that would include all facets of the poultry industry (growers, companies and financial institutions).
 - 65.1. We recommend looking at remaining economic life, the age of the poultry houses and the type of structure when doing the tax assessment of poultry houses.
 - 65.2. We recommend a property tax calculation formulation on new and used poultry houses have an incremental rate and take economic feasibility into account.

POULTRY RESEARCH

118

- 1. We should work for sufficient funding of an aggressive poultry research program at the University of Arkansas. Emphasis should be placed on current poultry issues and problems including recommendations from Farm Bureau's Poultry Division.
- 2. We urge poultry companies to utilize UA experimental poultry houses to research equipment before asking growers to adopt new practices. We feel all equipment should be tested and recommendations be given only after testing the main types that are available.
- 3. We recommend:
 - 3.1. Support of the UA Center for Excellence in Poultry Science and its research and education programs. We support a program to better disseminate information on poultry research from the UA. Growers should receive this information as readily as poultry companies.
 - 3.2. More research on privately owned poultry farms in order to develop more practical solutions to existing problems.

4. We support research on alternative uses of poultry litter including heating poultry houses, burning for fuel, and pelletizing for new markets and cattle feed.
5. We recommend the development of alternative sources of poultry bedding.
6. Many companies are dictating changes in bedding that supposedly may help improve paw quality or for the health of the birds. We request that valid data be used to justify these types of practices.
7. Local paper manufacturing facilities produce wood fiber by-products identified as being suitable for poultry bedding. Communication should be developed with manufacturing facilities in order to facilitate availability of these products to poultry producers.
8. We support aggressive research on questions about phosphorus loading in the soil including the use and function of alum.
9. We recommend Nutrient Management Plans be followed by individual producers.
10. We recommend any limits on soil phosphorus levels be based on scientific research.
11. The Arkansas phosphorus index should be the only index used statewide to determine phosphorus application rates.
12. We support:
 - 12.1. Additional research for ventilation/heat stress, litter management, dead bird disposal, lighting practices, energy usage and single-trait breeding of poultry for greater meat production which appears to make poultry more heat resistant.
 - 12.2. Research on aflatoxin toxicity for poultry feed to determine if higher levels are feasible.
13. We encourage poultry companies to help with the phosphorus factor in feed including the use of phytase and/or other products.
14. Because of a threat of avian influenza in surface water, lakes, or ponds, we recommend the UA find practical, safe, and affordable ways to use surface water for poultry-production drinking water.
15. We support research on the control of *Cochlosoma* protozoan in turkeys.
16. We recommend continued research and development of solar energy or other energy for poultry farms.

DAIRY

119

1. We support measures to improve prices to the dairy farmer.
2. We request a total overhaul of the Federal Milk Marketing system.

12. We recommend pooling requirements under federal market orders be changed so shipping costs are allocated to the exporting area.
13. We support the adjustment of the Class 1 differential to offset the transportation cost to milk-deficit states.
14. We recommend only milk delivered on a specific milk marketing order receive pooling benefits for that order.
15. We support legislation that will assist the dairy industry by increasing income so dairy farmers can maintain a presence throughout Arkansas.
16. We oppose mandatory supply management for the dairy industry.
17. We support continuing efforts of the Arkansas Milk Stabilization Board that include:
 - 17.1. Tax credits;
 - 17.2. Expansion incentives;
 - 17.3. Direct payment based on a milk/feed ratio; and
 - 17.4. We commend the Arkansas Milk Stabilization Committee for implementation of the Dairy Stabilization Act.
18. We support a permanent funding mechanism for the Dairy Stabilization Act.
19. We support only pasteurized milk and pasteurized milk products being sold or distributed for human consumption.
20. As long as it's legal to sell raw milk in the state of Arkansas, we support inspection and regulation by the Arkansas Health Department of any individual or entity selling raw (unpasteurized) milk to any consumer.
21. We recommend FDA enforce existing food labeling standards and prevent misbranded imitators (aka almond milk, coconut milk and rice milk) from appropriating federally defined dairy terms on their labels.
22. We support Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) providing assistance in moving product off the market.
23. We recommend donated milk not be pooled onto the market but be counted on the federal order in which it originated.

DAIRY RESEARCH

120

1. We recommend working with the University of Arkansas to develop and/or maintain research programs in the following areas:
 - 1.1. Nutrient requirements to enhance protein content and total milk solids;
 - 1.2. Forage production, handling and utilization;
 - 1.3. Herd health;

- 1.4. Nutrition and feeding;
- 1.5. Milk quality and increasing the value of milk products;
- 1.6. Milk marketing;
- 1.7. "No effect" level for antibiotics in milk; and
- 1.8. Reproductive efficiency.
2. We recommend:
 - 2.1. Continued research to enhance consumer use of dairy products.
 - 2.2. Additional research be conducted on dry-lot dairy farming and other production systems adapted to Arkansas climate and conditions.
3. Enhancement of the dairy research program should remain a priority of the UA. We support establishment of new dairy research facilities within the Agricultural Experiment Station system.
4. Continued staffing of a dairy specialist position at the UA is vital to the dairy research and teaching program and is essential for Extension activities related to the dairy industry. Any vacancies in this position should be immediately funded and filled with a qualified person.
5. We support:
 - 5.1. Continued research aimed at the development of reliable, timely and affordable on-farm testing capabilities to reduce farmer liabilities from residue contaminates.
 - 5.2. Extension activities to get more farmers involved with Dairy Herd Improvement Association.
6. We recommend additional research be conducted for mineral and trace minerals used in milk production and regulations be enacted if necessary to allow their use.
7. We oppose the implementation of any air emissions ruling for dairy that does not use sound science, various geographic locations and different styles of operations (using more than four dairies).
8. We support the continual screening of Johnes disease in dairy herds in Arkansas.

SWINE

121

1. We recommend continued cooperation with the National Pork Producers' Council on matters affecting the pork industry.
2. We support:
 - 2.1. The current pork checkoff program, and encourage efforts to make more producers aware of the program and its purposes.
 - 2.2. Increased swine health requirements in order to maintain out-of-state markets for Arkansas

- hogs and to improve the state's Pseudorabies Virus (PRV) and brucellosis status.
- 2.3. The current fee of \$1 per head on spent boars and sows to fund pseudorabies control.
 3. We recommend that the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) follow its organizational policy of having a draft permit decision within 90 days of application and making a final permitting decision within 180 days of application.
 4. We support better public relations and educational programs to improve the general public's view of the swine industry.
 5. No individual, organization or group should have the right to appeal a final permit granted to a swine production system.
 6. We oppose:
 - 6.1. Any legislation that would prohibit or regulate the use of farrowing or gestation crates in swine production in Arkansas.
 - 6.2. Any form of odor-control regulation on farm animal and poultry production.
 7. We recommend:
 - 7.1. Best management practices on control of swine odors be developed for the industry.
 - 7.2. ADEQ enforcement personnel use common sense in working with farmers and communities to alleviate the problems concerning liquid animal manure common to swine production in Arkansas. Greater sensitivity is needed regarding the plight of the individual producer as well as the community.
 8. We support:
 - 8.1. Continued control and monitoring of feeding garbage to swine in Arkansas.
 - 8.2. Mandatory first-point swine testing at the sale barn for pseudorabies and brucellosis, and mandatory identification of swine at all sale barns.
 - 8.3. Development of niche marketing opportunities of pork and pork products for independent swine producers.
 9. We oppose any co-liability to the integrator for the actions of the grower.
 10. Regulation No. 5 is adequate to address the environmental concerns of the public.
 11. We encourage ADEQ to set a standard for swine manure for a solid/liquid determination in ADEQ Reg. 5 so that solid manure generated from a facility with a ADEQ Reg. 5 permit can be applied to non-permitted land.
 12. We support legislation to protect contract pork and poultry growers.
 13. We support a producer protection act that includes, but is not limited to:
 - 13.1. Contract length at least as long as the loan;
 - 13.2. Good faith bargaining; and
 - 13.3. Grievance committees.
 14. We strongly recommend maintaining EQIP funding for the closure of lagoons and holding ponds.
 15. We oppose additional regulations of swine operations in Arkansas without scientific support.
 16. We support having contract growers included in the indemnification from APHIS plans.
 17. We recommend the Risk Management Agency (RMA) expand its insurance coverage to include protection for contract livestock producers which includes the swine industry. The coverage should include input costs, as well as income losses due to integrator placement schedules.
 - 17.1. The coverage should include:
 - 17.1.1. Input cost losses due to mechanical failure.
 - 17.1.2. A loss of power causing a catastrophic loss caused by:
 - 17.1.2.1. Acts of God
 - 17.1.2.2. Sabotage
 - 17.1.2.3. A power interruption not caused by contract grower. Contract grower should make every attempt to protect their operation in case of a power interruption (example: generator).
 18. A plan must be in force to compensate a producer's loss of income in cases of limited placements.
 19. Revenue protection - revenue mechanism for producers when producer's income is not enough to pay loan note due to market, production, plant closure, company relocation or natural disaster.

SWINE RESEARCH

122

1. We recommend research on swine types to determine differences in litter size, feed efficiency, rate of gain, reproductive problems, structural soundness, muscling and meat quality.
2. We support:
 - 2.1. Research on breeding stock and cross breeding to allow the independent producer to compete with the corporations on slaughter hog quality and yields.
 - 2.2. Expanded funding for swine research and development of air quality research at the University of Arkansas. Additional research emphasis should be placed on odor control,

manure management, feed rations that would eliminate air and water pollution, and eating quality characteristics of pork.

- 2.3. Research and Extension programs on hog carcass disposal and composting.

AQUACULTURE

123

1. We support federal legislation recognizing aquaculture as an agricultural enterprise. We support the USDA being the primary reporting authority for the aquaculture industry.
2. We recommend captive turtle operations be viewed, regulated and researched as a part of aquaculture.
3. Any prepared material concerning catfish should define the differences between domestic farm-raised catfish and imported catfish.
4. Promote consumption of Arkansas farm-raised catfish we encourage the Catfish Promotion Board to exhibit Arkansas' farm-raised fish at major seafood shows.
5. We recommend Arkansas-raised catfish and other farm-raised fish be included in the menu for state-supported lunch programs, including schools, senior citizens, etc.
6. We support amending the Lacey Act to allow free interstate commerce of legitimately grown and harvested aquaculture products.
7. We support eliminating all exemptions from the Catfish Processor Fair Practices Act.
8. We support the requirement that processors provide bonds to cover the cost of all fish purchases processed in a 14-day period.
9. We support:
 - 9.1. Identification of country of origin on farm fish products served in public food establishments or sold in grocery stores and the hiring of additional State Plant Board employees to enforce laws pertaining to such identification.
 - 9.2. Inspection of imported fish products in the country of origin, similar to inspection requirements in trade agreements on meat and poultry products.
 - 9.3. Legislation or regulations requiring any country wishing to export fish, shellfish, or any other seafood product to the U.S. enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) certifying the production, processing, harvesting, and transportation of the products comply with an approved FDA seafood Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan enforced in the country where the products originated.

9.4. Extending Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) for fish and shellfish to restaurants and all retail markets.

10. We recommend the State Plant Board require feed analysis tags for fish feed providing the source of protein, fat and fiber as well as listing the amount of each ingredient used to make the feed.
11. We should work with the Cooperative Extension Service to assist in bringing aquaculture producers and processors together for the purpose of promoting and marketing.
12. We support the state aquaculture plan and encourage marketing strategy be addressed.
13. Crop reporting for aquaculture should continue on an annual basis.
 - 13.1. We favor:
 - 13.1.1. The U.S. Department of Interior issuing standing depredation orders for the Double-Crested Cormorant, the Great Blue Heron, and other fish-eating birds;
 - 13.1.2. Supporting a new regulation by the Game & Fish Commission to allow aquaculture producers to control predatory birds such as diving ducks on their property;
 - 13.1.3. Encouraging state universities to allocate resources to study the bird problem; and
 - 13.1.4. Encouraging USDA Wildlife Services to provide additional support personnel and materials to control the birds.
14. We endorse the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission's Minute Order No. 04-082, dated Nov. 18, 2004, declaring the Double-Crested Cormorant to be an invasive aquatic species. We encourage whatever means legally possible to prevent the establishment of nesting colonies of Double-Crested Cormorants within the state of Arkansas.
15. We encourage the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make the Double-Crested Cormorant depredation orders (50 CFR 21.47 and CFR 21.48) permanent, with no expiration dates, including the following provisions:
 - 15.1. Eliminate reporting requirements as is the case with other migratory bird depredation orders;
 - 15.2. Authorize regional population management as endorsed by USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services; and
 - 15.3. Include private resources in 50 CFR 21.48.

16. We recommend the Arkansas State Plant Board monitor the shipments of aquaculture feed in bulk trucks for quality and contamination.
17. We support:
 - 17.1. Inclusion of UAPB's aquaculture funding as a line-item expenditure in the state budget.
 - 17.2. Addition of aquaculture to the vocational agriculture curriculum.
18. We recommend:
 - 18.1. All aquatic species currently present in Arkansas be included in any "clean list" of aquatic species allowable for culture that might be developed by the AG&FC.
 - 18.2. The AG&FC's proposed Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan be coordinated with representatives of the aquaculture industry.
19. We support an Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan which:
 - 19.1. Ensures the rights of aquaculture producers to transport live fish across state lines;
 - 19.2. Will not place an unnecessary economic burden on producers; and
 - 19.3. Has aquaculture producers well represented in its management or steering committee.
20. We support increased funding for testing of aquaculture chemicals at the National Aquaculture Research Center at Stuttgart.
21. We oppose:
 - 21.1. Any move by the Pollution Control and Ecology Commission or the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to impose unrealistic controls on aquaculture.
 - 21.2. ADEQ imposing state regulations for water discharge from aquaculture facilities that are more stringent than those for an EPA National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.
 - 21.3. The closure of the Harry K. Dupree Stuttgart National Aquaculture Center.
22. We recommend more educational programs for aerial applicators on the dangers of chemicals to farm fish.
23. We support:
 - 23.1. Fish inspection program at the processing level, funded by the federal government.
 - 23.2. Full registration of Diuron and other beneficial aquaculture chemicals, as well as Section 24C use in emergency situations.
24. In most cases, we feel aquaculture pond water released into streams is of higher quality than the water in the receiving stream. Allowable limits must be established for the content of the discharged water before any regulation could take place. We oppose any unreasonable or unrealistic rules, regulations, or controls imposed upon the aquacultural industry by the Environmental Protection Agency. If any regulation is needed, we prefer it to be handled on a state level.
25. Most state aquaculture facilities have already undergone voluntary in-house inspections by an APHIS-certified veterinarian at their own expense for spring viremia carp (SVC). We recommend additional federal indemnity funding for potential positive SVC testing on any private or state aquaculture facility.
26. Groundwater is essential for Arkansas aquaculture, especially with the presence of the spring viremia of carp virus (SVC) in the Mississippi River Basin. We encourage the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to give high priority to aquaculture producers if restrictions are placed on groundwater removal in critical groundwater use areas.
27. We support adequate funding to UAPB as well as adequate USDA-Agriculture Research Service funding.
28. We support removing Triploid Black carp from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service injurious species list. If this doesn't happen, we support the development of best management practices that would limit the farmer's liability.
29. We support increased testing for banned substances on imported aquaculture products so that they meet the same food safety standards as domestic products.
30. In light of recent economic effects on the U.S. farm raised catfish industry and subsequent and hopefully future USDA and FSA aquaculture assistance programs we:
 - 30.1. Support familiarization of FSA staff employees at the national, state and county levels with the production of land based aquaculture;
 - 30.2. Request the state FSA to utilize expertise from UAPB staff, the state aquaculture coordinator, and the Catfish Farmers of Arkansas organization in gaining an understanding of catfish production; and
 - 30.3. Encourage USDA and FSA to make the catfish industry a priority in funding of feed vouchers and other forms of disaster assistance.

AQUACULTURE RESEARCH

124

1. We recommend further research on disease and parasite control, pesticide toxicity, and differences in winter and summer nutritional requirements of fish and other freshwater animals.

2. University of Arkansas research and Extension should be expanded to cope with the growth in aquaculture since 1980. Approximately 90 percent of all aquaculture research funds have been provided through federal legislation. The federal government has mandated that University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff receive state funds to match federal dollars or lose its present federal funding. We support annual state funding for UAPB's aquaculture program.
3. We encourage the universities to allocate resources to study the bird problems in fish farming areas.
4. We recommend research in the following areas:
 - 4.1. Chemicals;
 - 4.2. Water quality;
 - 4.3. Off-flavor in catfish;
 - 4.4. Control of freshwater shrimp in baitfish farming;
 - 4.5. Bird damage;
 - 4.6. Hatcheries;
 - 4.7. Diseases;
 - 4.8. Snail control;
 - 4.9. Turtle production;
 - 4.10. Feed ingredients; and
 - 4.11. Energy reduction technologies.
5. We support research on alternative fuels that will not increase feed ingredient costs. We oppose the United States Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Services retaining more than 35 percent of the annual \$500,000 ARS pass-through funds appropriated and earmarked by Congress specifically for aquaculture research at the Aquaculture Fisheries Center at UAPB. Currently, USDA-ARS has proposed retaining 58 percent (\$290,000) of these funds for administrative purposes.

the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC).

4. The University of Arkansas should employ a full-time plant pathologist to work on turf and horticultural disease control.
5. We propose the horticulture program be maintained as a separate unit within the UA System and not be combined with the sod and nursery program.
6. We recommend the CES maintain/fill horticulture specialist positions.
7. We support development of a plant pest forecasting system, coordinated with meteorological monitoring and made available to the agriculture community throughout Arkansas.
8. Trickle-type irrigation should be used on horticultural crops where feasible.
9. We recommend the State Geological Commission or the UA Geology Department employ someone to identify formations where sufficient irrigation water can be found. We would support a fee for this study.
10. We support efforts to improve the quality standards for United States Department of Agriculture grading of horticultural crops.
11. We support updating yield data used by USDA concerning horticultural crops.
12. We should seek ways to assist beginning horticultural operations, and/or market development and industry promotions.
13. Our website should be available for advertisement by horticultural crop growers, with the public being educated as to the availability of this service.
14. We support some method or office be designated to coordinate financing and management resource information for beginning or small cooperative associations and individual farmers.
15. We should assist in education for loan officers of lending institutions with regard to the capital needs of horticultural producers, including development of budgets by the UA CES for the various horticulture crops.
16. We favor low-interest loans to growers of horticultural crops to provide for packing and shipping facilities.
17. We support the area horticultural agent concept of the CES.
18. Crop protectants previously registered for horticultural crops should not be banned until shown to be hazardous to the environment or public health when used properly as labeled.
19. We recommend reregistration of minor-use pesticides critical to horticulture production.

SPECIALTY CROPS

127

1. Arkansas should develop a plan to become a major producer and exporter of fresh fruits and vegetables, pecans, honey and products of the green nursery industry.
2. Farm Bureau and the Cooperative Extension Service should continue an educational program emphasizing the value and production of horticulture crops, honey bees and pollinators.
3. The CES should:
 - 3.1. Develop a production handbook for fruits and vegetables and pecans;
 - 3.2. Do applied research on farms; and
 - 3.3. We encourage and support greater utilization of Arkansas-grown horticulture products in

Before a chemical with a horticultural crop label can be removed by the federal government, one with equal or superior effectiveness for the same crop should be approved.

20. We need common sense food safety personnel with the flexibility and training to go to the farm, processing plants, food warehouses and retail outlets and make common sense, practical assessments of each operation based upon its uniqueness.
21. We favor legislation that would subject imported fruits and vegetables to the same standards of inspection as domestic crops.
22. We encourage the UA continue to develop pheromone traps to predict insect emergence in orchards. Plant disease and insect resistance should be the top priority in all breeding programs.
23. We support:
 - 23.1. Direct marketing of horticulture products including, but not limited to farmers' markets, produce stands, school lunch programs and e-commerce.
 - 23.2. Efforts to develop and expand the use of the Market Maker Program.
 - 23.3. Increased education on crop insurance programs available for horticultural producers.
 - 23.4. The development of an educational program that explains the limitations of "sustainable" agriculture when referring to antiquated farm practices and plant varieties. The use of modern technology in producing food products and new varieties of seeds genetically modified (GMO) are as safe as heirloom seeds and produce considerably more and help feed the world.
 - 23.5. The creation and funding of a position within the CES that works solely to further expand and grow the specialty crops industry.
24. We encourage the formation of a blackberry association in Arkansas to complement the blackberry breeding program through the University of Arkansas.

SPECIALTY CROPS RESEARCH

128

1. We encourage research on promotion, marketing, traditional production, low-input production, and mechanical harvesting of horticultural crops.
2. We support:
 - 2.1. Additional research on high-density plants, dwarf fruit trees, processed and dried fruit, and product development and utilization.

2.2. Increased funding for horticulture crop research, including strawberries, to improve productivity and increase production.

3. We encourage additional research on pesticides for use on vegetable, fruit and other specialty crops.
4. We support more research on production practices, new varieties, disease, insect, and weed identification and control.
5. We recommend:
 - 5.1. Increased promotion and funding of research on specialty crops grown in Arkansas.
 - 5.2. Research in controlling predator damage in fruits, nuts and vegetables.
6. We urge increased turf grass management research by the UA.
7. We will work with producer cooperatives and the State Department of Health to encourage research on development of reliable and affordable on-farm testing to reduce farmer liability from residue contamination.
8. We urge research and development of Christmas tree varieties, including Leyland Cypress, for commercial propagation and sales.
9. We support and encourage the continuation of work on crop profiles and gathering information on key chemicals used in horticulture crop production and marketing.
10. We recommend an impact study on horticulture areas affected by the Japanese beetle and emerald ash borer and information made available to growers and producers.
11. Information should be available to homeowners and commercial growers on most effective methods, materials and timing to control Japanese beetles.

EQUINE

129

1. We support:
 - 1.1. Continued consideration of equine as livestock and not as a companion animal.
 - 1.2. Preservation of established animal husbandry practices in the equine industry.
 - 1.3. Continued emphasis on enforcement of the current Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) law in Arkansas. Efforts should be made to improve the ability to enforce and comply with this law through:
 - 1.3.1. Prompt legal action;
 - 1.3.2. A greater field presence by Arkansas Livestock & Poultry Commission personnel; and
 - 1.3.3. Improved surveillance of equine events.

2. We recommend AL&PC personnel be authorized to conduct EIA testing at no cost to the owner, if requested by the owner, at such times as these personnel are on premises for other official duties.
3. We favor certifying law enforcement officers to assist in enforcing EIA laws.
4. We support the current EIA law requiring event sponsors to secure EIA verifiers anywhere there is a gathering of horses.
5. We oppose further changes to the Arkansas Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) law. Verification of negative Coggins test should continue to be limited to original documents or official electronic copies.
6. We strongly encourage centralized testing as a means for greater compliance with Arkansas' EIA test requirements.
7. We support:
 - 7.1. Expansion of the EIA passport concept to all our neighboring states.
 - 7.2. Educational and promotional activities to enhance Arkansas' equine industry.
 - 7.3. Continued access to public lands for equine use.
 - 7.4. Right-to-ride legislation to maintain access to state and federal parks and public lands to preserve recreation opportunities for equine activities. In case of potential conflict between equestrian recreation and hunting, we urge the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism to develop workable options to accommodate these competing interests.
8. Any restrictions or access requirements for equestrian activities should be developed as regulations through an open public hearing process. Any such regulations should be applicable to individual parks on a case-by-case basis.
9. We support:
 - 9.1. Statewide equine educational program.
 - 9.2. Maintaining an equine educational effort and state equine specialist position with the state Cooperative Extension Service.
 - 9.3. Orderly and humane slaughter and disposal of horses.
 - 9.4. Animal trace-back and identification programs adapted to the needs of the equine industry.
 - 9.5. State legislation to broaden the Arkansas Equine Liability Law of 1997 to include volunteers working at equine events, and other species included with such events.
10. We should cooperate with other appropriate organizations in developing an emergency livestock rescue plan. Such a plan should include a checklist

for appropriate officials to follow in assuring adequate public safety, animal welfare and proper animal disposal.

11. We oppose any government agency using tax revenue to fund horse sanctuaries.

AGRI TOURISM 130

1. We support:
 - 1.1. Efforts to promote agriculture tourism.
 - 1.2. Incentives that enhance farmers' markets, farm tours and agricultural-related youth activities, including you-pick farms, Christmas tree farms, pumpkin patches and corn mazes.
 - 1.3. Development of programs for this industry as well as funding for the promotion of agricultural events for tourism, such as horse and pack stock trail rides and events, agricultural fairs and harvest festivals, tractor shows, historic farmsteads and museums, etc.
 - 1.4. The development of laws that safeguard and protect agricultural tourism activities.
 - 1.5. Laws that limit the liability of agri-tourism except in cases of gross negligence.

PRODUCE MARKETS 131

1. We support:
 - 1.1. Continued organization of farmers' produce markets throughout the state.
 - 1.2. Use of marketing specialists and produce consultants to establish markets for produce.

MARKETING 132

1. We favor continued support of the "Arkansas Grown" marketing campaign and incentive programs.
2. We recommend the Arkansas Department of Economic Development assist new Arkansas products in entering the retail marketing system. A new "Arkansas products" section should be encouraged in retail outlets.
3. We support efforts to hold marketing seminars on state and local levels. Educational programs and methods should be expanded.
4. The nearest lamb market should be included on the Arkansas Farm Bureau market report.
5. We support:
 - 5.1. Development of regional farmers' markets to sell retail, and to gather produce into truckload lots.
 - 5.2. Advertising and promotion campaigns to encourage Arkansas consumers to buy locally grown produce.

6. Current law regulating farmers' markets should be amended to allow a fee of up to 10 percent of the value of the produce for operation of the market.
7. We support:
 - 7.1. Promotion of biofuels by means of printed ads, billboards, bumper stickers and radio and television ads.
 - 7.2. Development of market information to assist producers in comparing our regional markets and more access to market reporting in a timely manner.
 - 7.3. Farm Bureau providing staff, at the request of county board or commodity division, to assist producers in organizing and establishing marketing groups for commodities and/or inputs.
 - 7.4. Utilizing Farm Bureau publications, such as *Front Porch*, to continue to educate consumers about the truth of food production and expose deceptive marketing practices that portray a narrow view of how food should be produced.

CHECKOFFS/COMMODITY PROMOTIONS 133

1. The commodity checkoff programs are essential to the economic health of the industries that support them. The producers of the respective commodities deserve the most cost-effective methods for the administration of these boards.
 - 1.1. We support the continued utilization of state government processes to collect checkoff funds and to distribute these funds as approved by the appropriate checkoff boards.
 - 1.2. We should maintain our present role in commodity checkoff programs and aggressively maintain an active role in the administration of these programs.
 - 1.3. We support the current structure of all agricultural commodity checkoff programs and the current nomination and appointment process.
2. We should work with all participating organizations of the research and promotion boards and the Governor's office to ensure all nominees are active growers of the commodity they represent. Nominees should show proof of assessment to the Governor's office before being appointed.
3. We oppose:
 - 3.1. Inclusion on commodity research and promotion boards of any person other than those nominated by producer organizations named in the legislation. We encourage the governor to accept the first nominee

- 3.2. The use of checkoff funds in lobbying activities.
- 3.3. Checkoff exemptions based on production methods.
4. We favor use of special logos for all commodity checkoffs to show that checkoff funds are being used to fund the program.
5. All monies collected under approved commodity checkoff programs should remain dedicated only to the purposes intended.
6. If national commodity checkoff programs are ruled invalid, we support respective state checkoff boards use program funds according to state law.
7. In regard to the state's research and promotion boards, we oppose Arkansas charging more than three percent of collected funds.
8. We support a refund from the state to the promotion boards of all fees previously collected in excess of three percent, as permitted by the enabling legislation.
9. We recommend Arkansas establish a peanut research and promotion board funded by a checkoff program similar to neighboring states.
10. We support the current lamb checkoff program and encourage efforts to make lamb producers more aware of the program and its purpose.

RESEARCH AND EXTENSION 134

1. We favor adequate funding of the University of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service to meet agriculture's needs. We urge continued efforts to increase unit production and decrease costs.
2. We support:
 - 2.1. Legislation that provides funding to UA Agriculture Research and Extension at a minimum of an additional \$3 million to be placed in the baseline funding.
 - 2.2. Keeping the current UA agriculture research facilities at their current locations.
3. Any state revenue increase for education should be shared by the UA Division of Agriculture and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education should be informed of the importance of all programs and services.
4. We recommend:
 - 4.1. We request the state of Arkansas give higher priority to adequately funding the UA Division of Agriculture.

- 4.2. Money generated by the Agricultural Experiment Station be put back into agricultural research.
- 4.3. The UA System make every effort to release research information in a more timely manner for farmers use.
- 4.4. UA continue and expand research on pesticides and environmental residues.
- 4.5. We recommend working with the UA to develop and maintain research into the neonicotinoid based insecticide.
- 4.6. Research and Extension engineers study and advise drillers and farmers on proper installation and grounding of submersible water pumps to prevent lightning damage.
5. We support:
 - 5.1. Continued cooperative agricultural research efforts between the UA and Arkansas State University.
 - 5.2. Continuing research efforts to develop an optimum agricultural production management system with consideration of water conservation and drought-tolerant varieties.
 - 5.3. Research on herbicide-resistant weeds, drought tolerance in cotton/heat tolerance in rice, and higher oil content in soybeans.
6. Research needs to include more technology for better weed control. Additionally, spray nozzle tips could be improved and demonstrated on proper use.
7. We support development and release of smartphone and tablet apps as part of the Flag the Technology program to help producers and commercial applicators communicate which technology is in each field.
8. We favor more federal and state research to develop new commercial crops and products for agriculture.
9. We encourage accelerated research into all types of renewable energy and fuel development.
10. We urge UA Agricultural Experiment Station to conduct research on imported red fire ant control with emphasis on eventual eradication.
11. We support development of a plant-pest forecasting system, coordinated with meteorological monitoring and made available to the agriculture community throughout Arkansas.
12. We recommend:
 - 12.1. UA develop more public seed varieties. We encourage private seed-breeding programs to cooperate with public breeding programs to improve the overall genetic potential for improvement of the seed industry.
13. We support public, objective research and reporting of results without private company review, oversight, or other influence.
14. We object to the current trend of certain private seed companies to restrict objective research and reporting research back to the growers.
15. We support the variety testing programs for corn, cotton, grain sorghum, soybean, rice and wheat conducted by the UA Division of Agriculture. We strongly encourage all seed companies to enter all of the varieties and hybrids they are offering for sale in Arkansas in the tests.
16. We strongly support and recommend that all crop varieties be publicly tested and results reported to growers in Arkansas.
17. The Agricultural Experiment Station and CES should conduct a strong program of site- and situation-specific agricultural research. This program should be designed to yield information with which farmers can plan, implement, and manage profitable production systems in specific soil and climatic situations.
18. We recommend basic and applied research be greatly expanded on heavy clay soils at the Northeast Research Center in Keiser. We are especially interested in research to support variable rate technology, including better soil analysis for phosphorus.
19. We support:
 - 19.1. A research program oriented toward "maximum economic yield" rather than emphasis on highest yield.
 - 19.2. Research verification projects by the UA. We support research to develop reliable, timely, and affordable on-farm testing to reduce farmer liabilities from residue contaminates. We recommend continued research into new agricultural production technologies including new satellite imaging technology.
20. We recommend:
 - 20.1. UA patent all varieties of crops. A technology fee should be charged when a private company uses a variety development process and be payable to the UA's respective breeding program.
 - 20.2. UA and other public research facilities be allowed to share in royalties charged by private and publicly held companies for genetically altered seed for tolerance to herbicides.

- 20.3. Producers be able to save planting seed for their own use from public varieties that have been patented after being altered by private seed companies.
- 21. We strongly urge the UA to conduct research on methods of controlling the varroa and tracheal mite problems in honeybees.
- 22. We support:
 - 22.1. Research into determining the accumulated effect of regulations on rural businesses and agriculture.
 - 22.2. Continued research on genetically enhanced crops.
- 23. We encourage development of a strong working relationship between ASU College of Agriculture and the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI), with the main emphasis of the research related to agriculture, as originally proposed.
- 24. We support state line item funding to the ASU College of Agriculture to specifically support undergraduate and graduate research especially in conjunction with ABI.
- 25. We recommend research and Extension have more interactive meetings with farmers to exchange ideas about possible research in the future.
- 26. We support voluntary participation in research verification programs of a holistic nature. Such programs should include aspects of agricultural production including, but not limited to, water quality/quantity issues; nutrient availability, utilization and movement; and, production and management practices. Such programs should include as many agency supporters and cooperators as possible and practical. Consideration should be given to program participation within selected watersheds on a hydrologic unit basis. Individuals and property owners involved in the programs should be protected from any form of retribution.
- 27. We support additional research in soil testing and fertilization on all crops. This includes techniques used by soil labs in analyzing samples.
- 28. We recommend:
 - 28.1. Public, youth groups, and their adult leaders be urged to attend research and demonstration plots to aid in their understanding of modern food and fiber production processes.
 - 28.2. UA pursue additional research to ensure meat quality and development of new meat products.

- 28.3. UA develop guidance for forage management, parasite management, disease management and herd improvement.
- 28.4. UA to research face flies, their migration pattern and what attracts them.
- 29. We support increased education on water conservation tax credits.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE 135

- 1. We support the expansion of information to farmers from the Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service on research programs and provide consumer education projects, including well-organized and promoted visiting days.
- 2. We oppose the closing of any Extension office and reduction in personnel.
- 3. We support increased funding in order to maintain a quality Research and Extension program to serve the agricultural community.
- 4. We recommend the legislature increase the budget of the UA Division of Agriculture. We support increased funding for Cooperative Extension Service.
- 5. The CES should place much greater emphasis on marketing education.
- 6. We support a review and evaluation of reports to reduce paper work, allowing county agents to spend more time in the field.
- 7. Staffing and funding for the CES in the area of production agriculture should be given priority at the county level.
- 8. We support action for the CES to involve the local committee in filling vacant positions with experienced, qualified, and trained personnel.
- 9. We encourage the UA Division of Agriculture to establish an Extension Livestock Economist position to work with producers to provide cow/calf and stocker cattle budgets and to educate producers on marketing alternatives for beef cattle.
- 10. The CES should continue a program educating farmers about the relative danger of chemicals and proper disposal of containers.
- 11. We encourage the CES to educate property owners on dangers of drift and runoff of home and lawn chemicals and the danger to crops, livestock, and wildlife.
- 12. The Cooperative Extension Service should develop a program to help producers communicate their planting to avoid issues with drift.
- 13. We support:

13.1. Continued funding and development of user friendly apps for a “Flag the Technology” type program.

13.2. Education classes on drift management presented by the Cooperative Extension Service for private ground application.

14. We recommend the UA increase awareness on previously proven chemical compounds for pest control.
15. We encourage the CES's use of informational video and podcasts.
16. We favor adequate funding for the Livestock Market News Reporting Service.
17. Funds allocated from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education for UA CES should be appropriated for extension use only.
18. We support the continuation of farm marketing meetings to inform farmers and landowners on crops, budgeting and marketing options. We recommend all such meetings be available by video or podcast.
19. We urge continued support of the LeadAR program to help develop rural community leadership and encourage farmers and ranchers to continue to be an integral part of the program.
20. The CES should continue efforts to educate farm personnel concerning rapid treatment of chemical reaction cases.
21. The optimum planting dates for all commodities should be at the discretion of each county Extension and county Farm Service Agency office for the purpose of crop insurance.
22. We support efforts by the CES and others to recycle poly-pipe and other agricultural plastics.
23. We need to work with CES, and the National Ag Law Center to monitor concentration in the agricultural industry and how it relates to antitrust laws to determine how to best protect producer's interests.
24. We urge CES to make available pre-numbered soil testing boxes. These boxes should correspond to the sample sheets to make site-specific grid sampling easier.
25. The UA CES should perform economic impact studies to determine the financial impact of following the nutrient management plans in the state.
26. We recommend the UA Cooperative Extension Service add sesame production into its research portfolio.
27. We support:
 - 27.1. Relocation of the Mississippi County Cooperative Extension Service to the

Northeast Research and Extension Center in Keiser.

27.2. Additional cooperation between the UA and ASU in agricultural research and education.

ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT 136

1. We support making the Arkansas Agriculture Department the best and most effective program in the nation for the benefit of Arkansas agriculture. To achieve this, we recommend emphasis be placed on the following areas of work: consumer relations, produce markets, marketing, agri tourism and value-added products.
2. We recommend Farm Bureau support the Arkansas Agriculture Department exploring the possibility of developing a marketing bulletin similar to Mississippi and Louisiana.
3. Although the Secretary of Agriculture should coordinate activities of the Department with existing agricultural-related agencies, those efforts should not impact the operation of the member agencies in their regulatory activities related to agriculture.
4. We support adequate funding for the AAD and that it be derived from the general revenue fund for the promotion and marketing of agricultural goods and products.
5. We strongly oppose checkoff funds being used as a funding mechanism for the AAD.
6. We recommend all segments of agriculture and regions of the state be fairly represented on the AAD Board of Directors.
7. The AAD should make sure that the Administration/Congress understands a successful farm operation in the South is much different than one in the Midwest or any other part of the nation.
8. We encourage AAD to establish a statewide, web-based calendar that allows agriculture-related groups to post scheduled meetings.
9. We support funding for a mentorship program for returning military veterans with interest in farming.
10. We support inter-agency cooperation of manpower and equipment within the Arkansas Agriculture Department in times of declared emergency.
11. We support re-establishing an executive director as the administrative head of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission.
12. Any transition, transformation, or consolidation of the Arkansas Agriculture Department (AAD) should include the following:
 - 12.1. No change in regulatory functions of the individual agencies within the AAD.

- 12.2. Special revenues collected within the individual agencies will be maintained and devoted to their intended purpose.
- 12.3. The State Plant Board, Livestock & Poultry Commission and Forestry Commission will remain the exact same prescribed statutory powers, authorities, duties, and functions as they currently have under a Type 1 transfer.
- 12.4. All employees will report to their department heads, department heads will report to the Secretary of Agriculture. Individual agencies will implement the regulations of the independent boards and commissions.
- 12.5. There will be no change from the current administration and appointment process of the promotion boards.
- 12.6. Secretary of the AAD be appointed as a permanent member of the Pollution Control and Ecology Commission.
- 12.7. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission be placed under the AAD.
13. We support:
 - 13.1. A member of Arkansas Farm Bureau Board of Directors or appointee having a position on the Arkansas Forestry Commission.
 - 13.2. A member of Arkansas Farm Bureau Board of Directors or appointee having a position on the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.
 - 13.3. A designated seat on the State Plant Board for one Farm Bureau representative who is nominated by the Arkansas Farm Bureau board of directors.
 - 13.4. A member of Arkansas Farm Bureau board of directors or appointee having a position on the Arkansas Livestock & Poultry Commission.
14. As members of the Boards and Commissions of the AAD and their leadership develop regulations, these regulations should be supported by appropriate science and agricultural expertise, and should represent the interests of producers, not state government or political agendas.
15. We support the Arkansas Farm-to-School program being administered by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.
2. We urge the State Plant Board to work to secure the necessary permanent labels on all promising pesticides.
3. The State Plant Board should require feed tags to list total digestive nutrients and meg-cal energy.
4. We favor:
 - 4.1. Working with the appropriate agencies to increase penalties on feed manufacturing companies producing substandard feed, and to require restitution to those users damaged by substandard feed.
 - 4.2. Close monitoring of treated seed to avoid contamination of feedstuffs.
5. We urge:
 - 5.1. Development of a prompt and accurate test for aflatoxin.
 - 5.2. Continued regulation of the sale and use of crop protectants and fertilizers by the State Plant Board rather than by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.
6. We recommend that labels on all honey to identify it as "raw", "processed" and/or "imported."
7. The State Plant Board should require fescue seed to be labeled as to endophyte status.
8. We recommend the State Plant Board develop a standardized vigor test with full disclosure of actual germination percentages, stress tests, and percentages of germination and the date tested on the labels of all seed.
9. We support revisions in the seed arbitration law to provide adequate protection for producers.
10. Recourse should be provided to the purchaser of a defective seed product with a minimum of a double refund to compensate for the cost of replanting.
11. We recommend:
 - 11.1. Private seed companies be required to enter their varieties annually in Arkansas variety performance trials in several locations.
 - 11.2. When a stop sale is placed on feed and seed, the same penalty be applied as on fertilizer.
 - 11.3. Each company that markets crop seed required to be labeled by variety name, within or into Arkansas, provide a list of the varieties and any associated brand names to the Plant Board Seed Division before these varieties are distributed for commercial purposes within the state.
12. We urge the State Plant Board and the Arkansas Attorney General to take the necessary steps to protect the farmer's interest in any and all "grower agreements." These agreements should be binding to both parties not just the grower.

STATE PLANT BOARD

137

1. We support:
 - 1.1. A strong State Plant Board with adequate staff and funding to ensure proper operation.
 - 1.2. Continued efforts to keep the Arkansas seed program viable.

13. We strongly recommend enforcement of regulations concerning aerial applications remain on the state level, such as the State Plant Board.
14. We urge the State Plant Board to increase enforcement on applicators to operate within its guidelines.
15. To better deal with drift claims, we support a requirement that commercial applicators must carry liability insurance, surety bond or letter of credit that covers \$300,000 per occurrence.
16. We support legislation that would not hold farmers and landowners liable for a commercial applicator's misapplication.
17. When a legitimate chemical application complaint is filed with the State Plant Board, the Board should require the applicator(s) to present all information and data required to determine the validity of the complaint within one week and take appropriate action.
18. We support:
 - 18.1. Membership of the State Plant Board to include more actively engaged farmers.
 - 18.2. An education process for the application of specific products as deemed necessary by the State Plant Board.
 - 18.3. Registration fees for pesticide training be used by UA Division of Agriculture.
19. We recommend the State Plant Board use best management practices, sound science and education in the regulation of pesticides.
20. We support providing the State Plant Board adequate resources to establish clear regulations, monitor problems, and mitigate damages associated with the effects of pesticides on non-target crops.
21. We recommend field personnel continue to focus on compliance assistance before strict enforcement.
22. We oppose the addition of tag agents or any other additive that would increase the price or impact the quality of agricultural fertilizer.
23. We recommend the State Plant Board improve the regulations on the turf certification program.
24. We strongly urge funding of the apiary section of the State Plant Board to provide inspections of beehives to control diseases and pests.
25. We urge the establishment of an Apiary Advisory Committee within the State Plant Board to provide input on matters affecting beekeeping.
26. We oppose any further regulation of commercial fertilizer and nonrestricted use pesticides.
27. We urge the State Plant Board to provide greater surveillance on foreign matter and viability dates for seed.
28. We support:
 - 28.1. Legislation that gives the State Plant Board authority to regulate any seed trait deemed to have a commercial impact in Arkansas.
 - 28.2. The State Plant Board process for approving new pesticide technology; decisions should be based on sound science.
 - 28.3. The maximum penalty, the State Plant Board can levy for a violation, up to \$25,000 for egregious violations; proof of economic damages should not be required.
 - 28.4. Revisions in the seed arbitration law to provide adequate protection for producers.
 - 28.5. Voluntary participation in the "Flag the Technology" program as well as use of GPS technology as tools to eliminate misapplication.
29. We recommend:
 - 29.1. The State Plant Board be given authority to label Zorial or other related products for use as a pre-emergent in Bermudagrass hay land for the control of grasses.
 - 29.2. State Plant Board, and any other agency in charge of regulating exotic plant species used for wildlife food plots, monitor new varieties of plants introduced into crop and pastureland.
30. We recognize that the State Plant Board cannot and should not deny agricultural research, but should only accept highest protocol standards to ensure absolutely no interface of research products with commercial products.
31. We support legislation that allows the State Plant Board to access available funds to conduct research on new chemistries for crops that are in imminent peril.
32. We recommend a custom fertilizer application certification program be implemented that will include inspections and calibration of custom application equipment.
33. Because of the resistance of certain weeds to the currently available chemicals, we support and recommend to the State Plant Board to allow farmers to apply 2, 4-D with ground rigs for spraying rice levees and borders.

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION 138

1. We support the work of the Arkansas Livestock & Poultry Commission. State funding should be

- increased to finance new diagnostic facilities and equipment and to replace reduced federal funds.
2. We recommend the AL&PC maintain authority to monitor and regulate movement of poultry and equipment in order to control sanitation and disease.
 3. We support continued improvement of animal health diagnostic services through the State Diagnostic Laboratory. We recommend the State Livestock and Poultry Diagnostic Lab continue to improve accuracy and timeliness in its reports. We support maintaining state diagnostic laboratory services in Northwest Arkansas.
 4. We recommend the AL&PC retain authority to set fees for diagnostic services.
 5. We should work with the state veterinarian on health problems affecting the small ruminant industry.
 6. We support:
 - 6.1. Continued efforts by the AL&PC to maintain Arkansas' Scrapie status to ensure interstate commerce.
 - 6.2. The Scrapie program in place for small ruminants and commend AL&PC for assisting with producer tags.
 - 6.3. We support establishment of a market reporter at the Salem Livestock Auction to report small ruminant prices at the largest weekly auction in the region, providing key market discovery information to producers statewide.
 7. We recommend equitable indemnity for emergency disease outbreaks in livestock.
 8. We urge enforcement of regulations for licensing livestock dealers and markets.
 9. We support:
 - 9.1. That all premises with cervids held in captivity be licensed by the AL&PC. The only exception to this licensing requirement is premises that are regulated by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission as permitted menageries.
 - 9.2. The State of Arkansas keeping an adequate field force of livestock inspectors.
 10. We oppose diversion of revenue fees collected by AL&PC to other agencies or purposes within the Arkansas Agriculture Department.
 11. We support maintaining and increased funding for the Livestock Market News Program in Arkansas with adequate geographical market representation.
 12. We support establishing a state meat and poultry inspection program for the retail sale of meat.

13. We strongly support changing present Livestock & Poultry Commission structure and replacing it with a board that includes one member nominated by Arkansas Farm Bureau, one member nominated by Arkansas Cattlemen's Association, one member nominated by the Arkansas pork producers, one member nominated by Arkansas Livestock Marketing association, one active veterinarian, one member from the state's agricultural colleges, one member from the Poultry Federation, one member from the state's dairy group, one member from the state's aquaculture group and three livestock and poultry producers actively and principally engaged in animal agriculture production in this state, appointed by the governor. The board will keep its existing powers and responsibilities plus will nominate its director for the governor's approval.

RIGHT-TO-FARM

139

1. We support:
 - 1.1. Responsible actions to allow and protect the privilege and right of farmers and ranchers to operate without undue or unreasonable restriction, regulation or harassment from the public or private sectors. We support actions to protect farmers from undue liability and nuisance suits when carrying out normal production practices.
 - 1.2. Basic right-to-farm, right-to-harvest, right-to-access roads and highways policies to secure legislation defending 100 percent of the owner's interest in agricultural development of rural land.
 - 1.3. Legislation that strengthens right-to-farm and personal property laws.
 - 1.4. Limiting punitive damages in Right-to-Farm and agriculture nuisance cases.
 - 1.5. We support the "Right-to-Farm Law" as a constitutional amendment to protect the rights of farmers and ranchers to use modern practices and technology as a priority issue.
2. Arkansas Right-to-Farm Law should be updated to include the right of farmers to use GMO seeds and products in their farming operations. We oppose mandatory GMO labeling on the local, county, state and national level.
3. We oppose the issuing of government permits or rezoning that would infringe on existing farms under the Right-to-Farm Law.
4. If for any reason a government or other public entity takes action that results in the decrease of

value of property, the entity or agency causing the loss should be required to compensate the owner of the damaged property an amount at least equal to the loss.

5. Government entities should not classify agricultural operations as industrial or commercial enterprises simply because they do not fit traditional perceptions of agriculture. For existing farms, reasonable expansion, modernization or change of commodities produced should not be considered a 'change of operation.
6. We support including a disclosure form to be signed by the purchaser/buyer of any and all real estate transactions in Arkansas acknowledging:
 - 6.1. The presence of any active agriculture entity in farms and ranches, that are producing agriculture goods within close proximity.
 - 6.2. The Arkansas Right to Farm Law and the rights and privileges that conveys to that active agriculture entity.

RENEWABLE FUELS

140

1. We support expanded use of biofuels in Arkansas without the use of mandates. We encourage the use of biofuels in public-owned vehicles as availability and feasibility warrant. A goal of up to 10-percent blend level should be encouraged for government vehicles along with promotion of greater use by the public.
2. All diesel engine manufacturers should honor their warranties on equipment using any blend of (up to 100-percent) biodiesel.
3. We recommend extensive research by the ethanol industry on ways to remove moisture that may cause potential problems to engines from their products.
4. We support funding for improved education and promotion about the benefits of biofuels for machinery and for cleaner environmental purposes.
5. We encourage monitoring of the current state of change caused by increased demand for new or alternative energy sources. This should help ensure area farmers are better informed on optimum use of land and other resources.
6. We favor research into oil seed crops, such as canola and sunflowers that could be used for biofuel products.
7. We strongly support legislation that encourages and/or promotes use of biofuels in Arkansas.
8. We favor a state renewable fuels standard that sets goals for increasing the use of renewable fuels as

production increases, in pursuit of energy independence.

9. We support:
 - 9.1. A tax credit on all renewable and/or alternative energy sources used in agricultural production.
 - 9.2. Government investment in the Arkansas biofuel industry through:
 - 9.2.1. Research for biofuels;
 - 9.2.2. Grants for feasibility studies;
 - 9.2.3. Public initiatives and research that stress the development, production or use of biofuels should be focused on biofuels that utilize secondary cellulosic materials (or agricultural wastes or by-products), and crops which require less inputs;
 - 9.2.4. Grants for distribution outlets for the cost of biofuel infrastructure;
 - 9.2.5. Tax incentives to make biofuels cost competitive;
 - 9.2.6. Transferability of tax credits;
 - 9.2.7. Tax incentives for biofuel facilities that would keep Arkansas competitive with our contiguous states;
 - 9.2.8. Research on the long-term effects of biofuel crop production on soil fertility;
 - 9.2.9. Research on the long-term economic effects of biofuel crop production on livestock production; and
 - 9.2.10. Continued funding of the Arkansas Alternative Fuels Development Program.
10. We support state funding initiatives for credited research and development of regional cellulosic ethanol facilities.
11. We encourage research and development to promote increased production and utilization of ethanol, biodiesel, natural gas and all other alternative energy sources.
12. We support the use of state guaranteed, low-interest loans to provide resources for construction of biofuel facilities.

PREDATOR CONTROL

141

1. We encourage the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service to continue development and implementation of effective methods of predator and nuisance animal control.
2. We recommend a more aggressive control program (bounty) and more educational programs

for control of wild and domestic predators and nuisance animals.

3. We encourage the AG&FC and local law enforcement agencies to cooperate with farmers and ranchers to protect production from damage by animals and birds.
4. Where protected wildlife causes damage to crops, livestock or property, responsible agencies should trap or remove such wildlife if possible, allow reduction of such wildlife, or pay for fencing to keep wildlife from causing damage to property.
5. We support educational efforts to help producers file predator losses with USDA and establish a database of damages caused by black vultures.
6. We recommend action through congressional legislation or regulatory changes by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow the general taking of black vultures. At a minimum, increased limits on individual permits should be adopted.
7. We recommend black-headed vulture permits be issued for a duration of five years at no charge to requesting landowner or operator.

PEST, WEED AND DISEASE CONTROL

142

1. Beavers

- 1.1. We support a statewide beaver control program and establishment of a \$25 per-head bounty on beaver. We urge the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission to remove all regulations on beaver control, including spotlighting restrictions.
- 1.2. We encourage continued participation in the volunteer millage tax for beaver control.
- 1.3. We encourage the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to spend the allotted money for beaver control management to protect our bottomland hardwoods.
- 1.4. We recommend the legislature approve more money to hire professional trappers for control of beavers.
- 1.5. We urge University of Arkansas Experiment Station develop ways to control the beaver population.

2. Feral Hogs

- 2.1. We urge state and federal agencies, public health organizations, and legislative bodies to:
 - 2.1.1. Develop a satisfactory definition of feral hogs and to clarify the roles of various state and federal agencies, public health organizations, and legislative bodies regarding jurisdictional and regulatory control of feral hogs; and

- 2.1.2. Develop necessary fines and penalties to act as sufficient deterrents to the illegal release of feral hogs into the wild.

- 2.2. We recommend the AG&FC allow the use of dogs, traps and legal hunting in wildlife management areas to help reduce the number of feral hogs damaging private landowner's property.
- 2.3. We support issuing landowners' permits that allow them to hunt and trap hogs through any means necessary on all adjacent public lands.
- 2.4. We encourage AG&FC to implement a trapping and disposal program for feral hogs.
- 2.5. We support legislation to make it illegal to transport and release hogs into the wild and set penalties of a five-year suspension of hunting license and a minimum \$1,000 fine per animal released.
- 2.6. In the interest of disease control, efforts should be made to reduce or eliminate feral hogs in Arkansas.
- 2.7. We support:

- 2.7.1. Stricter enforcement to eliminate feral hogs and stronger penalties for individuals who release hogs in to the wild.

- 2.7.2. Allowing property owners or their representatives the ability to trap/kill feral hogs by any means necessary on U.S. Fish and Wildlife refuges and Arkansas Game & Fish Commission Wildlife Management areas adjacent to their property if destroying agriculture production.

- 2.7.3. A National Park Service and a U.S. Forest Service Program to eradicate feral hogs.

- 2.7.4. We support stronger enforcement of existing laws and greater efforts to control the feral hogs.

- 2.7.5. AG&FC and Arkansas Agriculture Department conduct a coordinated pilot program for eradication and/or control of feral hogs in Arkansas using warfarin-based and/or sodium nitrite-based poisons.

- 2.7.6. An emergency pilot bounty program be established to control and eradicate feral hogs in Arkansas to be funded by AGFC and APHIS.

3. Other Pests

- 3.1. We support active programs:

- 3.1.1. To control the armadillo population in Arkansas;

- 3.1.2. For fly and mosquito control research and eradication;
 - 3.1.3. To continue research on control and/or eradication of the Africanized honeybee;
 - 3.1.4. For more effective blackbird and crow control;
 - 3.1.5. For chemical control of Dallis grass;
 - 3.1.6. For eradication of gypsy moths, turkey and buffalo gnats, ticks and horseflies;
 - 3.1.7. For elimination of zebra mussels in the Arkansas River;
 - 3.1.8. For research and control of armyworms and grasshoppers on pastureland;
 - 3.1.9. For research in resistance management of all weeds; and
 - 3.1.10. For research to control damage to forage land and equipment caused by the burrowing of pocket gophers and moles.
4. We recommend Red Imported Fire Ant control be given immediate priority by the Legislature, State Plant Board and other appropriate agencies.
 5. We support increased local, state and federal funding for research to develop effective Red Imported Fire Ant control and eradication, including in poultry houses and transported hay, including aerial and/or broadcast applications of chemicals.
 6. We urge:
 - 6.1. Use of Section 18 emergency-use permits on chemicals for imported fire ant control.
 - 6.2. The Natural Resources Conservation Service to consider adding imported fire ant control to the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) cost-share program.
 7. The law for the establishment of mosquito abatement districts should be amended to permit various means of financing beyond taxes on real property.
 8. We recommend the U.S. Department of Interior, USDA, AG&FC, and Cooperative Extension Service continue an intensified program on crow and blackbird control. Use of repellents should receive special attention. We favor lethal control, both in the field and the roost, in rural and urban areas.
 9. We support additional funding for bird control in aquaculture.
 10. Weeds and disease
 - 10.1. We should work with the CES and other agencies to control noxious weeds.
 - 10.2. We recommend that poison hemlock be recognized as a noxious weed.

- 10.3. We encourage state legislation to control noxious weeds on rights-of-way by spraying or timely mowing the entire right-of-way. The USDA should provide assistance to farmers in a cost-sharing, voluntary thistle eradication program.
- 10.4. We oppose unloading rejected grain on county and state roads which causes the spread of noxious weed seed.
- 10.5. We encourage research into nonchemical weed and plant disease control and other ways to reduce chemical usage.
- 10.6. More effort should be given to burning programs for weed, brush and litter controls.
- 10.7. We recommend an educational public awareness program on use of fertilizers (nutrients), pesticides, and herbicides on yards and golf courses.
- 10.8. We recommend development of educational programs for the public on the spread, control and health risks of mosquito-borne West Nile Virus; and seeking federal help in controlling West Nile Virus and encephalitis.

CHEMICALS

143

1. We strongly support State Plant Board enforcement of pesticide application regulations. The liability of both farmers and commercial applicators in agricultural chemical misuse must be recognized.
2. We encourage farmers and commercial applicators to always apply crop protectants accurately and safely and to dispose of containers properly. We support continued funding for an annual chemicals amnesty day.
3. We support further education on how nozzles can influence the coverage of a sprayer and field demonstrations for producers.
4. We support research on ways to reduce dependency on nonreusable containers, such as more concentrated or dry-flowable formulations. We also favor regional disposal sites for these containers and development of a refundable deposit system for hazardous chemical containers.
5. We recommend more research on aerial chemical application. Cooperation with the Arkansas Aerial Applicators Association and "fly-ins" for checking aircraft should be promoted. We oppose the outright ban of aerially applied pesticides. We recommend more educational programs for aerial applicators on the dangers of chemicals to farm fish.

6. Additional research is needed on vegetable oils as carriers for crop protectants and on the equipment necessary for their application. We support continued research on control through lower application rates.
7. We support continued state funding for research, with emphasis on plant tolerance and environmental impact from new crop protectants.
8. We recommend more research on the residual effects of chemical carryover in alternate crops.
9. We recommend rotating weed control technologies and practices.
10. We support additional research to determine if crop protectants are causing environmental problems.
11. We oppose the Environmental Protection Agency's blanket cancellation of all crop protectant use in targeted areas.
12. We strongly urge EPA to base its crop-protectant labeling decisions on environmental impact only. If a product is safe for the environment, a label for its use should be approved.
13. We urge EPA to consider research data gathered in other countries when considering the labeling of new crop-protectant products.
14. We favor research and development of alternate products and limited uses for better and safer plant/animal protectants, especially biological methods of control.
15. We urge faster and less-costly registration of new plant/animal protectants. We recommend the patent term begin when a product is labeled to aid the chemical companies in registration of new products.
16. The public should be educated about the benefits of chemicals.
17. Public safety should come first in use of chemicals, but research should clearly indicate harmful effects before a product is banned.
18. We urge the EPA, the Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture to coordinate their work in agricultural areas.
19. Before banning any crop protectant from use in growing, harvesting, or storing farm products, all three agencies should agree on such action.
20. We support legislation to require scientific proof that chemicals from farmland runoff are harming the environment before placing a ban on certain chemicals.
21. All reasonable chemical management efforts should be made to prevent contamination of groundwater.
22. We support legislation and/or rule changes that would make it easier and cheaper to register chemicals for minor-use crops. We favor legislation to force EPA to act in a timely manner on chemical reregistration before existing registration expires. Notification of EPA's decision should be sent promptly to all state regulatory agencies charged with enforcement.
23. Where chemicals have already been granted registration labels, we favor placing the burden of proof on EPA to demonstrate a public health hazard definitely exists, and will continue to exist, before registered chemicals are removed from the market.
24. We should work with USDA, EPA and the agricultural industry in reregistration of all pesticides to ensure the risk-benefit ratio is applied reasonably, so beneficial pesticides for minor crops are not withdrawn from the market.
25. All minor-use pesticides should be exempt from EPA's reregistration process. EPA should speed up the reregistration process on previously labeled chemicals that must be registered.
26. We recommend EPA lessen restraint on chemical companies registering new chemicals and reregistering those chemicals on the market that have already been proven safe and effective.
27. EPA should tell farmers in advance of what crop protectants will be available so the farmer can plan for the next year's crops.
28. We favor increased emphasis on the benefit-risk ratio when reviewing applications for new chemical registrations and reregistration of existing chemicals.
29. We feel there needs to be a proven problem to substantiate the need for any new regulations on commercial or organic fertilizer or pesticide application.
30. We favor funding to improve laboratory facilities at the UA to meet EPA residue-testing standards.
31. We request that agriculture be exempted from future right-to-know laws, since agricultural protectants and chemicals are now regulated by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and EPA.
32. Producers and applicators, who comply with label instructions on use and with FIFRA regulations in handling agricultural chemicals, should be exempt from liability.
33. Manufacturers should be required to put the date of manufacture, shelf life, temperature tolerance, individual container serial number and expiration date on chemicals in uncoded form.

34. We recommend volume measurements on all containers of agricultural chemicals, if feasible.
35. We favor research to improve distribution and stabilize nitrogen sources of fertilizers and chemicals.
36. If the EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service curtails use of agricultural pesticides, we recommend the curtailment be delayed until the following steps are completed:
 - 36.1. Opportunity is given for public comment;
 - 36.2. Economic impact on agriculture producers is assessed;
 - 36.3. Habitat maps and biological data is reviewed and verified; and
 - 36.4. Alternate measures to prohibition of pesticides are considered.
37. We recommend Furadan, Facet, Grand Stand, Command, and 2, 4-D-type herbicides are left on the market for agricultural use. We encourage the development of reliable and inexpensive tests to determine Facet's damage to other crops. We favor strict enforcement of existing regulations on 2, 4-D and Facet use and oppose additional regulations.
38. We favor additional research on herbicides that can be used on pastures and fence rows as a safe 2, 4-D substitute.
39. We strongly recommend the development of an improved crop protectant for forage Bermudagrass establishment to control unwanted grasses. We strongly support an effort by the State Plant Board, in cooperation with the UA Agriculture Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service, to make available through any means possible, one or more pre-emerge herbicide products for use on forage Bermudagrass. We support legislation and/or rule changes that would make it easier and cheaper to register chemicals for minor-use crops, such as Bermudagrass, and other grass control.
40. We support stringent enforcement of State Plant Board regulations on use of phenoxy-type herbicides, Glyphosate propanil and other chemicals. We believe 2, 4-D and Glyphosate should be regulated differently for ground and aerial applications.
41. We recommend:
 - 41.1. More emphasis be placed on application methods of different chemicals at the pesticide applicator recertification classes according to UA research.
42. We oppose:
 - 42.1. Any further restrictions on Glyphosate.
43. If EPA and NPDES permits are eventually required for farmers to legally apply pesticides, we favor cooperating with ADEQ and the State Plant Board to develop a system that is producer-friendly.
44. Glyphosate drift education should be included in UA CES training programs.
45. The size of the buffer zone should be based on an objective evaluation of the potential for damage.
46. Plant/animal protectant applicators who use water wells in their operations should be required to comply with regulations. An aggressive educational campaign should be conducted to alert all applicators on safety problems.
47. We urge continued use of Section 18 (emergency exemption provided by EPA) pesticides when the State Plant Board and CES declare an emergency exists. The EPA should not be allowed to override this determination.
48. We should continue to work with EPA on the use of pesticides in counties where endangered species are located.
49. We support continued use of methyl bromide in agriculture.
50. We oppose any company being the sole provider of chemical-resistant seed technology and the chemical for that technology.
51. We prefer a new category of herbicides that will control resistant weeds rather than a total change in seed or variety genetics.
52. We urge UA to search for a suitable replacement for Icon.
53. We recommend incentives for precision agricultural applications be considered by the State Technical Committee for EQIP in Arkansas under the Nutrient Management (590) standard.
54. We support the approval of additional chemical for sesame production.
55. We support the use of neonicotinoid insecticides for agricultural purposes backed by scientific research conducted by the UA Cooperative Extension Service.
56. We support the Plant Board approving chemical toxicants for feral hog eradication on an experimental basis, especially those already approved by EPA.

GRAIN SAMPLING

144

1. United States Department of Agriculture grading standards should be used for all grain transactions.
2. We support having certified and licensed inspectors at all grain elevator probe sites.
3. We encourage the UA to research different methods of grain sampling and their effects on grade.

4. Utilizing research findings, we urge development of a uniform sample-grading standard with standardized equipment and state inspection of this equipment.
5. All samples of grain should be dockage-free before the test weight is measured. We request that the State Plant Board educate and monitor elevator workers to ensure proper measurements. The State Plant Board should certify all persons grading and sampling grain for all grain facilities. Certification education could be funded with a licensing fee.
6. The Bureau of Standards should continue to remove immediately from service any moisture-measuring equipment found to be out of tolerance.
7. We recommend that the State Plant Board and Cooperative Extension Service establish premium rate guidelines for high grain-test weight and low moisture for grain elevators in the state.
8. Grain terminals should not be allowed to change discount standards throughout the harvesting season.

ANIMAL CARE

145

1. Proper care and welfare of livestock and poultry are essential to the efficient and profitable production of food and fiber. No segment of society has more concern for the well-being of poultry and livestock than producers, as exemplified by the high levels of productivity and low mortality rates being achieved in modern livestock and poultry operations.
2. Any laws or regulations concerning the care and treatment of farm animals should continue to recognize accepted industry production practices that:
 - 2.1. Recognize the right of animal owners to administer care and treatment;
 - 2.2. Preserve the right to adopt industry-accepted and other science-based production methods;
 - 2.3. Do not include a limitation on animal ownership, nor limitations on the size of operations for both commercial and companion animals; and
 - 2.4. Recognize the economic significance of animal industries.
3. We support legislation that protects animal producers against animal welfare challenges resulting from accidents or catastrophic events.
4. Recognizing the importance of animal health and welfare in our state and in bordering states we support:
 - 4.1. The concepts of the current Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act;
 - 4.2. Working with the Veterinary Medical Examining Board to enhance understanding and clarification of the Veterinary Medical Practice Act; and
 - 4.3. The Veterinary Medical Practice Act exemption allowing:
 - 4.3.1. The reciprocal aid of neighbors to perform routine accepted livestock management practices without compensation;
 - 4.3.2. The owner of an animal, his/her consignees and their employees, to perform routine accepted livestock practices in the care of animals belonging to the owner;
 - 4.3.3. The art of professional horseshoeing;
 - 4.3.4. Training, except that the training shall not include diagnosing, prescribing, or dispensing of any therapeutic agent;
 - 4.3.5. Selling medicines, feed, appliances, or other products used on the prevention or treatment of animal diseases as permitted by law, by any pharmacist, merchant, or manufacturer at a regular place of business;
 - 4.3.6. Collection, preparing, or freezing semen; and
 - 4.3.7. Performing nonsurgical artificial insemination.
 - 4.4. We oppose:
 - 4.4.1. Exemptions that would change the Veterinary Medical Practice Act's definition of veterinary medicine;
 - 4.4.2. Exemptions that have a negative effect on the education and recruitment of large animal veterinary practitioners;
 - 4.4.3. The replacement of "routine accepted livestock management practices" with the specific terms, (such as vaccination, branding, dehorning, castration, deworming, and other parasite control); and
 - 4.4.4. "Non-Veterinary" ownership of licensed veterinary practices.
 - 4.4.5. We oppose the opening of the Veterinary Medical Practices Act.
5. We oppose equine teeth floating by non-veterinary professionals; but would allow their practice of equine massage therapy.
6. We support:

- 6.1. Adoption of science-based animal husbandry practices and research that promotes the highest quality of health care and welfare for our animal population.
- 6.2. Properly researched and industry-tested animal husbandry practices that provide consumers with a wholesome food supply.
7. We recommend an aggressive, comprehensive educational program be developed to present the facts, about and benefits of, farm animal production and usage to the general public, government officials, media and school children.
8. We support continuing education credits for farm animal training involving local law enforcement agencies. Training should be based on industry-accepted standards, and other science-based methods.
9. We support research on animal stress and practical ways to implement this research on farms and ranches.
10. We oppose:
 - 10.1. Elevating the rights of animals to the same level as those of people. We oppose spending public funds to promote the concept of animal rights.
 - 10.2. Legislation to give animal rights organizations or any public agency the right to establish standards for the raising, handling, feeding, housing or transportation of livestock, poultry, aquaculture, commercial kennels and fur-bearing animals.
 - 10.3. Any legislation to pay bounties to complainants.
 - 10.4. Cruel and abusive treatment of animals.
11. If regulations are developed for canine kennel breeding operations, the AL&PC regulations should mirror that of USDA for the licensing, inspection and fees applied to such kennels, and that state inspections be conducted only by trained and certified personnel of the AL&PC.
12. We support Arkansas' current animal cruelty law and oppose any effort to expand or broaden its authority.
13. We recognize the seriousness of the animal rights movement, and support monitoring the situation and seeking ways to counter these issues.
14. We will continue to cooperate with other agriculture-related organizations to address the animal care issue. Educational programs concerning the farmer's view of animal welfare should be required when animal rights activists present their view of animal welfare in public schools.
15. We support the development of a program in Arkansas that would enable agricultural retail stores or animal health stores to dispense (food animal) prescription antibiotics.
16. We oppose FDA's Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) as it pertains to feed additives. We should work vigorously to preserve the right for producers to use and the availability of injectable antibiotics products. We strongly oppose any attempt to reclassify over-the-counter non-prescription injectable antibiotics to prescription-only status.
17. We oppose legislation and regulations, which would prohibit or unduly restrict the use of animals in research.
18. We recommend that any animal care board should include farmer representation.
19. We should place a top priority on enacting our policy on animal care.
20. We recommend emphasis on education on animal care and on the contribution that concentrated animal feeding makes to Arkansas' economy.
21. We support the view that poultry and livestock are the property of the persons who own them.
22. We recommend that the state of Arkansas coordinate an animal rescue plan to address the needs of both animals and individuals during an emergency situation.
23. We recommend that any person reporting animal neglect or abuse be required to provide their name and phone number when reporting an incident. If the animals are found not to be neglected or abused, any expenses incurred by the owner of the animals should be paid by the complainant.
24. We support local animal shelters as a means to provide adoptive services for domestic stray animals.
25. We support additional research and education on the symptoms, causes and potential treatments for diseases such as Johnes, Caseous Lymphaditis, and Bluetongue.
26. We encourage development of veterinary guidelines for "extra-label use" of readily available drugs that are currently not labeled for use across all species.

LAND USE

146

1. We oppose rural land-use planning that restricts the individual's ability to properly operate his livestock or crop enterprise. If Arkansas is forced to have a plan, however, we urge that it be administered by county government.
2. We urge all county governments to develop a land-use policy favorable to agriculture and to allow

- their respective county Farm Bureau to help draft the policy.
3. We oppose:
 - 3.1. Designation of any lands or riparian zones being described as habitat for endangered species prior to publishing environmental impact and economic impact statements; publishing the information in all state and local newspapers serving the counties to be affected for not less than 90 days; and conducting public hearings in the quorum courts of the Arkansas counties where the lands or riparian zones are located.
 4. We support the use of science-based, quantifiable measures in all species recovery plans before landowners are forced to implement new management practices on their land.
 5. Farmers should be members of all water and land-use planning committees and commissions.
 6. If county planning commissions are established, we recommend that rural townships be adequately represented and have power equal to city zoning commissions.
 7. We support a “no net increase” of government lands. When the government buys additional land, they should be required to sell acreage of equal value, as determined by an independent certified appraiser.
 8. Any rural land-use planning should include strong right-to-farm provisions preventing nuisance lawsuits by neighbors who move into an agricultural area.
 9. Any land tract which is converted from agricultural rates should be required to be approved by the Board of Equalization and any landowner whose property has been changed to non-agricultural rates should be explicitly notified that such a change is being made and that they have the right to contest that change before the Board of Equalization during the next regularly scheduled board session.
 10. As cities expand and exercise their zoning authority from one to five miles from the city limits, we recommend agricultural operations be “grandfathered.”
 11. We support legislation to recognize all permits as transferable in the event of sale or transfer of property.
 12. We oppose any further land purchases along streams by the federal government.
 13. We support:
 - 13.1. Review of regulations, which might result in an infringement of private property rights.
 - 13.2. Strengthening property holders’ rights to compensation at the state level.
 - 13.3. Passage of provisions of the Private Property Act of 1993.
 14. We recommend just compensation be made for taking or limiting the use of private property.
 15. A person owning property on a stream, river or any other designated waterway should be allowed the use or sale of all soils, gravels or sand on the property.
 16. We oppose additional laws restricting private property rights.
 17. We support:
 - 17.1. Hunting and fishing in wildlife refuges.
 - 17.2. The right of rural residents to use outside burning.
 18. Burn bans should be temporarily lifted for producers who seek and receive “permission to burn” from the authoritative body in their particular situation.
 19. We urge the Arkansas Legislature to prohibit state agencies, city councils and quorum courts from cooperating with or assisting in any way an out-of-state entity in instituting, organizing or operating biosphere reserves, wild land projects, heritage areas, scenic byways, or any other land-use plan that would permit appointed officials to control the use or management of private property.
 20. Arkansas’ congressional delegation should use every resource at their command to stop the proposed Ozark Highlands Man and Biosphere Program.
 21. We favor the establishment of state infrastructure to administer conservation easement programs that can enable voluntary participation in the USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program or other conservation easement programs.
 22. Conservation easement programs should include the transferability of tax credits.
 23. We support legislation to allow municipalities to develop a voluntary transfer of development rights. Any transfer of development rights of agricultural land should include right-to-farm provisions.
 24. We support:
 - 24.1. Working with the Association of Arkansas Counties, the Arkansas Association of County Judges and other relevant organizations to thoroughly review and refine current annexation legislation.
 - 24.2. Establishing a signature verification procedure that will ensure the integrity of the signature gathering process for petitions.

25. Annexation must not be used for the sole purpose of restricting any agricultural operation.
26. Farmland that is annexed into a city should be taxed at its agricultural use value as long as it is used as farmland.
27. We recommend repeal of all laws authorizing the forced annexation of rural property.
28. We support laws limiting the annexation of adjacent land by any municipality unless approved by the majority of the landowners in the proposed annexed area.
29. In determining the success of city services for annexed areas, we support the county judge reviewing whether the services have been adequately delivered two years following the annexation. We support a process that would allow the county judge to designate the annexation null and void and return the area to the care of the county.
30. We recommend legislation to exempt row crop farmland from the wetlands law.
31. We urge the enforcement of current state/federal cemetery/burial site laws by public officials.
32. For the purpose of zoning restrictions, established and licensed kennels should receive the same exemptions/privileges as existing agricultural operations.
33. We support the voluntary smoke management plan for prescribed burns.

REFUSE, MANURE AND LITTER MANAGEMENT 147

1. We believe more research is needed to determine if environmental problems are caused by animal manure, dry or wet litter. We recommend state-funded research on alternative uses for animal manure and the creation of incentives for good use of animal manure.
2. We oppose any further government regulations or restrictions concerning dry or wet litter or commercial fertilizer that are based on public opinion rather than sound science. We should use a prudent, practical approach that is fair to pollution control and agricultural interest.
3. We recommend practical Best Management Practices be developed to deal with potential nutrient runoff from agricultural production areas and incorporated into nutrient management plans.
4. We oppose EPA's effort to regulate dry litter poultry houses under the CAFO rule.
5. We support legislation guaranteeing the right to apply adequate nutrients based on sound science using the Arkansas Phosphorus Index for appropriate crops.
6. We support farmers being allowed to revise permits to limit land application of nutrients by the calculated phosphorus, using the phosphorus index, in pounds/acre as opposed to gallons/acre, if the farmer so chooses.
7. We recommend a government policy to promote proper composting of manures to eliminate E-coli and salmonella.
8. Effective control of manure, litter and refuse should be encouraged. Additional research is needed to develop improved management practices and ways to use manure, litter and refuse as alternate energy sources. We support recycling as a solution to refuse management.
9. We recommend agriculture be represented by quorum courts and other entities when establishing regional landfill governing boards and facilities. We support the concept of regional landfills.
10. We oppose government regulation requiring permits or licenses for small- and medium-sized family-owned-and-operated livestock or poultry farms having confinement facilities.
11. We support:
 - 11.1. The development of criteria by agri-related organizations for determining whether a litter system qualifies as a "wet" or "dry" system.
 - 11.2. Legislation that would limit the appeals process for a final permit on concentrated animal feeding operations. Appeals by people other than adjacent landowners should be rejected. We support a restitution clause in the appeals process to require the appellant to compensate the landowner for all costs associated with the appeal if the appellant loses. We oppose any individual or organization having appeal rights to a final permit if the producer has met all requirements of the permitting process. Excrement from cattle (beef and dairy) on pasture and range land should be exempt from manure management and Pollution Control and Ecology Commission regulations.
12. We recommend any manure or litter regulations of the PC&E Commission or the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality allow ample time for constructing facilities, and the cost of these facilities not be excessive to the point of forcing farmers out of business. There should be no appeal after a permit has been issued. We should initiate a voluntary program using the Natural Resources Conservation Service manure or litter management plans.

13. State restrictions should not exceed federal restrictions concerning the number of animals required to classify a system as “wet” or “dry” for permitting.
14. We believe Regulation No. 5 of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, in its present form, protects Arkansas environmental concerns.
15. We oppose the listing of animal and poultry waste or dust as hazardous material.
16. We oppose any attempt to regulate odors from agriculture activities.
17. We support:
 - 17.1. Accelerated research on ways to remove offensive odors from manure and litter, and from carcasses, such as composting and/or other methods. Any regulations governing disposal of large animals should be workable and consistent at a reasonable cost to the producer. These regulations should be administered by the Arkansas Livestock & Poultry Commission. We recommend research on the composting of large animals.
 - 17.2. Proper disposal of animals from catastrophic losses should include burial in suited soils, based on NRCS standards—or in-house composting.
18. We recommend the total amount of poultry litter and/or animal manure applied be based only on current (within 5 years) soil test results from the UA soil-testing laboratory.
19. We support:
 - 19.1. Using and expanding Discovery Farms to evaluate production agriculture effects on the environment.
 - 19.2. Public and private funding sources for the Discovery Farms Program.
20. The Discovery Farms Program should create a non-profit foundation to capture outside sources of funding.
21. We support the continued administration of the Discovery Farms Program by the UA Division of Agriculture.
22. We encourage additional efforts to build a coalition among agriculture commodity groups and other interested organizations to support the Discovery Farms Program.
23. The UA should perform research to determine if recommended practices of manure or litter application create environmental problems. We urge research to find out how much manure or litter can be safely used on different forages, soil types, and slopes.
24. We recommend the Discovery Farms Program investigate flash grazing of fenced-off streams.
25. We support:
 - 25.1. Continuing research efforts to determine if using a water-soluble extraction method is a better test for determining soil phosphorus-leaching potential for environmental requirements.
 - 25.2. A nationwide survey on current and proposed methods for utilization of agricultural by-products through Best Management Practices (BMPs), with emphasis on poultry, swine, cattle, and catfish operations that could incorporate a value-added practice.
26. Slope and set-back requirements should be used only in implementing nutrient management plans when dictated by sound science.
27. We recommend cost sharing for both liquid and solid manure systems.
28. We should continue to educate the increasing nonagricultural public that animal waste is a misnomer. It is valuable organic fertilizer and, in general, is used as such.
29. We recommend:
 - 29.1. A producer using a scrape-and-haul manure disposal system properly, thus not contributing to water pollution, should not be forced to change to a liquid operation.
 - 29.2. Farm Service Agency and county Extension programs for poultry operations continue to include voluntary litter management and pesticide management.
30. If a caged-layer operation is not designed for a flush system, it should be regarded as a dry litter system.
31. We support strict enforcement of existing laws that apply to dumping and littering, especially the disposal of chemical containers.
32. Private property owners should not be held responsible for illegal dumping and other methods of pollution on their property caused by someone else. We urge support of stronger penalties for those convicted of illegal dumpings.
33. We oppose importation of out-of-state garbage and refuse, such as unserviceable tires. A disposal fee should be established for unserviceable tires and garbage brought into the state.
34. We support "constructed" wetlands method of wastewater treatment.
35. We favor the establishment of practical best management practices be used by producers to lessen the potential environmental impact of nutrients from confined animal operations. We believe the use of grassed waterways, ponds, filter

- strips, and diversion of water from production areas to fields would be examples that would be effective.
36. We support efforts to encourage the petroleum industry to recycle used oil and provide incentives for collection.
 37. Landowners should use the best land management practice for phosphorus. We oppose arbitrarily setting a maximum rate of phosphorus per acre without any scientific or research data. We recommend accelerated soil phosphorus testing by the University of Arkansas to develop such criteria as phosphorus-holding capacity by soil type and a method to differentiate between soluble and nonsoluble soil phosphates.
 38. We support using BMPs instead of increased governmental regulations for all agriculture production.
 39. We recommend:
 - 39.1. County and city governments work together to form recycling programs.
 - 39.2. Active participation in solid waste disposal through programs of waste minimization practices such as recycling, composting, etc. Each state should manage its own solid waste.
 - 39.3. Allowing poultry litter to be used in the region it is produced until all local demand is satisfied at the grower's discretion.
 40. We strongly encourage our state legislature to instruct ADEQ to drop their part of the \$18 fee to property owners in the six North Central counties that form this solid waste district.
 41. We support:
 - 41.1. A voluntary cost-share program to assist in the transportation of "excess" poultry litter and/or livestock manures from farms to be used on land with soils having additional phosphorus-holding capacity based on nutrient management plan requirements, or to be used in environmentally acceptable methods other than land application, e.g., pelletization, composting, bioenergy production, etc. The program should be funded by the state with an equal match from the poultry integrators to transport "excess" poultry litter. Additional consideration should be given to the "Nutrient Surplus Areas."
 - 41.2. A state incentive program to assist in the removal of "excess" litter from Nutrient Surplus Areas. The focus of the program will be to facilitate the transportation of "excess" litter by providing incentives to poultry litter purchasers who use raw litter for land application according to nutrient management plan requirements or for alternative environmentally acceptable processes such as pelletization, composting, bioenergy production, etc.
 - 41.3. Efforts to continue to use Best Management Practices and Nutrient Management Practices regulations under Title 22 "Nutrient and Poultry Litter Application and Management Program."
 42. We oppose any expansion of the nutrient surplus area in the state.
 43. We support full funding of certified nutrient planners (private sector/state funded) by Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.
 44. We recommend when guidelines or regulations are set concerning soil nutrients that these guidelines are both fair and equal to all entities, both public and private, that handle and apply these nutrients.
 45. We support:
 - 45.1. The grower ownership of litter. Growers should be compensated for any loss due to a change of ownership or use of that litter. The integrator should not have the regulatory authority to tell the grower what to do with the poultry litter.
 - 45.2. Legislation guaranteeing an appeal process to the local conservation district, then to the local circuit court, of nutrient management plans to the owner or operator at their request.
 - 45.3. Legislation protecting privacy by requiring anyone investigating nutrient application complaints or suspected violations to have proper legal documents authorizing entry.
 - 45.4. Legislation guaranteeing that in any suspected nutrient violation, the name of the complainant be subject to a freedom of information request. This would include potential ADEQ nutrient violators.
 - 45.5. Legislation stating that if agriculture runoff is designated as pollution, it be non-point source pollution.
 - 45.6. Legislation which permits an owner or operator accused of a nutrient management violation the option to transfer the legal proceeding to his or her local district court at any time they choose.
 46. We recommend the state legislative body revise the legislative code, Act 752 of 1991, to include approval by each local quorum court, when bonds are issued.

POLLUTION CONTROL

148

1. We should work to stop and prevent further water pollution and clean up existing problems to ensure high-quality surface and ground water.
2. We recommend:
 - 2.1. Research to develop pest management systems that alleviate chemical residue problems;
 - 2.2. Research to determine how much agriculture contributes to nonpoint source pollution;
 - 2.3. Research to determine how much metropolitan areas contribute to nonpoint source pollution;
 - 2.4. Studies of agricultural processing plants to develop economical means of compliance with pollution control standards;
 - 2.5. Efforts to ensure fair treatment of agricultural processing plants;
 - 2.6. Research to determine how various management practices influence pollution levels;
 - 2.7. Detailed research on the process of ground water contamination and all the variables affecting its rate and extent; and
 - 2.8. Environmentally sound and economically viable farming practices by our members.
3. We recommend farmers be allowed to clean up fuel-contaminated soil on the farm site without having to move the soil to another area.
4. We should become actively involved in the development and introduction of programs or techniques for recycling and/or disposing of items such as chemical containers and disposable plastic irrigation pipe. We support a collection point for disposal in each county provided by the manufacturer, at no cost to the farmer.
5. We recommend that compliance with federally approved label instructions should absolve farmers from liability claims of environmental pollution. All reasonable management efforts should be made to prevent contamination of groundwater.
6. We support strict compliance with the tire disposal law for all size tires.
 - 6.1. We support the development and implementation of a tire disposal system for agricultural, construction, logging and other large non-automotive tires not currently covered by the waste tire program. We recommend the system be a joint effort of appropriate state and county authorities, tire/rubber recyclers and Farm Bureau that would be organized similarly to the Arkansas State Plant Board Abandoned Pesticide program.
 - 6.2. We support allowing Solid Waste Management Districts (SWMD) to set and collect tire disposal fees and manage the tire disposal program, which includes used agricultural tires in accordance with state law.
7. We oppose:
 - 7.1. Odor testing as a means for issuing an Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality permit.
 - 7.2. Any new regulations on air quality and pollution for poultry or livestock unless these regulations are based on sound and credible science.
 - 7.3. Environmental Protection Agency efforts to redefine agriculture or silviculture practices as point source pollution.
8. We favor a permanent agricultural exemption of on-farm storage of petroleum products that would otherwise require containment walls.
9. All state laws that control and regulate agriculture non-point source pollution (i.e., runoff from the land application of poultry litter and animal manure) should be under the supervision and authority of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.
10. We support further education regarding carbon credits.
11. A surface owner or surface tenants is entitled to reasonable compensation not to exceed three times the value of the land, from the operator of an oil or gas well of a spill that causes:
 - 11.1. Damages to growing crops, trees, shrubs, fences, roads, structures, improvements, or livestock; or
 - 11.2. Measurable damage to the productive capacity of the soil.
12. We support legislation requiring full disclosure of natural gas drilling fluids and chemicals.
13. We recommend that all states and federal agencies provide public notices in local and statewide publications for operations requiring permits.
14. The sawing of timber shall not be construed as processing of wood unless it is treated with a chemical or chemicals to prevent decay or insect infestation.
15. We recommend that on all national rivers in the state of Arkansas, the National Park Service be required to enforce title 36, Chapter 3, part 327.9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

HAZARDOUS BY-PRODUCTS

149

1. We support the development of more licensed, regulated hazardous by-product disposal facilities in the state.
2. Federal regulations are needed to define national policy for hazardous by-product disposal and the designation of national disposal sites.
3. States should have authority to control and enforce regulations concerning disposal within their boundaries.
4. Operation of disposal sites should be under state supervision.
5. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality should retain qualified contractors to test any proposed hazardous by-product landfill site in Arkansas. Tests should include as a minimum a detailed hydro-geological investigation of both groundwater and surface water conditions, geological testing to determine the extent and effects of soil cracking, testing required to determine compatibility of the soil with the by-product proposed to be buried, and any other testing needed to determine properly the potential environmental impact of the proposed facility.
6. Provisions should restrict operation of hazardous by-product sites to a state agency. Regulations should include:
 - 6.1. Rules for safe transportation, operation and enforcement to protect the environment, public health, and wildlife resources;
 - 6.2. Preference over land disposal for by-product reduction, recycling, by-product exchange, detoxification and incineration;
 - 6.3. Provision for full and informed public participation from the earliest point of site selection and at every significant planning and decision-making stage;
 - 6.4. Provision for independent expert analysis of proposed facilities at the request of local residents and considerations of the impact on affected communities;
 - 6.5. Provision to require that by-product disposal sites be located on isolated lands away from all human habitation, food and water sources;
 - 6.6. Provision requiring that fees for use of state hazardous by-product sites be no greater than standard commercial rates; and
 - 6.7. Provision that state-collected fees from the operation of such sites be deposited in a fund to be used for reclamation, destruction or detoxification of by-products if/when technology becomes available; and

protection from and reimbursement for injuries to persons, property and environment if an accident occurs involving transportation, handling or storage of hazardous by-products.

7. Hazardous by-product management methods and site selection should be based on the least risk to health and environment, and with strict state control of permits for use of sites and operation landfills.
8. Arkansas should seek the help of the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in designing hazardous by-product management facilities to correct problems at existing and abandoned disposal sites. The public should be notified prior to hazardous by-products incineration.
9. We favor legislation to prohibit the granting of permits allowing medical by-product incinerators to operate in Arkansas without studies being made as to safety, environmental protection and feasibility. We believe public hearings should be held to advise area residents of the findings of these studies and allow public comment. We oppose the importation of hazardous and medical by-products into Arkansas. Should this be allowed, we recommend a disposal fee be charged.
10. We oppose disposal of hazardous, corrosive and certain other industrial waste at landfills where there might be potential contamination of farmland, runoff water, and groundwater from the storage or disposal of these wastes.
11. We demand ADEQ to work with the EPA and the UA to clean up the Southwest Experimental Fast Oxide Reactor (SEFOR) site in Washington County.
 - 11.1. We support continued funding for removal of SEFOR.

POLLUTION CONTROL AND ECOLOGY (PC&E) COMMISSION AND ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (ADEQ)

150

1. We oppose efforts by Environmental Protection Agency to override the Pollution Control and Ecology (PC&E) Commission and Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) authority over citizens and industry.
2. We encourage ADEQ to follow the lead of EPA regarding aquaculture effluents; and furthermore, recommend ADEQ not impose additional, more stringent restrictions such as monitoring or mandatory BMPs, as part of the state TMDL process.
3. We recommend that the PC&E Commission be made up of a balance of representation from

- agriculture, industry, and consumer interests with at least one member being an active farmer.
4. Agriculture should have more representation on boards and commissions dealing with pollution and its control.
 5. We recommend that regulatory decisions of the commission be based on scientific data, with no penalties or sanctions being applied until after the data collection and review process.
 6. We oppose:
 - 6.1. PC&E Commission having such broad powers that it can regulate livestock and poultry confinement units.
 - 6.2. The inclusion or classification of above-ground storage tanks in the leaking underground storage tank law.
 7. We strongly oppose further regulation of CAFO's to require National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permits.
 8. In the event of increased CAFO regulations, we prefer state general CAFO permits issued and administered by ADEQ over individual CAFO permits issued and administered by EPA Region 6.
 9. We support existing CAFO rules and recommend they be deemed sufficient in determining permitting eligibility and subsequent agency oversight.
 - 9.1. We support the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) follow its organizational policy of having a draft permit decision within 90 days of application and making a final permitting decision within 180 days of application.
 10. We strongly encourage that specific guidelines be developed for ADEQ to follow in regards to permits.
 - 10.1. We recommend ADEQ give a specific list of deficiencies when the agency denies a permit. The agency should allow time to rectify those deficiencies.
 11. We support the continued exemption of agricultural-use, above-ground fuel and storage tanks from PC&E Commission regulations.
 - 11.1. We support having the option to participate voluntarily in the Regulation 12 program and to have access to the operator liability policy.
 12. We oppose registration fees for farm fuel storage tanks.
 13. PC&E Commission and ADEQ should consider economic impact and property rights before pursuing regulatory and/or legislative action. We support a fee of \$50 per any one environmental complaint that is officially registered with ADEQ or any other regulatory agency.
 14. Monetary support should be coupled with any new restrictive environmental regulations.
 15. We support allocating federal funds toward continued implementation of voluntary conservation practices, such as work done by the county conservation districts and the Illinois River Watershed Partnership, in lieu of EPA funding the development of a TMDL (for the Illinois River).
 16. We oppose:
 - 16.1. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standard or Total Dissolve Standard (TDS) required without independent peer review of any modeling used to determine the proposed standards, or without cost/benefit analysis.
 - 16.2. PC&E Commission or ADEQ endangered and threatened streams and rivers list.
 17. We support "audit privilege" legislation which exempts environmental self-audits from disclosure and provides limited amnesty from penalties for facilities that correct deficiencies found in an environmental self-audit.
 18. We oppose any mandatory restrictions to achieve reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
 19. We support property tax exemptions for the ADEQ's required waste-management facilities.
 20. We support legislation requiring the ADEQ and the PC&E Commission to have a written complaint or written suspected violation before any investigation is undertaken. Anyone providing information to the ADEQ or PC&E about a possible violation must provide the substance of the complaint in writing and must provide his/her legal name and current mailing and physical addresses where the complainant may be contacted. A copy of the complaint or written suspected violation shall be provided to the party accused. The complaint must be verified by his/her notarized signature. This written information is subject to freedom of information (FOI).
 21. The Arkansas swine industry is operating manure systems under the legislative mandated rules of ADEQ Reg. No. 5. New rules have been implemented for the poultry industry based on the phosphorus content. New guidelines are also being formulated for air quality and odor control. Should any new rule be implemented, we recommend those operations that have been operating under Regulation No. 5 be "grandfathered" under the new regulation, operating at current requirements without imposing added expense or changes to its prescribed methods of operation. Such added requirements by the agency would constitute a

- breach in the agreement and permit language entered into by the producer and the ADEQ.
22. We support the development of realistic phosphorus-based effluent limits for municipal and industrial point source discharges. Such limits should be based on cost/benefit analysis.
 23. We re-affirm that the Arkansas Phosphorus Index should be used for animal manure applications, not agronomic needs.
 24. We recommend that family farms be reclassified by ADEQ from a commercial business to residential business to allow farmers to dispose their used oil at county-wide clean-ups.
 25. We support removal of the agricultural animal waste management field handbook from Section 5.402 of APC&EC Regulation 5.

MINERALS AND MINERAL RIGHTS 151

1. To clear titles and to allow orderly development of mineral resources, we recommend:
 - 1.1. A diligent effort to place mineral rights on county tax books to assess and collect taxes only if mineral rights are severed; and
 - 1.2. Passage of a constitutional amendment, providing ownership of severed mineral rights are assessed and on which taxes are not paid for three years, would be merged with the surface rights.
2. We recommend government agencies offer seized mineral rights to surface landowners.
3. Additionally, surface property owners should acquire clear title of mineral rights after a 10-year period, retroactive to retention or sale of mineral rights, if there is no production, drilling or mining. We support legislation that will terminate leases on land not in producing units prescribed by the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission prior to 1983.
4. We should educate members about oil and mineral leases and encourage them not to sign open-ended contracts.
5. We oppose commercial mining at the Crater of Diamonds State Park.
6. We support:
 - 6.1. A requirement that oil and gas companies send regular notices to royalty owners indicating the status of lease payments whether or not a payment is made.
 - 6.2. Legislation to allow the surface owner to purchase or redeem any severed mineral rights that are certified or transferred to the state for nonpayment of taxes.
7. We oppose:

- 7.1. Efforts by mineral production companies to pass legislation that changes original leases signed between companies and mineral rights owners.
- 7.2. Efforts by mineral production companies to pass legislation allowing them to deduct the transportation costs of the mineral from the royalty payment.
8. All fresh water rights shall be the property of the surface owner.
9. We support legislation making undeveloped mineral interest that would require surface extraction the property of the surface landowner.
10. We recommend that when mineral rights are severed from surface rights, state law require adequate compensation to surface rights owners for usage and damages caused by mineral extraction.
11. We support:
 - 11.1. ADEQ staff increase to allow for close monitoring of the Fayetteville Shale drilling process.
 - 11.2. Legislation requiring the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission to require gas companies to submit a drilling plan, and allow surface owners the opportunity to comment on the plan, prior to issuing the gas companies a permit to drill.
 - 11.3. More effective inspections of settlement (frack) ponds by ADEQ and AOGC.
 - 11.4. The development of lignite resources in Arkansas.
12. We recommend when land is used for lignite production, companies compensate surface owners for lost revenues while the land is diverted from its current use.
13. We support legislation clarifying lignite as a surface right.

WATER 152

1. We support:
 - 1.1. Legislation redefining "Waters of the State," "Waters within the State," and "Waters of this State" using a common-sense approach.
 - 1.2. Continuation of the principle of riparian water rights law for surface and groundwater and encourage Arkansas to more clearly define riparian water laws.
2. We recommend all water policies be administered on a local level.
3. We oppose changes to ADEQ Reg. No. 2 that would make "designated uses" permanent without the ability to modify or remove these designations.

4. We support the establishment of a statewide water quality database program. Water samples should be taken from several wells and springs from diverse locations in each county to establish a database to which future tests could be compared.
5. We favor clean rivers and streams in Arkansas and fully support the efforts of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) and Soil Conservation Districts to monitor these streams.
6. We oppose any further consolidation of local conservation districts or NRCS offices.
7. We support:
 - 7.1. The Arkansas Groundwater Protection Act. This provides for local control of water by local groups of water users. We should educate counties on the provisions of the act.
 - 7.2. Where warranted, the designation of critical groundwater areas by the ANRC. We recommend adequate research concerning the use of watersheds in critical water use areas.
8. We oppose:
 - 8.1. Critical water use area restrictions affecting contiguous counties.
 - 8.2. Restrictions of drilling and pumping water in non-critical groundwater areas.
9. Since no single type of irrigation system fits all farms in the critical groundwater areas, we recommend all types of water projects be considered.
10. We recommend to the ANRC that Woodruff, Jackson and Lawrence counties be excluded from the critical groundwater designated area.
11. We support issuance of general obligation bonds for Arkansas water, waste disposal and pollution abatement facilities.
12. Any state legislation to regulate or tax the use of groundwater should exempt those areas included in a district, which is developing or implementing a ground water conservation plan.
13. Irrigation districts must have the right to issue revenue bonds to finance the construction of surface water irrigation systems and the expressed authority to sell that water as a means of retiring those bonds.
14. We commend and support the efforts of irrigation districts in the development of surface water storage and recovery ditches, underground pipe and other areas that will reduce the dependence on the aquifers.
15. We support, and will endeavor to have enacted, a Corps of Engineers Section 404 general permit allowing construction of irrigation reservoirs on farmed wetlands. We support the formation and function of an Arkansas wetland mitigation bank to replace removed wetlands as proposed by ANRC.
16. Agriculture should be adequately represented on commissions, boards, task forces and agencies concerned with water policy.
17. Drinking water utilities and their boards should have agricultural representation from within the water supply's watershed.
18. Water rights should be established by individual states.
19. We should emphasize programs encouraging use of farm management practices that enhance the state's water quality. We oppose mandatory federal water-quality management programs as they relate to agriculture sectors.
20. Energy based companies should be held responsible when domestic water wells are damaged or contaminated during drilling including seismic exploration.
21. Following adoption of any water regulation, we urge a membership education and information program on water rights.
22. We urge more research to determine long-term effects of saline irrigation water on farmland and crops.
23. An education program by Farm Bureau and the Cooperative Extension Service needs to be implemented to educate users that everyone needs to participate in acquiring an abundant supply of quality water.
24. We recommend Farm Bureau develop an educational program to inform all producers and landowners of the programs available through ANRC and NRCS.
25. We commend the establishment of the L'Anguille River Watershed Coalition and offer our support to the Coalition's purpose to restore, protect and enhance the environmental integrity of the watershed through voluntary involvement of individuals, local groups, and other organizations and agencies.
26. We urge the Arkansas congressional delegation seek funds to research and update water level standards for navigable streams in Arkansas to help alleviate problems with farmlands affected by river flooding.
27. More money should be available to the Farm Service Agency for water conservation projects, "underground pipe, drop pipe and reclaim system and water impoundment" through long-term agreements.

28. The agricultural industry must be assured of positions on the ANRC that would include all regions of Arkansas agriculture.
29. All funds, which might be collected as a result of water legislation, should be used only for water concerns.
30. We urge simplification of water usage forms from ANRC.
31. We support full funding of Arkansas conservation districts so they may fulfill their responsibilities under the FAIR Act of 1996 and both state and federal legislation on water quantity and quality.
32. We oppose:
 - 32.1. The assessment of any registration fees on wells that are not used during the current water year.
 - 32.2. Any legislation that would allow the fee for the withdrawal of surface water or groundwater to be assessed and collected with real estate taxes.
 - 32.3. Government-imposed user fees associated with the use of water for irrigation and other agricultural uses.
33. To ensure safe drinking water, we encourage adequate funding for rural water and sewer associations.
34. We strongly favor continued monitoring of groundwater and surface water quality to identify causes of pollution in rural and urban areas. We favor research to determine how various management practices impact water quality and their sources.
35. We oppose setting arbitrary water-quality standards, such as transparency requirements for visibility of Secchi disk or protection zones.
36. We support:
 - 36.1. The collection of current real-time water quality data on construction and ground cover changes, particularly in areas that are undergoing economic development and urban growth.
 - 36.2. Capping abandoned water wells.
37. Abandoned wells, dump sites, and other environmentally problematic areas should be disclosed to a new purchaser of property.
38. We encourage education of rural and urban dwellers on possible causes and prevention of water quality loss.
39. We urge the ANRC to delegate authority to local conservation districts, along with adequate funding.
40. We support local efforts to clear congested waterways to prevent flooding of residential, agricultural and commercial property in flood-prone areas.
41. We should aggressively pursue all avenues, both state and federal, including through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in the effort to improve drainage on the entire length of the Cache River by maintaining the original channel.
42. We oppose the "takeover" of control of private lands by the Corps of Engineers, such as the so-called "flood control" easement.
43. We recommend pursuit of just compensation guarantees for private landowners impacted by state and/or federal legislation and/or regulations, including surface and underground water.
44. We support efforts to assess and correct the mercury pollution problem in the Ouachita and Saline rivers.
45. We recommend the Extraordinary Resource Waters classification of rivers and streams be cancelled because it is being used in an attempt to control private land usage. Until accomplished, we oppose adding rivers and streams to this classification.
46. We support the White River Valley Association, the Arkansas Waterways Commission and others in the effort to have permanent, year-round nine-foot navigation on the White River to Newport. We strongly urge the funding and completion of this project.
47. We oppose the National Park Service proposal to develop a Water Resources Management Plan for the Buffalo River Watershed, a thinly disguised re-initiation of the previously rejected United Nations Ozark Biosphere Reserve.
48. To preserve water quality within the Buffalo River watershed, we strongly encourage the National Parks Service implementing a lottery system limiting recreational access to the river.
49. We support monitoring water quality on the Buffalo River to evaluate the impact of recreational activity. The monitoring should be performed at multiple sites during the May to October floating season.
50. Arkansas should join affected states in a hypoxia management plan to reduce nutrient loading of the Mississippi River.
51. Regulations become more stringent on municipal discharge in our waterways to improve quality of water and reduce eutrophication in lakes and streams in Arkansas.
52. We support increased information outlets for Arkansas' conservation programs from the NRCS.

53. We recommend the ANRC and the ADEQ conduct water quality studies immediately on all streams flowing into or out of Arkansas from or to Oklahoma and Missouri. If there is any indication of a problem, it must be verified by an independent conclusive scientific study. We oppose any law, rule or regulation proposed before all of the above has been satisfactorily completed.
54. We oppose any legislation or regulation being imposed on our citizens unless the following is satisfactorily completed: Whatever law or regulation is placed on any Arkansas watershed flowing into another state, the same law or regulation also is placed on all that same neighboring state's watersheds flowing into Arkansas.
55. More research should be conducted to determine the effectiveness of water quality BMPs and their economic impact on the growers.
56. We support:
 - 56.1. Detailed research on the process of groundwater contamination and all the variables affecting its rate and extent.
 - 56.2. Implementation of a voluntary water quality credit trading program in Arkansas if the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) is placed in charge of inspections for non-point sources.
 - 56.3. The formation of watershed groups to address water-quality issues using non-regulatory methods and encourage our members to actively participate in these groups.
57. The Pine Mountain Dam in Crawford County should get financial assistance from the state.
58. We support the State's appeal of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal's decision to consider storm water runoff from forest roads as point source pollution under the Clean Water Act as administered by EPA.
59. We believe it is imperative that sound science be used to develop the Illinois River TMDL and that EPA should review ALL sources of non-point source pollution in their model. Furthermore, EPA should aggregate all agricultural sources together to deter a single agricultural source being disparaged against.
60. We strongly encourage the Arkansas Attorney General's office to engage in the evaluation of the science and assumptions behind EPA Regions VI's Illinois River TMDL model and to be prepared to legally challenge Illinois River TMDL model in an effort to protect the citizens of Arkansas, both urban and rural, and to protect the concept of cooperative federalism under the Clean Water Act.
61. We support:
 - 61.1. All laws and regulations that facilitate the use of gas chlorination to treat surface and well water used in production of poultry and livestock.
 - 61.2. The use of pond water impoundment as a resource in normal agricultural practices.
62. State Water Plan
 - 62.1. We support:
 - 62.1.1. The study of developing ways to recharge aquifers from state rivers and streams.
 - 62.2. Authority should be given to the Arkansas Department of Economic Development to encourage new industries to locate in areas with sufficient water to assure higher priority needs will be filled before those of industry.
 - 62.3. We support the planning and building of additional sources of fresh water and treatment plants in Arkansas that support agricultural, residential and industrial development.
 - 62.4. Industries should be required to use surface water when feasible.
 - 62.5. With the understanding that utilization of surface water for irrigation purposes has been shown to have a positive impact on water quality and should reduce the use of groundwater, we recommend the continued incorporation of incentives to support the increased use of irrigation with surface water by expanding the use of reservoirs and tailwater recovery systems. These incentives could include:
 - 62.5.1. Federal and state cost-share programs.
 - 62.5.2. Federal farm program regulations.
 - 62.5.3. State tax and interest allowances.
63. Incentive programs may include:
 - 63.1.1. State cost-share programs within critical groundwater area could be funded by revenue bonds.
 - 63.1.2. Federal farm program payments comparable to CRP, WRP, or similar programs could be available for cropland that has been converted to surface water irrigation reservoirs.
 - 63.1.3. In areas of significant groundwater level decline, landowners could be allowed (a) groundwater depletion tax allowances which should be used only

- for groundwater to surface water conversion projects, and (b) revenue bonds could be available for long-term low interest loans or state funding be made available to “buy-down” interest on commercially available loans for the construction and use of irrigation reservoirs and tailwater recovery systems.
- 63.1.4. We support funding for incentives to producers who utilize University of Arkansas and NRCS best management practices for water, soil and energy conservation.
64. These projects should be prioritized to watersheds which have been declared to have impaired water quality and quantity issues.
65. We recommend that the ANRC streamline procedures for land leveling and irrigation reservoir construction to qualify for Arkansas income tax credits under the Water Resources Conservation and Development Incentives Act of 1995. We recommend allowing design and costs of projects to be submitted for qualification at any time during a project’s construction, or up to the time of final inspection and issuance of certificate of completion. Tax credit should be available for all qualifiable projects completed in a tax year. Approval is now required before work can start on a project.
66. We oppose transfer of water out of state until current and potential needs are met.
67. We recommend that the White River Irrigation District be funded at the state and federal levels. Also, appropriations should be adequate for a timely completion of the irrigation project.
68. Minimum stream flow standards should provide for humanitarian, agricultural, fish and wildlife, and barge traffic needs, in that order.
69. We oppose the Ecological Limits of Hydrologic Alteration (ELOHA) framework as the basis for the development of future fish and wildlife flow standards proposed for the State Water Plan.
70. We favor release of public impounded surface waters for use in critical areas should shortages develop in agriculture. We believe that after human life-sustaining needs are met, water use for production of food and fiber should receive the highest priority.
71. We support:
- 71.1. Accurate reporting of both surface water and groundwater use.
- 71.2. All supplemental irrigation projects that are proved feasible, in order to provide irrigation for Arkansas farmers.
72. We favor increasing to 75 percent the amount of excess surface water, as defined in Act 1051 of 1985 (state water plan), that can be transferred.
73. Legislation regulating groundwater should be administered by the ANRC.
74. We recommend funds for conducting the Bouef-Tensas Basin, South Arkansas and North Louisiana study, to investigate measures for providing a plan for the development, utilization and conservation of water and related land resources. The USDA secretary should be directed to expand ongoing investigations and coordinate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to jointly develop a multi-purpose flood control and comprehensive agricultural water supply plan, including but not limited to a canal system for Chicot, Desha, Ashley, Drew, Lincoln and Jefferson counties in Southeast Arkansas.
75. We favor realistic U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans for weir construction in small streams and bayous to conserve surface water. We favor expanding the cost-sharing practice to include weir construction.
76. Arkansas' water law needs to be clarified to reflect "Unity of Title Rule."
77. We support state cost sharing of 10 percent of the installation cost of irrigation water supply projects that are federally cost shared.
78. We urge more research be done on the quality and quantity of water being used for irrigation on crops.
79. We support:
- 79.1. Regulations being put in place which allow only landowners to purchase a permit for impound water on their property. This permit should cover all impounded water on their property.
- 79.2. Uniform restrictions on municipal, county and rural water used for outdoor landscapes in order to promote water conservation. These restrictions should include exemptions for plant nurseries and other horticulture operations.
- 79.3. Inclusion of all water-saving technologies to conserve our water.
- 79.4. The formation of a water provider legislative task force.
- 79.5. The use of unproductive timberland and idle land as surface water irrigation impoundments without mitigation.

- 79.6. Rural and municipal water companies maintain or upgrade water lines and equipment as they commit to servicing heavy water users such as poultry farms.
- 80. We recommend:
 - 80.1. When consideration is given to any species identified as "endangered" whose habitat is water, the "endangered species" criteria designation should not take precedence or seek to take precedence over other considerations.
 - 80.2. No stream or body of water be added to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list without unbiased scientific research.
 - 80.3. Revamping of the Water Conservation Tax Credit from ANRC so it would provide greater financial incentives for landowners and operators.

TAXES

153

- 1. We vigorously oppose any attempt to remove sales tax exemptions on agricultural production input items and support inclusion of other agricultural input items not currently exempt.
- 2. Agriculture should be considered as an industry and should have the same privileges and/or exemptions as other industries.
- 3. We favor a state sales tax exemption on biodiesel produced and used in Arkansas.
- 4. We support continuation of real and personal property taxes as a part of the state's revenue system with consideration to reasonable revisions such as:
 - 4.1. Homestead exemption;
 - 4.2. Reduction of assessment rate;
 - 4.3. Roll back of millage or percentage; and
 - 4.4. Other means to reduce property taxes.
- 5. We oppose giving the state authority to set property tax rates.
- 6. In lieu of any increase in the sales and property taxes, consideration should be given toward income taxes to fund additional state needs.
- 7. We support:
 - 7.1. Funding the public school system from the general revenues of the state. We support cost-saving measures to support public education in lieu of tax increases.
 - 7.2. A measure be enacted by the legislature that aids small school districts when property assessments change abruptly and cause sudden and sharp declines in local school revenue.
- 8. We favor a study of real and personal property tax reform.
- 9. We oppose abolishing ad valorem taxes on real and personal property.
- 10. We urge working toward the removal of the ad valorem tax as it pertains to natural gas and oil until then we support ad valorem taxes on natural gas and oil being assessed on an annual basis.
- 11. We support:
 - 11.1. The provisions of Amendment 59, especially the productive use assessment of agricultural land.
 - 11.2. A fair and equitable formula for taxing farmland.
 - 11.3. The Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department having adequate agricultural representation. We recommend that the AACD reevaluate the soil capability classifications.
- 12. We strongly favor a locally elected assessor and oppose a state-appointed assessor paid by the state.
- 13. We favor studying the present three to five-year reappraisals for counties. This system is an extremely expensive issue for all counties and any changes to reduce costs should be explored in view of present court requirements.
- 14. We support the elimination of property taxes on structures that are constructed solely for environmental protection.
- 15. We oppose a premium tax on health insurance to provide indigent care.
- 16. We favor amendment of premium tax laws to exclude insurance premiums of property with no fire protection.
- 17. We support the insurance premium tax being dedicated to rural and urban fire protection, with distribution based on square miles of area covered by the fire protection service. We recommend that any increase in the premium tax be dedicated to rural and small town fire protection. We support the idea that primary sources of funding rural fire departments be left up to local fire protection areas.
- 18. We favor Arkansas allowing a deduction for health and long-term care insurance premiums, the same as the federal tax deduction.
- 19. Currently a 75-percent majority of the General Assembly is required to change the state income tax, while a simple majority is required to change the state's sales tax. We oppose any effort to change the methods of levying taxes.

20. We strongly recommend that taxes be reduced or eliminated on retirement and pension income.
21. We support the natural resources and farm vehicle tags.
22. We oppose any weight-distance tax on trucks hauling agriculture products.
23. We recommend legislation creating an annual fuel permit for farm trucks allowing the use of off-road diesel.
24. We favor continuing present tax laws on permanent soil and water conservation improvements.
25. User or permit fees should be used to supplement general revenues only if these fees directly benefit the user.
26. We oppose taxing the hunting lease value of farmlands.
27. We favor:
 - 27.1. The option of income averaging on state and federal income taxes.
 - 27.2. Legislation that would exempt agricultural employers from state income tax withholding requirements.
28. The state tax burden (as measured by percent of real income) on its citizens should not exceed the current level. An exception to this limitation should be made for special revenue programs, such as highways, provided they have a sunset provision.
29. We favor allowing the previous year's state income taxes as a deduction to eliminate paying taxes on taxes.
30. We support the elimination of the marriage tax penalty.
31. We should require all funds collected by millage approved by the voters for the sale of bonds be used only for the retirement of said bonds. Public schools should comply with this requirement.
32. We favor the repeal of the used car sales tax.
33. We support that sales tax be paid only on the net cash price for vehicles (not on rebates, extended warranties, etc.).
34. We support a user fee on hybrids and battery-operated vehicles that will be used for highway purposes.
35. We oppose raising the severance tax and recommend all entities receiving royalties be assessed at the same rate.
36. We support allocating proceeds from the severance tax on oil and gas production to remain in the counties of origin for repair and road construction.
37. We oppose:
 - 37.1. Any additional severance tax on timber.
 - 37.2. A state sales tax on agricultural services, labor and equipment (new and used), materials and goods.
38. We recommend the legislature extend the sales tax exemptions to include any item if it is strictly for agricultural use.
39. We support:
 - 39.1. Removing sales tax on grain handling support equipment (fans, augers, dumps, etc.) required to move grain in or remove it from the bin.
40. We encourage an agricultural tax exemption on rural municipal water (like the energy exemption).
41. We support the removal of the sales tax on water used for agricultural production.
42. If sales taxes are applied to utilities used for input items in agricultural practices these sales taxes should be based on a per-unit basis rather than a percentage of cost.
43. We support:
 - 43.1. Legislation establishing individual agricultural sales tax exemption numbers to verify agricultural exemptions for producers that would define existing exemptions for agricultural input items and discourage fraud and abuse of the system.
 - 43.2. Extending the current sales tax exemption on farmers' markets and roadside stands, to include fairs and festivals.
 - 43.3. We support expanding the farmers market exemption for tax-exempt sales to include meat and value-added meat products.
44. We recommend:
 - 44.1. That land owned by any government agency be taxed at the ad valorem rate in the county where located.
 - 44.2. Permanent abolishment of estate taxes.
45. We oppose any legislation that unfairly adjusts inheritance tax laws in Arkansas.
46. We encourage tax incentives (i.e., tax credits to farmers) for development of surface water management facilities.
47. We favor incentives such as reservoir construction incentives, federal investment tax credits, short-term depreciation and tax-exempt bonds for the purpose of capturing and using surface water, and tail water recovery systems.
48. We recommend the ANRC expand the limits of Arkansas income tax credits under the Water Resources Conservation Development Incentives Act of 1995.
49. We favor Internet sales being subject to sales taxes to the same extent as other retail sales.

50. We recommend that if sales taxes are collected on Internet sales that care should be given not to create another bureaucracy to enforce collection of the taxes.
51. All livestock should be exempt from state personal property taxes.
52. Aircraft and watercraft used exclusively for agriculture should receive the same tax treatment as other farm equipment and be exempt from sales and use tax.
53. We recommend the excess revenue from the ½ cent sales tax to fund the Homestead Act be returned to the counties.
54. We oppose spending Arkansas tax revenues on illegal immigrants for social programs, health care and education.
55. We support state incentives or tax breaks for intrastate transport of litter from nutrient surplus areas.
56. Special improvement taxes (such as: sewer improvement tax, drainage district tax, levee district tax) should be tied to property tax and mandatory giving the county tax collector and state land commissioner the power to declare property tax delinquent if all the above taxes are not paid.
57. We recommend drainage and levee districts delinquent taxes be handled the same as delinquent property taxes.
58. We support sales tax being collected on the sale of all lottery tickets.
59. We oppose the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration collecting sales tax from non-profit organizations.
60. We recommend increasing Arkansas law Section 179 Expense Election for small businesses to \$150,000 calendar year.
61. We support legislation to direct the Department of Finance and Administration require vendors in the state calculate the correct local sales tax cap at the point of sale.
62. We support exempting retired military pay from income tax.
63. We support a tax incentive program for established farmers/landowners who sell or transfer assets to a young or beginning farmer.
64. We support a tax credit for landowners or producers purchasing irrigation monitoring equipment for the use of conserving natural resources under Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) approved conservation programs.
65. We support adoption of a “self-verification” card system that would identify farmers and ranchers making sales tax exemption purchases.

66. We support an ATV sales tax rebate for agriculture use.

WAREHOUSE BONDING AND BANKRUPTCY 154

1. We should inform our members on bankruptcy law and procedures relating to grain storage facilities.
2. Federal warehouse bankruptcy laws should be revised so that:
 - 2.1. A warehouse receipt or scale ticket will be evidence of grain ownership;
 - 2.2. The holder of a warehouse receipt or scale ticket will have “secured creditor” status and a priority position in the distribution of assets; and
 - 2.3. A definite timetable will be established in which the courts must determine ownership of assets and distribute those assets to the rightful owners.
3. We support farmers maintaining 100 percent ownership of their commodity until paid in full. Farmers should be placed in a priority position ahead of the lender in a bankruptcy situation.
4. Farmers who have delivered commodities or other products to a purchaser that subsequently files for bankruptcy without paying for those commodities or other products, should have first claim on the commodity inventory and all assets of that purchaser.
5. The federal program should: provide uniformity among states; provide a sound financial basis; be governed by farmers; ensure producer protection in event of elevator bankruptcy; increase penalties for fraud; and require a nationwide producer referendum for implementation.
6. We continue to support the techniques used by the State Plant Board for physical examination of agricultural products in grain elevators, which verifies the actual quantity of grain stored. We support increased funding to allow more frequent audits and physical inspection of grain by the State Plant Board.
7. Grain Merchandising
 - 7.1. We support:
 - 7.1.1. Requiring that scale receipts and settlement sheets be included with all producer payments.
 - 7.1.2. Requiring all grain buyers to be licensed and bonded with the state of Arkansas.
 - 7.1.3. Anyone who annually purchases for resale more than 5,000 bushels of grain from producers should be considered a grain buyer.

- 7.1.4. Requiring grain buyers to file an audited financial statement annually with the State Plant Board.
- 7.1.5. A slow pay hotline within the State Plant Board that would allow producers to report grain buyers who fail to pay in 30 days after the contract deadline. If multiple complaints are filed against a buyer this would trigger an audit.
- 7.1.6. Grain buyers must maintain a current asset-to-liability ratio of one-to-one (for every dollar of current liabilities you have and must have at least one dollar of current assets).
- 7.1.7. Changing laws so that when bankruptcy is declared by a buyer/broker, unfulfilled contracts with producers should be declared null and void.
- 8. We oppose an indemnity fund for grain dealers and warehouses.
- 9. We favor more frequent unannounced elevator inspections than are currently being conducted.
- 10. We support Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) retaining and defending its secured position in a bankruptcy.

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

155

- 1. Better farm-to-market roads continue to be a goal.
- 2. The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDot) should develop an incentive program in cooperation with farmers who have farmland adjacent to highway rights-of-way to help keep those rights-of-way free of harmful weeds and plants that present a problem in farmers' fields.
- 3. We recommend any road improvements to state highways be designed to handle 80-thousand lbs. gross vehicle weight.
- 4. We oppose ArDOT shifting maintenance of state highways to counties and municipalities.
- 5. We support increased funding for maintenance of all public roads at their historical maximum classified weights.
- 6. We support the ArDOT maintaining their rights-of-ways including tree removal, grass maintenance, control of invasive weeds and drainage.
- 7. We encourage the enforcement of the current law prohibiting grass clippings from being deposited on public streets and highways.
- 8. We should work to legalize farm product signs (directional and on premise) along all state highways.
- 9. We oppose:
 - 9.1. Any effort to place a road tax on diesel for on-farm use.
 - 9.2. The use of Highway Trust Fund monies for mass transit in Arkansas.
 - 9.3. Any use of state highway funds to finance lobbying efforts.
- 10. We recommend the first alternative for paying for a highway program be a fuel tax, and the second alternative be bonds in conjunction with a sales tax, toll roads (where feasible), or other measures.
- 11. We request:
 - 11.1. Adequate funds for rural road improvements.
 - 11.2. ArDOT develop a long-range program for county road improvement and set aside funds to see that it is carried out. This should be similar to the program established in the late 1980's as Act 445.
- 12. We believe that funds generated by Amendment 91 should be used for road improvements of state four lane highways, county and city roads to connect to all regions of the state.
- 13. We encourage all agricultural producers using farm tags to follow the current guidelines that prohibit commercial use, and urge stricter enforcement by ArDOT and stronger penalties for those who violate this law.
- 14. We support requiring operators hauling sand, dirt, gravel, rock, wood chips or poultry litter to cover all trucks or trailers and we further support enforcement of laws and fines regarding unsecured loads on trucks and trailers.
- 15. We oppose any legislation that would require log loads be covered for transport.
- 16. We support:
 - 16.1. The proposed I-69 and I-49 projects through Arkansas that connects Mexico and Canada.
 - 16.2. The proposed I-530 connector from Pine Bluff to Wilmar.
 - 16.3. The Delta Regional Authority in its efforts to secure funds from Congress for an I-55 and I-40 connection. This would be a four-lane highway between Batesville, Miss., and Brinkley, including a new four-lane bridge across the Mississippi in Helena-West Helena, Ark.
- 17. We oppose the closing of Interstate 55, Memphis-Arkansas bridge to work on the Crump Boulevard interchange improvement.
- 18. We recommend ArDOT paint a white line on the right edge on all state highways.
- 19. The state should expend more for maintenance on roads used for transportation of shale, rock, clay and gravel than for the other state roads. We

- oppose ArDOT closing rest areas along state highways.
20. We favor the ArDOT increasing the use of raised reflectors to increase the visibility of the centerline on highways.
 21. We support and encourage the ArDOT to install safety devices to keep vehicles from entering interstates at exit ramps that would allow them to enter interstate traffic traveling the wrong way.
 22. We promote the extensive use of prisoners on the city, county and state level for litter pickup as a part of their prison incarceration.
 23. Highway commissioners should live in one of the two ArDOT districts they represent.
 24. We support the equal geographic division of funds among the areas represented by the five commissioners.
 25. The speed limit on U.S. highways, (not to include state highways), should be increased to 60 mph, provided federal funding is not at risk.
 26. Farm equipment should be allowed to travel on state highways after dark without the necessity of a permit, provided the equipment is properly lighted, accompanied by an escort and displays a slow-moving vehicle symbol.
 27. We support farmers having the right to move their livestock on foot across farm-to-market roads with proper safety precautions.
 28. We should work with the legislature and all related state agencies to define a set of practical safety standards for all farm-to-market trucks on all U.S. highways, state and local roads.
 29. We support:
 - 29.1. Voluntary inspection of farm trucks, with a decal issued to farmers upon passage. If a farmer is pulled over with a decal and cited, the farmer should get a warning instead of a ticket. If the farmer fails to get an inspection and is pulled over and passes inspection the farmer can take a receipt showing passage to the revenue office and get a decal.
 - 29.2. A voluntary unpaved roads program. The purpose of the program is to evaluate and implement alternative road maintenance techniques that reduce sediment, nutrient, oil, grease, etc., transport into creeks and streams while at the same time improving road quality and reducing maintenance costs.
 - 29.3. Maintain a handbook relaying information about how DOT rules and regulations effect Arkansas' farmers and ranchers.
 30. We oppose DOT getting scale tickets from grain elevators and mills used to deliver forestry products to issue an overweight ticket.
 31. We recommend that when property bordering a farm-to-market road is annexed into a municipality, the entire road would be maintained by the annexing entity. The current users of the farm road are allowed to continue using the road without additional restrictions.
 32. We support a permit for trucks hauling livestock that would allow for overweight up to 5 percent of gross vehicle weight.
 33. We recommend the state mileage radius mirror that of federal regulation for the purpose of hauling farm equipment on non-controlled access highways.
 34. We support the current 70-15-15 split to maintain and improve county roads and infrastructure.
 35. We support the agricultural waiver granted by the Federal Highway Administration for the commercial driver's license program. This waiver is limited to those operations of a farm vehicle which are:
 - 35.1. Controlled and operated by a farmer.
 - 35.2. Used to transport either agricultural products, farm machinery, farm supplies or both to and from a farm.
 - 35.3. Not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier.
 - 35.4. Used within 150 miles of the persons' farm or within the state.
 36. We support the development of a weight formulation that utilizes axle number and spacing to formulate gross weight of said vehicle.

EDUCATION

156

1. We support:
 - 1.1. A public education system that is efficient and adequate to meet the needs of the student population.
 - 1.2. Emphasis on basic primary education to produce students who can function as productive members of society.
 - 1.3. Any educational materials should be based on facts and sound scientific research.
2. K-12, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
 - 2.1. We support:
 - 2.1.1. The General Assembly reviewing, on a regular basis, standards for public schools to ensure students' educational needs are met.
 - 2.1.2. Legislation to reintroduce, strengthen and enforce discipline in schools under

- the educational reform recommendations.
- 2.1.3. Allowing schools to certify selected faculty as a security unit in order to enhance safety on campuses.
 - 2.2. We recommend parent/guardian involvement be required as one segment of education reform.
 - 2.3. We should look for ways to minimize politicization of the Arkansas Department of Education and the State Board of Education.
 - 2.4. We recognize the need to improve Camp Couchdale and support its expansion plans.
 - 2.5. We oppose restricting local school boards' control of school policies, regulations and personnel beyond those contained in this section.
 - 2.6. We support legislation to require any school district with more than 2,000 students elect school board members from zones as opposed to at-large positions.
 - 2.7. Implementing a state mandated, pre-employment and random drug screening of PK-12 school employees including both certified and classified employees.
 - 2.8. We support:
 - 2.8.1. In-service training for all K-12 teachers on current agriculture practices and recommend two hours of yearly optional training.
 - 2.8.2. Both local school and state rules allowing full participation by 4-H and FFA members in educational activities at county, district, and state fairs. Due to the value of 4-H and FFA programs in expanding educational opportunities, we urge rules be adopted to allow full participation by our youth in these activities.
 - 2.8.3. An adequate funding formula to support agricultural education in public schools.
 - 2.8.4. English being accepted as the official language in the United States and requirements for bilingual teaching be eliminated. Traffic signs and ballots should also be in English.
 - 2.8.5. We urge the Arkansas Department of Education incorporate the verbatim reading of our United States Constitution to our children, especially at the middle and high school levels.
 - 2.9. We oppose:
 - 2.9.1. Strikes in our public schools.
 - 2.9.2. The concept of year-round schools in Arkansas.
 - 2.10. As the state realizes the need to equalize the support for students in K-12, we must also address the inequity in the support for two-year colleges, which currently varies widely and totally depends upon which two-year college is attended. We recommend that funding be based upon level of enrollment, economies of scale, or student achievement.
 - 2.11. All governmental entities should be required to compensate school districts the maximum amount allowed and otherwise required by law for those properties in their holding and possession.
 - 2.12. Schools and communities have shared responsibility to provide all students with access to high quality, affordable, nutritious food and beverages. We urge county, state, and American Farm Bureau to back the same and or increased funding for the free and reduced cost meals of the school feeding program.
 3. Accountability
 - 3.1. We support emphasis on academic and fiscal accountability by each school district and by the State Department of Education.
 - 3.2. We recommend the Arkansas Legislature repeal the mandated Teacher Excellence Support System (TESS) evaluation.
 4. Consolidation
 - 4.1. Schools that meet academic and fiscal accountability standards should not be consolidated, regardless of the number of students.
 - 4.2. We support:
 - 4.2.1. Public school bus routes that do not exceed 50 minutes in length each way for Arkansas students traveling to and from school.
 - 4.2.2. The return of any school property back to the local community when such property is no longer used by the consolidated school district if the community desires.
 5. State Department of Education
 - 5.1. We support proper enforcement of school standards.
 - 5.2. We recommend the State Education Board of Directors be elected by congressional district.
 - 5.3. We support requiring that one member of the State Board of Education be a teacher.

- 5.4. Greater flexibility by the Department of Education in determining continuing education credits for teachers. Such credits should be relevant to curriculums being taught.
- 5.5. We support:
 - 5.5.1. An increase in teacher salaries.
 - 5.5.2. A statewide minimum salary schedule funded by the state with incentives for teaching in hard-to-staff schools and academic disciplines.
6. Facilities
 - 6.1. We encourage school districts to review their facilities, safety, construction and maintenance to maximize efficiency and cost savings.
 - 6.2. Determining the need for improvements in school facilities and equipment financing should be controlled by our local school districts.
 - 6.3. We oppose unfunded mandates on public school districts.
7. Curriculum
 - 7.1. We support school districts offering required core curriculum often enough for every student to enroll. We also encourage school districts to offer an enriched curriculum, including vocational education. We favor the use of distance learning, shared faculty and other innovative means.
 - 7.2. We encourage all institutions of public education in Arkansas to include a curriculum element that introduces students to agricultural production practices, the world's food supply, agricultural relationships to the environment and other pertinent agricultural topics.
 - 7.3. We urge institutions of higher education incorporate more agricultural and forestry related training, such as farm diesel mechanics, tractor and combine construction equipment operation, HVAC including irrigation pump motors, farm welding and farm and industrial safety.
 - 7.4. We support additional programs that provide greater educational opportunities for the gifted and talented students.
 - 7.5. Agricultural issues presented in a public school classroom must be based on facts and sound science.
 - 7.6. We support:
 - 7.6.1. Teaching the theory, practice, and purpose of each type of tax (i.e., local, state, federal) in our primary and secondary schools as a part of history and government courses.
 - 7.6.2. School districts revising their agricultural curricula so that credits in agriculture courses may be utilized as science credits, and we support the universities accepting these as science credits.
 - 7.7. We recommend high schools increase their vocational training and adequate funding be provided for the education and training of the large majority of our students who will not achieve a college degree. Because of the high cost of most vocational courses, there needs to be some funding mechanism and a system of accountability put in place to ensure proper training of our workforce.
8. Testing
 - 8.1. We oppose benchmark exams.
 - 8.2. We support maintaining adequate standards of testing high school-level students to determine graduation, being certain that national standards are achieved.
 - 8.3. Schools should get credit for meeting the 38-unit requirement when required courses are offered by the school on campus or through distance learning, even if no students actually enroll/attend such courses.
 - 8.4. Alternative school structure
 - 8.4.1. We favor providing special programs for special needs students.
9. SECONDARY, POST-SECONDARY AND WORKFORCE CAREER
 - 9.1. We support:
 - 9.1.1. We recognize high school agricultural education, the Arkansas FFA, and Arkansas 4-H are crucial programs for developing the skills and leadership that will be pivotal to the continuation of farming and agricultural businesses across our state. We strongly support, as a priority position, the continued separation of vocational education from general education in its administration, teacher evaluation and curriculum emphasis.
 - 9.1.2. We favor adding vocational agriculture departments to our public schools in Arkansas by requesting additional funding, encouraging academic excellence in agri science and marketing and to formulate a legislative proposal that will advance these issues.

- 9.1.3. Legislative funding for vocational programs in secondary schools. This would include vocational student organizations, adequate state staff, travel funds for local instructors, and funds to local school districts for added costs of the vocational programs.
- 9.1.4. We urge local business owners offer a mentor/apprenticeship through the school for students that are interested in learning a trade rather than attending college.
- 9.1.5. The 12-month contract for vocational agricultural education instructors.
- 9.1.6. All elements of vocational, technical, adult, and industry training should remain under the same governing entity to guarantee a productive workforce for the state.
- 9.1.7. We support a strong role for agriculture at appropriate state colleges and universities.
- 9.1.8. We recommend former vocational technical schools that have been converted to community colleges continue to offer non-degree trade and technical courses to adequately train our workforce.
- 9.2. We recommend vocational agriculture education to be a priority despite any possible mergers.
- 9.3. We support:
 - 9.3.1. Agriculture education as a stand-alone division within Career Education, including a state staff consisting of a program manager, three area supervisors and adequate support personnel.
 - 9.3.2. Allowing area agricultural education supervisors to have satellite offices within their areas to better serve agriculture education programs.
 - 9.3.3. A salary scale for state agriculture education staff to attract top quality candidates for these positions.
- 9.4. We recommend a training program through secondary education for forest production and the timber industry.
- 9.5. We support improving and adding additional courses in agriculture in the Arkansas education system at all levels.
- 9.6. We oppose any anti-agricultural programs or programs supporting violence and/or vandalism being presented in any tax-supported educational institution.
- 9.7. We support the use of follow-up records and performance on the job to adequately evaluate the performance of vocational training.
- 9.8. We support:
 - 9.8.1. Standardizing course requirements among the various colleges and universities so that courses in any accredited institution are recognized by all accredited institutions.
 - 9.8.2. The State Department of Higher Education assuring all instructors and professors have an adequate command of the spoken English language.
 - 9.8.3. Additional funding for post-secondary technical centers.
- 10. Due to a shortage of large animal veterinarians in Arkansas, we support the following measures to encourage greater availability of veterinary services in under-served areas:
 - 10.1. Joint efforts with the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association and others to expand the Veterinary Tuition Assistance Program with additional students placed in out-of-state veterinary schools and additional state funds to support this effort.
 - 10.2.
 - 10.3. Efforts to have the veterinary student tuition assistance program receive funding from the Arkansas scholarship lottery.
 - 10.4. A "two plus two" program for veterinary students.
 - 10.5. Changing the current tuition assistance programs to a "forgivable loan" concept that requires students to return to Arkansas for a specified period of time.
 - 10.6. Evaluation of other incentives or assistance initiatives including, but not limited to, an expanded veterinary technician program and practice establishment grants.
 - 10.7. We support:
 - 10.7.1. A two-year veterinary assistant program being established.
 - 10.7.2. The veterinary medical technician program at Arkansas State University at Beebe and its funding for the continued establishment of veterinary medical technicians for large animals.
 - 10.7.3. Additional funding for the Arkansas veterinary student tuition assistance program. All student positions

authorized by the legislature should be fully funded.

- 10.7.4. Funding for the Mississippi State University loan forgiveness program for veterinary students.
- 10.7.5. The State of Arkansas in the establishment of a four-year Veterinarian Technologists Program specializing in or emphasizing food animal medicine.
- 10.7.6. The State of Arkansas establish legislation for a large animal veterinarian technician program comparable to those of nurse practitioner for rural Arkansas.
11. We support the development, creation and funding of a veterinary school in the state of Arkansas.
 - 11.1. At present, we support the existing "out-of-state assistance" programs for our veterinary students. We also support the monitoring of the economic possibility of establishing an in-state veterinary school.
12. We recommend the state continue to support qualifying students on out-of-state tuition programs.
13. UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
 - 13.1. We strongly support using all available means to preserve the integrity, mission, resources and the present structure of the UA Division of Agriculture.
 - 13.2. We strongly support efforts to secure additional and adequate funding for the UA Division of Agriculture.
14. OTHER
 - 14.1. We support continuation of Farm Bureau's workshops for prospective candidates for political office.
 - 14.2. We support:
 - 14.2.1. Efforts to secure additional and adequate funding for the agriculture department at all state universities.

GOVERNMENT

157

1. We recommend Arkansas Freedom of Information statutes be updated to protect research data from FOI release until the data has been properly vetted through the peer review and publication process.
2. We oppose law by regulation and urge that such be imposed only after open hearings.
3. We recommend:
 - 3.1. That state and federal governments enforce existing "Sunset Laws" which provide review

of existing laws and agencies and termination of those no longer needed.

- 3.2. That government surplus fire equipment continue to be made available to local rural volunteer fire departments through the Arkansas Forestry Commission. We support the concept of rural volunteer fire departments throughout the state.
- 3.3. The U.S. Department of Defense continue to supply surplus military equipment, along with the title of the surplus equipment to volunteer fire departments.
- 3.4. Fire departments be funded by the local communities and still be eligible for all available grants.
4. The Arkansas Fire Academy should be properly funded, including funds to repair or replace academy equipment.
5. We oppose any increase in training hours required for annual certification of volunteer firemen above the current level.
6. We recommend that the current requirement of annual training hours be reduced to include training provided by a certified trainer or certified local training officer.
7. We support:
 - 7.1. Putting the date of manufacture on major farm equipment.
 - 7.2. Adequate funding for Arkansas conservation districts to ensure that each county conservation district continues to operate.
8. We recommend:
 - 8.1. The Arkansas statute be amended to increase the amount paid to commissioners of levee, drainage, water, sewer, etc., districts for services rendered.
 - 8.2. Adequate funding of the Geographic Information System office to upgrade GIS in Arkansas.
 - 8.3. The agriculture community be represented on all major ag and natural resources commissions in the state.
9. There should be more representatives of agriculture appointed to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. These representatives should be active farmers knowledgeable of current agricultural conditions.
 - 9.1. There should be more promotion of agriculture by the AEDC, since agriculture is Arkansas' largest industry.
10. We recommend:
 - 10.1. Expanding and facilitating Arkansas agriculture commodity exports. We need to

- cooperate with the AEDC to expand and facilitate the movement of Arkansas agricultural products. This is especially true in those foreign countries where the AEDC has an office.
- 10.2. That before any annexation or improvement district can be completed it must be approved by a vote of the people being annexed or added.
11. We support:
- 11.1. Changing the terms for countywide officials and justices of the peace from two years to four years.
- 11.2. Legislation that contains language consisting of “voluntary registration” and “voluntary inspection” of managed honeybee colonies.
12. We support the preservation of the authority of county justice of the peace originally defined by the State Constitution.
13. We recommend enforcement of the law requiring that in-state honey processing facilities be inspected by the Arkansas Department of Health, except for Arkansas beekeepers who package 500 gallons or less of honey and honey products for retail sales.
14. We urge taking full advantage of federal programs, such as the Job Training Partnership Act, to assist in retraining displaced farmers.
15. We recommend the Arkansas New Motor Vehicle Quality Assurance Act of 1993, known as the “Lemon Law,” be expanded to include vehicles more than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating and motorized farm equipment.
16. We recommend a “Lemon Law” for all farm equipment similar to “Lemon Laws” for passenger vehicles.
17. The membership structure of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission should remain the same: nine commissioners, two from each congressional district and one at-large, all appointed by the governor.
18. We should work:
- 18.1. With county and state officials and Arkansas' congressional delegation to develop legislation which will assure the original purposes for which hydroelectric dams were built are followed and flood control is given the number one priority.
- 18.2. To revise the federal guidelines and regulations used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Weather Service to assure that river levels are low enough to allow normal farming practices by May 1 each year.
19. We support a judicial system in which judges are elected.
20. We recommend all citizens within the jurisdiction of a municipal judgeship be allowed to vote on the position.
21. The practice of including a title on the ballot (senator, judge, etc.) should be discontinued.
22. State-mandated programs should be state funded.
23. We support the General Assembly continuing to meet once every two years, with special sessions as needed.
24. We encourage citizens supportive of agriculture to seek election to the state legislature.
25. We recommend increasing the time of maximum service to at least 12 years in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, and allowing a legislator who has served his maximum time to stand for reelection after a four-year absence.
26. We support:
- 26.1. Current laws related to political campaigns, and candidates and these laws should be vigorously enforced.
- 26.2. An Arkansas law which states that any public or community service volunteer (serving without compensation other than reimbursement of expenses) for a nonprofit organization, corporation or government entity is immune from civil liability while acting in good faith in volunteer service.
- 26.3. Legislation that recognizes the authority of local volunteer boards that are voted on and duly elected with proper notice.
- 26.4. Legislation to provide better legal protection for Arkansas farm operators against liability suits in cases of injuries or fatalities.
- 26.5. Farmer's right to burning crop stubble in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.
- 26.6. Tort reform.
- 26.7. Making all state and federal agencies accountable to the General Assembly and the people of Arkansas.
27. We feel state prison farms should be self-supporting.
28. We support:
- 28.1. Turn-back funds to local communities from Arkansas' prison system from all farm proceeds, similar to what the U.S. Forest Service does with the national forests.

- 28.2. Legislation that would exempt a requirement that architects design buildings for agricultural use.
29. We oppose blocking access to family cemeteries and/or private property and not providing reasonable access.
30. We favor changes in the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure that would require members of a class suit to affirmatively "opt in" before they could be included in a class action suit.
31. We should continue to resist the restructuring of regulatory boards and commissions that deal with environmental and agricultural issues. Members of the regulated community should not be excluded from serving on boards and commissions.
32. We oppose:
- 32.1. The designation of any person or group being named to a board or commission without a state or local geographic connection.
- 32.2. Expanding the authority of county government to regulate common nuisances now regulated by the state, unless appropriate exemptions are provided for agriculture operations.
33. We believe it to be an individual's inalienable right to worship God, offer prayers and read the Bible as God's word in private and public places, including schools.
34. Unsolicited telemarketing calls at any time should be considered a violation of right to privacy law.
35. We urge legislation that requires government agencies that purchase or receive property to annually reimburse the county of purchase in lieu of paying property tax.
36. We oppose illegal aliens receiving any state or federal aid such as scholarships, unemployment, food stamps, etc.
37. We support:
- 37.1. A state statute holding landowners/lessors not liable for actions of lessees on land leased for hunting and other recreational purposes.
- 37.2. And urge legislation prohibiting unfunded, mandated programs on all government levels.
38. We recommend agricultural cooperatives be permitted to keep deferred patronage dividends when they are unable to locate former patrons or their heirs. Under present law, these funds must be paid to the state of Arkansas and we feel it would be legitimate to let these cooperatives utilize these unclaimed funds in their operations to better serve their customer members.
39. No persons or organization:
- 39.1. May use state funds to sue the state.
- 39.2. Who is paid directly or indirectly with state funds may lobby for or against any law, proposed legislation, engage in any lobbying or any other political activity while on duty.
40. Except in emergency or urgent situations, all actions that require voter approval should be voted on in a General Election. All actions voted on in any special election shall require a two-thirds majority for approval.
41. We recommend unlimited access to absentee voting in special elections that have limited polling places.
42. In order to allow more input, and also to achieve a better political balance in legislative redistricting, we support a constitutional amendment to expand the State Board of Apportionment.
43. We oppose the use of initiated acts to circumvent the will of any local community (who has voted otherwise) on any issue.
44. We recommend the legislature study the procedure by which ballot initiatives are proposed, with the possibility of making the process more stringent.
45. We recommend the Arkansas General Assembly refer only one germane issue per amendment.
46. We support SJR 16 which requires 75 percent of all signatures to be valid when submitted to the Secretary of State.
47. We encourage the state legislature to review and recommend appropriate changes for retired employees to re-enter employment that is covered by Arkansas Public Employee Retirement System and the Arkansas Teachers Retirement System.
48. We support:
- 48.1. The creation of a monument dedicated to the history and importance of agriculture in Arkansas to be placed on the grounds of the state capitol.
- 48.2. Arkansas' law governing agricultural production contracts.
- 48.3. Farmers' ability to choose arbitration, mediation or a civil trial in any and all disputes between farmers and agribusinesses. We therefore support legislation that prohibits clauses in agricultural marketing or production contracts that require farmers to submit to arbitration and give up rights to mediation or a civil trial.
49. We oppose legislation that would refer to a business entity as a "Limited Cooperative Association."
50. We support:

- 50.1. The repeal of Arkansas Act 1208, which lowered the residential licensure requirements from \$20,000 to \$2,000.
- 50.2. Programs that allow access to capital for young farmers for land, equipment and/or seed and livestock.
- 51. We recommend the legislature reform the Arkansas Public Employee Retirement System to ensure its sustainability.
- 52. We support any extension, reinstatement or expansion of Governor Beebe's Compressed Natural Gas Conversion Rebate program or similar incentive programs.
- 53. We urge the Legislature to repeal Arkansas law 22-9-308, regarding prevailing wages.
- 54. We oppose:
 - 54.1. Farm Bureau endorsing any political candidate and oppose a candidate PAC.
 - 54.2. Legalization of same sex marriage.
- 55. We support establishment of at least four voluntary weather reporting stations per county for use to determine eligibility for USDA disaster programs.
- 56. Any person that receives public assistance or monthly social security disability benefits shall be placed on a public website that everyone can access and be subject to annual status reviews for further evaluation for future benefits. We also demand drug testing as criteria for these benefits.
- 57. We encourage the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services to broaden to 30 days the timeframe for employers to respond to claims.
- 58. We support the governor retaining power when out of state.
- 59. We oppose any attempt to deregulate professional licensing in Arkansas.
- 60. We support the discounted license plate fee per year for all veterans.
- 61. We encourage a "user fee" for individuals using the Buffalo River to offset emergency service funding for volunteer fire departments, first responders and law enforcement in Newton, Searcy, Marion and Baxter counties to be levied on hotel rooms, canoes and other tourist services payable to their county general fund.
- 62. We oppose any further effort to establish additional casinos and gaming in Arkansas.
- 63. We support a state voter identification and registration policy.
- 64. We recommend state and federal agencies use multiple weather reporting stations to determine areas for disaster payments, rather than using a

- single reporting station for county-wide designation.
- 65. We support requiring agriculture equipment manufacturers to provide equipment owners access to the same agriculture equipment diagnostic and repair information made available to the manufacturers and authorized repair facilities.
- 66. We oppose arbitrary removal of statues and monuments of historical significance.
- 67. We recommend Arkansas Farm Bureau support efforts by county farm bureaus to improve access to our rural communities through infrastructure improvements i.e., roads and highways, broadband, rural water and fire protection for farmers, local businesses and residents.

ARKANSAS GAME & FISH COMMISSION (AG&FC) 158

- 1. The Arkansas Game & Fish Commission should support the proposed federal wetlands delineation manual.
- 2. We urge the AG&FC to hold public hearings prior to the release of any wild and/or predatory animals in any area.
- 3. We oppose the AG&FC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service introducing any new predator species (such as the Mexican Wolf and Florida Panther) into Arkansas.
- 4. The AG&FC should be held responsible for damages caused by animals or birds they have brought into a region, or by flooding as a result of their activities.
- 5. We recommend the AG&FC re-evaluate the biological control of the deer population and seek additional methods to lessen impacts on agriculture and reduce traffic hazards.
- 6. To assist in the control of deer in areas of excessive destruction, AG&FC biologists should work with the Cooperative Extension Service to identify problem areas. Once the areas are identified, the AG&FC should develop management practices to reduce the size of deer herds.
- 7. The AG&FC should require ground blinds to display hunter orange or chartreuse green on all sides during all gun deer seasons on public and private land.
- 8. We support continued state research and sampling of deer and elk in all counties for Chronic Wasting Disease. AG&FC will determine the sampling numbers per county.
- 9. We oppose the AG&FC providing free fish for private ponds not open to fishing by the public,

which causes unfair competition with Arkansas' fish farmers, who sell these same fish to private pond owners.

10. We recommend a land-owning farmer/rancher be a required appointment on the AG&FC.
11. The AG&FC should be required to test wild game animals for diseases that could be a threat to domestic livestock before the wild game are introduced into an area. We recommend the AG&FC continue to make every effort to contain elk on public land and closely monitor them for brucellosis.
12. We recommend:
 - 12.1. At least 10 percent of elk hunting permits allowed by the AG&FC be designated for residents of Newton and Searcy Counties, respectively.
 - 12.2. The National Park Service and/or AG&FC compensate farmers for damages caused by elk.
13. We support legislation to make the AG&FC accountable to the legislature and the people of Arkansas.
14. We encourage:
 - 14.1. AG&FC to consider the impact of their land purchase on adjoining property owners and the community surrounding said purchase. Further, we would ask that the AG&FC develop a long-range land use and management plan with input from local persons impacted by any said purchase.
 - 14.2. AG&FC to inform the public of the Arkansas law on trespassing in their hunting and fishing brochures, and to promote private property rights and awareness of the trespassing laws in their education courses.
 - 14.3. AG&FC to make state-owned land available to the public for hunting, fishing and other recreational activities.
15. We believe a landowner should not be required to buy hunting and fishing licenses to fish or hunt on his/her own property.
16. We encourage continued cooperation between the AG&FC and Farm Bureau.
17. The killing of poisonous snakes on private property should not be prohibited by the AG&FC.
18. We favor keeping the duck season at 60 days and, if necessary, reducing the daily limit.
19. We recommend a turnback fee (similar to the National Forest turnback fees) be paid by AG&FC in counties where they own land.
20. We recommend the AG&FC use a portion of their mineral rights revenue to make payments in lieu of

property taxes (similar to the national forest turnback fees) in all counties where they own land.

21. We propose legislation requiring the AG&FC to pay the assessed value of local property taxes attached to any land owned by AG&FC.
22. We support the hunter education program, but oppose requiring individuals above 16 years of age to carry a hunter education card.
23. We urge the governor to appoint AG&FC commissioners from throughout the state.
24. We support fines collected by AG&FC for violations be allocated back to the county in which they were collected for educational purposes. The fines collected should not be allowed to be deposited to the general fund, then reassigned to potential non-education programs.
25. We support a longer season and increased bag limits on alligator hunting with depredation permits being made available in nuisance areas.
26. We support:
 - 26.1. A hunting season for the double-crested cormorant that would give relief to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and The National Environmental Protection Act.
 - 26.2. Allowing 60 hp outboard motors on the Eleven Point River with a 40 hp at the foot or output.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

159

1. We recommend more information and educational opportunities for county leaders concerning rural development issues.
2. In order to bring in more jobs for citizens, we urge local city and county governments to entice new businesses to locate in their area by offering incentive programs.
3. We recommend the development of a training program to be offered to interested Farm Bureau leaders and members that would help build communication skills that promote agriculture.
4. We support streamlining the permitting process for economic development projects.

RAILROADS

161

1. Railroad rights-of-way should be mowed or sprayed 600 feet on both sides of a crossing to keep weeds and trees from blocking views and weed seed from infesting adjoining fields. Empty boxcars should be relocated to prevent blocking vision at crossings.
2. Abandoned railroad rights-of-way should revert to their original land parcels.

3. We oppose railroad companies blocking road crossings for an excessive amount of time (example: 30 minutes) which could inhibit emergency vehicle traffic and access to personal property.
4. Railroads should maintain crossings so trucks and farm machinery can have adequate clearance.
5. We recommend adequate warning signs or lights at all railroad crossings.

CRIME AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

162

1. We urge expanded use of Farm Bureau's \$2,500 reward program in the state. We should work for increased fines and penalties for livestock theft.
2. A minimum two-thirds of a sentence imposed by a court for violent crimes should be served.
3. We support a system whereby appeals from convicted capital offenders be limited to a period of no more than two years from the date of the conviction.
4. We favor stronger enforcement of the current DWI laws and penalties and laws against driving under the influence of drugs.
5. We support:
 - 5.1. Extending the time from three to five years for charging subsequent DWIs.
 - 5.2. Full enforcement of the financial responsibility law.
 - 5.3. Enforcement of all speed limit laws.
 - 5.4. Educational efforts and effective enforcement of present laws and the enactment of new legislation where needed to prevent the importation, manufacturing and distribution of illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia. We support realistic penalties for first-offense users.
6. Persons convicted of illegal distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages, narcotics and drugs should receive punishment equal to that for assault with intent to kill.
7. Our insurance companies should continue to work with the legislature, government agencies and law enforcement groups to stamp out arson.
8. We urge enactment of criminal statutes to provide for restitution or reimbursement by convicted offenders to injured parties as an integral part of their punishment.
9. The state legislature should pass laws to make juvenile offenders subject to stiffer penalties. Convicted juveniles should at least be sentenced to community service work. Parents should be required to make financial restitution plus interest to victim.
10. We favor enforcement of capital punishment for heinous crimes and mandatory sentencing for anyone convicted of a crime with a lethal weapon.
11. We support mandatory AIDS testing of all individuals charged with rape and that the rape victim be notified of the results. All rapists found to be HIV positive should be tried for attempted murder. We support a mandatory life sentence for rape.
12. A sex offender may not live, work or own a business within 2,000 feet of a school, park, daycare center, children and youth BHS-regulated facility, or church.
13. Prosecuting attorneys should prosecute all those arrested for vandalism and theft to the fullest extent of the law.
14. We recommend full support for state and local law enforcement agencies.
15. We support the development of an Arkansas State Police task force to investigate agriculture-related thefts such as livestock and equipment.
16. We favor repeal of the law that relates to court-ordered psychiatric examination. We should work for legislation to require that state funds, rather than county funds, be used to defray cost of these examinations.
17. More consideration should be given to victim's rights instead of criminal rights.
18. Prison "benefits" should be eliminated. Work requirements for inmates should be reinstated and more appropriate punishment be legalized and encouraged.
19. We oppose the overburdening of county government and local jails with housing state prisoners, especially at a reimbursement deficit.
20. We support clarifying Arkansas code 12.42-111, that regulates the use of inmate labor from county jails, to make county inmate labor available to assist local nonprofit groups that benefit county residents.
21. We recommend reviving the use of the equipment identification-marking program in the state.
22. "Boot camp" should be continued and expanded for first offenders of nonviolent crimes.
23. Any person convicted of shooting livestock should pay three times the value of the animal to the owner of record.
24. We support legislation to make cemetery vandalism a felony, punishable by a \$1,000 to \$10,000 fine plus a prison term up to five years.
25. We favor legislation to identify, reject, and discourage frivolous lawsuits being submitted by prison inmates.

26. We should work with law enforcement authorities and offices to teach the students and officers to respect individual's rights, both property and personal.
27. We encourage Arkansas legislators passing laws/regulations on the amount of time required to keep video dash and body cams to protect law enforcement agencies. Currently there are laws/rules on other evidence.
28. We support legislation, which would bar use of mental incompetence or retardation as a defense.
29. We oppose juries being allowed to consider background and circumstances of an alleged criminal's early life in determining guilt or sentencing.
30. Minimum-security prisoners should be required to perform community services such as litter removal, community beautification projects, etc.
31. We support:
 - 31.1. The concept of "three strikes and you're out" in convictions for violent crimes.
 - 31.2. Additional revenue for adequate prisons.
 - 31.3. Red Ribbon Week in Arkansas in the effort to stop drug abuse.
 - 31.4. The denial of state pension to government office holders who have been convicted of felonious crimes committed while in office.
 - 31.5. More severe penalties for the theft of road signs.
 - 31.6. Elected officials and/or government employees being removed from office immediately when convicted of a felony in a court of original jurisdiction.
 - 31.7. Legislation to eliminate telemarketing fraud.
32. We oppose criminalization of unintentional environmental violators.
33. We recommend all emergency law enforcement responsibilities on government lands be contracted to local authorities where feasible.
34. We oppose state and county environmental officers carrying handguns and having arrest powers.
35. We support strong enforcement and prosecution of recently enacted scrap metal laws by those agencies empowered with this responsibility.
36. With regard to the sale of non-ferrous metals we support:
 - 36.1A mandatory permit system for all sellers of non-ferrous metals;
 - 36.2The creation of a state commission to permit and regulate the scrap metal buyers and perform monthly inspections of records;
 - 36.3Mandatory payment by check, only after a 30-day waiting period; and
 - 36.4Cooperation with neighboring state legislatures and law enforcement to prevent the sale of stolen metals across state lines.
37. We support including pawn shops in the "LeadsOnline" that scrap metal dealers currently do.
38. We support legislation allowing Arkansas to create and enforce its own laws dealing with illegal immigration.
39. Victims' rights resolution
 - 39.1. We support:
 - 39.1.1. The right of the victim to be heard at any court proceedings involving evidence or testimony at the proceeding regardless the age of accused.
 - 39.1.2. The right of the victim to be notified of any proceedings involving release, pleas, sentencing, or any parole proceedings.
 - 39.1.3. The right of the victim for fair treatment and compensation with fairness and respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.
40. We support legislation to ban production or use of recreational marijuana in the state of Arkansas.
41. We support a felony charge for anyone taking pictures to be used in a libelous manner on a farm or in a plant.
42. There is a growing need for more help and services on community and county projects. For example, cleanup programs on public property and the removal of trash, etc., from such property.
43. We recommend community service be required more often as punishment for those that are convicted of breaking laws.
44. We support a constitutional amendment to allow counties to abolish the office of constable within their respective counties.
45. We support legislation to hold pawn shops and scrap yards accountable for receiving stolen goods and items to be returned free of charge to the owner.
46. We request that the prosecuting attorney's office consult with proper law enforcement officials to determine restitution to crime victims and insurance companies in all cases involving theft or destruction of property. We support full restitution before plea bargaining or imposition of sentence.

1. We favor the present system of appointing Public Service Commissioners.
2. We place a high priority on opposition to the use of demand meters to establish electric rates for agricultural users.
3. All advertising by utilities should be at the stockholders' expense and not at the users' expense.
4. Maintaining utilities' graduated rate system is of vital importance to the agricultural economy, and we favor continuation of this concept in utility rates.
5. We oppose energy companies charging consumers for power generation construction. Construction should be financed by capital investment. Only when a facility is in production should its cost be passed on to consumers.
6. We recommend the Public Service Commission (PSC) be required to appraise all public utility holdings at fair market value and that it require companies to assess all new facilities each year.
7. We oppose any rate increase to fund any out-of-state utility.
8. We recommend state laws be passed to adopt procedures to allow for countywide toll-free phone service and the procedures be implemented by the PSC.
9. Actions are needed to prevent excess charges added to phone bills by local access phone companies. We urge the PSC to address this situation in Arkansas.
10. Since the local phone systems connect their 900 system without permission, the phone companies should be required to block the system without charge to the consumer of their services. We should work with the necessary state regulatory agency to get this charge removed.
11. We recommend legislation requiring utility companies to dispose of brush as it is cut.
12. We urge utility companies, when acquiring easements, to work with landowners to minimize loss of productive land.
13. We support:
 - 13.1. Legislation regulating underground utility depth. The responsibility of maintenance and monitoring of existing utilities should fall on the utility company and general field preparation should be exempt from any liability.
 - 13.2. Regulations requiring any entity installing underground utilities on any agricultural land to set aside the topsoil and the topsoil be restored to the type and depth it was prior to the installation of the underground utilities.
 - 13.3. The PSC requiring all public utilities to keep buried lines from being placed in the bottom or on the side of drainage and roadway ditches.
 - 13.4. Giving regulatory authority for LP gas prices, except that used in motor vehicles, to the PSC.
14. We recommend power lines, cable TV lines, and other lines have an ample height for modern farm equipment at entrances to fields, and additional height should be required when lines pass over working areas or grain load out areas near fields. Modern farm equipment requires 19.5 ft.; therefore, we ask that lines be a minimum of 20 ft. at entrances and working areas in fields.
15. We oppose deregulation of electricity.
16. We should closely monitor the deregulation of retail electric service to protect the interests of farmers and all small users.
17. As electric utility restructuring occurs, we support the following provisions:
 - 17.1. The consumer must be protected from burdensome cost shifting, unauthorized switching of service, and, most importantly, from decreased reliability and safety;
 - 17.2. The infrastructure must not be duplicated. Distribution territories must be maintained under the current structure to ensure that cost shifting to lower density rural customers cannot happen; and
 - 17.3. The access to high-voltage transmission systems must be open and equally accessible to all electricity suppliers so that true competition can take place.
18. We support amending Act 1556 of 1999, the Electric Consumer Choice Act, to specify two additional conditions the PSC could consider as reasons to delay the start of competition:
 - 18.1. A demonstratively effective market structure exists; and
 - 18.2. There is a reasonable chance for all consumer classes to realize cost savings before competition could commence.
19. We support:
 - 19.1. The Telecommunications Regulatory Reform Act and believe it offers a response to the federal mandate that is in the best interest of the citizens of rural Arkansas.
 - 19.2. Regulations requiring utility companies to notify landowners prior to spraying utility rights-of-way and advise the landowners of

- what they will be spraying and of any restrictions on the use of that chemical.
20. We recommend that local (in-state) television network broadcasts be included in cable and satellite programs available to rural Arkansans.
 21. We support legislation requiring all communications providers to upgrade their services (high-speed Internet) to better serve all customers.
 22. We recommend making statewide broadband and good quality cellular service a top priority. We encourage telecommunications companies to work together to improve cellular services in rural Arkansas.
 23. We support an affordable rural broadband Internet access that is not limited by the amount of megabytes that can be downloaded in a 24-hour period.
 24. We urge our legislators to require phone and internet providers, who receive federal funds to improve service to rural communities, provide the same quality service of reliability and speed connectivity that larger towns and cities are provided.
 25. We support the efforts of rural electric cooperatives and other utility companies to provide broadband internet service to rural communities.
 26. We recommend providing the same Internet service opportunities to K-12 institutions as is now being provided to higher education and hospitals.
 27. We favor keeping research availability funds for rural broadband connection development.
 28. State government and the Department of Rural Services should work closely to help promote improved rural water systems, broadband and telephone services, and natural gas.
 29. We support:
 - 29.1. A system allowing excess power generated by private sources be allowed onto the grid with compensation at a reasonable rate.
 - 29.2. Tax credits for alternative energy and that power companies be required to purchase all excess electricity from the farmer.
 - 29.3. Legislation to assure tenant farm operations receive a share of crop loss or crop damage from oil and gas pipeline companies and other utilities rights-of-way in proportion to their share of crop rent, in accordance with their rental agreement.
 30. Understanding the importance of the production and distribution of electrical energy from renewable sources, we support efforts to convert

wind energy to a reliable electrical supply and accept the need to transmit this generated energy from areas of efficient production to areas of usage demand. However, we strongly oppose the placement of electrical transmission lines through areas of natural scenic value, areas recognized as important migratory fowl habitat, and areas of agricultural production highly dependent on precise aerial application.

INSURANCE

164

1. We recommend employer's liability insurance rather than worker's compensation for farm workers.
2. We oppose legislation that would eliminate the farmer exemption under the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Act.
3. Government regulations should not force insurance companies to write lines they are unfamiliar with to satisfy social needs.
4. We oppose mandatory county-wide flood insurance.
5. Laws should be designed to protect policyholders, but not make it prohibitive for insurance companies to prosecute for suspected arson.
6. We support mandatory automobile liability insurance.
7. We recommend:
 - 7.1. Impoundment of the vehicle of an uninsured motorist after it is involved in an automobile accident. The vehicle should be released only after all damages are paid by the uninsured motorist.
 - 7.2. Any driver caught without liability insurance a second time (i.e., buying insurance for one month and then dropping the insurance) must prepay a non-refundable insurance premium for one year.
8. We request access by law enforcement officers to the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration database to replace proof-of-insurance cards located in vehicles.
9. We support repeal of the law that forces solvent insurance companies to pay off claims of insolvent ones.
10. Non-admitted companies should not be allowed to participate in the current guaranty fund. These non-admitted companies should have their own guaranty fund.
11. We support reasonable efforts to reform the civil justice system (tort reform) to curb rising cost of liability insurance.

12. We oppose legislation that would authorize prejudgment interest.
13. We support legislation requiring plaintiff's legal counsel to reimburse defendant's legal fees when the judgment is in defendant's favor.
14. No person's insurance should be terminated because of age.
15. The Insurance Service Office should increase its monitoring of rural fire departments, and the Class-9 rating should continue to be recognized by insurance companies.
16. To provide greater service to their member customers, rural fire departments should find underwriters who, in conjunction with the Farm Bureau insurance companies, will develop and offer a broad-based program for insurance needs of Arkansas rural fire departments. They should seek legislation to exempt volunteer rural fire departments from liability suits.
17. Legislation should not require insurance companies to check if fire department subscription dues are paid prior to renewal of an insurance policy.
18. A method should be explored to pay volunteer fire departments for calls to fight fires on rights-of-way along highways.
19. Insurance policyholders should be informed of how much state tax is being paid on insurance premiums.
20. We support:
 - 20.1. Strict enforcement of the law that makes it illegal for a lending institution to require an individual to purchase insurance greater than the value of the insured buildings, not including the value of any land.
 - 20.2. Insurance regulation by the state, rather than the federal government.
21. To bring down costs and return stability to liability insurance, we support:
 - 21.1. Arkansas limiting claims awarded by judges or juries to \$250,000 for punitive damages;
 - 21.2. Strengthening the legal concept of "fault" as a basis to determine damages;
 - 21.3. Controlling expert testimony;
 - 21.4. Eliminating "joint and several liability;"
 - 21.5. Limiting non-economic damages;
 - 21.6. Paying large awards for future damages in installments;
 - 21.7. Eliminating double recovery;
 - 21.8. Limiting attorney fees; and
 - 21.9. Encouraging alternatives to lawsuits.
22. We encourage development of laws to protect the landowner and farm tenant from frivolous lawsuits arising out of leased recreational use.
23. We urge insurance companies to develop voluntary producer protection for non-payment of commodities and livestock pursuant to a fair premium paid by the producer.
24. We support:
 - 24.1. Legislation to allow property and casualty insurance companies not to renew risks that are unprofitable, to reduce costs for all consumers.
 - 24.2. Legislation that grants immunity from civil liability when conducting business on behalf of nonprofit organizations and government entities.
 - 24.3. Legislation requiring state and local investigating police to mail or fax a copy of accident reports to the respective parties or their insurance representatives within five business days.
25. We oppose:
 - 25.1. The sale in Arkansas of equity indexed annuities as they are not in the best interest of the investor.
 - 25.2. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010; however, if found constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court, the health care exchange should be administered by the state.
26. We oppose the state taking funds out of the guarantee fund that are not for intended use. We support requiring the state to replenish funds taken from the guarantee fund.

ENERGY

165

1. We encourage education programs and incentives to promote sound energy conservation programs.
2. Oil and gas operations should leave land in near-original condition. Just damages should be paid to landowners.
3. We should investigate the significant differences in LP gas prices existing along boundaries of states contiguous to Arkansas.
4. We support:
 - 4.1. Policy that assures adequate energy supplies for production, harvesting, processing and transporting agricultural commodities. Use of renewable energy resources, alternate fuel sources, recycling and conservation should be the basis of any energy policy.
 - 4.2. Development and distribution of natural gas to all rural areas of Arkansas.
 - 4.3. An agricultural exemption from the requirement of holding a dealer's license for

- the wholesale purchase of liquid petroleum gas.
- 4.4. Expanded usage of natural gas as an alternative fuel source.
- 4.5. Increased availability of natural gas in poultry-producing areas as a cost-savings.
- 4.6. The concept of bundled services for agriculture producers at reduced rates.
- 4.7. Studies on the feasibility of solar, wind and hydro power generation in Arkansas.
- 4.8. The wise development of local natural resources in a way that benefits Arkansas citizens without endangering the public health or environment (e.g., lignite mining in south Arkansas).
- 4.9. A diverse base load electrical generation system that includes coal, natural gas, hydroelectric and nuclear sources.
- 5. We encourage creating a program to provide low-interest, easily attainable loans to help defray the cost of implementation of alternative energy systems used in agriculture.
- 3. Land should only be taken out of production or restricted from production because of real, legitimate environmental problems. In these situations, owners and producers should be justly compensated. Agriculture exemptions for "prior converted wetlands" should be protected.
- 4. Farmers should have the right to clean out ditches and fence rows on their own property.
- 5. We support:
 - 5.1. Landowners' access to streams — and if access is denied and fencing is required, landowners should be compensated for the highest and best use of the land.
 - 5.2. Restriction of any new wetlands designations until the various agencies involved can agree on a definition of what constitutes a "wetland."
- 6. We oppose passage of any state wetlands legislation that restricts landowner rights.
- 7. We support legislation to protect property rights of landowners and the freedom to farm our land. We oppose legislation infringing on the rights of private property owners.

EMINENT DOMAIN AND PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

166

- 1. We oppose state wetlands legislation and regulations that are more restrictive than federal legislation and regulations. We favor compensation to the owners of private property who are deprived of the free use of that property through "wetlands" restrictions. We support a more cooperative approach to wetlands management. Any state-wide wetlands legislation should be voluntary, incentive-based and carefully studied to determine need and economic impact. Land that has a history of being farmed for years should be exempt from these regulations.
- 2. We support legislation to monetarily compensate private landowners in an amount that would exceed at least two times the current market value of the property as a one-time non-taxable reimbursement for each rule, regulation, or action placed on said property that adds a cost to; changes a use of; or limits a potential use of property that was not in place at the time the property was purchased or contractually agreed to be purchased by the owner, by any level of or agency acting in lieu of the government. This legislation would be in effect from the moment passed and would not replace the current eminent domain laws or prohibit the defense of the United States from a credible threat of attack by a foreign enemy.
- 8. Certain property rights and ownerships may be transferred to individuals or entities through fraud. The rightful owner may not be aware of such action for several months or years. Examples of such legal instruments are the right to ingress and egress (easements), mineral rights and mortgages. We recommend cooperating with the state legislature, officials/agencies to require the county circuit clerk to notify by certified/registered mail the rightful property owners when such instruments are filed.
- 9. We believe the rights of property owners should be protected by specific state statute.
- 10. Notification should be given to surface owners, mineral interests and adjacent property landowners when property is surveyed.
- 11. We oppose any attempts to weaken current provisions protecting private property rights.
- 12. We support the establishment of parameters to control the use of eminent domain for natural gas gathering lines.
- 13. As more natural gas is extracted in the state a cohesive and reasonable set of rules to protect surface owners should be established.
- 14. In all eminent domain transactions, consideration must be made of the value of the property, replacement costs, relocation expenses, and the loss of income during the replacement/relocation period.
- 15. We oppose the taking of private property under the guise of general project titles.

16. If any entity, private or public, has used eminent domain to build and/or maintain a pipeline, the Public Service Commission (PSC) should have oversight of products sold and transferred by those lines. The public should be served with those products originally slated to be handled. Any addition or deletion should be approved by the PSC.
17. We recommend that Arkansas laws on eminent domain be reviewed and strengthened by more strictly defining the term "public use" to exclude items such as private property seizure that would be transferred to other private entities.
18. Eminent domain laws need to be used for public use, and, further, clearly define what constitutes "public use" and "blight." It should not be used for private development, such as the Southwest Trail or other recreational trails or uses.
19. We strongly support Act 1002 Private Property Protection Act and Act 1101 (to establish a bill of rights for a property owner) of the 90th Arkansas General Assembly and advocate for the effective implementation and enforcement of their provisions. We further recommend the enactment and enhancement of legislation designed to protect and promote landowners and tenants rights in eminent domain proceedings, including robust procedural safeguards and substantive requirements for just and adequate compensation, mitigation, reclamation, performance bonding and freedom from liability for landowners or tenants for any inadvertent breakage or disruption of service on any lines, cables or pipelines.
20. We oppose the United States Department of Energy's use of Section 1222 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to site an electric energy transmission facility without the approval of relevant state authorities, including specifically any effort to use federal eminent domain to condemn private property for the benefit of private entities.
21. No government or government agency endowed with the right of eminent domain should ever take private property by adverse possession as occurred in the case of Hatchie Coon Hunting and Fishing Club (State of Arkansas vs. Hatchie Coon Hunting and Fishing Club).
22. We urge legislation directing that eminent domain be used only as a measure of last resort and that full compensation be paid to all parties granting easements across their land. Insofar as possible, any land taken as easement should be returned to its previous productive capability.
23. We oppose the use of eminent domain procedures to condemn land for private easements.
24. We recommend limiting the sovereign immunity doctrine to prohibit the government from taking any property without just compensation. Compensation should include loss of present and future income, caused by government taking of property.
25. Legislation should be enacted to require state agencies to review state regulations and laws for their possible impact on private property rights. If the use or value of private property is diminished in any respect by legislation or regulation, the property owner should be adequately compensated.
26. We recommend a system be devised where property rights infringement cases in each county can be documented and forwarded to the Arkansas Farm Bureau Center to be catalogued for future reference.
27. We support legislation that would protect innocent private property owners from property confiscation in the event that illegal substances are found, stored, or growing on private property without the landowner's knowledge or consent.
28. No property shall be taken from the landowner prior to ruling by the court.
29. We support legislation to establish a time limit that requires court action or dismissal in "takings" of private property for any reason.
30. We recommend all environmental regulations be supported by scientific data. Native plant and animal habitat should be proved to be endangered before right-to-farm and/or private property rights are lost. We should continue to be aggressive in securing legislation to obtain compensation for land taken out of productive use to solve environmental problems whether real or perceived.
31. Private property rights and economic impact should receive primary consideration before the Endangered Species Act is enforced or applied. Compensation for loss of use of private property should be mandatory.
32. Cattle should be able to wade water, cross streams and stand in lakes or ponds on private property. We oppose mandatory fencing of streams unless scientific evidence proves that livestock are contributing to nitrate or phosphorus buildup to a level harmful to fish and wildlife.
33. We support:

- 33.1. Legislation to not hold landowners/lessors liable for actions of lessees on lands leased for hunting and other recreational purposes.
- 33.2. Abandoned wells, dump sites, and other environmentally problematic areas be disclosed to a new purchaser of property.
- 33.3. Legislation requiring all registered land surveyors to notify landowners involved in a pending survey of real property.
- 33.4. Legislation to require any taking of land for riparian zones by counties, or any other agencies, be forbidden before personally notifying, in writing, all property owners who can be identified based upon the county tax roll. The letter shall consist of the owner's land to be affected, and the time, place, and date of the public hearing in bold print. A map outlining the riparian zones shall be included. This shall be required a minimum of one year prior to enacting any ordinance or regulations. Taking of land shall include taking by zoning regulations.
- 34. We oppose:
 - 34.1. Sharing of information gathered from farms by precision agriculture technology without stated permission from landowners and/or tenants of that property.
 - 34.2. Videography and still photography taken in any matter of farmland or personal property without producer consent being utilized in litigation or malicious intent against the producer and/or the property owner.
- 35. We support a single crop year statute of limitations on all agricultural data whether owned by a producer or contained and stored in a data cloud collected by third-party software.
- 36. We support statute of limitations to protect agriculture business from frivolous lawsuits.
- 37. We propose state legislation be enacted to assure that tenant farm operations receive a share of crop loss or crop damage from oil and gas pipeline companies and other utilities right-of-way in proportion to their share of crop rent, in accordance with their rental agreement.
- 38. We support ensuring efficient farm access by maintaining existing crossroads when eminent domain or condemnation projects divide existing farming operations.

RIGHT-TO-WORK AND LABOR

167

- 1. We support the Right-to-Work Amendment.
- 2. We suggest government agencies act to prevent strikes, secondary boycotts, and interruptions of

- transportation to ensure the smooth flow of agricultural products from producers to markets.
- 3. We recommend Farm Bureau educate its membership as to the (I-9) form requirements.
- 4. We support the right of individuals to hire or not hire whomever they choose.
- 5. We oppose any law which restricts an employer's right to full background information on prospective employees.
- 6. We favor legal immigration of workers during periods of high need.
- 7. We support the American Agriculture Technical Institute program to train farm machinery operators to create a better-trained agricultural labor force and produce higher-paying jobs.
- 8. We oppose:
 - 8.1. Increasing the adverse wage effect pertaining to agricultural employment.
 - 8.2. Any effort to restrict family members from working on family farms.
- 9. We support educational exemptions to current child labor regulations.
- 10. We recommend the rules be changed to allow the Arkansas Forestry Commission to hire former employees in temporary positions.
- 11. We favor retired first responders be allowed to continue to assist the public in times of emergencies as long as they continue their education like current requirements. This keeps them abreast of the latest techniques used today for safety and response efficiency.
- 12. We support requiring the state to have individuals available to administer the driving portion of the driver's test in Spanish for H-2A workers.
 - 12.1. We support allowing producers to request a new drivers' licenses for H-2A workers after they pass the initial test for up to 5 years.

FIREARMS

168

- 1. The U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to keep and bear arms. Any law that limits or controls in any way this right infringes on the rights of honest citizens. We oppose any legislation that would limit these rights with a waiting period, gun registration or licensing, except for fully automatic weapons.
- 2. We support mandatory imprisonment of those convicted of a felony involving use of firearms.
- 3. Firearm manufacturers should not be held liable in the event of illegal use of their firearms.
- 4. To preserve the hunting culture and pass it to future generations, we support youth firearms and hunting education programs that teach firearm safety, ethics and outdoor skills, when the program

utilizes instructors who are certified by accredited organizations.

5. We oppose any additional expansion of taxes or new taxation specific to firearms, ammunition or reloading equipment and supplies.
6. We support the right of private citizens to keep and bear arms without being subjected to special taxation.
7. We support an enhanced concealed carry permit offered to all concealed carry holders. The enhanced carry permit would allow individuals the option to carry guns at schools, courthouses and other places in the public domain after proper training is completed. Training must equal or exceed law enforcement training. An enhanced concealed carry permit would allow for additional public places to be protected.
8. We support the removal of sound suppressors from the National Firearms Act, and the \$200 tax stamp be removed.

TRESPASSING

169

1. We support establishing trespass policy as a priority.
 2. We recommend enhanced enforcement of trespassing laws to prevent anyone entering onto farm property without the owner's/operator's permission because of, but not limited to, biosecurity concerns.
 3. We consider all private lands to be posted.
 4. We support legislation requiring individuals to possess written permission from the landowners before entering the property, and a stiff penalty be imposed on violators by local law enforcement agencies.
 5. Arkansas Game & Fish Commission personnel and/or local law enforcement agencies should be authorized to enforce trespass laws.
 6. Property owners should not be legally liable for trespassers' accidents.
 7. We should undertake an educational campaign to make people aware that private property is not public property and that trespassers infringe on the rights of landowners. This should be included in AG&FC's hunter's educational programs.
 8. AG&FC should continue to publish the laws concerning trespassing in their hunting and fishing guide.
 9. We recommend privately owned forests remain eligible for posting.
 10. We vigorously oppose any legislation that would allow individual or public access to or through private property without permission of the property owner or authorized agent.
11. We support legislation that would prohibit deceptive practices by employees, contractors or other individuals that invade privacy rights, such as unauthorized photography or recordings.
 12. We favor:
 - 12.1. Action by the Arkansas Legislature to reduce rural crime, either through strengthening trespass laws or increasing penalties for vandalism and theft of property.
 - 12.2. A waiver of landowner's "duty of care" law, where any person entering the land of another for the purpose of camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, dog training, or cutting or removing firewood for such person's use for a consideration, may waive in writing the landowner's duty of care to such person for injuries that arise provided that such waiver does not limit liability for gross negligence, or willful or wanton conduct, or for a failure to warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure, or activity.
 13. We support requiring wrecker/towing companies to provide driver information, vehicle information number, etc., to property owners or tenants and/or law enforcement when the removal of a trespass vehicle impacts private property, such as releasing livestock from fence areas and damaging fences.
 14. We should develop model lease-and-hold-harmless agreements for the leasing of land for recreational and commercial use. The development of such documents is needed to protect the landowner and the farm tenant from frivolous lawsuits from such uses.
 15. Any information gathered by UAVs without written permission of the landowner shall not be admissible in court of law and any damages shall be paid by the owner or operator of the UAV.
 16. The use of UAVs over private property should be considered trespassing.
 17. We support legislation to limit the use of aerial photography of private property without the property owner's permission.
 18. We support stricter penalties for trespassing and theft from private property.

NUISANCE SUITS

170

1. We continue to support laws that would prevent nuisance lawsuits against established farm operations.
2. Recognizing the sensitive and complex problems surrounding odor complaints and similar issues, we

recommend that disputes or complaints regarding new confinement type operations, as well as all approved applications of animal waste and other forms of nutrients be resolved by local courts instead of by regulatory action.

3. When frivolous nuisance claims are made, individuals and/or groups should compensate both the farmer and the state or federal agency involved in such action.
4. We support:
 - 4.1. A minimum \$500 dollar fine against individuals when repeated claims are found to be unfounded or frivolous with the fine payable to the accused party.
 - 4.2. Legislation that makes the plaintiff responsible for court costs and defendant losses and attorney fees in suits in which the plaintiff loses, withdraws or the court rules as frivolous.
 - 4.3. The concept when an individual makes frivolous or unfounded claims against a farmer or agriculture that they be compelled to compensate both the farmer and state, or federal regulatory agency involved in investigating the claim.
5. We feel a maximum of one complaint per year that requires a state agency's investigation be allowed against any one agricultural entity concerning the same issue.

LITTERING

171

1. We recommend enforcement of litter laws.
2. We support:
 - 2.1. The Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission.
 - 2.2. Local and regional recycling centers.
 - 2.3. A comprehensive statewide recycling bill.
3. We recommend beverage and food containers be aluminum, returnable or biodegradable. We support requiring all disposable plastic supplies be made from biodegradable materials. We also encourage reuse of these materials by the industry that produced them.
4. We support the use of brown paper or reusable bags in place of plastic bags.
5. A minimum deposit of 10 cents should be required on all beverage bottles or cans.
6. A state law should be adopted prohibiting the sale of beverages in non-returnable glass.
7. We support strict enforcement of litter and dumping laws, with a minimum \$500 fine, and compensation to the landowners for clean-up and encourage easier ways for a citizen to report littering.

8. We favor an education program on littering to begin in elementary schools.
9. We favor the use of incarcerated persons for litter cleanup on roads.
10. We support legislation which would free the landowner of liability for unauthorized dumping of hazardous refuse such as paint cans, tires, batteries, illegal drug residue and pesticide containers.
11. We recommend better enforcement of the law requiring that refuse transported on public roads be covered by a tarpaulin (or similar device) to avoid littering.
12. We support private hauling of garbage in rural areas.
13. We recommend a countywide "cleanup day" be organized one to two times each year. This should include the removal of discarded tires, weeds, trash and other unsightly debris. An incentive to participate should be free dumping at landfills, free pick-ups at designated points plus transporting to landfills.
14. We recommend Farm Bureau develop a producer education package and posters to help reduce the agriculture waste products such as: feed sacks, mineral tub covers, empty spray jugs and net wrap falling off of or out of vehicles and ending up on the shoulder of the road.

FAIRS

172

1. We support:
 - 1.1. Arkansas' system of state, district and county fairs and equitable distribution of state premium funds at each level.
 - 1.2. Inspection of health papers of livestock at state, district and county fairs.
 - 1.3. Continued funding of district Junior Spring Livestock Shows.
 - 1.4. The Livestock & Poultry Commission's minimum standards for receiving funds for premium and construction purposes.
 - 1.5. The following guidelines for the Arkansas Livestock & Poultry Commission for livestock exhibition health requirements:
 - 1.5.1. Uniform interpretation of health requirements be used statewide;
 - 1.5.2. Dissemination of health requirements for livestock exhibits be made available through county agents in more than adequate time prior to county fair catalogue publication deadline;

- 1.5.3. L&PC technicians be assigned to assist with testing livestock to meet said health requirements or standards;
 - 1.5.4. Health requirements for county fairs be made congruent with other state health regulations; and
 - 1.5.5. Health requirements for county fairs should encourage rather than discourage participation.
2. We support:
 - 2.1. Increased state funding levels for county and district fair premiums and construction.
 - 2.2. An increase in county fair capital improvement funds distributed on an individual fair basis; not on a county basis.
 3. We oppose the use of surgical procedures, drug administration or any other practice not considered ordinary and customary in the training, preparation, or presentation of livestock for exhibition. We support efforts to promote the Livestock Showring Code of Ethics.
 4. We support efforts by the Arkansas State Fair to increase participation in the spring livestock show and to request funds from the Arkansas Legislature for this purpose.

RIVER PORTS

173

1. We favor new ports and updating of existing ports to improve river transportation.
2. We encourage the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commence a study on determining new locations and purposes for ports along the Arkansas River.
3. We support efforts to make the Red River navigable from Shreveport, La., to Index, Ark., and further development of the lower White River for navigation and transportation and restoration of annual dredging.
4. Barge loading terminals should provide bonded weights to shippers.
5. We oppose the U.S. Corps of Engineers taking higher water-level easements in the Arkansas River Valley for the purpose of raising the river level.
6. We support:
 - 6.1. Efforts to certify the Arkansas River to a 12-foot draft.
 - 6.2. The creation of a Regional Inter-modal Transportation Authority (RITA) in central Arkansas to develop the resources of the Arkansas River for agriculture and other industry needs.

- 6.3. Establishment of the Port of Newport, continued development of the navigation of the upper White River, and updated maintenance of the channel by the corp. or engineers.

HEALTH & WELFARE

174

1. We support:
 - 1.1. The State Rural Health and Safety Advisory Task Force's search for affordable and dependable health insurance.
 - 1.2. Strict compliance with regulations for unemployment compensation.
 - 1.3. Federal and state workfare programs to help recipients become self-supporting through training programs.
2. We recommend the state legislature give serious consideration to major welfare reform.
3. We encourage vigorous educational efforts to inform youth, parents and others about the harmful effects of drug and alcohol abuse.
4. We support:
 - 4.1. Efforts and incentives to improve rural health care delivery systems.
 - 4.2. A campaign to promote organ donor registration within the Farm Bureau membership.
5. We continue to support efforts to train family physicians who intend to practice in rural areas, and provide economic inducements at state and local levels for doctors to practice there. We should help get adequate funding for the Rural Practice Loan and Scholarship Program and the Community Match Rural Physician Recruitment Program.
6. We favor individuals having access to doctors' records from medical practitioners' data bank before surgery.
7. We recommend support for the Arkansas Medical MENTOR/MASH Partnership.
8. We support the Arkansas Department of Human Services' Medicaid "managed care" plan to help cut unnecessary costs.
9. We oppose any mandate that employers pay health care premiums.
10. We should work toward a statewide small business health insurance plan.
11. We favor helping rural communities explore ways to make local telemedicine available as an affordable option for communications, education and medical services.
12. We support:

- 12.1. Methods of competition among private systems of health care coverage and financing.
- 12.2. Working with physicians practicing in rural communities to establish leadership or consensus regarding positions on medical issues of concern to rural Arkansas.
- 12.3. Closely monitoring managed care systems in rural Arkansas. The goal of the system should be the good health and welfare of the patient, and the affordability of and access to health care.
- 12.4. Efforts to adequately fund the Rural Health Services Revolving Fund to assist rural communities to provide medical care.
- 12.5. Legislation that would eliminate welfare assistance programs and government pensions for convicted felons during incarceration, excluding benefits to support family during such time.
13. We recommend participants receiving assistance for state welfare programs be tested for illegal drug use, and if found positive, be denied benefits for a prescribed period of time.
14. We support:
 - 14.1. State, federal, and private efforts to achieve the best possible reimbursement provisions to keep rural services of providers, hospitals, and other facilities viable.
 - 14.2. Legislation that would continue funding to ensure our rural hospitals continue to operate.
 - 14.3. "middle-ground" solutions where patients can choose their own desired balance of access and affordability, while being assured of quality care from a health care provider.
15. We strongly urge that the state determine and implement measures within the Department of Human Services in leadership, competency in management, integrity to services, and confidence and trust among the citizens of Arkansas.
16. We oppose any increase in mandated coverage in health insurance and should work toward reducing the number of dictated components. We support the 100 percent deduction for individual health insurance premiums.
17. We support legislation to use Arkansas' share of the national tobacco lawsuit settlement for medically related purposes, especially for underserved rural communities and guard against the funds becoming "general purpose" use.
18. We encourage:
 - 18.1. Legislative action to prohibit health insurance carriers from requiring new underwriting approval for new plans. All existing policyholders should be eligible for any new plans available, without underwriting, pre-existing condition restrictions or exclusions.
 - 18.2. Continued work toward equitable health care and health insurance costs.
19. We support:
 - 19.1. The Arkansas Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability Initiative.
 - 19.2. Efforts to increase the availability of Arkansas nurses and nurse educators.
20. We request priority be given to developing legislation to increase the quality of nursing home care and increase nursing home administration accountability. We support strengthened enforcement of existing laws/regulations; improved standards of quality care; and an increase in required education for certification of nursing home staff.
21. We recommend Medicaid-assisted patients be allowed to accumulate monies for funeral expenses after being admitted to nursing home facilities.
22. We strongly urge UAMS administrators and faculty to provide leadership in building an attitude of high esteem and support for family physicians.
23. We support:
 - 23.1. The continuation of existing standards that consider students' residence (by congressional district) for UAMS admission.
 - 23.2. Maintaining sufficient funding of the Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) so they are able to carry out their teaching mission.
 - 23.3. Strengthening the partnership between Arkansas Farm Bureau and the UAMS Rural Medicine Student Leadership Association to help facilitate those students' interest in rural practice.
 - 23.4. Expansion of the UAMS College of Medicine to help with the shortage of physicians in the state.
 - 23.5. Reimbursement levels sufficient to maintain critical-access hospitals.
 - 23.6. Requiring insurers to combine small insurance pools into single larger ones when the number of people leaving a pool by cancellation or nonrenewal exceed the number of new people entering a pool, because this results in increased insurance costs to those remaining in the pool (i.e., death spiral, health insurance policies).

24. We recommend health insurance providers screen applications for health insurance taking into account some individuals manage and monitor their health more extensively than others.
25. We support reform of the "closed block of business" risk management strategy for individual health insurance.
26. Arkansas Farm Bureau should do more to provide reasonable health care education to its members and other Arkansans.
27. Arkansas Farm Bureau recognizes the public health benefits of water fluoridation, however we oppose any legislative mandates requiring water districts to add fluoride to treated water supplies. We support education for proper oral health measures and water fluoridation using our publications to help educate the public.
28. We support:
 - 28.1. A statewide trauma system with equitable funding sources and services to include rural Arkansas.
 - 28.2. Changing the state emergency medical services protocol to require transporting patients to the most appropriate medical facility, not simply the nearest.
 - 28.3. The use of advance practice nurses and physician assistants to fill the need of healthcare providers in rural areas.
 - 28.4. An effort to organize the 911 system in Arkansas into a coordinated statewide system and modernized to meet the needs of local government.
29. We recommend the ARKids First program of Medicaid avoid discriminating against anyone due to family income. Such a system should include a tiered income-based premium structure.
30. We recommend greater coordination between "air evacuation" services to avoid subscriber issues of paying fees to multiple entities that provide coverage to the same area. Allowances should be made to account for any subscriber-rate differences.

SAFETY 175

1. We commend the farm safety programs sponsored by Farm Bureau and other agricultural agencies for their educational value in reducing farm-related accidents.
2. We discourage any passengers on farm vehicles designed for one operator only.
3. Due to the increased number of injuries and fatalities caused by all-terrain vehicles, we urge use

- of available safety programs by all Farm Bureau members.
4. We urge the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America be encouraged to develop an ATV training course for children.
 5. We support:
 - 5.1. Legislation that would make it illegal to misuse slow-moving-vehicle signs.
 - 5.2. More informational and pre-season training for workers who will be handling pesticides. All employees should be required to register their attendance in order to protect the farmer's liability.
 - 5.3. We support the Arkansas State Police drunk-driving simulation program.
 6. We oppose severe penalties for failure to comply with the new Worker Protection Standards.
 7. We support changes in the Worker Protection Act to reduce the impact on farmers.
 8. The Worker Protection Act should be modified so that "personal protective equipment" regulations are more reasonable. We feel some rules are not economically practical. When protective equipment is furnished and workers have been given proper information and training, the employer should not be held liable for employees' failure to use equipment provided.
 9. We support requirements that flashing lights must be installed and operational on the front and back of bicycles traveling on county, city, state and federal highways.

EARTHQUAKE EDUCATION 176

1. We support collection and dissemination of information about potential earthquake danger from the New Madrid Fault and how to prepare for and best survive such a disaster.

FOOD SAFETY 177

1. We support:
 - 1.1. A partnership with American Farm Bureau Federation to develop an aggressive campaign to inform the public about food safety.
 - 1.2. The continued development of educational programs to positively address the issue of food safety, including the proper preparation of food.
 - 1.3. Education on food storage, handling and preparation techniques that reduce the risk of human infection with salmonella, E-coli and other foodborne illnesses.

- 1.4. A more stringent industry accredited produce audit should suffice for a FSMA audit.
- 2. We should better publicize the availability of our food safety and animal agriculture programs.
- 3. More emphasis should be given to research to alleviate problems associated with pesticide residue.
- 4. We recommend the U.S. Food and Drug Administration require all packaged food products that contain oil be labeled to identify the oil and its origin.
- 5. There should be a requirement for labeling imported food products to indicate contents as well as country of origin.
- 6. We encourage coalition with other groups in support of improved labeling of all foreign and domestic agri products.
- 7. We support educating the food services industry on the dangers of Alpha-gal, the mammal meat food allergy.
 - 7.1. We support information being distributed through UAMS, Farm Bureau MASH camps and Farm Bureau publications (about the dangers of the Alpha-gal allergy).
- 8. We recommend strict enforcement of health rules and regulations governing public restaurants and buffet dining.
- 9. Packers should be allowed to sell across state lines when their standards meet or exceed the federal guidelines.
- 10. We support anti-terrorism legislation pertaining to food-producing entities.
- 11. We support food service companies to prove their food marketing claims by sound science.

DRAINAGE, LEVEE AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS 178

- 1. The Arkansas Legislature should amend existing statutory law to make majority approval by petition to the county court of the property owners within an existing or proposed drainage district or subdistrict the only means by which a district or subdistrict may be formed or assessment or reassessment placed upon property.
- 2. We support:
 - 2.1. Keeping drainage districts and levee systems under local control.
 - 2.2. We recommend that local levee boards be allowed to manage their levee systems with input from the county judges and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
 - 2.3. We recommend:
 - 2.3.1. That local levee board membership lists be available.

- 2.3.2. The boards maintain funding levels for minimum operations.
- 2.3.3. Complete financial audits done at appropriate times.
- 3. We recommend:
 - 3.1. A state coordinated multi-county approach to St. Francis River levee maintenance. Either the existing St. Francis Levee District, which is now responsible for the southern portion of the levees, should be expanded to the Missouri state line and be given responsibility for all St. Francis River levees in Arkansas, or a new levee district should be formed with responsibility for all St. Francis River levees north of the current St. Francis Levee District's responsibility.
 - 3.2. Legislation to require an existing or proposed drainage district or subdistrict to personally notify in writing all property owners who can be identified based upon the county tax rolls, within an existing or proposed district or subdistrict before an assessment or reassessment is placed upon property. The letter shall consist of the district's name, the names and addresses of the commissioners, the purpose of the letter (forming district or assessing the property and reasons why this is needed), the property owner's land to be affected, and the time, place, and date of the public hearing in bold print. A map outlining the district with identifiable landmarks should be included.
- 4. We urge the legislature to commission a study creating a means for two or more drainage districts to use funds together on a project that benefits those districts, though the project may be outside those districts.
- 5. We oppose double taxation on drainage districts.
- 6. We recommend an extensive study on updating and streamlining existing levee and drainage districts be done by the Arkansas legislature.

GENERAL

185

- 1. Farm Bureau is a growing organization. In addition to the membership being near an all-time high, the influence of the Farm Bureau is felt at all levels on important issues. Many of these issues are controversial in nature. Resolutions from the county Farm Bureaus that are approved in annual meetings give direction for the organization. It is the duty of the board of directors and staff to interpret and carry out resolutions when possible.

2. We commend the state board of directors and management for their diligent efforts in researching and evaluating possible ways to carry out policy for the benefit of the majority of the Farm Bureau membership. Their unselfish leadership and vision has been a key part in establishing the outstanding record of Farm Bureau. We encourage all county Farm Bureaus to support their efforts.
3. Farm Bureau policy, as set by the voting delegates, will remain policy until voting delegates meet to change it, according to Article 5, Section 3, of the Arkansas Farm Bureau bylaws.
4. We recommend our state board and staff study the options and viability of various electronic means of polling our voting delegate body as a natural progression to improve member services and communication through continued use of technology.
5. We support the National Day of Encouragement celebrated for the first time Sept. 12, 2007.
6. Arkansas holds a unique place in history of the opening of the American West by being home to the initial point of survey of the lands included in the Louisiana Purchase. Therefore, we support the establishment of the Louisiana Purchase bicentennial monument in Little Rock and encourage individual members, county Farm Bureaus and state federation to support this project in concept and financially.
7. We recommend Farm Bureau adopt a permanent patriot project mentorship program to support veterans and their efforts to embark on an agriculture career.

COMMENDATIONS

