

2024 POLICY BOOK




SOUTH DAKOTA
Farmers Union

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**LONG TERM PURPOSES AND POLICY PROGRAM OF
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION**

2024 PROGRAM AND POLICY STATEMENT OF THE
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION AS ADOPTED BY THE DELEGATES AT THE
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1, 2023

I. MISSION

Uniting family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities to strengthen South Dakota.

II. AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

A. Commodities

1. Commodity Research and Promotion Programs

a. Checkoff Programs

i. We will support research and promotion programs financed by deductions from the proceeds of sales by producers of agriculture commodities if the following criteria are met:

A. Checkoff Board Appointment

Producers affiliated with a foreign-owned entity should be prohibited from serving on a Checkoff board. United States Department of Agriculture should ensure that there is no conflict of interest among Checkoff board appointments.

B. That disbursement of funds collected is controlled by boards of all producers elected by the producers assessed.

C. The operations of the program are controlled by those producers' boards, excluding individuals with ties to foreign entities.

D. The programs are voluntary at the point of sale.

E. At least 75 percent of all collected checkoff dollars each year are spent.

b. National Beef Checkoff

i. We believe in beef checkoff reform.

ii. We urge the **National Farmers Union (NFU)** to act as a contracting agent of the National Beef Checkoff whenever possible.

iii. Imports should be excluded from the Checkoff collection and U.S. Beef Checkoff dollars should be used to promote U.S. beef only.

iv. We urge complete separation between the Beef Checkoff and the **National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA)**.

c. **South Dakota Beef Industry Council (SDBIC)**

i. We support at least three representatives from the **South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU)** on SDBIC.

ii. We urge the representation of the dairy cattle industry.

2. Marketing

a. We urge that appropriate steps be taken to establish federal protections for all agricultural commodities.

b. We support federal appropriations for grants-in-aid to state-operated programs of seed and fertilizer inspection, plant and livestock, pest disease eradication and control, forest fire prevention, market news and warehouse licensing, and other farmer and consumer protective and marketing services including those carried out by the **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** as well as by the **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**.

c. We support the **Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)** in enforcing existing laws, rules, and regulations and the CFTC denies any request for an increase in

1 the number of positions that may be held by
2 any individual trader.

3

4 **3. Grain**

5 a. Bonding

6 i. We urge continued monitoring of
7 bonding costs and a review of possible
8 alternatives.

9 ii. We support a study of bonding
10 requirements or other producer protection
11 methods undertaken by the South Dakota
12 **Public Utilities Commission (PUC)** because
13 of growing concerns that some elevators are
14 not bonded sufficiently to protect their
15 customers.

16 b. Inspection

17 i. We urge Congress to review the
18 adequacy of the grain inspection system with
19 an emphasis on prohibiting conflicts of
20 interest between inspectors and grain traders.

21 ii. We urge Congress to review the
22 adequacy of the grain inspection system with
23 emphasis on providing penalties for
24 noncompliance including revocation of
25 license, suspension of operations, fines,
26 and/or imprisonment. The export of grain
27 handling license of any firm found guilty of
28 adulteration of grain moving in international
29 trade should be revoked for n 10 years.

30 iii. We urge Congress to continue to
31 investigate grain companies as to the total
32 pricing system and any quality discounts
33 such as vomitoxin levels and scab.

34 c. Sale

35 i. We urge that an **equivalent bushel**
36 **concept (EBC)** be adopted, which can be
37 done by having a standard base moisture
38 level for each grain and the producer would
39 be paid for that level. This can be a deterrent
40 to the illegal practice of adding water to dry
41 grain, bringing it up to standard moisture
42 content.

43 ii. We ask Congress to enact legislation
44 making it illegal for major grain traders to sell
45 more grain than they owned during a delivery
46 month.

47 d. Protections

48 i. We support a contract grower's bill of
49 rights.

50 ii. We support the establishment and
51 enforcement of international grain standards
52 designed to protect the interests of
53 agricultural producers and consumers
54 throughout the world.

55 iii. Producers should have full flexibility
56 to make their own planting decisions.

57 iv. We support the validity of a farmer's
58 warehouse receipt as proof of his ownership
59 of stored grain in an elevator. We also
60 support legislation prohibiting the seizure of
61 said grain by elevator creditors upon
62 foreclosure of elevators.

63 v. We support grain pool indemnity
64 fund, as modeled after North Dakota.

65 vi. The funds would cover grain sales
66 and voluntary credit sales.

67 vii. The **Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve**
68 **(FOR)** should be restored and strengthened
69 to serve as an "ever-normal granary" for both
70 producers and consumers. The reserve
71 should be expanded to include all non-
72 perishable farm commodities and
73 strengthened to provide for at least one year's
74 consumption and a strategic feed grain
75 reserve dedicated to renewable energy
76 production.

77 viii. We support removing grain
78 regulations from the PUC, and to be
79 regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

80

81 **4. Specialty Crops**

82 a. We support growing specialty crops
83 including but not limited to fruits,
84 vegetables, dried fruits, nursery crops,
85 floriculture, and horticulture including turf
86 grass, sod, pulse, and herbal crops.

87 b. We support policy allowing South Dakota
88 Farmers to grow and process industrial
89 hemp under state law following federal
90 standards.

91

92

1 **5. Livestock**

- 2 a. Addressing large animal vet shortages
- 3 i. We support the expansion of large
- 4 animal vet degrees at universities and help
- 5 retain our graduating vets.
- 6 ii. We support vet techs being able to
- 7 perform veterinary practices under licensed
- 8 veterinary supervision
- 9 iii. We support the state's tuition
- 10 repayment program for large animal
- 11 veterinarians in rural areas.
- 12 b. Animal Welfare
- 13 i. We support continued cooperation
- 14 with other agricultural organizations to
- 15 combat misinformation and support good
- 16 animal husbandry practices.
- 17 ii. We support all efforts to refute anti-
- 18 meat campaigns. Farmers Union members
- 19 are urged to write letters and contact the
- 20 media with accurate information on the use
- 21 and benefits of all meats.
- 22 iii. We recommend South Dakota
- 23 Farmers Union members monitor the
- 24 activities of animal rights activists.
- 25 iv. We oppose the ideologies and
- 26 agendas of extremist organizations.
- 27 v. We favor the humane treatment of
- 28 animals; however, we urge caution in passing
- 29 laws regarding animal rights so that sound
- 30 management practices are not adversely
- 31 affected.
- 32 vi. We support agricultural industry-
- 33 established standards for the management,
- 34 care, and treatment of animals in agriculture,
- 35 commerce, and research.
- 36 c. Antibiotics
- 37 We believe **ionophores** should not be
- 38 defined as an antibiotic and all subsequent
- 39 research statistics should be defined as
- 40 separate entities.
- 41 d. Dairy
- 42 i. We support regional milk marketing
- 43 compacts provided they:
- 44 A. Address the price of all classes of
- 45 milk, not just Class I.

- 46 B. Set the compact price at the cost
- 47 of production.
- 48 ii. We support a dairy pricing system that
- 49 protects a profit margin.
- 50 iii. We understand health measures but
- 51 resist further consolidation and burdensome
- 52 restrictions on raw milk sales from on-farm
- 53 production to the public as long as adequate
- 54 labeling is provided.
- 55 iv. We support the family dairy industry
- 56 and statewide efforts for the continued
- 57 development of dairy production and
- 58 manufacturing.
- 59 e. Development
- 60 i. We promote the development of
- 61 livestock production in S.D. as a vital
- 62 component in maintaining a healthy
- 63 agricultural sector.
- 64 ii. We support the implementation of
- 65 anaerobic digesters at facilities that provide
- 66 green energy and will provide more efficient
- 67 fertilizer.
- 68 iii. We support the establishment of a
- 69 clean-up fund for large-scale livestock
- 70 facilities. Revenues should be collected
- 71 annually from operators of confinements
- 72 with 1,000 animal units or more and
- 73 deposited into a fund to provide for the clean-
- 74 up of wastes attributable to such facilities,
- 75 including newly closed or abandoned
- 76 facilities.
- 77 f. Marketing
- 78 We support the following efforts and
- 79 programs aimed at increasing the farmer's
- 80 and rancher's share of the consumer's meat
- 81 dollar:
- 82 i. Development of farmer and rancher-
- 83 owned and local or regional meat packing
- 84 and retail cooperatives
- 85 ii. Continuous monitoring of livestock
- 86 and meat imports to properly assess their
- 87 impact on domestic markets.
- 88 iii. Interstate distribution of state-
- 89 inspected meats when state inspection
- 90 guidelines meet or exceed Federal guidelines.
- 91

1 g. Transportation
2 i. We support the transportation of all
3 livestock, including horses, for slaughter
4 domestically and internationally.

5 ii. We support a permanent rule change
6 to the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) rule
7 that allows flexibility for truckers hauling
8 livestock. These rules should take into
9 consideration the time-sensitive manner of
10 hauling livestock and the safety
11 considerations of both the public and
12 livestock.

14 **B. New and Beginning Farmers and** 15 **Ranchers**

17 **1. Lending Programs**

18 a. We believe that the federal government's
19 status as a guarantor of loans by commercial
20 lenders must be balanced with direct lending
21 programs targeted at assisting beginning
22 farmers. Direct loans should be viewed as
23 "yardstick" credit to keep interest on private
24 loans and government-insured loans at the
25 lowest possible levels.

26 b. Efforts should be made to increase the
27 number of loans at lower interest rates with
28 emphasis on beginning farmers.

29 c. In times of drought or natural or price
30 disaster, low-interest loans should be made
31 available to farmers and ranchers with a
32 proven loss on their operation. Interest and
33 principal payments on existing loans should
34 be deferred. We further recommend that
35 during the period that a moratorium shall
36 apply, principal repayment time be extended
37 equally to the crop years lost by disaster, and
38 interest repayments should be deferred
39 without prejudice during this same period.

40 d. Operators should be allowed to refinance
41 at a lower rate of interest. Farm operating
42 loans should bear interest of 5 percent or less.
43 Emergency and disaster loans should be
44 limited to the operating costs of the next
45 year's production.

46 e. In addition, we propose that loan
47 payments to the Farm Service Agency (FSA)
48 be placed in a state FSA revolving fund
49 which would then be made available for
50 future loans within the state.

52 **2. Opportunities**

53 a. We support programs connecting aspiring
54 farmers to established farmers, who desire to
55 pass their operation on.

56 b. We support education highlighting diverse
57 opportunities in agriculture.

59 **C. U.S. Department of Agriculture**

61 **1. Animal and Plant Health Inspection** 62 **Service**

63 **a. Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)**

64 i. If a voluntary or universal **Radio**
65 **Frequency Identification (RFID)** ear
66 tagging program is implemented it should
67 include MCOOL and federal cost-sharing so
68 producers don't bear the entire cost.

69 ii. We support local control of this data by
70 the **AIB (the S.D. Animal Industry Board)**.

71 iii. Confidentiality of collected data is
72 essential to the integrity of the program. Also,
73 an exemption from the **Freedom of**
74 **Information Act (FOIA)** and limiting
75 producer liability after an ownership change
76 would need to be included in any program.

77 iv. We would not support requiring 4-H
78 and **National FFA Organization (FFA)**
79 youth to sign up their parents with a premise
80 identification.

81 **b. Health Research**

82 i. We support the continued testing of
83 plants and animals for research and disease
84 control.

85 ii. All testing should be open and
86 transparent.

87 iii. USDA should create a
88 comprehensive plan for all test results.

89 iv. We believe cattle processing plants
90 should be allowed to test for **Bovine**

1 **Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)** in
2 individual animals.

3 c. Pest Control

4 We urge the establishment of a USDA/farmer
5 cost-sharing program for insect and pest
6 control during times of emergency.

7

8 **2. Labeling**

9 a. **Mandatory Country-of-Origin Labeling**
10 **(MCOOL)**

11 i. We support MCOOL for meat products.
12 Animals must be born, raised, harvested, and
13 processed in the U.S. to receive a U.S. origin
14 label such as “Product of USA”. We support
15 USDA closing loopholes threatening the
16 label “Product of USA” in the next Farm Bill
17 or future trade agreements.

18 b. **Genetically Modified Organisms**
19 **(GMOs)**

20 i. The rights of both GMO and non-GMO
21 producers should be respected as appropriate
22 regulatory agencies continue to research and
23 evaluate these concerns, including but not
24 limited to required consumer labeling for
25 goods made from or containing GMOs. We
26 recommend that USDA and Congress
27 reinstate MCOOL.

28 c. **Cell-Cultured Protein**

29 Any alternative protein, including soy-
30 based, vegetable-based, synthetic protein,
31 and cultured cells are to be prevented from
32 using the term “meat” on their product.

33 d. Milk

34 Any alternative product, not derived from
35 lactating mammals, cannot be labeled as
36 milk.

37 **3. Crop Insurance**

38 a. We support yield adjustments for disaster
39 losses and the encouragement of expansion
40 for specialty crops and livestock.

41 b. We continue to favor the expansion of the
42 revenue assurance program.

43 c. Crop insurance should be subsidized on a
44 declining scale, with a regional adjustment to
45 premium cost

46 d. Conservation compliance should be
47 mandatory for government-subsidized crop
48 insurance.

49 e. Lending institutions should not be
50 allowed to sell crop insurance.

51

52 **4. Risk Management Agency (RMA)**

53 We support the **Inventory Management Soil**
54 **Enhancement Tool (IMSET)** as a
55 mechanism for farmers to voluntarily use
56 annually to enhance individual farmers’
57 pricing inventory while enhancing their
58 land’s marginal soil.

59

60 **5. Farm Service Agency (FSA)**

61 a. We support the farmer-elected committee
62 system. This proven system should not be
63 compromised through the addition of non-
64 farm or non-ranch appointees.

65 b. Farmer-elected committees ought to have
66 more power over day-to-day decision-
67 making involved in the administration of the
68 farm program.

69 c. We urge uniform interpretation of rules
70 and regulations between county and state
71 offices.

72 d. We oppose efforts to dismantle the FSA
73 delivery system through office closures and
74 elimination of county office employee jobs.
75 Efforts to reduce spending ought to be fairly
76 balanced among all agencies of the USDA
77 and federal government.

78 e. We support the continuation of the
79 limited resource loan program and urge that
80 35 percent of FSA loans be set aside for this
81 program.

82 f. We urge loans for construction and/or
83 improvement of farm/ranch homes to be
84 available.

85 g. We continue to support the major
86 provisions of the **1987 Farm Credit Act** and
87 support FSA observing the intent of that
88 legislation. In cases of an appeal, the State
89 Mediation Board should be used to ensure
90 impartiality.

91

1 **6. Grain Inspection, Packers and**
2 **Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)**

3 a. We urge the USDA to continually
4 monitor the operation of the mandatory
5 livestock price reporting system.

6 b. We urge that the Packers and Stockyards
7 Act be enforced with equal attention paid to
8 the problems of monopolistic control,
9 manipulation of prices, deception, and fraud.

10 c. GIPSA must be maintained and
11 adequately funded to accomplish its mission.
12 It should be prepared to coordinate research
13 and investigative work with the **Federal**
14 **Trade Commission (FTC).**

15 d. We urge GIPSA to review and revise its
16 livestock buyer bonding requirements to
17 ensure adequate protection for the sellers of
18 livestock.

19 e. We support the break-up of multinational
20 companies and incentivize local and regional
21 processor development, and prevent harmful
22 vertical integration.

23

24 **7. Marketing and Research**

25 a. We urge the **Agricultural Marketing**
26 **Service (AMS)** to utilize the best and most
27 accurate information for releasing crop and
28 livestock production reports.

29 b. It is very important that the USDA
30 provide accurate, up-to-date information to
31 the public about farm prices, income and
32 parity levels.

33 c. The USDA Secretary should present the
34 facts concerning the costs and benefits of
35 public expenditures and the small share of the
36 consumer food dollar received by farmers
37 and ranchers.

38 d. We urge continued research for USDA at
39 universities to develop better pest control
40 techniques and educational programs to assist
41 farmers and foresters in the best and safest
42 use of pesticides, other agricultural
43 chemicals, and other means to ensure
44 wholesome food and a clean environment.

45

46

47 **8. Payment Limitations**

48 a. So-called multiple entity rules allowing
49 farms to be artificially divided to avoid
50 payment limitations should be abolished.

51 b. We are opposed to the use of commodity
52 certificates or any other means of exceeding
53 payment limitations.

54

55 **9. Agricultural Data**

56 We support the property rights of all
57 producers about their agricultural data. This
58 includes but is not limited to yield maps,
59 variable rate fertilizer, variable rate seeding,
60 dual hybrid planters, and all livestock data.

61

62 **D. South Dakota Department of**
63 **Agriculture (SDDA)***

64

65 **1. Agricultural Services**

66 a. We recommend that the SDDA provide
67 for poultry inspection as a part of the state
68 meat inspection program.

69 b. We encourage the expansion of the S.D.
70 Pesticide Disposal Program as a way of
71 preventing groundwater contamination.

72 c. We urge the SDDA to continue the
73 voluntary credit counseling service for
74 economically hard-pressed family farmers
75 and ranchers.

76 d. We support legislation to provide
77 adequate funding for uniform inspection of
78 moisture and protein measuring devices by
79 the SDDA.

80 e. We urge the legislature to increase
81 funding for insect control and we urge the
82 SDDA to take advantage of available federal
83 funds.

84 f. The SDDA should be adequately funded
85 to enable it to:

86 i. Research, identify, and develop
87 markets for S.D. agricultural products.

88 ii. Encourage the continual tailoring of
89 S.D. agricultural production to both general
90 and specific market demands.

91 iii. Promote the processing of S.D.
92 products in S.D.

1 iv. Conduct ongoing research on
2 marketing, distribution, and production and
3 develop recommendations for new policies
4 and institutional mechanisms.

5
6 **2. Animal Industry Board (AIB)**

7 a. Strong controls are needed to prevent and
8 eradicate livestock and poultry diseases.

9 b. Domesticated wild animals, birds, and
10 dogs should be treated as livestock.

11 c. We must communicate with the AIB and
12 the state veterinarian to ensure affirmative
13 action that will be beneficial to the livestock
14 industry.

15 d. Horse farms and companion pet breeders
16 should be added to the jurisdiction of the
17 AIB.

18
19 **3. Brand Board**

20 a. Every member of the brand board must be
21 the owner of a registered brand and elected
22 from districts from which the board members
23 and voters reside.

24 b. We recommend that a detailed, audited
25 report be submitted to the Legislature on an
26 annual basis.

27 c. Anyone buying cattle should be given a
28 reasonable length of time to rebrand
29 purchased cattle.

30
31 **4. Marketing and Research**

32 a. We support SDDA's expanding
33 marketing and branding efforts of South
34 Dakota agricultural products.

35 b. We support expanding research into
36 adapting crops in S.D. and recognize
37 alternative crops may be viable with further
38 development.

39
40 **5. Mediation**

41 a. We support the continuation of the Farm
42 Credit Mediation Program. It has been
43 demonstrated that this program reduces the
44 number of farm bankruptcy filings and helps
45 to alleviate tensions between lenders and
46 borrowers.

47 b. We further express our support for the
48 Rural Renewal Coalition's efforts to expand
49 the mediation program to cover additional
50 areas of conflict involving farmers, ranchers,
51 government agencies, and other entities.

52 When one party asks for mediation, all
53 parties must participate.

54 c. Fees ought to be regularly reviewed and
55 reduced if their impact would deny access to
56 the program or jeopardize future federal
57 funding.

58
59 **6. Office of the Secretary**

60 We support the concept of an elected
61 Secretary of Agriculture.

62
63 **7. State Fair**

64 a. We support the S.D. State Fair in Huron.

65 b. We support legislation that would allow
66 the State Fair to keep all sales tax revenues
67 collected on the fairgrounds.

68 c. We support continued research to
69 enhance the State Fair.

70 d. We ask that the Legislature reinstate the
71 voting power of the State Fair Commission.

72 e. We support the state investing in capital
73 improvements at the State Fair.

74 f. We support State Fair funding as a line
75 item in the state budget.

76
77 **III. COOPERATIVES**

78
79 **A. Elections**

80
81 We recommend that all cooperatives use the
82 secret ballot on controversial issues and
83 elections and prohibit employees from
84 campaigning in any cooperative election.

85
86 **B. Credit Unions**

87
88 1. We support the expansion of credit
89 unions.

90 2. We encourage Farmers Union groups to
91 be aggressive in forming and furthering

1 credit unions and promoting legislation on
2 their behalf.

3 3. We oppose efforts to tax credit union
4 earnings before they are allocated to
5 members.

6 4. We oppose proposals to merge the Credit
7 Union Insurance Fund with the **Federal**
8 **Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)**.

9

10 **C. Farm Credit System (FCS)**

11

12 1. The FCS provides a substantial portion of
13 the credit used by American farmers and
14 ranchers.

15 2. Member control by the democratic
16 process of these cooperative financial
17 institutions is essential to their continued
18 success and survival.

19 3. We support local control over these key
20 rural lending institutions.

21 4. We urge that all borrowers be charged the
22 same rate of interest for similar loans.

23 5. All borrowers should be required to
24 purchase stock in the cooperative.

25 6. FCS institutions should be required to
26 participate in farm loan mediation programs.

27 7. We do not support the **Power of Attorney**
28 **(POA)** granted to lenders on operating notes.

29

30 **D. Marketing and Promotion**

31

32 1. We support designating October as
33 Co-op Month.

34 2. We urge the appropriation of funds to
35 staff a cooperative division in the SDDA
36 capable of promoting cooperatives as
37 required by law;

38 a. To promote cooperatives.

39 b. To provide expertise and advice in the
40 establishment of new credit unions and
41 cooperatives.

42 c. To provide expertise and resources in
43 establishing cooperative goals and to
44 provide information on local
45 demographics for planning.

46 d. To act as an impartial advisor to
47 financially troubled cooperatives.

48 3. We urge that the farm cooperative system
49 pursue the development and marketing of
50 grain-based alcohol fuels through its network
51 of local and regional cooperatives to enable
52 producers to retain some control over their
53 commodities.

54 4. We support the development of a
55 program to encourage cooperatives and
56 governmental bodies to organize local
57 collection points for material that can be
58 recycled.

59

60 **E. Taxation**

61

62 1. We oppose any governmental action that
63 attempts to dictate the time and manner of
64 returning cooperative patronage earnings or
65 refunds.

66 2. We support the **Capper-Volstead Act**
67 and urge Congress to enforce it.

68 3. Taxation of cooperatives must be
69 consistent with the Federal Internal Revenue
70 Tax Code.

71

72 **F. Value-Added**

73

74 1. We support value-added cooperatives.

75 2. We support the S.D. Value-Added
76 Agriculture Development Center and efforts
77 to build and develop additional farmer-
78 owned, value-added cooperatives in our state.
79 We welcome the fact that more than a dozen
80 other organizations and cooperatives have
81 been willing to join with Farmers Union in
82 providing support for this endeavor. We do,
83 however, believe that many traditional
84 cooperatives could do more in the way of
85 assistance, experience, and cooperation for
86 the expansion of new value-added
87 cooperatives.

88 3. We call on the **Internal Revenue Service**
89 **(IRS)** and/or Congress to amend any rules
90 preventing farmers from organizing
91 cooperatively to add value to their livestock.

1 **IV. EDUCATION**

2
3 **A. Ag Education**

4
5 We support legislation and utilization of
6 agriculture in the classroom in elementary
7 and secondary schools. However,
8 educational materials must be carefully
9 selected and should exclude any literature
10 promoting specific organizations or political
11 points of view.

12
13 **B. Extension Service**

14
15 1. We support the expansion of extension
16 services at the county level that include
17 competitive wages along with well-trained 4-
18 H county advisors.

19 2. Unbiased field specialist expertise and
20 experimental farm research are vital to S.D.

21 3. We encourage continued education of
22 extension personnel and urge reduced tuition
23 for all.

24
25 **C. Federal**

26
27 1. We urge Congress to maintain and
28 increase funds available for student loans.

29 2. We believe young people should also be
30 given the option of participating for at least
31 two years in a national service corps as partial
32 or complete repayment of student loans.

33 3. The **ESSA (Every Student Succeeds)**
34 federal education program should be funded
35 to implement the federal requirements or
36 eliminated if not funded.

37 4. We support federal Perkins funding to
38 local school districts that offer career and
39 technical education curriculum.

40 5. We oppose any cuts of federal funds for
41 special education programs in S.D. school
42 districts.

43
44 **D. Higher Education**

45
46

47 **1. S.D. Board of Regents**

48 a. We recommend that the state legislature
49 and the S.D. Board of Regents as well as
50 academic faculty and administrators direct,
51 divert, and prioritize state legislative
52 appropriations in research funding to our
53 state land grant institutions toward the
54 implementation of research and development
55 of organic farming and alternative uses of our
56 crops.

57 b. We encourage all S.D. colleges and
58 universities to pursue research and grants that
59 would help and enhance the agricultural
60 industry.

61
62 **2. South Dakota State University (SDSU)**

63 a. We urge SDSU to maintain research
64 independent of biotechnology companies to
65 allow unbiased research.

66 b. We urge SDSU to place greater emphasis
67 on increasing farm and ranch profitability
68 through improved farm management and
69 marketing. We also urge emphasis on courses
70 about rural life studies which emphasize the
71 contributions made by family farmers and
72 ranchers.

73 c. We urge continued research for USDA at
74 universities to develop better pest control
75 techniques and educational programs to assist
76 farmers and foresters in the best and safest
77 use of pesticides, other agricultural
78 chemicals, and other means to ensure
79 wholesome food and a clean environment.

80
81 **3. University of South Dakota (USD)**

82 We encourage USD graduate doctors to stay
83 and practice medicine for ten years in rural
84 S.D. in return for the payment of their entire
85 tuition by the state.

86
87 **4. South Dakota Technical Colleges**

88 We recognize South Dakota Technical
89 College's education programs as an
90 important part of agricultural education in
91 South Dakota.

92

1 **E. Public Education**

2
3 1. SDFU has consistently supported our
4 educational system. We recommend the
5 continued support of these institutions of
6 learning in their endeavors to enhance the
7 cultural and economic life of the people of
8 our state and nation.

9 2. We recommend that the percentage of
10 state funding to elementary and secondary
11 public schools general funds be increased,
12 with the formula weighted to benefit small
13 schools.

14 3. The formula for granting monetary aid to
15 students should be based on the needs of the
16 individual. Rural school districts should be
17 assured of their fair share of federal and state
18 aid to education. Federal and state
19 educational requirements ought to be funded
20 with federal and state aid.

21 4. We recommend that the “scarcity factor”
22 and the “declining enrollment factor” be
23 given adequate consideration in determining
24 the level of state aid to individual school
25 districts. These are important factors for
26 rural districts where per-pupil busing costs
27 are substantially higher.

28 5. We recommend that elementary and
29 secondary schools periodically evaluate their
30 position on fundamental subjects to keep a
31 strong emphasis on basic education. There
32 should be a limit to the classroom time lost to
33 extracurricular activities by students and
34 teachers.

35 6. We support agriculture education,
36 including **Family and Consumer Science**
37 **(FACS)**, and trade and industrial training
38 programs. We recognize that FFA should be
39 considered an intra-curricular part of
40 agriculture education.

41 7. We recommend that cooperative
42 education, farm economics, and the
43 importance of the family farm to the
44 economy be included as a part of the
45 curriculum in any free enterprise course in
46 public schools.

47 8. We support adult farm management
48 courses in S.D.

49 9. We support the S.D. Literacy Council and
50 its accomplishments.

51 10. We oppose any unfunded mandates
52 regarding education.

53 11. We support additional state funding to
54 schools that offer career and technical
55 education classes such as agriculture
56 education, family and consumer sciences,
57 and trade and industrial training programs.

58 12. We urge state lawmakers to increase the
59 per-student allocation for English as a second
60 language program (**ESL**) for students.

61 13. We support the study of Pre-K education
62 and funding in South Dakota.

63
64 **F. South Dakota Board of Education**

65
66 We urge the Board of Education to restore
67 funding support for extended service
68 contracts for agriculture education
69 instructors. Loss of this funding greatly
70 reduces the effectiveness of agriculture
71 education instruction at S.D. high schools
72 and reduces the educational opportunities for
73 students who may not have access to project
74 advice from agriculture education instructors
75 during the key summer months.

76
77 **V. CONSERVATION AND LAND USE**

78
79 **A. Conservation**

80
81 1. We support conservation programs
82 funded at levels that ensure continued
83 protection of our soil, water, and native sod.

84 2. We favor a paid land diversion program
85 with environmental benefits.

86 3. Base acres established before entering
87 any farm program, or being displaced by
88 natural disasters for multiple years, should be
89 preserved for times when land comes back
90 into production.

91 4. We urge the state of S.D. to restore a
92 shelter belt incentive program as a means of

1 encouraging the planting and renovation of
2 shelterbelts with an emphasis on controlling
3 invasive trees.

4 **B. Land Use**

7 1. We favor multiple uses of appropriate
8 national forests and other public and private
9 lands to include grazing of livestock and the
10 raw resources industries, commensurate with
11 family-sized farm and ranch operations.

12 2. We support a comprehensive land use
13 policy that recognizes the objectives of land
14 tenure, promotion of family farms,
15 population distribution, stabilizing farm
16 income and production, conservation of
17 natural resources, and providing land for
18 public use.

19 3. Land use regulation should be left to local
20 government except in situations that lead to
21 multi-county or interstate problems.

22 4. We oppose the acquisition of productive
23 farmland to extend wildlife habitat. The
24 arbitrary designation of farm units for
25 wildlife mitigation without negotiation with a
26 willing farm operator is disruptive and
27 destructive to the efficiency of family farm
28 management. Land to extend wildlife habitat
29 should be acquired only by short-term lease
30 or rental contract.

31 5. We urge both governmental and private
32 groups to continue expanding their efforts to
33 take action to rectify pollution problems.

34 6. We support county commissioners having
35 the final decision on the sale of property to
36 government entities.

37 **1. Eminent Domain**

39 a. We understand that issues of eminent
40 domain are significant for landowners. Every
41 effort should be made to adequately resolve
42 these issues. However, the welfare of the
43 entire state must receive equal consideration.

44 b. We believe eminent domain should be
45 reserved for public projects. Where eminent
46 domain may eventually be used, individuals

47 must be notified, public hearings held, and
48 PUC approves the permit.

49 c. We support severance damages including
50 payment for the diminution of remaining land
51 values and increased expenses and
52 inconvenience suffered by affected
53 landowners and operators. After initial court
54 expenses, including attorneys' and
55 appraisers' fees, additional expenses must be
56 borne by the constructing agency in
57 condemnation proceedings.

58 d. We believe eminent domain
59 consideration should be given to routes that
60 minimize adverse human impact.

61 e. We call upon federal authorities to
62 resolve eminent domain and environmental
63 impact issues to provide greater competition.

64 f. We oppose further expansion of eminent
65 domain for private industry and private use.

66 g. We oppose the use of eminent domain to
67 exchange property to only increase the tax
68 base for state income.

69 **2. Fifth Amendment**

71 a. We support the Fifth Amendment of the
72 United States Constitution which declares
73 that government cannot seize property
74 without just compensation.

75 b. We urge Congress to define in law "a
76 taking" as any action by the government that
77 deprives citizens of the use of their property
78 or reduces the value of that property.

80 **3. Planning and Zoning**

81 a. Any state legislation should recognize
82 that agricultural land must be preserved for
83 the future. Family farmers should be
84 represented in all zoning deliberations.

85 b. We encourage counties to enact
86 comprehensive land use plans and zoning
87 ordinances to control and regulate the
88 potential expansion of large-scale livestock
89 confinement facilities and cattle feed lots.

90 c. We oppose any effort to replace county
91 zoning laws with statewide zoning laws.

1 d. County planning and zoning boards should
2 be made up of a majority of rural residents.

3

4 **4. Private Property**

5 a. Anyone trespassing on private land
6 should be liable for his or her action.

7 b. No person should be allowed on private
8 property using water as access without the
9 landowner's permission.

10 c. Any state entity that controls public
11 waters that cause damage to private property
12 should be held responsible for returning the
13 property to its original form.

14

15 **5. Public Lands**

16 a. Rental fees for the lease of state-owned or
17 other public lands for grazing or other
18 agricultural purposes must be consistent with
19 rental fees on private lands in the same area
20 and of equal productivity.

21 b. When state-owned land is sold, the
22 appraised price per acre must also be
23 consistent with the value of private lands in
24 the same locality and of equal access.

25

26 **C. Natural Resources Conservation** 27 **Service (NRCS)**

28

29 **1. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

30 a. We support the continuation of CRP.

31 b. CRP eligibility should be modified to
32 include lands that have been cropped during
33 at least two of the previous 10 years. CRP
34 eligibility should also be extended to include
35 farmland and pastureland that has been
36 affected by declared weather-related
37 disasters or crop diseases during at least two
38 of the previous 10 years.

39 c. CRP payments should be established at
40 fiscally responsible levels and enrollment, or
41 re-enrollment, should target lands to promote
42 restoration of soil health with payments
43 based on county average cash rents.
44 Farmland and pastures that have been
45 flooded for one or more years and cropland

46 that has been repeatedly plagued by disease
47 should also be eligible for enrollment.

48 d. CRP contracts should continue to be
49 long-term.

50 e. Uniform standards should be applied for
51 enrollment or re-enrollment of land in CRP.

52

53 **2. Environmental Quality Incentive** 54 **Program (EQIP)**

55 While dealing with pollution problems, EQIP
56 assistance should be targeted to family farm
57 agricultural production units with 1,000
58 animal units or less per site.

59

60 **3. Watershed and Flood Prevention**

61 a. We urge continued funding of the Small
62 Watersheds Flood Prevention and
63 Conservation Program.

64 b. Federal funding provided through the
65 NRCS should also be targeted toward
66 reducing erosion along the Missouri River
67 watershed.

68

69 **D. Mineral Rights**

70

71 1. All mineral rights should be returned to
72 the owner of the land in 10 years or when the
73 land is resold.

74 2. All mineral rights should be retained by
75 the surface owner.

76 3. Landowners with severed mineral rights
77 need to be justly compensated and protected.

78

79 **E. Mining**

80

81 1. We are opposed to the mining of uranium
82 in S.D.

83 2. We support the adoption and enforcement
84 of a comprehensive strip-mining bill. Our
85 goal must be to ensure the best use of land
86 and to return mined land to its original use.

87

88

89

90

91

1 **F. Oil and Gas**

2
3 1. We support proper environmental
4 safeguards to protect the economic interests
5 of farmers and ranchers.

6 2. Full protection should be given during the
7 planning, exploration, development, and
8 reclamation of all processes related to oil and
9 gas exploration and development.

10 3. Land affected by oil and gas exploration
11 and development should be given 10 percent
12 obsolescence from land taxes due to the
13 devaluation of the surface.

14 4. Mediation for surface damages and
15 reclamation should be under the auspices of
16 the SDDA and should be mandatory if the
17 surface owner requests mediation 90 days
18 from the beginning of negotiations with the
19 oil and gas exploration company.

20 5. Payments for loss of income and damages
21 to the surface resulting from ongoing oil and
22 gas development should be made annually
23 until the total reclamation of the affected
24 surface is complete.

25
26 **G. Outdoor Recreation**

27
28 1. We support state statutes requiring
29 landowner permission before hunting on
30 private property.

31 2. We encourage the development of a
32 system to provide a percentage of hunting
33 and fishing license revenues to counties and
34 townships.

35 3. The authority to set license fees should be
36 returned to the state legislature.

37 4. Non-resident hunters hunting on
38 preserves should be charged the same out-of-
39 state license fees assessed against other out-
40 of-state hunters.

41 5. We favor the enactment of legislation
42 based on the Wisconsin model prohibiting
43 harassment of hunters by animal rights
44 activists.

45 6. Road hunting should not be permitted
46 without the adjoining landowner's
47 permission.

48 7. We support limiting the ability of a game
49 warden to enter private land to inspect
50 licenses while hunting without the
51 landowner's permission unless noticeable
52 violations are occurring.

53
54 **H. Pipelines**

55
56 1. We believe that proper environmental
57 safeguards must be implemented and the
58 economic interests of farmers and ranchers
59 be protected during the construction and
60 operation of oil or other pipelines.

61 2. We recommend that appropriate
62 legislation be enacted to ensure pipeline
63 safety and to protect against environmentally
64 damaging leaks.

65 3. We support all entities domestic or foreign
66 contributing to the super fund.

67
68 **I. Predator Control**

69
70 1. It is essential that the federal government
71 establish a program utilizing both federal and
72 state departments of agriculture to control
73 predatory animals. We recognize the need
74 for livestock producers to protect their
75 livestock from predators. We urge the
76 **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
77 and Congress to continue the use of approved
78 practices such as the M-44 Sodium Cyanide
79 capsules and Sodium Fluoroacetate
80 (commonly known as "compound 1080").

81 2. We support a comprehensive review of
82 the **Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973**.

83 3. We urge the legislature to adopt a state
84 bounty on predators.

85
86 **J. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks**
87 **(GFP)**

88
89 1. The GFP should be more accountable to
90 the state Legislature by placing its budget

1 under the authority of the appropriations
2 committee.

3 2. GFP should be required to pay taxes on
4 their lake access land at the same rate as
5 adjoining agricultural land. All state park
6 lands should be thoroughly investigated as to
7 use or non-use.

8 3. GFP should be authorized to utilize funds
9 earmarked for land acquisition to make
10 necessary repairs on dams located on state-
11 owned or leased property.

12 4. We urge the GFP to diligently control
13 noxious weeds and invasive trees on lands
14 they own or control.

15 5. We support GFP in offering a free deer
16 and antelope license to each resident
17 landowner with a production unit of 160
18 acres or more.

19 6. We support the idea of a transferable
20 landowner's deer license. The number of
21 licenses would be limited as deemed
22 necessary by the GFP.

23 7. We urge the GFP to formulate and
24 implement a plan for the management of the
25 black-tailed prairie dog on state and federal
26 land.

27 8. We urge the GFP to manage wildlife and
28 water to reduce depredation and reimburse
29 landowners for depredation.

30 9. We support the **Animal Damage**
31 **Control** program.

32 10. We support the election of the GFP
33 secretary and commissioners.

34 35 **K. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** 36 **(USACE)**

37
38 1. We encourage USACE to address the
39 siltation problems behind mainstream
40 Missouri River dams.

41 2. We recommend that the USACE,
42 appropriate conservation districts, and the
43 states of Neb. and S.D. work together to
44 resolve erosion and sedimentation problems
45 on the Missouri and Niobrara Rivers.

46 3. We are opposed to the sale of water and
47 waterway user fees by USACE.

48 4. We support the upgrade of the
49 Mississippi locks and dams systems.

50 **L. Water**

51 52 53 **1. Law**

54 a. We urge the adoption of the following
55 order of preference in the use of water: [a]
56 domestic and municipal consumption; [b]
57 hydroelectric power; [c] industrial
58 consumption; [d] irrigation [e] wildlife [f]
59 recreation and navigation.

60 b. We agree with the objectives in the water
61 user district law by which S.D. will keep
62 priority rights on water within its boundaries.
63

64 **2. Rural Water Resource Development** 65 **Program**

66 a. The state of S.D. should have a rural
67 water resource development program
68 wherein:

69 i. The state would provide increased
70 financial assistance for the development of
71 rural water systems.

72 ii. The state would also expand research
73 and technical assistance for developing these
74 systems on an increased cooperative basis to
75 lower the cost.

76 iii. We support establishing a funding
77 program for rural water systems.
78

79 **3. Rural Water System**

80 We support the S.D. Rural Water systems and
81 full Congressional authorization and funding.
82

83 **4. Watersheds**

84 We support the federal funding for watershed
85 restoration projects.
86

87 **M. Waste**

88
89 1. We urge a safe site be found to establish
90 a hazardous waste disposal site and recognize
91 that disposal of hazardous chemical wastes

1 poses a serious threat to public health and the
2 environment in many areas of the U.S.
3 2. We encourage the development of
4 hazardous waste disposal methods, other than
5 landfills, with stricter enforcement of laws on
6 transporting and handling hazardous waste.
7 Our groundwater must be safeguarded from
8 contamination.
9 3. We support the waste pesticide collection
10 and pesticide container recycling measures
11 approved by the 1992 S.D. Legislature.
12 4. We support efforts to recycle, reuse, or
13 conserve products and resources when cost-
14 effective and environmentally safe.
15 5. We support more stringent inspection of
16 refuse and runoff from cities and towns, as
17 well as from manufacturing and processing
18 plants.
19 6. We oppose the establishment of any
20 disposal site for hazardous chemical and
21 solid wastes in S.D.

22 **N. Weed and Pest Control**

23 1. We support steps to control noxious
24 weeds, insects, and other pests on **U.S.**
25 **Forest Service (FS)** grazing land, trust land,
26 and all land within **U.S. Department of the**
27 **Interior (DOI)** and waterfowl production
28 areas as well as right-of-way.
29 2. We urge members to continue to
30 cooperate with township, county, and state
31 weed control programs.
32 3. We support stricter enforcement of the
33 present law and the establishment of an
34 expanded educational program.
35 4. We are opposed to legislation to combine
36 weed and pest control boards with those
37 controlling predators.
38 5. We urge support of the Environmental
39 Protection Agency's (EPA) registration
40 review process for all herbicide control
41 chemicals and it must continue to rely on
42 quality-controlled and peer-reviewed science
43 as the basis for any outcome.
44
45
46

47 **O. Wetlands**

48
49 1. We support the preservation of the
50 nation's wetlands. Land should only be
51 designated as a wetland if all three criteria [1.
52 hydrology, 2. predominance of hydric soil,
53 and 3. a prevalence of hydrophytic
54 vegetation] are present.
55 2. We support the memorandum of
56 understanding between the USDA, EPA, and
57 USACE placing responsibility for the
58 designation of agricultural wetlands with the
59 NRCS.
60 3. We refute any arbitrary and excessive
61 penalties mandated by the **U.S. Fish and**
62 **Wildlife Service (FWS)**.
63 4. Federal regulations should be amended to
64 allow farmers to consolidate wetlands in a
65 given acreage, provided there is no net loss of
66 wetlands in such acreage.
67

68 **VI. ENERGY AND** 69 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

70 **A. Energy**

71 **1. Biodiesel and Ethanol**
72
73 a. We recommend continued congressional
74 vigilance to ensure that EPA regulations
75 require the use of all ethanol-blended fuels.
76 b. Education and research are the keys to a
77 successful transition from our present-day
78 petroleum dependency to a future self-
79 sufficiency based on our renewable
80 resources. We should take every opportunity
81 to dispel lies and misinformation regarding
82 the safety of ethanol.
83 c. We support an ethanol fuel program
84 utilizing low-interest federal loans to farmers
85 and groups of farmers to build ethanol
86 production plants.
87 d. We support the governor for requiring
88 Premium E30 in all state-owned, non-flex
89 fuel vehicles.
90 e. We support moving S.D. ethanol market
91 share to 30% by 2024 and 50% by 2028.
92

1 f. We support the continuation of the present
2 combination of state gas tax exemption and
3 producer incentives to encourage further
4 development of the ethanol industry in S.D.
5 g. We oppose any effort to impose a state tax
6 on corn to fund ethanol producer incentive
7 payments.
8 h. We urge all consumers to make greater use
9 of higher blends of ethanol and bio-diesel in
10 their motor vehicles when practical.
11 i. We encourage the promotion and use of
12 **100/RON clean octane E30** through farmer-
13 owned and branded blender pumps in S.D.
14 We will work with cooperatives and others to
15 ensure success through S.D.'s cooperative
16 fuel retailers to offer 100/RON clean octane
17 E30 providing opportunities for fuel
18 efficiency, national security, and cleaner air,
19 while also cementing a marketplace for
20 farmers and the enhancement of rural
21 economies.

22 **2. Development**

24 a. Agriculture is an energy producer and
25 national security improves as domestic
26 energy resources are diversified.
27 Agricultural policy and energy policy should
28 work together effectively.
29 b. Energy policy must be consistent with our
30 system of family agriculture.
31 c. Programs for the development of
32 environmentally friendly renewable energy
33 sources should be conducted, with special
34 emphasis on solar energy, wind energy, and
35 bio-based fuels, such as ethanol and
36 biodiesel.
37 d. Elements of an effective national energy
38 policy include:
39 i. Equitable distribution and efficient
40 development of energy to assure adequate
41 production of food and fiber;
42 ii. Pricing policy which will prevent
43 economic hardship;
44 iii. A massive program to develop
45 renewable sources of energy;

46 iv. Economic assistance for family
47 farmers and ranchers to make agriculture
48 more self-sufficient through increased
49 application of alternative forms of energy.

50 **3. Electricity**

52 a. We support the maintenance of territorial
53 protection for rural electric systems to
54 guarantee access to affordable electric power.
55 b. We oppose retail wheeling and federally
56 mandated restructuring of the electric utility
57 industry.
58 c. We believe local rural electric boards
59 should be informed on their capability to
60 promote rural economic development and
61 encouraged to participate in rural
62 development efforts.
63 d. We oppose mandatory, time-certain
64 deregulation of the electric industry at the
65 federal level. Each state should determine the
66 timing and method of any restructuring or
67 deregulation of electricity and mandatory net
68 metering.
69 e. We support the development of
70 comprehensive, science-based standards to
71 help producers and utilities work together to
72 detect and mitigate stray voltage. We also
73 support requiring that any testing for stray
74 voltage be completed by a certified
75 professional engineer or certified master
76 electrician.

77 **4. Federal Energy Regulatory 78 Commission (FERC)**

79 Regulations must be established by the FERC
80 to assure that farmers and ranchers receive
81 adequate supplies of energy necessary to
82 carry on full-scale production despite any
83 breakdown in the distribution system.
84 Increasing taxes would create a hardship for
85 farmers with no effect on reducing
86 consumption.
87

88 **5. Missouri River Dams**

89 The amortization of the cost of constructing
90 main stem Missouri River dams was
91

1 established more than three decades ago.
2 There is no sound economic reason to make
3 any change in this rate structure. The power
4 produced is intended primarily for preference
5 customers who are non-profit bodies such as
6 rural electric cooperatives, public power
7 districts, and municipal power systems. We
8 are opposed to any unjustified increases to
9 those rates. The power revenues derived
10 from the mainstream dams are on schedule
11 with the requirements of the **Pick-Sloan Act**,
12 which established the original criteria.

13 14 **6. Public Power**

15 a. Publicly-owned resources should, to the
16 greatest extent possible, be developed on a
17 not-for-profit basis. First preference should
18 be given to publicly and cooperatively-
19 owned utilities.

20 b. We reaffirm our support for the
21 preference clause which provides a
22 preference in the sale of hydropower to
23 cooperatives and public bodies in our belief
24 that public dollars used to provide the benefit
25 of flood control, navigation, irrigation,
26 increased fish and wildlife, and recreation, as
27 well as hydropower, should be used for the
28 well-being of the general public and not the
29 stockholders of private utilities.

30 c. The **Western Area Power**
31 **Administration (WAPA)** and other
32 federally-owned **Power Marketing**
33 **Administrations (PMAs)** are essential
34 elements in the delivery of affordable electric
35 power to members of rural electric
36 cooperatives and customers of municipally-
37 owned utilities. We oppose any legislation
38 that would result in the sale of the PMAs.

39 d. We urge the DOI to reclaim leased sites
40 and facilities upon the termination of leases
41 so that the fullest possible development can
42 be made for the benefit of the power-using
43 public.

44 e. Any sale of PMAs should give current
45 preference customers the first purchase
46 option.

47 f. Future power developments on public
48 lands should be under federal government
49 supervision, with retention of the facility by
50 the government and operated in the public
51 interest.

52 g. We urge legislation to give the
53 Department of Energy authority to supervise
54 public and private power grids and entities,
55 which would prevent blackouts and failure of
56 power facilities.

57 h. We favor a policy of utility responsibility
58 by the federal government which would
59 assure non-profit power groups the necessary
60 credit and financial support to set up needed
61 generating and transmitting facilities.

62 63 **7. Rural Electrification Administration** 64 **(REA)**

65 a. We believe that a strong Rural Utilities
66 Loan Program is vital to the needs of the
67 nation's rural electric cooperatives.

68 b. We support the REA-insured and
69 guaranteed loan programs.

70 c. We oppose any efforts to "privatize" the
71 REA or federal power marketing agencies.

72 d. We urge Congress to approve
73 amendments to the **Rural Electrification**
74 **Act** which are designed to ensure the
75 continuation of adequate, long-term
76 financing for the nation's rural electric and
77 telecommunications systems provided that
78 lower interest rates are made available to
79 systems serving sparsely settled areas.

80 81 **8. Transmission**

82 a. We support the development and
83 transmission of electrical power to better
84 serve the farmers and ranchers of this
85 country.

86 b. We also urge landowner-friendly
87 development of the electrical transmission
88 facilities.

89 c. We support the cyber protection of our
90 electric grid.

- 1 **9. Wind Energy**
2 a. We support the development of wind and
3 other alternative energy sources.
4 b. We urge farmers, ranchers, and other
5 landowners to consider the establishment of
6 wind energy cooperatives and/or landowner
7 associations to represent their interests during
8 the development process. Provisions of wind
9 energy leases should be open for public
10 review.
11 c. We urge electric companies to purchase
12 wind energy from individuals who set up
13 wind turbines on their property or those who
14 cooperate to build wind turbines, for the same
15 price that they pay for energy from other
16 sources.
17 d. We support extending benefits to
18 community wind projects and cooperative
19 investment projects equal to tax credits now
20 offered to wind projects.
21 e. We support the development of minimum
22 criteria for regulating the development of
23 wind energy.
24 f. We support designating a portion of all
25 transmission lines in S.D. for wind energy.
26 g. We request that the nameplate revenue
27 collected from wind farms be dedicated to
28 support local public schools.

29
30 **B. Telecommunications**

31
32 **1. Regulation**

- 33 a. The deregulation of telecommunications
34 services should be approached with extreme
35 care to protect the interests of the consuming
36 public.
37 b. To serve the best interests of rural
38 communities of S.D., we encourage
39 investment in infrastructure to improve
40 telecommunication delivery systems in our
41 state.
42 c. We request that Congress and appropriate
43 regulatory agencies take whatever action is
44 necessary to protect the interests of
45 consumers and prosecute companies or
46 individuals found guilty of fraudulent acts.

47

48 **2. South Dakota Public Utilities**
49 **Commission (PUC)**

- 50 a. We believe that the PUC should be
51 provided with adequate personnel and
52 funding to ensure proper protection of the
53 interests of consumers.
54 b. The regulatory powers of the PUC should
55 not be tampered with unless it can be
56 demonstrated that such action is in the best
57 interests of the people of S.D.
58 c. We support continued regulatory
59 oversight of the telecommunications industry
60 by the PUC.

61
62 **3. Universal Service Fund (USF)**

- 63 a. We support the continuation of the USF
64 for rural telecommunications cooperatives.
65 b. To serve high-cost areas with affordable,
66 state-of-the-art telecommunication services,
67 we encourage the full funding of the USF.

68
69 **VII. ECONOMICS**

70
71 **A. Anti-Monopoly Policies**

- 72
73 1. We believe that monopolistic
74 concentration in the meat packing,
75 transportation, energy, and seed industries
76 has reduced competition to a point where
77 producers no longer have access to fair and
78 equitable markets. We urge the USDA and
79 **DOJ (U.S. Department of Justice)** to
80 exercise its subpoena power investigating
81 monopolistic concentration.
82 2. We support a full federal investigation of
83 the effects of concentration in the
84 transportation industry, especially rail
85 transportation.
86 3. We support anti-trust action to increase
87 competition in the private sector of energy
88 industries.
89 4. We support the implementation of a
90 temporary moratorium on large agricultural
91 mergers. The moratorium is necessary to
92 provide Congress with time to review current

1 law and strengthen it as appropriate to restore
2 market competition for producers and
3 consumers.

4 5. We urge that a national conference be
5 held to include representatives of farmers,
6 ranchers, consumers, and organized labor to
7 eliminate monopolistic practices in the food
8 industry.

9 6. We support legislation to prohibit
10 ownership or control of feedlots by
11 meatpacking firms.

12 7. We oppose ownership of livestock by
13 packing firms except for the reason of
14 immediate slaughter.

15 8. We favor a full-scale congressional
16 investigation of unjustified industry spread
17 between producer and consumer prices.

18 9. We support the passage of legislation that
19 would repeal the adverse impact of the U.S.
20 Supreme Court's decision in the **Illinois**
21 **Brick Case** and allow producers and
22 consumers to bring anti-trust actions whether
23 damages were direct or indirect.

24 **B. Federal Reserve Board**

25
26
27 The Federal Reserve Board should be
28 reconstituted to include representatives of
29 agriculture, small business, and labor.

30 **C. Loans**

31
32
33 1. Feed grain loan rates should be increased
34 to better reflect their renewable energy value.

35 2. Loan rates should be based on the cost of
36 production. The county base yields should be
37 updated.

38 3. We oppose the sale of federally financed
39 loans at a discounted rate unless the
40 individual or entity affected has the right of
41 first refusal to purchase their loan at the
42 established discount rate.

43
44
45
46

47 **D. Fees and Licenses**

48
49 We urge Congress to immediately investigate
50 the imposition of excessive technological
51 fees assessed against farmers.

52 **E. National Debt**

53
54
55 We support a lower national debt and reforms
56 in our inequitable tax structure.

57 **F. Producer Income**

58
59
60 We oppose any budgetary proposals that
61 would result in a direct or indirect loss of net
62 farm income to family farmers and ranchers.

63 **G. Rural Development**

64
65
66 1. We support economic development for
67 rural SD communities by adding value to
68 agriculture production by family farmers.

69 2. We support the S.D. Board of Economic
70 Development.

71 3. We believe that any program seriously
72 proposing to boost adding value to grain and
73 livestock production in S.D. must receive
74 interest rates that are at least comparable to
75 those available to businesses through the
76 **Governor's Office of Economic**
77 **Development (GOED) Revolving**
78 **Economic Development and Initiative**
79 **(REDI) Fund**. Interest rates of more than six
80 percent are unacceptable.

81 4. We support the expanded use of the REDI
82 Fund by S.D. family farmers and ranchers.
83 These changes also recognize that rural
84 people paid a disproportionate share of the
85 one-cent sales tax increase.

86 5. We urge greater use of the value-added
87 sub-fund.

88 6. We support continued S.D. funding for
89 the Northern Crops Institute.

90 7. We pledge our cooperation and support
91 for the legislative Rural Renewal Coalition.

1 8. We support the establishment of venture
2 capital groups for producer-owned
3 businesses.

4 9. We support continued statewide efforts to
5 promote increases in state processing of
6 agricultural products. These efforts should
7 include cooperation with farmers, ranchers,
8 and their organizations in promoting and
9 constructing cooperatively-owned
10 processing plants in S.D.

11 10. We support the establishment of
12 enterprise communities and empowerment
13 zones as a means of assisting development in
14 economically disadvantaged rural areas.

15 11. We continue to support local rural
16 development entities that work to expand
17 opportunities for local communities.

18 12. We urge the appropriation of public and
19 private funds for the establishment of an
20 enterprise facilitation program. Facilitation
21 programs should be able to apply and receive
22 rural development funds.

23 13. We support efforts to increase affordable
24 housing in the rural communities.

25 **H. Taxation**

26 **1. Carbon Carrier Pipeline Tax**

27
28 We support a tax on carbon carrier pipelines
29 for S.D. to be used for biofuel development.

30 **2. Contractor's Excise Tax**

31
32 We urge the repeal of the contractor's excise
33 tax and replaced with a corporate income tax.
34 S.D. is currently the only state in the union to
35 impose this form of pyramiding taxation.

36 **3. Excess-Profits Tax**

37
38 An excess-profits tax should be levied on
39 those corporations whose profits are clearly
40 out of line with a reasonable rate of return on
41 invested capital.

42 **4. Federal Estate Tax**

43
44 We support a 35 percent estate tax after
45 exempting the first \$10 million.

46 **5. Income Tax**

47 a. We believe that personal and corporate
48 income taxes ought to be a part of a balanced
49 state tax structure. The goal of reform should
50 be a structure wherein state and local tax
51 revenues are raised approximately one-third
52 from property taxes, one-third from sales
53 taxes, and one-third from income taxes.

54 b. We support the federal income tax
55 deductibility of 100 percent of health
56 insurance premiums and healthcare costs for
57 self-employed persons.

58 c. To relieve property taxes in S.D. and to
59 provide for a more equitable sharing of the
60 costs of education, we favor state enactment
61 of a graduated personal income tax and a
62 corporate profits tax.

63 d. A state income tax should be simple, have
64 a low administrative cost, and be based on net
65 income from the federal income tax form,
66 with all revenues going to education and real
67 estate tax relief.

68 **6. Investment Tax Credit**

69
70 We urge that the investment tax credit be
71 reinstated at an incremental level beneficial
72 to family farmers and small businesses.

73 **7. Mineral Severance Taxes**

74
75 Mineral rights held by non-surface owners
76 should be made subject to a mineral tax with
77 revenues designated for purposes of property
78 tax relief to the surface owner. Severed
79 mineral rights have value and are benefited
80 from state and county roads.

81 **8. Motor Fuel Taxes**

82
83 a. We continue our long-term support for an
84 exemption from the state gas tax at the time
85 of delivery for non-highway users.

86 b. We recognize that a certain portion of gas
87 tax revenue is directly attributable to boating.
88 Expenditure of these revenues should be
89 confined to the construction or enhancement
90 of public facilities.

- 1 c. We oppose any legislation authorizing
2 the enactment of city gas taxes.
3 d. We oppose any new increase in fuel tax
4 for roads without an adequate amount of the
5 proceeds going to counties and townships.
6 e. We encourage any license fee increase
7 for vehicles over 5 years old to be retained in
8 the county.

9

10 **9. Property Taxes**

- 11 a. We support agriculture land assessment
12 based on the capability to produce, land use,
13 terrain, climate, location, soil type, and actual
14 use.
15 b. We continue to support efforts to
16 establish limitations in future property tax
17 increases.
18 c. We urge a full review of recent major
19 reductions in valuations and assessments for
20 centrally-assessed property including that
21 which is owned by utilities.
22 d. We urge the state legislature to rewrite
23 policy directing the 25 percent property tax
24 reduction to South Dakotans most in need of
25 property tax relief. Specifically, we suggest
26 the establishment of a homestead exemption.
27 e. We oppose any action to reinstitute the
28 personal property tax.
29 f. Federal and state governments and Indian
30 lands should be required to pay an amount
31 instead of taxes equal to the amount of real
32 estate taxes paid on similar private lands in
33 each county.
34 g. We support a sellers' fee assessed on
35 property sales to be distributed on a local
36 level.
37 h. We are opposed to frontage roadway
38 assessment in rural areas.
39 i. We oppose a shift in capital outlay funds
40 to general funds for education.

41

42 **10. Sales Tax**

- 43 a. We urge that the deductibility of state
44 sales taxes be restored to the federal tax code.

- 45 b. We are opposed to the imposition of a
46 national value-added, general sales tax,
47 manufacturer's tax, or any other similar tax.

- 48 c. We are opposed to the sales tax monthly
49 remittance procedures presently in existence
50 due to the extra burden that has been placed
51 on small businesses.

- 52 d. We favor legislation that will eliminate
53 the state sales tax on food, used agricultural
54 machinery, and general farm repairs.

- 55 e. We oppose any permissive legislation
56 authorizing the enactment of county sales
57 taxes without county voter approval.

- 58 f. We oppose any expansion of state sales
59 and use taxes that do not include exemptions
60 for grocery store food and clothing and are
61 not specifically earmarked for education.

- 62 g. We support the reinstatement of sales tax
63 exemptions for personal property sold at
64 auction, newspaper sales and subscriptions,
65 cattle semen, amateur sports officiating,
66 veterinary services, state and county fair
67 parking, and the exchange of processed raw
68 agricultural products.

69

70 **11. Tax Code**

- 71 a. We support eliminating some unjustified
72 loopholes that allow wealthy individuals and
73 corporations to escape their fair share of the
74 federal tax load.

- 75 b. Income averaging is a necessary tax
76 provision for agriculture and other businesses
77 characterized by instability of economic
78 return. Income averaging should continue as
79 an element of federal tax policy.

- 80 c. Every effort should be made to restore an
81 enhanced degree of progressivity to the tax
82 code by increasing the number of brackets
83 and increasing the maximum tax rate for the
84 wealthy.

- 85 d. Foundations and churches should be
86 taxed while engaging in commercial, profit-
87 making activities.

- 88 e. We believe in equitable tax treatment for
89 all businesses. We, therefore, support the

1 right of state governments to collect sales
2 taxes on Internet and catalog sales.

3

4 **12. Water Tax**

5 a. We oppose any state tax on water use
6 and/or water permits.

7 b. We urge the repeal of state statutes
8 requiring fees for water rights permits on land
9 developed for water spreading to ensure that
10 its population will always have safe, clean
11 water for human and livestock use.

12

13 **13. Tax Freezes**

14 We urge the legislature to repeal all tax
15 freezes on schools, counties, and townships.
16 Local governments have more of an
17 understanding of their needs rather than the
18 legislators of the state.

19

20 **14. Trust Fund Tax**

21 The SD legislature should review trust fund
22 laws for the relief of taxation for education,
23 healthcare, and property tax.

24

25 **VIII. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

26

27 **A. Agricultural Practices**

28

29 **1. Corporate Farming**

30 We believe that Congress should enact
31 legislation requiring investor-owned, non-
32 family farm corporations to divest their
33 holdings in agricultural properties. We call
34 on the USDA and the DOJ to conduct a
35 complete study of the extent to which
36 outright corporate ownership and contract
37 production have limited the market access of
38 independent family farmers. Once the facts
39 have been determined, we call upon Congress
40 to pursue all appropriate remedies.

41

42 **2. Land Ownership**

43 a. We believe that continued ownership and
44 control of U.S. agricultural land by family
45 farmers and ranchers is vital to the moral and
46 economic welfare of this nation. We support

47 constitutional restrictions on non-family farm
48 or ranch corporate ownership of agricultural
49 land and livestock. We urge like-minded
50 organizations to continue regional and
51 national cooperation to enact or strengthen
52 anti-corporate farm legislation.

53 b. We continue to support existing statutory
54 restrictions that limit the ownership of
55 agricultural land by individual, non-resident
56 aliens to 160 acres.

57 c. We urge Congress to prohibit the sale of
58 farmland in the FSA inventory to non-
59 resident foreign investors.

60 d. We support either of the following: a
61 buffer of 6 feet to prevent livestock
62 enticement or the nullification of liability for
63 the livestock producer for any trespassing
64 damages on non-buffered fence lines.

65

66 **3. Sustainable Agriculture**

67 We support farm bill provisions making
68 agriculture more sustainable and productive.

69

70 **B. Consumer Protection**

71

72 1. We favor strengthening the S.D. Division
73 of Consumer Protection through better
74 funding and adequate staffing.

75 2. We reject the sale of private browser
76 history under the Browser Act of 2017 and
77 request its repeal.

78

79 **C. Corporations**

80

81 1. We support legislation to prohibit
82 corporations from developing or selling seed
83 that contains a terminator gene and, thus,
84 cannot reproduce.

85 2. We denounce all actions and
86 governments that promote the welfare of
87 multinational corporations and holders of
88 extreme wealth at the expense of the
89 American people.

90 3. We support legislation that would prevent
91 subsidy payments to foreign-owned entities.

1 4. Because the Supreme Court never ruled
2 that corporations were granted the rights of
3 natural persons in the 14th Amendment and
4 corporations are persons of the artificial sort,
5 corporations should only be given rights
6 specifically granted by the Secretary of
7 State's filing.

8

9 **D. Governmental Reform**

10

11 **1. Campaign Finance**

12 a. We support comprehensive campaign
13 finance reform including:

14 i. Presidential candidates should
15 continue to receive matching federal funds
16 for campaign expenses. Similar financial
17 assistance should also be provided to
18 candidates for the U.S. House of
19 Representatives and U.S. Senate.

20 ii. Contributions from individuals
21 should be limited to \$1,000 per candidate.
22 Contributions by each **Political Action**
23 **Committee (PAC)** should be limited to
24 \$5,000 per candidate

25 iii. Caps should be instituted on total
26 campaign spending.

27 iv. All types of campaign contributions
28 should be reported.

29 v. We support the eventual shift to
30 public financing and the elimination of
31 PACs.

32 b. We urge ethics legislation at the state
33 level that would result in a more in-depth
34 investigation of where campaign funds
35 originate and how they are used.

36 c. We recommend legislation to place
37 reasonable limits on campaign spending and
38 the length of campaigns. Elimination of soft
39 money contributions should be a top priority.

40 d. We support a progressive sales tax on
41 campaign spending based on what the elected
42 officeholder receives for that office.
43 Initiatives and referendums are based on
44 what SD voters contribute.

45 e. We are opposed to the ruling by the U.S.
46 Supreme Court that makes it possible for a

47 corporation to be considered as an
48 "individual" regarding campaign
49 contributions.

50

51 **2. Civil Liberties**

52 a. It shall be our purpose to seek to preserve
53 and broaden the civil liberties and rights of all
54 the people. The demands of the Declaration
55 of Independence and the safeguards
56 guaranteed to the people by the Constitution
57 and its Bill of Rights and subsequent
58 amendments must be made a code of conduct
59 for our nation.

60 b. We shall oppose those persons or forces
61 that seek to abridge, abrogate, or eliminate
62 any of our civil rights and liberties.

63

64 **3. Discrimination**

65 We shall continue to seek as individuals and
66 as an organization to remove every remaining
67 vestige of discrimination in any government
68 agency whenever and wherever it may arise.

69

70 **4. Elected Officials**

71 a. We support legislation requiring
72 complete disclosure of income and sources of
73 income by legislators and other elected
74 public officials.

75 b. We oppose any merger of constitutional
76 offices.

77

78 **5. Elections**

79 a. All electronic voting machines shall have
80 a paper record to verify the votes.

81 b. We urge that no unnecessary restrictions
82 be placed on voter registration or the right of
83 citizens to vote by absentee ballot.

84 c. We urge strong enforcement of the
85 **Voting Rights Act.**

86 d. We oppose any actions to increase the
87 number of signatures required to initiate or
88 refer to a law.

89 e. We urge repeal of rules requiring
90 anything more than the printing of name,
91 signature, address or box number and date of

1 signing initiative, referendum, constitutional
2 amendment, and candidate petitions.

3 f. We favor legislation to require full
4 disclosure of federal tax returns by
5 candidates for state constitutional offices and
6 the state Legislature at least two months
7 before the general election.

8 g. We support whatever constitutional or
9 other action is necessary to restore the right
10 of citizens to initiate or refer measures that
11 include state revenue.

12 h. We oppose any effort to reduce the
13 required percentage of voter approval in local
14 bond issue elections.

15 i. We support keeping all local voting rolls,
16 including names, addresses, voting records,
17 and social security numbers, from becoming
18 public records.

19

20 **6. Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA)**

21 We support any efforts to bring substantive
22 reform to the EAJA.

23

24 **7. Line-Item Veto**

25 We oppose the line-item veto.

26

27 **8. S.D. State Legislature**

28 a. We are opposed to changing the
29 legislature to a unicameral or single-house
30 body.

31 b. We support legislation to elect state
32 senators for a four-year term.

33 c. We support some form of compensation
34 to legislators performing legislative-related
35 duties on weekends and when the Legislature
36 is not actually in session.

37 d. We support repeal of the so-called S.D.
38 ‘gag law.’ Under the guise of preserving
39 confidentiality, this legislation has allowed
40 the government to conceal the public’s
41 business from the public.

42 e. We support establishing a non-partisan
43 redistricting body and single-member house
44 districts statewide.

45 f. We support legislation requiring all
46 registered lobbyists to report all fees and

47 compensation that they receive for their
48 legislative activity.

49

50 **9. State Agencies**

51 a. We ask that the tax advocate position in
52 state government be taken away from the
53 S.D. Department of Revenue and be placed
54 under the S.D. Department of Legislative
55 Audit.

56 b. We urge that all state-purchased vehicles
57 and equipment be manufactured in the U.S.

58

59 **10. Tort Law**

60 We support tort reform including
61 putting caps on civil liability.

62

63 **E. Healthcare**

64

65 1. We support a comprehensive, universal,
66 national, prepaid healthcare and medical
67 facilities insurance program. This program
68 should enable every citizen to receive
69 adequate medical, dental, hospital,
70 chiropractic, and other healthcare services,
71 including treatment for alcoholism, drug
72 addiction, mental illness, and prescription
73 drugs. This program should also include
74 preventative healthcare services.

75 2. We recommend a careful study of
76 healthcare systems in other states and
77 nations.

78 3. We support the single-payer system.

79 4. We support hospice care for the
80 terminally ill.

81 5. We continue to support the “division of
82 assets” concept.

83 6. We support assisted living and minimum-
84 care homes for those people who do not
85 require the care of nursing homes.

86 7. We believe insurers should be required to
87 cover the full cost of regular check-ups and
88 preventative healthcare.

89 8. We support the inclusion of reasonable
90 chiropractic care in any state healthcare plan.

91 9. We support an expansion of a risk pool
92 for uninsurable South Dakotans. We view

1 this as a necessary step toward the enactment
2 of a comprehensive, universal state
3 healthcare reform program.

4 10. We urge that any national or state health
5 reform plans maintain rural access and cost
6 containment as important priorities.

7 11. We support legislation that would allow
8 American pharmacists and distributors to
9 import prescription drugs approved by the
10 FDA and sell them at more affordable prices.

11 12. We urge the U.S. government and
12 healthcare providers to negotiate with drug
13 manufacturers to make prescription drug
14 prices more in line with those that are
15 available in other countries.

16 13. We urge substantially increased federal
17 appropriations for research on all major
18 diseases and the study of prevention and
19 effective treatment of mental illness.

20 14. We support 100 percent deductibility for
21 health insurance premiums to include all
22 healthcare costs.

23 15. We support Congress limiting the ability
24 of health insurance companies to dictate
25 length of stay or possible hospital procedures.

26 16. We support a patient's right to choose
27 their medical provider.

28 17. We support the elimination of
29 discriminatory pricing of prescription drugs.

30 18. The definition of "group" should be
31 expanded to make group policies available to
32 all people.

33 19. We support the establishment of a self-
34 funding cooperative movement for health
35 insurance.

36

37 **F. Mental Health**

38

39 1. We support public and private programs
40 to incentivize mental health and addiction
41 professionals to move to and practice in
42 rural communities

43 2. We support full mental healthcare
44 coverage by insurance groups.

45 3. We support increased mental healthcare
46 availability in our public schools.

47 4. We support evidence-based prevention
48 treatment and education efforts to reduce
49 illegal substance use, addiction, and suicide.

50

51 **G. Humanitarian Aid**

52

53 We recognize that children constitute our
54 greatest asset and we support nutritional,
55 educational, and financial assistance
56 programs targeted to improving the current
57 welfare and future opportunities for all
58 children.

59

60 **H. Medicaid and Medicare**

61

62 1. We support larger reimbursements from
63 our state for Medicaid residents of long-term
64 care facilities.

65 2. We support federal legislation aimed at
66 providing equal coverage of Medicare
67 reimbursement procedures so that vital rural
68 medical facilities may survive.

69 3. We regard the method of classifying
70 Medicare patients under the **Diagnostic
71 Related Groups (DRG)** policy as an insult
72 to our older citizens. We recognize the
73 necessity of controlling increases in
74 Medicare and other healthcare costs, but a
75 policy that forces hospitals to discharge
76 Medicare patients once their Medicare
77 eligibility has run out is wrong. Patients in
78 need of further medical care should be
79 allowed to remain in the hospital with
80 expenses paid through Medicare
81 supplemental insurance or in cash.

82 4. We recommend that the period for
83 changing the medications or prices paid by
84 insurance companies and the period for an
85 individual to change an insurance carrier
86 shall be the same.

87

88 **I. Nutrition**

89

90 1. We oppose reductions in domestic food
91 utilization and distribution programs such as
92 the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance**

1 **Program (SNAP), school lunches, Women,**
2 **Infants, and Children (WIC) programs,**
3 elderly nutrition programs, and summer food
4 service programs, which will assist people in
5 obtaining sufficient food to meet their
6 nutritional needs, including donated produce
7 and animal protein from local sources.
8 2. We call upon state and federal
9 administrations to expand the school milk
10 and school lunch programs to every school
11 child. Reduction of surpluses and improved
12 child nutrition would be advanced by
13 offering school children additional cartons of
14 milk.
15 3. We support wholesome foods in schools
16 with fewer restrictions to create more
17 balanced and geographically appropriate
18 diets for our students including produce and
19 inspected animal protein from local sources.
20 4. Federal agencies should be prohibited
21 from using imported commodities in school
22 lunches and other organization programs.
23 5. We oppose federally mandated nutrition
24 standards for school lunches that replace
25 long-accepted health standards with menu
26 choices that reduce or eliminate meat and
27 dairy products.
28 6. Federally-owned surplus commodities
29 should be utilized in the school lunch and
30 summer food service programs.
31 7. We feel the USDA should use all
32 authorities it has, including donations, to
33 dispense any excess commodities to those
34 people, both domestic and worldwide, who
35 are in need.

37 **J. Occupational Safety and Health** 38 **Administration (OSHA)**

39
40 We endorse the concept of the federal OSHA
41 because of the importance of providing safe
42 and healthful working conditions. Due
43 process of law must be guaranteed in
44 determining guilt and assessing fines.

45
46

47 **K. Retirement System**

48
49 1. We ask that the present retirement system
50 for elected officials [President, Vice
51 President, and Congress] be made more
52 equitable within the level of the Social
53 Security formula.

54 2. We encourage individual, personal
55 retirement plans.

57 **L. Seniors**

58
59 We advocate the continuation and expansion
60 of experience works service, visiting
61 neighbors, mini-bus, senior nutrition, meals-
62 on-wheels, and other programs to enable
63 senior citizens to retain their independence.

65 **M. Social Security**

66
67 1. We believe in a strong Social Security
68 system in the U.S. We recommend that:

69 a. **Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)**
70 must be recalculated to include real-world
71 expenses. Simply pinning COLA to the rate
72 of inflation is an inefficient and detrimental
73 method; necessities such as food, fuel,
74 prescription medication, healthcare, and
75 insurance must be included.

76 b. Dependents of beneficiaries should
77 receive support through four years of post-
78 secondary education.

79 c. Aid to disabled persons between the ages
80 of 18 and 55 should not be contingent upon
81 the economic status of the spouse, parents, or
82 other relatives.

83 2. We urge the **Social Security**
84 **Administration (SSA)** to determine the
85 number of farm women who are not covered
86 by Social Security. We also urge the SSA
87 and NFU to dispense information on how
88 these farm women may qualify for coverage
89 under Social Security.

90 3. We recommend that federal matching
91 funds, equal to the annual contributions by
92 and on behalf of individuals, be appropriated

1 to the Social Security Fund. Social Security
2 taxes should be paid on unearned as well as
3 earned income with Social Security payments
4 being the only exception.

5 4. We oppose the use of Social Security
6 funds for purposes other than Social Security
7 benefits, such as private plans.

8 5. We recommend that married couples
9 filing joint income tax returns shall have their
10 Social Security payments pooled, regardless
11 of the source of income from which the
12 payment is derived.

13 6. We recommend the income cap limitation
14 reflect inflationary values and be raised in
15 conjunction with COLA.

16

17 **N. South Dakota Public Broadcasting**
18 **(SDPB)**

19

20 1. We support state and federal efforts to
21 fund SDPB programs.

22 2. We support the continuation of
23 agriculturally oriented programming.

24

25 **O. Transportation**

26

27 **1. Highways**

28 a. We urge the federal government to
29 allocate sufficient funds for highway
30 construction and maintenance in S.D.

31 b. We oppose any proposals to lessen the
32 historical congressional commitments for
33 funding to support rural America's secondary
34 and farm-to-market highway systems.

35 c. We oppose any further increase in federal
36 motor fuel taxes that is not specifically
37 targeted at improving and maintaining the
38 nation's transportation system.

39 d. We urge continued cooperation to
40 promote highway safety to reduce the present
41 death toll from accidents.

42 e. All state highway intersections should
43 have turning lanes installed for the safety of
44 motorists.

45 f. We urge the **S.D. Department of**
46 **Transportation (SDDOT)** to make a greater

47 effort to ensure the safety of rural S.D. by
48 having well-lit state highway intersections.

49 g. We support and encourage legislation that
50 helps fund rural county and township
51 highways, bridges, and culverts for the safety
52 and maintenance of the farm-to-market
53 system to sustain the economic health of rural
54 South Dakota. An adequate highway system,
55 including farm-to-market roads, is essential
56 to the economic health and well-being of S.D.

57 h. We support federal highway funding aid
58 for secondary roads and bridge repair.

59 i. All efforts should be made to reduce
60 unnecessary damage to S.D. highways and
61 secondary roads. However, we oppose any
62 effort to allow law enforcement officials to
63 obtain elevator weight tickets without a
64 search warrant and to retroactively charge
65 truckers with weight violations. Any
66 legislation to alter load limits or legal trailer
67 length should include provisions to allow
68 current operators a sufficient grace period to
69 comply with the law.

70

71 **2. Railroads**

72 a. We continue to support the S.D. State
73 Rail Authority and efforts to preserve and
74 rebuild all aspects of our rail system. Local
75 transportation districts should receive all
76 possible assistance from state and federal
77 governments.

78 b. We support the concept of cooperative or
79 other local ownership of railroad lines.

80 c. The state of S.D. should consult with
81 surrounding states so that efforts to restore or
82 preserve rail service can be coordinated
83 wherever possible.

84 d. We support changes in state law that
85 would allow businesses using the tracks to
86 reimburse the state for repairs over a
87 reasonable period.

88 e. Shippers captive to a single rail line
89 should be protected from excessive rates and
90 healthy competition among railroads should
91 be encouraged.

- 1 f. We urge legislation allowing adjoining
2 landowners to initiate a process of abandoned
3 railroad right-of-way to convert to adjoining
4 land.
5 g. Landowners adjoining abandoned
6 railroad lines should have first right of refusal
7 to purchase the property.
8 h. We urge legislation requiring the
9 reflectorizing of the sides of railroad cars.
10 Lights on business structures should be
11 regulated so they do not interfere with traffic.

12
13
14

P. U.S. Postal Service (USPS)

- 15 1. We are opposed to any proposal that
16 would result in the sale or transfer of the
17 USPS to private business. The USPS was
18 established as a national responsibility more
19 than 200 years ago and that is what it should
20 remain.
21 2. We oppose USPS cutbacks in service in
22 rural areas.
23 3. We oppose any further closings of post
24 offices, processing centers, and reductions in
25 service to rural people.
26 4. We believe that postal service is a right
27 and not a privilege. We believe, therefore,
28 that the USPS should not be required by law
29 to be a self-supporting institution, especially
30 if that status results in oppressive increases in
31 postal rates and reduction of services.
32 5. We support allowing the USPS to fund its
33 pension similarly to private enterprise.

34
35
36

Q. Veterans

- 37 1. The nation must honor all promises of
38 rights and benefits made to veterans.
39 2. We especially advocate the continued
40 availability of medical services for all
41 honorably discharged veterans through the
42 **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**
43 hospitals.
44 3. We ask that the burial expense for all
45 veterans be reinstated.

- 46 4. Provision of services should not be
47 contingent on the economic status of the
48 veteran.
49 5. We oppose the shifting of guaranteed
50 veterans' home loans from one bank to
51 another to facilitate certain banks getting out
52 of such loans in agricultural communities.
53 6. We encourage all nursing homes to have
54 the right to admit veterans with the same
55 benefits they have at a VA hospital.

56
57
58

R. Working People

- 59 1. We support legislation that allows all
60 people to earn a living wage.
61 2. It is our belief there should be
62 communication between agriculture and
63 labor on matters of vital interest to both.
64 3. We support the rights of youth to work
65 and participate in all agricultural activities.
66 4. We believe in a strong federal
67 immigration policy but do not support the
68 hiring of illegal workers.
69 5. We believe in a guest worker program
70 that supports the hiring of reliable
71 agricultural workers. This policy should be a
72 coherent, viable, effective worker program.
73 6. We support reforms to the visa system to
74 make it responsive to the needs of our
75 economy and businesses, with a focus on
76 public safety as well as protecting the
77 interests of the workers.
78 7. We believe that serious attention should
79 be given to the proposal to require worker's
80 compensation for hired farm workers and that
81 any such law should provide exemptions for
82 short-term or seasonal farm workers.
83 8. We oppose any undue state burdens that
84 may inhibit the ability of the agricultural
85 industry to employ an adequate workforce.

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1 **IX. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

2
3 **A. Aid**

4
5 1. Foreign aid has been of great assistance
6 to emerging democracies and other
7 underprivileged nations. Provision of foreign
8 aid must never be contingent upon a
9 country’s acceptance of private American
10 investment capital. U.S. financial aid should
11 be used to buy products made in the U.S.
12 when possible.

13 2. Farmer-to-farmer programs, **Public Law**
14 **480**, and other international assistance
15 programs have had positive benefits around
16 the world. We support necessary
17 improvements in their delivery system but
18 oppose termination.

19 3. **Employee Education Program (EEP)**
20 assistance ought to be retargeted toward the
21 movement of value-added rather than raw
22 agricultural products.

23 4. We advocate the promotion of economic
24 and agricultural development in food-
25 deficient countries, and we ask for expanded
26 use of the long-term loan authority of the
27 **Food for Peace Act**.

28 5. We support the international school lunch
29 program as proposed by former Senators
30 George McGovern and Robert Dole.
31 American food and fiber programs must not
32 be used as foreign policy weapons.

33
34 **B. Embargos**

35
36 Agricultural products should be exempt from
37 all embargoes.

38
39 **C. Imports**

40
41 1. We support all agricultural products
42 imported to this country be required to meet
43 the same standards of sanitation required of
44 American agricultural products and labeled
45 as to point of origin. We are especially
46 concerned about lapses that have allowed

47 foreign beef to enter the U.S. through Canada
48 or Mexico with inadequate or no inspection.
49 We oppose new USDA food safety
50 provisions, which would transfer
51 responsibility for meat inspections to
52 individual meat packers.

53 2. We urge the USDA and all relevant
54 federal agencies to make every effort to
55 ensure that **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)**
56 and BSE are kept out of the U.S. These
57 efforts should include a ban on the
58 importation of all animal products from
59 nations or regions that are not certified free of
60 these diseases.

61 3. We oppose the rule allowing live animals
62 over the age of 30 months to be imported for
63 slaughter and breeding in the U.S.

64
65 **D. Military Armaments**

66
67 We support the continuation of arms control
68 negotiations between all nations.

69
70 **E. Peace Corps**

71
72 We urge the continuation and expansion of
73 the Peace Corps program.

74
75 **F. Trade Negotiations**

76
77 1. We oppose any kind of “Trade Promotion
78 Authority” legislation for free-trade
79 agreements and urge Congress to vote on
80 each package. For these trade agreements to
81 be fair, factors such as labor standards,
82 growing practices, differing currency
83 exchange rates, and food safety regulations
84 must be considered. In any free-trade
85 agreement negotiation, the U.S.
86 Representatives should create a commodity-
87 by-commodity breakdown of the effect that
88 the agreement will have on the U.S.
89 agriculture industry.

90 2. We respect all nations’ sovereignty and
91 food policies and thus urge open dialogue,

1 cooperation, and understanding in trade
2 negotiations relating to biotechnology.

3
4 **G. United Nations (UN)**

- 5
6 1. We endorse the original concept behind
7 the UN. We believe that it must continue to
8 serve as a forum for countries of the world to
9 seek peaceful relations with each other. The
10 UN or any other world court should never
11 take precedence over or be superior to the
12 Constitution of the U.S. or the Bill of Rights.
13 2. We support the World Food Program of
14 the **Food and Agriculture Organization**
15 **(FAO)**, and we ask that technical assistance
16 for various UN programs be expanded.
17 3. We support the recognition and activities
18 of World Food Day. International food
19 security would be enhanced by the
20 establishment of a UN Strategic Grain
21 Reserve. This reserve should be financed by
22 member nations according to their ability to
23 pay and located in the major grain-producing
24 nations. The reserve should be sufficient to
25 meet expected international emergencies.

26
27 **X. APPENDIX**

28
29 **A. Membership**

- 30
31 1. A large membership of family farmers and
32 ranchers is the base of a strong, respected,
33 and influential SDFU. Among the benefits of
34 membership in the Farmers Union are:
35 a. The right to full participation in activities
36 and policy-making decisions and the right to
37 election as an officer or delegate to state and
38 national conventions.
39 b. Participation in the Farmers Union youth
40 and other educational activities and
41 conferences.
42 c. A subscription to the South Dakota Union
43 Farmer, the official publication of the state
44 organization.
45 d. We encourage all Farmers Union
46 Insurance policyholders to become members

47 and for members to buy Farmers Union
48 Insurance.

49 e. Eligibility for membership in the
50 Traveler's Motor Club

51 f. Membership incentive programs for
52 transportation and lodging to the NFU
53 Convention. We encourage county
54 organizations to seek associate members
55 (non-voting).

56 2. All local, county, and district Farmers
57 Union organizations should have a full set of
58 active action officials. Active officers
59 provide greater membership participation
60 and education. They should establish good
61 public relations with local newspapers,
62 coordinate membership drives, and turn in
63 financial reports at the end of the fiscal year.

64 3. We encourage continued joint efforts with
65 all farm organizations.

66 4. We will furnish transportation for one
67 director or manager of a cooperative with
68 membership dues checkoff, to attend the
69 National Farmers Union Convention. It is
70 requested that the participant make a report at
71 the cooperative's annual meeting.

72 5. We urge the greater use of county and
73 district legislative and cooperative directors.
74 Candidates for all officer positions,
75 delegates, and alternate delegates shall
76 introduce themselves from the rostrum of the
77 state convention before the election.

78 6. We urge that all members wear
79 identification badges representative of SDFU
80 while attending functions where the Farmers
81 Union is involved.

82 7. We urge our board of directors to schedule
83 an annual Farmers Union state picnic during
84 the State Fair.

85 8. We urge members to inform the state office
86 of their email addresses.

87 9. We urge members and interested parties to
88 utilize the SDFU and NFU websites and the
89 websites of its affiliated organizations such
90 as the SDFU Foundation and the SDFU
91 Insurance Agency.

92

1 **B. Education**

2
3 1. The education of Farmers Union members
4 is an ongoing project. We recommend that
5 this educational program include seminars
6 for our young adults and stress the
7 importance of district education directors.
8 Education directors must help to maintain the
9 quality and philosophy of the Farmers Union
10 organization. Major emphasis should also be
11 placed on a comprehensive adult education
12 program for Farmers Union families to
13 include coordination with vocational
14 agricultural instructors, cooperative leaders,
15 and agriculturally oriented institutions of
16 higher learning.

17 2. We advocate youth classes in every
18 Farmers Union local and county
19 organization. We recognize the value of
20 young Farmers Union members participating
21 in and working with the entire Farmers Union
22 organization. The participation of all must be
23 a goal of the youth program.

24 3. We recommend that the Education
25 Department continue the awards for
26 completion of activities approved by the
27 Education Council and stated in the
28 handbook.

29 4. We recommend that one or more state
30 Senior Youth Camps be held each year. We
31 urge every county and district Farmers Union
32 to participate in a youth camp to acquaint
33 more young people with Farmers Union
34 work.

35 5. We recommend that a Youth Advisory
36 Council be elected at each state Senior Youth
37 Camp.

38 6. We recommend that the SDFU Education
39 Department coordinate incentive tours for
40 Farmers Union youth.

41 7. We support Ag in the Classroom and
42 encourage Farmers Union education leaders
43 to become involved in farm safety training
44 programs.

45 8. We support the creation of collegiate
46 Farmers Union groups. We also encourage

47 collegiate Farmers Union groups to urge the
48 universities that they attend to offer classes
49 and/or majors about cooperatives, rural life,
50 or farm management and marketing as stated
51 in state issues H subsection K.

52 9. We recommend that the SDFU Education
53 Department provide seminars for young
54 adults to explore various production and
55 value-added agriculture opportunities.

56
57 **C. Cooperatives**

58
59 1. Farmer- and patron-owned cooperatives
60 play an important role as a stabilizing force
61 in our economic life and the promotion of the
62 democratic process through their emphasis
63 on the Rochdale Cooperative Principles.

64 2. Every member of the Farmers Union is
65 urged to buy every possible supply, sell all
66 products, and buy all their insurance products
67 and other services from Farmers Union-
68 affiliated businesses, organizations, and
69 cooperatives (e.g. cable TV).

70 3. Farmers Union local, county, and district
71 organizations need to establish and maintain
72 strong communications, participation,
73 patronage, and membership with local
74 cooperatives' boards of directors, managers,
75 and employees; and local and district
76 Farmers Union Insurance personnel.

77 4. We should continue to take a prominent
78 position of leadership in bringing the
79 cooperative story to the public.

80 5. Farmers Union affiliated cooperatives and
81 other farmer-owned cooperatives are
82 encouraged to pay the full five [5%] percent
83 educational funds to Farmers Union.

84 6. SDFU's contributions toward
85 strengthening the economic position of all of
86 agriculture are enhanced by the support of
87 farmer cooperatives through membership
88 checkoffs.

89 7. We urge CHS Inc. cooperatives to
90 aggressively seek ways to keep locally-
91 owned cooperatives open to serve the farmer
92 patron.

1 8. We encourage women, Native Americans,
2 and other minorities to become members of,
3 and directors of, cooperatives.

4 5 **D. Legislation** 6

7 1. Effective legislative activity is an essential
8 part of the overall Farmers Union effort to
9 preserve and strengthen our family farm and
10 ranch system. We urge all Farmers Union
11 members to become active participants in
12 legislative activity at the national, state, and
13 county levels.

14 2. Farmers Union organizations and members
15 are encouraged to take part in the Rural
16 Lobbyist Program at the state level during the
17 legislative session.

18 3. The SDFU Rural Lobbyist is a valuable
19 tool when utilized by rural lobbyists.

20 4. We support the continuation of the
21 Farmers Union Washington, D.C., Fly-In
22 lobbying efforts conducted on behalf of
23 family farmers and ranchers. We ask that our
24 national and state organizations continue to
25 publish voting records of members of
26 Congress and our state legislature.

27 5. All Farmers Union officers and members
28 are encouraged to subscribe to and read NFU
29 News.

30 31 **E. Foundation** 32

33 1. We encourage all members to support the
34 endowment strengthening the foundation; a
35 nonprofit organization raising funds for
36 educating young minds, building new
37 leadership, and creating new opportunities
38 for economic growth in rural S.D.

39 2. We endorse the various approved
40 scholarship programs within the Farmers
41 Union for college education and vocational
42 training.

43
44
45

46 **F. Long-Range Farm Policy – The Parity** 47 **of Income Plan** 48

49 1. When the concept of parity was first
50 introduced in agricultural law in 1936, the
51 goal of national farm policy was to provide
52 farm families a net income that was on par
53 with the net income of non-farm families to
54 ensure that producers had the same
55 purchasing power as their urban neighbors.
56 The 1910-14 base was selected as the
57 appropriate economic period to achieve the
58 goal of income parity.

59 2. The failure of farm programs to provide
60 parity of income for family farmers is a
61 violation of the social contract between
62 family farmers and consumers in which
63 farmers are responsible for the production of
64 a dependable supply of food and fiber in
65 return for parity of income with the rest of our
66 society.

67 3. To return to the principle of parity of
68 income, federal farm policies must provide
69 agricultural incentive payments to family
70 farmers to make up the difference between
71 commodity prices in the marketplace and full
72 parity for all agricultural commodities.
73 These payments should be made to all family
74 farmers based on their units of production to
75 raise the return on their labor and
76 management to the national median family
77 income. Such payments must be strictly
78 limited to family farm operators through a
79 maximum payment level that would provide
80 full-time family farm operators a parity of net
81 income.

82 4. The payments would be based on a per-unit
83 rate for the commodities produced by the
84 family farm to make up the difference, if any,
85 between prices received and the parity price
86 of each commodity. The volume of
87 commodities for which each farm family
88 would be eligible to receive payments would
89 be computed by the difference between the
90 cost of production [excluding labor and
91 management returns] and parity. This fair

1 margin of return would be divided into the
2 national median family income level to
3 determine the maximum number of units of
4 production for which payments could be
5 made.

6 5. Payments would be made in the order of
7 the commodities that had the least difference
8 between prices received and parity to those
9 commodities that had the largest difference
10 until the goal of income parity is reached
11 through a maximum number of eligible units
12 of production for that farm.

13 6. The goal of such payments is to provide a
14 parity of income and encourage full-time
15 production by the farm family. Unearned
16 income [from interest, dividends, rent, etc.]
17 and off-farm income [from wages, etc.]
18 would reduce the maximum number of units
19 of production eligible for incentive payments
20 proportionately to the net income goal of the
21 incentive payment program.

22 7. The family farm incentive payment shall
23 be designed to encourage diversified
24 production units to the size of economic
25 efficiency for the combination of
26 commodities produced together with
27 appropriate soil and water stewardship.

28 29 **XI. ACRONYMS AND TERMS** 30 **GLOSSARY**

31
32 **100/RON clean octane E30** - An octane
33 rating is a standard measure of the
34 performance of an engine fuel. Fuels with a
35 higher octane rating are used in high-
36 performance gasoline engines that require
37 higher compression ratios.

38 **1987 Farm Credit Act** – The Agricultural
39 Credit Act of 1987

40 **ADC** – Animal Damage Control

41 **ADT** – Animal Disease Traceability

42 **AIB** – Animal Industry Board

43 **AMS** – Agricultural Marketing Service

44 **BSE** – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

45 **Capper-Volstead Act** – The Cooperative
46 Marketing Association Act of 1922

47 **Cell-Cultured Protein** – Food made by
48 extracting cells from an animal and growing
49 them in a bioreactor.

50 **CFTC** – Commodity Futures Trading
51 Commission

52 **CRP** – Conservation Reserve Program

53 **COLA** – Cost-of-Living Adjustment

54 **DOI** – United States Department of the
55 Interior

56 **DOJ** – United States Department of Justice

57 **DRG** – Diagnostic Related Groups

58 **E30** – a motor fuel blend that contains 30
59 percent ethanol fuel

60 **E50** – a motor fuel blend that contains 50
61 percent ethanol fuel

62 **E85** – a motor fuel blend that consists of 85
63 percent ethanol fuel

64 **EBC** – Equivalent bushel concept

65 **EOP** – Employee Education Program

66 **EQIP** – Environmental Quality Incentive
67 Program

68 **EPA** – Environmental Protection Agency

69 **EAJA** – Equal Access to Justice Act

70 **ESA** – Endangered Species Act of 1973

71 **ESL** – English as a Second Language

72 **ESSA** - Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

73 **FACS** – Family and Consumer Science

74 **FAO** – Food and Agriculture Organization of
75 the United Nations

76 **FCS** – Farm Credit System

77 **FDA** – Food and Drug Administration

78 **FDIC** – Federal Deposit Insurance
79 Corporation

80 **FERC** – Federal Energy Regulatory
81 Commission

82 **FFA** – National FFA Organization

83 **Fifth Amendment** – the Fifth Amendment of
84 the U.S. Constitution provides for individual
85 protections from double jeopardy and self-
86 incrimination; and a right to due process and
87 just compensation.

88 **FMD** – Foot and mouth disease

89 **FOIA** – Freedom of Information Act

90 **Food for Peace Act** – The Food for Peace
91 Act of 1956

92 **FOR** – Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve

1 **FS** – United States Forest Service
2 **FSA** – Farm Service Agency
3 **FTC** – Federal Trade Commission
4 **FWS** – United States Fish and Wildlife
5 Service
6 **GFP** – South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks
7 **GIPSA** – Grain Inspection, Packers and
8 Stockyards Administration
9 **GMO** – Genetically Modified Organism
10 **GOED** – Governor’s Office of Economic
11 Development
12 **Illinois Brick Case** – a United States
13 Supreme Court case, Illinois Brick Co. V.
14 Illinois, sets out the “Illinois Brick doctrine,”
15 which prohibited indirect purchasers of
16 goods or services from recovering antitrust
17 damages from antitrust violators
18 **IMSET** – Inventory Management Soil
19 Enhancement Tool
20 **Ionophores** – a lipid-soluble molecule that is
21 used as an antibiotic and/or growth-
22 enhancing feed additive.
23 **IRS** – Internal Revenue Service
24 **MCOOL** – Mandatory Country-of-Origin
25 Labeling
26 **NCBA** – National Cattleman’s Beef
27 Association
28 **NFU** – National Farmers Union
29 **NRCS** – Natural Resources Conservation
30 Service
31 **OSHA** – Occupational Safety and Health
32 Administration
33 **PAC** – Political Action Committee
34 **Pick-Sloan Act** – The Pick-Sloan Flood
35 Control Act of 1944
36 **PMA** – Power Marketing Administration
37 **POA** – Power of Attorney
38 **Public Law 480** – The Food for Peace Act of
39 1966
40 **PUC** – South Dakota Public Utilities
41 Commission
42 **REA** – Rural Electrification Administration
43 **REDI** – Revolving Economic Development
44 and Initiative
45 **RFID** – Radio frequency identification that
46 reads an animal’s information contained in a
47 wireless “tag”
48 **RMA** – Risk Management Agency
49 **Rural Electrification Act** – The Rural
50 Electrification Act of 1935
51 **SDBIC** – South Dakota Beef Industry
52 Council
53 **SDDA** – South Dakota Department of
54 Agriculture. *In 2021, The South Dakota
55 Department of Agriculture was merged with
56 the South Dakota Department of
57 Environment and Natural Resources to form
58 the South Dakota Department of Agriculture
59 and Natural Resources.
60 **SDDOT** – South Dakota Department of
61 Transportation
62 **SDFU** – South Dakota Farmers Union
63 **SDPB** – South Dakota Public Broadcasting
64 **SDSU** – South Dakota State University
65 **SNAP** – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
66 Program
67 **SSA** – Social Security Administration
68 **UN** – United Nations
69 **USACE** – United States Army Corps of
70 Engineers
71 **USD** – University of South Dakota
72 **USDA** – United States Department of
73 Agriculture
74 **USF** – Universal Service Fund
75 **USMEF** – U.S. Meat Export Federation
76 **USPS** – United States Postal Service
77 **VA** – United States Department of Veterans
78 Affairs
79 **Voting Rights Act** – The Voting Rights Act
80 of 1965
81 **WAPA** – Western Area Power
82 Administration
83 **WIC** – Women, Infants and Children
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1 **XII. SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

2
3 **Special Order of Business #1 – Oppose**
4 **Anticompetitive Practices in Livestock**
5 **Markets**

6
7 South Dakota Farmers Union opposes efforts
8 permitting livestock auction market owners
9 to have a direct or indirect ownership interest
10 in protein processing facilities. While such
11 practices have been illegal for more than 100
12 years, proposed legislation [“A-Plus Act”
13 (H.R. 7438) and its companion bill in the
14 Senate (the “Expanding Local Meat
15 Processing Act” – S. 4709)] seek to reverse
16 the rule that has been in place to support a
17 competitive marketplace. Likewise, packers
18 should not be allowed to own livestock
19 markets. Enabling simultaneous ownership
20 in livestock markets and processing facilities
21 is a step toward vertical integration
22 increasing the potential for price
23 manipulation and less competition.

24
25 **Special Order of Business #2 - Eminent**
26 **Domain**

27
28 We believe eminent domain should be
29 reserved for public projects. In the case
30 where eminent domain may eventually be
31 used, we believe individuals must be
32 notified, that public hearings be held, and
33 PUC approves the permit before the start of
34 a project.

35
36 We oppose the use of eminent domain for
37 private industry and private use.

38
39 We support a bill in the 2024 Legislative
40 Session to require any company to have a
41 state PUC permit in hand based on changing
42 Chapter 49 of the SDCL before eminent
43 domain can be used.

44
45

46 **Special Order of Business #3 - PHMSA**
47 **guidelines**

48
49 It is the responsibility of all levels of
50 government to protect and ensure the safety
51 of its citizens.

52
53 The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
54 Safety Administration (PHMSA) is the
55 governmental agency to protect people and
56 the environment by regulating the
57 movement of materials through pipelines.

58
59 PHMSA is currently holding public hearings
60 and investigations concerning the risk and
61 safety factors of transporting CO2 through
62 pipelines.

63
64 South Dakota Farmers Union supports
65 placing a moratorium at all levels of
66 government, including local, state, and
67 national, on all CO2 pipelines until the
68 PHMSA guidelines have been released and
69 implemented.

70
71 **Special Order of Business #4 – Supporting**
72 **a Competition Title in the Next Farm Bill**

73
74 South Dakota Farmers Union calls on
75 congressional leadership to include a
76 Competition Title in the next Farm Bill.
77 The bill would have provisions that improve
78 transparency and price discovery in the
79 cattle markets, strengthen the Packers and
80 Stockyards Act, ensure the farmers’ right to
81 repair, reinstate MCOOL, reform mandatory
82 checkoff programs, and promote
83 competitive practices across all sectors of
84 the economy.

85
86 **Special Order of Business #5 – Policy**
87 **Advisory Committee for Animal Damage**
88 **Control**

89
90 Per South Dakota Codified Law, 40-36-46,
91 “There is created a policy advisory

1 committee for animal damage control
2 consisting of the secretary of game, fish and
3 parks, the animal damage control supervisor,
4 the secretary of agriculture and natural
5 resources or the secretary's designee, and
6 one representative from each of the
7 following organizations:
8 USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services, the South
9 Dakota Sheep Growers, South Dakota
10 Cattlemen, South Dakota Stockgrowers
11 Association, South Dakota Farmers Union,
12 South Dakota Farm Bureau, and the South
13 Dakota Wildlife Federation. The committee
14 shall review animal damage control
15 activities and provide recommendations for
16 controlling animal damage in South Dakota.
17 The committee shall meet at least once a
18 year.”

19
20 South Dakota Farmers Union requests that
21 ‘Association of County Commissioners’ be
22 added to South Dakota Codified Law, 40-
23 36-46.

24
25 South Dakota Farmers Union requests an
26 opportunity for in-person meetings with the
27 committee created from South Dakota
28 Codified Law 40-36-46. In-person meetings
29 enhance cooperation, provide a more
30 engaging and communicative environment,
31 and allow interaction and a sense of shared
32 presence. Additionally, all groups hear the
33 same message which ensures everyone
34 receives consistent information and reduces
35 misunderstanding.

36
37 **Special Order of Business #6 – Ballot**
38 **Measures Against Meat-Packing Facilities**

39
40 South Dakota Farmers Union opposes any
41 ballot measure that intends to prohibit the
42 construction, use, and maintenance of any
43 meat packing facilities, including the ballot
44 measure directed at Superior Farms to ban
45 harvesting facilities in the city of Denver,
46 Colorado.

47 **Special Order of Business #7 – Addressing**
48 **Childcare Shortages in Rural**
49 **Communities**

50
51 South Dakota Farmers Union supports all
52 efforts to address the childcare shortages
53 affecting our rural communities in South
54 Dakota and deplores any money allocated to
55 the state by the Federal government to help
56 this be returned.

57
58 We call upon the South Dakota Legislature
59 and the South Dakota Department of Social
60 Services to address that only 7% of families
61 who qualify for subsidized daycare services
62 receive the subsidy. Further, we believe that
63 the local communities should be provided
64 financial support to address affordable
65 childcare shortages. We believe affordable
66 and accessible daycare and afterschool
67 programs are crucial to the success of our
68 rural communities and farm families.



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