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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.
   b. National Beef Checkoff
      i. We believe in beef checkoff reform.
      ii. We urge 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 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 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).

We also demand that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) fully enforce existing laws, rules, regulations and the CFTC deny any request for an increase in the number of positions that may be held by any individual trader.

3. Grain

a. Bonding

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

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

b. Inspection

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

ii. We urge Congress to review the adequacy of the grain inspection system with emphasis on providing penalties for noncompliance including revocation of license, suspension of operations, fines and/or imprisonment. The export of grain handling license of any firm found guilty of adulteration of grain moving in international trade should be revoked for a period of not less than 10 years.

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

c. Sale

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

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

d. Protections

i. We support a contract grower’s bill of rights.

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

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

iv. We support the validity of a farmer’s warehouse receipt as proof of his ownership of stored grain in an elevator. We also support legislation prohibiting seizure of said grain by elevator creditors upon foreclosure of elevators.

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

vi. Grain sales and voluntary credit sales would be covered by the funds.

vii. The Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve (FOR) should be restored and strengthened to serve as an “ever-normal granary” for both producers and consumers. The reserve should be expanded to include all non-perishable farm commodities and strengthened to provide for at least one year’s consumption and a strategic feed grain reserve dedicated to renewable energy production.

viii. We support removing grain regulations from the PUC, and to be regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture.
4. Specialty Crops

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

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

5. Livestock

a. Addressing large animal vet shortages
   i. We support the expansion of large animal vet degrees at universities and to help retain our graduating vets.
   ii. We support vet techs being able to perform veterinary practices under a licensed veterinary supervision
   iii. We support the state’s tuition repayment program for large animal veterinarians in rural areas.

b. Animal Welfare
   i. We support continued cooperation with other agricultural organizations to combat misinformation and support good animal husbandry practices.
   ii. We support all efforts to refute anti-meat campaigns. Farmers Union members are urged to write letters and contact the media with accurate information on the use and benefits of all meats.
   iii. We recommend South Dakota Farmers Union members monitor the activities of animal rights advocates.
   iv. We oppose the ideologies and agendas of extremist organizations.
   v. We favor the humane treatment of animals; however, we urge caution in passing laws regarding animal rights so that sound management practices are not adversely affected.
   vi. We support agricultural industry established standards for the management, care and treatment of animals in agriculture, commerce and research.

c. Antibiotics

We believe ionophores should not be defined as an antibiotic and all subsequent research statistics should be defined as separate entities.

d. Dairy
   i. We support regional milk marketing compacts provided they:
      A. Address the price of all classes of milk — not just Class I.
      B. Set the compact price at the cost of production.
   ii. We support a dairy pricing system that protects a profit margin.
   iii. We understand health measures but resist further consolidation and burdensome restrictions on raw milk sales from on-farm production to the public as long as adequate labeling is provided.
   iv. We support the family dairy industry and statewide efforts for continued development of dairy production and manufacturing.

e. Development
   i. We actively promote the development of livestock production in S.D. as a vital component in maintaining a healthy agricultural sector.
   ii. We support the implementation of anaerobic digesters at facilities which provide green energy and will provide more efficient fertilizer.
   iii. We support the establishment of a clean-up fund for large-scale livestock facilities. Revenues should be collected annually from operators of confinement with 1,000 animal units or more and deposited into a fund to provide for clean-up of wastes attributable to such facilities, including newly closed or abandoned facilities.

f. Marketing

We support the following efforts and programs aimed at increasing the farmer’s and rancher’s share of the consumer’s meat dollar:
Development of farmer and rancher-owned and/or local or regional meat packing and retail cooperatives.

Continuous monitoring of livestock and meat imports to properly assess their impact on domestic markets.

Interstate distribution of state inspected meats when state inspection guidelines meet or exceed Federal guidelines.

Transportation

We support transportation of all livestock, including horses, for slaughter domestically and internationally.

We support a permanent rule change to the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) rule that allows flexibility for truckers hauling livestock. These rules should take into consideration the time sensitive manner of hauling livestock and the safety considerations of both the public and livestock.

B. New and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

1. Lending Programs

a. We believe that the federal government’s status as a guarantor of loans by commercial lenders must be balanced with direct lending programs targeted at assisting beginning farmers. Direct loans should be viewed as “yardstick” credit to keep interest on private loans and government-insured loans at the lowest possible levels.

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

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

d. Operators should be given the opportunity to refinance at a lower rate of interest. Farm operating loans should bear interest of 5 percent or less. Emergency and disaster loans should be limited to the operating costs of the next year’s production.

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

2. Opportunities

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

b. We support education highlighting diverse opportunities in agriculture.

C. U.S. Department of Agriculture

1. Animal, Plant, Health Inspection Service

a. Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)

i. The stated purpose of the ADT is to identify specific animals and record their movements to enable a 48-hour trace back of any disease or exposed animal.

A. We support a universal RFID ear-tagging system along with the support of COOL as long as there is federal cost sharing so producers do not bear the entire cost.

B. We support local control of the S.D. data (the S.D. Animal Industry Board).

C. Confidentiality of collected data is essential to the integrity of the program. Also, an exemption from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and limiting producer liability after an ownership change would need to be included in any program.

D. We would not support requiring 4-H and National FFA Organization (FFA) youth to sign up their parents with a premise identification.
b. Health Research
   i. We support the continued testing of plants and animals for research and disease control.
   ii. All testing should be open and transparent.
   iii. USDA should create a comprehensive plan for all test results.
   iv. We believe cattle processing plants should be allowed to test for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in individual animals.

2. Pest Control
   We urge establishment of a USDA/farmer cost-sharing program for insect and pest control during times of emergency.

2. Labeling
   a. Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL)
      i. We support mandatory COOL for meat products. Animals must be born, raised, harvested, and processed in the U.S. to receive a U.S. origin label such as “Product of USA”. We demand the USDA to close loop holes threatening the label “Product of USA”.
      ii. We recommend that USDA and Congress reinstate mandatory COOL similar to the current WTO compliant Australian model.
   b. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
      The rights of both GMO and non-GMO producers should be respected as appropriate regulatory agencies continue to research and evaluate these concerns, including but not limited to required consumer labeling for goods made from or containing GMOs.
   c. Lab Cultured Protein
      Any alternative protein, including soy based, vegetable based, synthetic protein and cultured cells are to be prevented from using the term “meat” on their product.
   d. Milk
      Any alternative product, not derived from lactating mammals, cannot be labeled as milk.

3. Crop Insurance
   a. We support yield adjustments for disaster losses and the encouragement of expansion for specialty crops and livestock.
   b. We continue to favor expansion of the revenue assurance program.
   c. Crop insurance should be subsidized on a declining scale, with a regional adjustment to premium cost.
   d. Conservation compliance should be mandatory for government-subsidized crop insurance.
   e. Lending institutions should not be allowed to sell crop insurance.

4. Risk Management Agency (RMA)
   We support Inventory Management Soil Enhancement Tool (IMSET) as a mechanism for farmers to voluntarily use annually to enhance individual farmers’ pricing inventory while enhancing their land’s marginal soil.

5. Farm Service Agency (FSA)
   a. We reaffirm our support for the farmer-elected committee system. This proven system should not be compromised through the addition of non-farm or non-ranch appointees.
   b. Farmer-elected committees ought to have more power over day-to-day decision making involved in administration of the farm program.
   c. We urge uniform interpretation of rules and regulations between county and state offices.
   d. We oppose efforts to dismantle the FSA delivery system through office closures and elimination of county office employee jobs. Efforts to reduce spending ought to be fairly balanced among all agencies of the USDA and federal government.
e. We support the continuation of the limited resource loan program and urge that 35 percent of FSA loans be set aside for this program.
f. We urge loans for construction and/or improvement of farm/ranch homes be made available.
g. We continue to support the major provisions of the 1987 Farm Credit Act and demand that FSA observe the intent of that legislation. In cases of an appeal, the State Mediation Board should be used to ensure impartiality.

6. Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)
a. We urge the USDA to continually monitor the operation of the mandatory livestock price reporting system.
b. We urge that the Packers and Stockyards Act be fully enforced with equal attention paid to the problems of monopolistic control, manipulation of prices, deception and fraud.
c. GIPSA must be maintained and adequately funded to accomplish its mission. It should be prepared to fully coordinate research and investigative work with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).
d. We urge GIPSA to review and revise its livestock buyer bonding requirements to ensure adequate protection to the sellers of livestock.
e. We support the break-up of multinational companies and incentivize local and regional processor development, and prevent harmful vertical integration.

7. Marketing and Research
a. We strongly urge the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to utilize the best and most accurate information for releasing crop and livestock production reports.
b. It is very important that the USDA provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public with regard to farm prices, income and parity levels.
c. The USDA Secretary should present the facts concerning the costs and benefits of public expenditures and of the small share of the consumer food dollar received by farmers and ranchers.
d. We urge continued research for USDA at universities to develop better pest control techniques and educational programs to assist farmers and foresters in the best and safest use of pesticides, other agricultural chemicals and other means to assure wholesome food and a clean environment.

8. Payment Limitations
a. So-called multiple entity rules allowing farms to be artificially divided in order to avoid payment limitations should be abolished.
b. We are opposed to the use of commodity certificates or any other means of exceeding payment limitations.

c. South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA)*
a. We recommend that the SDDA provide for poultry inspection as a part of the state meat inspection program.
b. We encourage the expansion of the S.D. Pesticide Disposal Program as a way of preventing ground water contamination.
c. We urge the SDDA to continue the voluntary credit counseling service for economically hard-pressed family farmers and ranchers.
d. We support legislation to provide adequate funding for uniform inspection of
moisture and protein measuring devices by the SDDA.
e. We urge the legislature to increase funding for insect control and we urge the SDDA to take advantage of federal funds that are available.
f. The SDDA should be adequately funded to enable it to:
i. Research, identify and develop markets for S.D. agricultural products.

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

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

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

2. Animal Industry Board (AIB)
a. Strong controls are needed to prevent and eradicate livestock and poultry diseases.
b. Domesticated wild animals, birds and dogs should be treated as livestock.

c. We must communicate with the AIB and the state veterinarian in order to ensure affirmative action that will be beneficial to the livestock industry.

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

3. Brand Board
a. Every member of the brand board must be the owner of a registered brand and elected from districts from which the board members and voters reside.

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

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

4. Marketing and Research
a. We support SDDA expanding marketing and branding efforts of South Dakota agricultural products.
b. We support expanding research into adapting crops in S.D. and recognize alternative crops may be viable with further development.

5. Mediation
a. We support continuation of the Farm Credit Mediation Program. It has been demonstrated that this program reduces the number of farm bankruptcy filings and helps to alleviate tensions between lenders and borrowers.
b. We further express our support for Rural Renewal Coalition efforts to expand the mediation program to cover additional areas of conflict involving farmers, ranchers, government agencies and other entities.

When one party asks for mediation all parties must participate.
c. Fees ought to be regularly reviewed and reduced if their impact would deny access to the program or jeopardize future federal funding.

6. Office of the Secretary
We support the concept of an elected Secretary of Agriculture.

7. State Fair
a. We support the S.D. State Fair in Huron.
b. We support legislation that would allow the State Fair to keep all sales tax revenues collected on the fairgrounds.
c. We need research to enhance the State Fair.
d. We ask that the Legislature reinstate the voting power of the State Fair Commission.
e. We support the state investing in capital improvements at the State Fair.
f. We support State Fair funding as a line item in the state budget.
III. COOPERATIVES

A. Elections

We recommend that all cooperatives use the secret ballot on controversial issues and elections and prohibit employees from actively campaigning in any cooperative election.

B. Credit Unions

1. We support the expansion of credit unions.
2. We encourage Farmers Union groups to be aggressive in forming and furthering credit unions and promoting legislation on their behalf.
3. We oppose efforts to tax credit union earnings prior to their allocation to members.
4. We oppose proposals to merge the Credit Union Insurance Fund with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

C. Farm Credit System (FCS)

1. The FCS provides a substantial portion of the credit used by American farmers and ranchers.
2. Member control by the democratic process of these cooperative financial institutions is essential to their continued success and survival.
3. We support local control over these key rural lending institutions.
4. We urge that all borrowers be charged the same rate of interest for similar loans.
5. All borrowers should be required to purchase stock in the cooperative.
6. FCS institutions should be required to participate in farm loan mediation programs.
7. We do not support the POA granting to lender on operating notes.

D. Marketing and Promotion

1. We support designating October as Co-op Month.
2. We urge the appropriation of funds to staff a cooperative division in the SDDA capable of promoting cooperatives as required by law;
   a. To promote cooperatives.
   b. To provide expertise and advice in the establishment of new credit unions and cooperatives.
   c. To provide expertise and resources in establishing cooperative goals and to provide information on local demographics for planning.
   d. To act as an impartial advisor to financially troubled cooperatives.
3. We strongly urge that the farm cooperative system pursue the development and marketing of grain-based alcohol fuels through its network of local and regional cooperatives to enable producers to retain some control over their commodities.
4. We support development of a program to encourage cooperatives and governmental bodies to organize local collection points for material that can be recycled.

E. Taxation

1. We oppose any governmental action that attempts to dictate the time and manner of returning cooperative patronage earnings or refunds.
2. We strongly support the Capper-Volstead Act and urge Congress to enforce it.
3. Taxation of cooperatives must be consistent with the Federal Internal Revenue Tax Code.

F. Value-Added

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

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

IV. EDUCATION

A. Ag Education

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

B. Extension Service

1. We support expansion of extension services at the county level along with well-trained 4-H county advisors.

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

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

C. Federal

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

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

3. The “Every Student Succeeds” federal education program should be fully funded to implement the federal requirements or eliminated if not fully funded.

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

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

D. Higher Education

1. S.D. Board of Regents

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

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

2. South Dakota State University (SDSU)

a. We urge SDSU to maintain research independent of bio-technology companies to allow unbiased research.

b. We urge SDSU to place greater emphasis on increasing farm and ranch profitability through improved farm management and marketing. We also urge emphasis on courses pertaining to rural life studies which emphasize the contributions made by family farmers and ranchers.

c. We urge continued research for USDA at universities to develop better pest control techniques and educational programs to assist farmers and foresters in the best and safest use of pesticides, other agricultural chemicals and other means to assure wholesome food and a clean environment.
3. University of South Dakota (USD)
We encourage USD graduate doctors to stay and practice medicine for ten years in rural S.D. in return for the payment of their entire tuition by the state.

4. South Dakota Technical Colleges
We recognize South Dakota Technical Colleges education programs as an important part of agricultural education in South Dakota.

E. Public Education

1. SDFU has consistently supported our educational system. We strongly recommend the continued support of these institutions of learning in their endeavors to enhance the cultural and economic life of the people of our state and nation.

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

3. The formula for granting monetary aid to students should be based on the need of the individual. Rural school districts should be assured of their fair share of federal and state aid to education. Federal and state educational requirements ought to be funded with federal and state aid.

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

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

6. We fully support agriculture education, including Family and Consumer Science (FACS), trade and industrial training programs. We recognize that FFA should be considered an intra-curricular part of agriculture education.

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

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

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

10. We oppose any unfunded mandates regarding education.

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

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

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

F. South Dakota Board of Education

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

V. CONSERVATION AND LAND USE

A. Conservation
1. We support conservation programs funded at levels that ensure continued protection of our soil, water, and native sod.

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

3. Base acres established prior to entering any farm program, or being displaced by natural disasters for multiple years, should be preserved for times when land comes back into production.

4. We urge the state of S.D. to restore a shelter belt incentive program as a means of encouraging the planting and renovation of shelterbelts with an emphasis of controlling invasive trees.

**B. Land Use**

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. **Eminent Domain**

   a. We understand that issues of eminent domain are significant for landowners. Every effort should be made to adequately resolve these issues. However, it is important that the welfare of the entire state receive equal consideration.

   b. We believe eminent domain should be reserved for public projects. Where eminent domain may eventually be used, individual notification and public hearings must be held before the project is allowed to proceed.

   c. We support severance damages including payment for the diminution of remaining land values and increased expenses and inconvenience suffered by affected landowners and operators. After initial court expenses, including attorneys’ and appraisers’ fees, additional expenses must be borne by the constructing agency in condemnation proceedings.

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

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

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

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

8. **Fifth Amendment**

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

   b. We urge Congress to define in law “a taking” as any action by the government
which deprives citizens of use of their property or reduces the value of that property.

9. Planning and Zoning
a. Any state legislation should recognize that agricultural land must be preserved for the future. Family farmers should be represented in all zoning deliberations.
b. We encourage counties to enact comprehensive land use plans and zoning ordinances to control and regulate the potential expansion of large-scale livestock confinement facilities and cattle feed lots.
c. We oppose any effort to replace county zoning laws with statewide zoning laws.
d. County planning and zoning boards should be made up of a majority of rural residents.

10. Private Property
a. Anyone trespassing on private land should be liable for his or her own action.
b. No person should be allowed on private property using water as access without the landowner’s permission.
c. Any state entity that controls public waters that cause damage to private property should be held responsible for returning the property to its original form.

11. Public Lands
a. Rental fees for the lease of state-owned or other public lands for grazing or other agricultural purposes must be consistent with rental fees on private lands in the same area and of equal productivity.
b. When state-owned land is sold, the appraised price per acre must also be consistent with the value of private lands in the same locality and of equal access.

C. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

1. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
a. We support continuation of CRP.
b. CRP eligibility should be modified to include lands that have been cropped during at least two of the previous 10 years. CRP eligibility should also be extended to include farmland and pastureland that has been affected by declared weather-related disasters or crop diseases during at least two of the previous 10 years.
c. CRP payments should be established at fiscally-responsible levels and enrollment, or re-enrollment, should target lands to promote restoration of soil health with payments based on county average cash rents.
Farmland and pastures that have been flooded for one or more years and cropland that has been repeatedly plagued by disease should also be eligible for enrollment.
d. CRP contracts should continue to be long term.
e. Uniform standards should be applied for enrollment or re-enrollment of land in CRP.

2. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
While dealing with pollution problems, EQIP assistance should be targeted to family farm agricultural production units with 1,000 animal units or less per site.

3. Watershed and Flood Prevention
a. We urge continued funding of the Small Watersheds Flood Prevention and Conservation Program.
b. Federal funding provided through the NRCS should also be targeted toward reducing erosion along the Missouri River watershed.

D. Mineral Rights
1. All mineral rights should be returned to the owner of the land in 10 years or when land is resold.
2. All mineral rights should be retained by the surface owner.
3. Landowners with severed mineral rights need to be justly compensated and protected.

E. Mining

1. We are categorically opposed to the mining of uranium in S.D.
2. We support the adoption and enforcement of a comprehensive strip-mining bill. Our goal must be to ensure the best use of land and to return mined land to its original use.

F. Oil and Gas

1. We support proper environmental safeguards to protect the economic interests of farmers and ranchers.
2. Full protection should be given during the planning, exploration, development and reclamation from all processes related to oil and gas exploration and development.
3. Land affected by oil and gas exploration and development should be given 10 percent obsolescence from land taxes due to the devaluation of the surface.
4. Mediation for surface damages and reclamation should be under the auspices of the SDDA and should be mandatory if the surface owner requests mediation 90 days from the beginning of negotiations with the oil and gas exploration company.
5. Payments for loss of income and damages to the surface resulting from ongoing oil and gas development should be made annually until total reclamation of the affected surface is complete.

G. Outdoor Recreation

1. We support state statutes requiring landowner permission prior to hunting on private property.
2. We encourage the development of a system to provide a percentage of hunting and fishing license revenues to counties and townships.
3. The authority to set license fees should be returned to the state legislature.
4. Non-resident hunters hunting on preserves should be charged the same out-of-state license fees assessed against other out-of-state hunters.
5. We favor enactment of legislation based on the Wisconsin model prohibiting harassment of hunters by animal rights activists.
6. Road hunting should not be permitted without the adjoining landowner’s permission.
7. We support limiting the ability for a game warden to enter private land to inspect licenses while hunting without landowner’s permission unless noticeable violations are occurring.

H. Pipelines

1. We believe that proper environmental safeguards must be implemented and the economic interests of farmers and ranchers be fully protected during the construction and operation of oil or other pipelines.
2. We recommend that appropriate legislation be enacted to ensure pipeline safety and to protect against environmentally damaging leaks.
3. We support all entities domestic or foreign contributing to the super fund.

I. Predator Control

1. It is essential that the federal government establish a program utilizing both federal and state departments of agriculture to control predatory animals. We recognize the need for livestock producers to protect their livestock from predators. We urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Congress to continue the use of approved practices such as the M-44 Sodium Cyanide capsules and Sodium Fluoroacetate (commonly known as “compound 1080”).
2. We support a comprehensive review of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973.
3. We urge the legislature to adopt a state bounty on predators.

J. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP)
1. The GFP should be more accountable to the state Legislature by placing their budget under the authority of the appropriations committee.
2. GFP should be required to pay taxes on their lake access land at the same rate as adjoining agricultural land. All state park lands should be thoroughly investigated as to use or non-use.
3. GFP should be authorized to utilize funds earmarked for land acquisition to make necessary repairs on dams located on state-owned or leased property.
4. We urge the GFP to diligently control noxious weeds and invasive trees on lands they own or control.
5. We support GFP to offer a free deer and antelope license to each resident landowner with a production unit of 160 acres or more.
6. We support the idea of a transferable landowner’s deer license. The number of licenses would be limited as deemed necessary by the GFP.
7. We urge GFP to formulate and implement a plan for the management of the black-tailed prairie dog on state and federal land.
8. We urge GFP to manage wildlife and water to reduce depredation and reimburse landowners for depredation.
9. We support the Animal Damage Control program.
10. We support the election of GFP secretary and commissioners.

K. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
1. We encourage USACE to address the siltation problems behind mainstream Missouri River dams.
2. We recommend that the USACE, appropriate conservation districts and the states of Neb. and S.D. work together to resolve erosion and sedimentation problems on the Missouri and Niobrara Rivers.
3. We are strongly opposed to the sale of water and waterway user’s fees by USACE.
4. We support the upgrade of the Mississippi locks and dams’ systems.

L. Water
1. Law
   a. We urge adoption of the following order of preference in the use of water: [a] domestic and municipal consumption; [b] hydroelectric power; [c] industrial consumption; [d] irrigation [e] wildlife [f] recreation and navigation.
   b. We agree with the objectives in the water user district law by which S.D. will keep priority rights on water within its boundaries.

2. Rural Water Resource Development Program
   a. The state of S.D. should have a rural water resource development program wherein:
      i. The state would provide increased financial assistance for the development of rural water systems.
      ii. The state would also expand research and technical assistance for developing these systems on an increased cooperative basis to lower the cost.
      iii. We support establishing a funding program for rural water systems.

3. Rural Water System
   a. We support the S.D. Rural Water Systems and full Congressional authorization and funding.

4. Watersheds
We support the federal funding for watershed restoration projects.

**M. Waste**

1. We strongly urge a safe site be found to establish a hazardous waste disposal site and recognize that disposal of hazardous chemical wastes poses a serious threat to public health and the environment in many areas of the U.S.

2. We encourage the development of hazardous waste disposal methods, other than landfills, with stricter enforcement of laws on transporting and handling hazardous waste. Our ground water must be safeguarded from contamination.

3. We support the waste pesticide collection and pesticide container recycling measures approved by the 1992 S.D. Legislature.

4. We support efforts to recycle, reuse, or conserve products and resources when cost effective and environmentally safe.

5. We support more stringent inspection of refuse and runoff from cities and towns, as well as from manufacturing and processing plants.

6. We strongly oppose the establishment of any disposal site for hazardous chemical and solid wastes in S.D.

**N. Weed and Pest Control**

1. We support steps to control noxious weeds, insects, and other pests on U.S. Forest Service (FS) grazing land, trust land and all land within U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and waterfowl production areas as well as right-of-ways.

2. We urge members to continue to cooperate with township, county and state weed control programs.

3. We support stricter enforcement of present law and the establishment of an expanded educational program at the county level under the county agent’s direction.

4. We are opposed to legislation to combine weed and pest control boards with those controlling predators.

5. We urge support of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) registration review process for all herbicide control chemicals and it must continue to rely on quality controlled and peer-reviewed science as the basis for any outcome.

**O. Wetlands**

1. We support preservation of the nation’s wetlands. Land should only be designated as a wetland if all three criteria [1. hydrology, 2. predominance of hydric soil, and 3. a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation] are present.

2. We support the memorandum of understanding between the USDA, EPA and USACE placing responsibility for designation of agricultural wetlands with the NRCS.

3. We refute any arbitrary and excessive penalties mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

4. Federal regulations should be amended to allow farmers to consolidate wetlands in a given acreage, provided there is no net loss of wetlands in such acreage.

**VI. ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Energy**

1. **Biodiesel and Ethanol**

   a. We recommend continued congressional vigilance to assure that EPA regulations require use of all ethanol blended fuels.

   b. Education and research are the keys to a successful transition from our present day petroleum dependency to a future self-sufficiency based on our own renewable resources. We should take every opportunity to dispel lies and misinformation regarding the safety of ethanol.
c. We support an ethanol fuel program utilizing low-interest federal loans to farmers and groups of farmers to build ethanol production plants.

d. We support the governor for requiring Premium E30 in all state owned, non-flex fuel vehicles.

e. We support moving S.D. ethanol market share to 30% by 2024 and 50% by 2028.

f. We support continuation of the present combination of state gas tax exemption and producer incentives to encourage further development of the ethanol industry in S.D.

g. We oppose any effort to impose a state tax on corn to fund ethanol producer incentive payments.

h. We urge all consumers to make a greater use of higher blends of ethanol and bio-diesel in their motor vehicles when practical.

i. We encourage the promotion and use of 100/RON clean octane E30 through farmer-owned and branded blender pumps in S.D. We will work with cooperatives and others to assure success through S.D.’s cooperative fuel retailers to offer 100/RON clean octane E30 providing opportunity for fuel efficiency, national security and cleaner air, while also cementing a market place for farmers and the enhancement of rural economies.

2. Development

a. Agriculture is an energy producer and national security improves as domestic energy resources are diversified. Agricultural policy and energy policy should work together effectively.

b. Energy policy must be consistent with our system of family agriculture.

c. Programs for the development of environmentally friendly renewable energy sources should be conducted, with special emphasis on solar energy, wind energy and bio-based fuels, such as ethanol and bio-diesel.

d. Elements of an effective national energy policy include:

   i. Equitable distribution and efficient development of energy to assure adequate production of food and fiber;

   ii. Pricing policy which will prevent economic hardship;

   iii. A massive program to develop renewable sources of energy;

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

3. Electricity

a. We support the maintenance of territorial protection for rural electric systems to guarantee access to affordable electric power.

b. We oppose retail wheeling and federally mandated restructuring of the electric utility industry.

c. We believe local rural electric boards should be fully informed on their capability to promote rural economic development and encouraged to participate in rural development efforts.

d. We oppose mandatory, time-certain deregulation of the electric industry at the federal level. Each state should determine the timing and method of any restructuring or deregulation of electricity.

e. We support development of comprehensive, science-based standards to help producers and utilities work together to detect and mitigate stray voltage. We also support requiring that any testing for stray voltage be completed by a certified professional engineer or certified master electrician.

4. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

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

5. Missouri River Dams

The amortization of the cost of constructing main stem Missouri River dams was established more than three decades ago. There is no sound economic reason to make any change in this rate structure. The power produced is intended primarily for preference customers who are non-profit bodies such as rural electric cooperatives, public power districts and municipal power systems. We are opposed to any unjustified increases to those rates. The power revenues derived from the mainstream dams are on schedule with the requirements of the Pick-Sloan Act, which established the original criteria.

6. Public Power

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

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

c. The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and other federally-owned Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs) are an essential element in the delivery of affordable electric power to members of rural electric cooperatives and customers of municipally-owned utilities. We strongly oppose any legislation that would result in sale of the PMAs.

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

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

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

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

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

7. Rural Electrification Administration (REA)

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

b. We support the REA insured and guaranteed loan programs.

c. We strongly oppose any efforts to “privatize” the REA or federal power marketing agencies.

d. We urge Congress to approve amendments to the Rural Electrification Act which are designed to ensure the continuation of adequate, long-term financing for the nation’s rural electric and telecommunications systems provided that lower interest rates are made available to systems serving sparsely settled areas.

8. Transmission

a. We support the development and transmission of electrical power to better
serve the farmers and ranchers of this country.
b. We also urge landowner-friendly development of the electrical transmission facilities.
c. We support the cyber protection of our electric grid.

9. Wind Energy
a. We support the development of wind and other alternative energy sources.
b. We urge farmers, ranchers and other landowners to consider the establishment of wind energy cooperatives and/or landowner associations to represent their own interests during the development process. Provisions of wind energy leases should be open for public review.
c. We urge electric companies to purchase wind energy from individuals who set up wind turbines on their own property or those who cooperate to build wind turbines, for the same price that they pay for energy from other sources.
d. We support extending benefits to community wind projects and cooperative investment projects equal to tax credits now offered to wind projects.
e. We support the development of minimum criteria of regulating the development of wind energy.
f. We support designing a portion of all transmission lines in S.D. for wind energy.
g. We request that the name plate revenue collected from wind farms be dedicated to support local public schools.

B. Telecommunications

1. Regulation
a. The deregulation of telecommunications services should be approached with extreme care in order to protect the interests of the consuming public.
b. To serve the best interests of rural communities of S.D., we encourage investment in infrastructure to improve telecommunication delivery systems in our state.
c. We request that Congress and appropriate regulatory agencies take whatever action is necessary to protect the interests of consumers and prosecute companies or individuals found guilty of fraudulent acts.

2. South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
a. We believe that the PUC should be provided with adequate personnel and funding to ensure proper protection of the interests of consumers.
b. The regulatory powers of the PUC should not be tampered with unless it can be clearly demonstrated that such action is in the best interests of the people of S.D.
c. We strongly support continued regulatory oversight of the telecommunications industry by the PUC.

3. Universal Service Fund (USF)
a. We support the continuation of the USF for rural telecommunications cooperatives.
b. To serve high-cost areas with affordable, state of the art telecommunication services, we encourage the full funding of the USF.

VII. ECONOMICS

A. Anti-Monopoly Policies
1. We believe that monopolistic concentration in the meat packing, transportation, energy, and seed industries has reduced competition to a point where producers no longer have access to fair and equitable markets. We strongly urge USDA and DOJ to exercise its subpoena power investigating monopolistic concentration.
2. We support a full federal investigation of the effects of concentration in the transportation industry, especially rail transportation.
3. We support anti-trust action to increase competition in the private sector of energy industries.
4. We support implementation of temporary moratorium on large agricultural mergers. The moratorium is necessary to provide Congress with time to review current law and strengthen it as appropriate to restore market competition for producers and consumers.
5. We urge that a national conference be held to include representatives of farmers, ranchers, consumers and organized labor in an effort to eliminate monopolistic practices in the food industry.
6. We support legislation to prohibit ownership or control of feedlots by meat packing firms.
7. We oppose ownership of livestock by packing firms except for the reason of immediate slaughter.
8. We support passage of legislation that would repeal the adverse impact of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in the Illinois Brick Case and allow producers and consumers to bring anti-trust actions whether damages were direct or indirect.

**B. Federal Reserve Board**

The Federal Reserve Board should be reconstituted to include representatives of agriculture, small business and labor.

**C. Loans**

1. Feed grain loan rates should be increased to better reflect their renewable energy value.
2. Loan rates should be based on the cost of production. The county base yields should be updated.
3. We oppose the sale of federally-financed loans at a discounted rate unless the individual or entity affected has the right of first refusal to purchase their loan at the established discount rate.

**D. Fees and Licenses**

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

**E. National Debt**

We support a lower national debt and reforms in our inequitable tax structure.

**F. Producer Income**

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

**G. Rural Development**

1. We support economic development for rural SD communities by adding value to agriculture production by family farmers.
2. We support the S.D. Board of Economic Development.
3. We believe that any program seriously proposing to boost adding value to grain and livestock production in S.D. must receive interest rates that are at least comparable to those available to businesses through the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) Revolving Economic Development and Initiative (REDI) Fund.
4. Interest rates of more than six percent are unacceptable.
5. We support the expanded use of the REDI Fund by S.D. family farmers and ranchers.
6. These changes also recognize that rural people paid a disproportionate share of the one-cent sales tax increase.
7. We urge greater use of the value-added sub fund.
8. We support continued S.D. funding for the Northern Crops Institute.
7. We pledge our cooperation and support for the legislative Rural Renewal Coalition.
8. We support establishment of venture capital groups for producer-owned businesses.
9. We support continued statewide efforts to promote increases in state processing of agricultural products. These efforts should include cooperation with farmers, ranchers and their organizations in promoting and constructing cooperatively-owned processing plants in S.D.
10. We support the establishment of enterprise communities and empowerment zones as a means of assisting development in economically disadvantaged rural areas.
11. We continue to support local rural development entities that work to expand opportunities for local communities.
12. We urge the appropriation of public and private funds for the establishment of an enterprise facilitation program. Facilitation programs should be able to apply and receive rural development funds.
13. We support efforts to increase affordable housing in the rural communities.

H. Taxation

1. Carbon Carrier Pipeline Tax
We support a tax on carbon carrier pipelines for S.D. to be used for bio fuel development.

2. Contractor’s Excise Tax
We urge repeal of the contractor’s excise tax and replaced with a corporate income tax. S.D. is currently the only state in the union to impose this form of pyramiding taxation.

3. Excess-Profits Tax
An excess-profits tax should be levied on those corporations whose profits are clearly out of line with reasonable rate of return on invested capital.

4. Federal Estate Tax
We support a 35 percent estate tax after exempting the first $10 million.

5. Income Tax
a. We believe that personal and corporate income taxes ought to be a part of a balanced state tax structure. The goal of reform should be a structure wherein state and local tax revenues are raised approximately one-third from property taxes, one-third from sales taxes and one-third from income taxes.
b. We support the federal income tax deductibility of 100 percent of health insurance premium and health care costs for self-employed persons.
c. To relieve property taxes in S.D. and to provide for a more equitable sharing of the costs of education, we favor state enactment of a graduated personal income tax and a corporate profits tax.
d. A state income tax should be simple, have a low administrative cost, be based on net income from the federal income tax form, with all revenues going to education and for real estate tax relief.

6. Investment Tax Credit
We urge that the investment tax credit be reinstated at an incremental level beneficial to family farmers and small businesses.

7. Mineral Severance Taxes
Mineral rights held by non-surface owners should be made subject to a mineral tax with revenues designated for purposes of property tax relief to the surface owner. Severed mineral rights have value and are benefited from state and county roads.

8. Motor Fuel Taxes
a. We continue our long-term support for an exemption from the state gas tax at the time of delivery for non-highway users.
b. We recognize that a certain portion of gas tax revenue is directly attributable to boating. Expenditure of these revenues should be...
confined to the construction or enhancement of public facilities.

c. We oppose any legislation authorizing enactment of city gas taxes.

d. We oppose any new increase in fuel tax for roads without an adequate amount of the proceeds going to counties and townships.

e. We encourage any license fee increase for vehicles over 5 years old to be retained in the county.

9. Property Taxes

a. We support agriculture land assessment based on the capability to produce, land use, terrain, climate, location, soil type, and actual use.

b. We continue to support efforts to establish limitations in future property tax increases.

c. We urge a full review of recent major reductions in valuations and assessments for centrally-assessed property including that which is owned by utilities.

d. We urge the state legislature to rewrite policy directing the 25 percent property tax reduction to South Dakotans most in need of property tax relief. Specifically, we suggest the establishment of a homestead exemption.

e. We oppose any action to reinstitute the personal property tax.

f. Federal and state government and Indian lands should be required to pay an amount in lieu of taxes equal to the amount of real estate taxes paid on similar private lands in each county.

g. We support a sellers’ fee assessed on property sales to be distributed on a local level.

h. We are opposed to frontage roadway assessment in rural areas.

i. We oppose a shift in capital outlay funds to general funds for education.

10. Sales Tax

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

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

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

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

e. We continue to oppose all city sales taxes unless purchases by non-resident, rural citizens can be exempted.

f. We oppose any permissive legislation authorizing enactment of county sales taxes without county voter approval.

g. We strongly oppose any expansion of state sales and use taxes that do not include exemptions for grocery store food and clothing, and is not specifically earmarked for education.

h. We support the reinstatement of sales tax exemptions for personal property sold at auction, newspaper sales and subscriptions, cattle semen, amateur sports officiating, veterinary services, state and county fair parking and the exchange of processed for raw agricultural products.

11. Tax Code

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

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

c. Every effort should be made to restore an enhanced degree of progressivity to the tax code by increasing the number of brackets and increasing the maximum tax rate for the wealthy.
d. Foundations and churches should be taxed while engaging in commercial, profit-making activities.
e. We believe in equitable tax treatment for all businesses. We, therefore, support the right of state governments to collect sales taxes on Internet and catalog sales.
f. Alien owners of U.S. farmland and other property should be subject to the same taxes as domestic owners.

12. Water Tax
a. We oppose any state tax on water use and/or water permits.
b. We urge repeal of state statutes requiring fees for water rights permit on land developed for water spreading to ensure that its population will always have safe, clean water for human and livestock use.

c. 

13. Tax Freezes
We urge the legislature to repeal all tax freezes on schools, counties, and townships. Local governments have more of an understanding of their needs rather than the legislators of the state.

14. Trust Fund Tax
The SD legislature should review trust fund laws for relief of taxation for education, health care and property tax.

VIII. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A. Agricultural Practices

1. Corporate Farming
We believe that Congress should enact legislation requiring investor-owned, non-family farm corporations to divest their holdings in agricultural properties. We call on the USDA and the DOJ to conduct a full and complete study of the extent to which outright corporate ownership and contract production have limited the market access of independent family farmers. Once the facts have been determined, we call upon Congress to pursue all appropriate remedies.

2. Land Ownership
a. We believe that continued ownership and control of U.S. agricultural land by family farmers and ranchers is vital to the moral and economic welfare of this nation. We strongly support constitutional restrictions on non-family farm or ranch corporate ownership of agricultural land and livestock. We urge like-minded organizations to continue regional and national cooperation to enact or strengthen anti-corporate farm legislation.
b. We continue to support existing statutory restrictions that limit the ownership of agricultural land by individual, non-resident aliens to 160 acres.
c. We urge Congress to prohibit the sale of farmland in the FSA inventory to non-resident foreign investors.
d. We support either of the following: a buffer of 6 foot to prevent livestock enticement or the nullification of liability for the livestock producer for any trespassing damages on non-buffered fence lines.

c. 

3. Sustainable Agriculture
We support farm bill provisions making agriculture more sustainable and productive.

B. Consumer Protection

1. We favor strengthening the S.D. Division of Consumer Protection through better funding and adequate staffing.
2. We reject the sale of private browser history under the Browser Act of 2017 and request its repeal.

C. Corporations

1. We support legislation to prohibit corporations from developing or selling seed that contains a terminator gene and, thus, cannot reproduce.
2. We denounce all actions and governments which promote the welfare of multi-national corporations and holders of extreme wealth at the expense of the American people.

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

4. Due to the fact that the Supreme Court never ruled that corporations were granted the rights of natural persons in the 14th Amendment and corporations are persons of the artificial sort, corporations should only be granted rights specifically granted by the Secretary of State’s filing.

D. Governmental Reform

1. Campaign Finance
   a. We support comprehensive campaign finance reform including:
      i. Presidential candidates should continue to receive matching federal funds for campaign expenses. Similar financial assistance should also be provided to candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.
      ii. Contributions from individuals should be limited to $1,000 per candidate. Contributions by each Political Action Committee (PAC) should be limited to $5,000 per candidate
      iii. Caps should be instituted on total campaign spending.
      iv. All types of campaign contributions should be fully reported.
      v. We support eventual shift to public financing and elimination of PACs.
   b. We urge ethics legislation at the state level that would result in more in-depth investigation of where campaign funds originate and how they are used.
   c. We recommend legislation to place reasonable limits on campaign spending and the length of campaigns. Elimination of soft money contributions should be a top priority.
   d. We support a progressive sales tax on campaign spending based on what the elected office holder receives for that office.
   e. We are opposed to the ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that makes it possible for a corporation to be considered as an “individual” regarding campaign contributions.

2. Civil Liberties
   a. It shall be our purpose to seek to preserve and broaden the civil liberties and rights of all the people. The demands of the Declaration of Independence and the safeguards guaranteed to the people by the Constitution and its Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments must be made a code of conduct for our nation.
   b. We shall oppose those persons or forces which seek to abridge, abrogate, or eliminate any of our civil rights and liberties.

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

4. Elected Officials
   a. We support legislation requiring complete disclosure of income and sources of income by legislators and other elected public officials.
   b. We oppose any merger of constitutional offices.

5. Elections
   a. All electronic voting machines shall have a paper record to verify the votes.
   b. We urge that no unnecessary restrictions be placed on voter registration or the right of citizens to vote by absentee ballot.
   c. We urge strong enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.
d. We oppose any actions to increase the number of signatures required to initiate or refer a law.
e. We urge repeal of rules requiring anything more than printing of name, signature, address or box number and date of signing initiative, referendum, constitutional amendment and candidate petitions.
f. We favor legislation to require full disclosure of federal tax returns by candidates for state constitutional offices and the state Legislature at least two months before the general election.
g. We support whatever constitutional or other action is necessary to restore the right of citizens to initiate or refer measures that include state revenue.
h. We oppose any effort to reduce the required percentage of voter approval in local bond issue elections.
i. We support keeping all local voting rolls, including names, addresses, voting records, social security numbers, from becoming public record.

6. Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA)
We support any efforts to bring substantive reform to the EAJA.

7. Line Item Veto
We oppose the line item veto.

8. S.D. State Legislature
a. We are opposed to changing the legislature to a unicameral or single-house body.
b. We support legislation to elect state senators for a four-year term.
c. We support some form of compensation to legislators performing legislative related duties on weekends and when the Legislature is not actually in session.
d. We support repeal of the so-called S.D. ‘gag law.’ Under the guise of preserving confidentiality, this legislation has allowed government to conceal the public’s business from the public.
e. We support establishing a non-partisan redistricting body and single member house districts statewide.
f. We support legislation requiring all registered lobbyists to fully report all fees and compensation which they receive for their legislative activity.

9. State Agencies
a. We ask that the tax advocate position in state government be taken away from the S.D. Department of Revenue and be placed under the S.D. Department of Legislative Audit.
b. We urge that all state-purchased vehicles and equipment be manufactured in the U.S.

10. Tort Law
We strongly support tort reform.

E. Health Care
1. We support a comprehensive, universal, national, prepaid health care and medical facilities insurance program. This program should enable every citizen to receive fully adequate medical, dental, hospital, chiropractic and other health care services, including treatment for alcoholism, drug addiction, mental illness, and prescription drugs. This program should also include preventative health care services.
2. We recommend a careful study of health care systems in other states and nations.
3. We support the single payer system.
4. We support hospice care for the terminally ill.
5. We continue to support the “division of assets” concept.
6. We support assisted living and minimum-care homes for those people who do not require the care of nursing homes.
7. We believe insurers should be required to cover the full cost of regular check-ups and preventative health care.
8. We support the inclusion of reasonable chiropractic care in any state healthcare plan.
9. We support an expansion of a risk pool for uninsurable South Dakotans. We view this as a necessary step toward enactment of a comprehensive, universal state health care reform program.
10. We urge that any national or state health reform plans maintain rural access and cost containment as important priorities.
11. We support legislation that would allow American pharmacists and distributors to import prescription drugs approved by the FDA and sell them at more affordable prices.
12. We urge the U.S. government and health care providers to negotiate with drug manufacturers to make prescription drug prices more in line with those that are available in other countries.
13. We urge substantially increased federal appropriations for research on all major diseases and for study of prevention and effective treatment of mental illness.
14. We support 100 percent deductibility for health insurance premiums to include all health care costs.
15. We demand that Congress limit the ability of health insurance companies to dictate length of stay or possible hospital procedures.
16. We support a patient’s right to choose their medical provider.
17. We support elimination of discriminatory pricing of prescription drugs.
18. The definition of “group” should be expanded to make group policies available to all people.
19. We support the establishment of a self-funding cooperative movement for health insurance.

F. Mental Health

1. We support public and private programs to incentivize mental health and addiction professionals to move to and practice in rural communities
2. We support full mental health care coverage by insurance groups.
3. We support increased mental health care availability in our public schools.
4. We support evidence-based prevention treatment and education efforts to reduce illegal substance use, addiction and suicide.

G. Humanitarian Aid

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

H. Medicaid and Medicare

1. We support larger reimbursements from our state for Medicaid residents of long-term care facilities.
2. We support federal legislation aimed at providing equal coverage of Medicare reimbursement procedures in order that vital rural medical facilities may survive.
3. We regard the method of classifying Medicare patients under the Diagnostic Related Groups (DRG) policy as an insult to our older citizens. We recognize the necessity of controlling increases in Medicare and other health care costs, but a policy that forces hospitals to discharge Medicare patients once their Medicare eligibility has run out is wrong. Patients in need of further medical care should be allowed to remain in the hospital with expenses paid through Medicare supplemental insurance or in cash.
4. We recommend that the time period for changing the medications or prices paid by insurance companies and the time period for an individual to change an insurance carrier shall be the same.
I. Nutrition

1. We deplore reductions in domestic food utilization and distribution programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), school lunches, Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) programs, elderly nutrition programs, and summer food service programs, which will assist people in obtaining sufficient food to meet their nutritional needs, including donated meat that is processed at a state inspected facility.

2. We call upon the administration to expand the school milk and school lunch programs to every school child. Reduction of surpluses and improved child nutrition would be advanced by offering school children additional cartons of milk.

3. We support wholesome foods in schools with fewer restrictions to create more balanced and geographically appropriate diets for our students.

4. Federal agencies should be prohibited from using imported commodities in school lunch and other organization programs.

5. We oppose federally-mandated nutrition standards for school lunches that replace long accepted health standards with menu choices that reduce or eliminate meat and dairy products.

6. Federally-owned surplus commodities should be utilized in the school lunch and summer food service programs.

7. We feel the USDA should use all authorities it has, including donations, to dispense of any excess commodities to those people, both domestic and worldwide, who are in need.

J. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

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

K. Retirement System

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

2. We encourage individual, personal retirement plans.

L. Seniors

We advocate the continuation and expansion of experience works service, visiting neighbor, mini-bus, senior nutrition, meals-on-wheels and other programs to enable senior citizens to retain their independence.

M. Social Security

1. We believe in a strong Social Security system in the U.S. We recommend that:
   a. Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) must be recalculated to include real-world expenses. Simply pinning COLA to the rate of inflation is an inefficient and detrimental method; necessities such as food, fuel, prescription medication, health care, and insurance must be included.
   b. Dependents of beneficiaries should receive support through four years of post-secondary education.
   c. Aid to disabled persons between the ages of 18 and 55 should not be contingent upon the economic status of the spouse, parents or other relatives.

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

3. We recommend that federal matching funds, equal to the annual contributions by
and on behalf of individuals, be appropriated to the Social Security Fund. Social Security taxes should be paid on unearned as well as earned income with Social Security payments being the only exception.

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

5. We recommend that married couples filing joint income tax returns shall have their Social Security payments pooled, regardless of the source of income from which the payment is derived. This is, however, not to exceed the limitations now in effect.

N. South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB)

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

2. We particularly support continuation of agriculturally oriented programming.

O. Transportation

1. Highways

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

b. We strongly oppose any proposals to lessen the historical congressional commitments for funding to support rural America’s secondary and farm-to-market highway systems.

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

d. We urge continued cooperation to promote highway safety in order to reduce the present death toll from accidents.

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

f. Grain combines often must move on state highways on weekends during peak harvest season and should be granted this privilege where necessary.

g. We urge the S.D. Department of Transportation (SDDOT) to make a greater effort to ensure the safety of rural S.D. by having well-lit state highway intersections.

h. We support and encourage legislation which helps fund rural county and township highways, bridges, and culverts for the purpose of safety and maintenance of the farm to market system to sustain economic health of rural South Dakota. An adequate highway system, including farm-to-market roads, is essential to the economic health and well-being of S.D.

i. We support federal highway funding aid for secondary roads and bridge repair.

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

2. Railroads

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

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

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

d. We support changes in state law that would allow businesses using the tracks to reimburse the state for repairs over a reasonable period of time.
e. Shippers captive to a single rail line should be protected from excessive rates and healthy competition among railroads should be encouraged.
f. We urge legislation allowing adjoining landowners to initiate a process of abandoned railroad right-of-way to convert to adjoining land.
g. Landowners adjoining abandoned railroad lines should have first right of refusal to purchase the property.
h. We urge legislation requiring reflectorizing of the sides of railroad cars. Lights on business structures should be regulated so they do not interfere with traffic.

P. U.S. Postal Service (USPS)

1. We are strongly opposed to any proposal which would result in the sale or transfer of the USPS to private business. The USPS was established as a national responsibility more than 200 years ago and that is what it should remain.
2. We deplore USPS cutbacks in service in rural areas.
3. We oppose any further closings of post offices, processing centers and reductions in service to rural people.
4. We believe that postal service is a right and not a privilege. We believe, therefore, that the USPS should not be required by law to be a self-supporting institution, especially if that status results in oppressive increases in postal rates and reduction of services.
5. We support allowing the USPS to fund its pension similarly to private enterprise.

Q. Veterans

1. The nation must honor all promises of rights and benefits made to veterans.
2. We especially advocate the continued availability of medical services for all honorably discharged veterans through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals.
3. We ask that the burial expense for all veterans be reinstated.
4. Provision of services should not be contingent on economic status of the veteran.
5. We oppose the shifting of guaranteed veterans’ home loans from one bank to another to facilitate certain banks getting out of such loans in agricultural communities.
6. We encourage all nursing homes to have the right to admit veterans with the same benefits they have at a VA hospital.

R. Working People

1. We support legislation that allows all people to earn a living wage.
2. It is our belief there should be communication between agriculture and labor on matters of vital interest to both.
3. We support the rights of youth to work and participate in all agricultural activities.
4. We believe in a strong federal immigration policy, but do not support the hiring of illegal workers.
5. We believe in a guest worker program that supports the hiring of reliable agricultural workers. This policy should be a coherent, viable, effective worker program.
6. We support reforms to the visa system to make it responsive to the needs of our economy and businesses, with a focus on public safety as well as protecting the interests of the workers.
7. We believe that serious attention should be given to the proposal to require worker’s compensation for hired farm workers and that any such law should provide for exemptions for short-term or seasonal farm workers.
8. We oppose any undue state burdens that may inhibit the ability for the agricultural industry to employ an adequate work force.

IX. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
A. Aid

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

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

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

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

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

B. Embargos

Agricultural products should be exempt from all embargoes.

C. Imports

1. We demand that all agricultural products imported to this country be required to meet the same standards of sanitation required of American agricultural products and labeled as to point of origin. We are especially concerned about lapses that have allowed foreign beef to enter the U.S. through Canada or Mexico with inadequate or no inspection.

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

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

D. Military Armaments

We support continuation of arms control negotiations between all nations.

E. Peace Corps

We urge the continuation and expansion of the Peace Corps program.

F. Trade Negotiations

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

2. We respect all nations’ sovereignty and food policies and thus urge open dialogue, cooperation and understanding in trade negotiations relating to biotechnology.
G. United Nations (UN)

1. We endorse the original concept behind the UN. We believe that it must continue to serve as a forum for countries of the world to seek peaceful relations with each other. The UN or any other world court should never take precedence over or be superior to the Constitution of the U.S. or the Bill of Rights.

2. We support the World Food Program of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and we ask that technical assistance for various UN programs be expanded.

3. We support the recognition and activities of World Food Day. International food security would be enhanced by the establishment of a UN Strategic Grain Reserve. This reserve should be financed by member nations according to their ability to pay and located in the major grain producing nations. The reserve should be sufficient to meet expected international emergencies.

X. APPENDIX

A. Membership

1. A large membership of family farmers and ranchers is the base of a strong, respected and influential SDFU. Among the benefits of membership in the Farmers Union are:
   a. The right to full participation in activities and policy-making decisions and the right to election as an officer or delegate to state and national conventions.
   b. Participation in the Farmers Union youth and other educational activities and conferences.
   c. A subscription to the South Dakota Union Farmer, the official publication of the state organization.
   d. We encourage all Farmers Union Insurance policy holders to become members and for members to buy Farmers Union Insurance.
   e. Eligibility for membership in the Traveler’s Motor Club
   f. Membership incentive programs for transportation and lodging to the NFU Convention. We encourage county organizations to actively seek associate members (non-voting).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B. Education
1. The education of Farmers Union members is an ongoing project. We recommend that this educational program include seminars for our young adults and stress the importance of district education directors. Education directors must help to maintain the quality and philosophy of the Farmers Union organization. Major emphasis should also be placed on a comprehensive adult education program for Farmers Union families to include coordination with vocational agricultural instructors, cooperative leaders and agriculturally oriented institutions of higher learning.

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

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

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

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

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

7. We support ag in the classroom and encourage Farmers Union education leaders to become involved in farm safety training programs.

8. We support the creation of collegiate Farmers Union groups. We also encourage collegiate Farmers Union groups to urge the universities that they attend to offer classes and/or majors pertaining to cooperatives, rural life, or farm management and marketing as stated in state issues H subsection K.

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

C. Cooperatives

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

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

3. Farmers Union local, county and district organizations need to establish and maintain strong communications, participation, patronage, and membership with local cooperatives’ boards of directors, managers, and employees; and local and district Farmers Union Insurance personnel.

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

5. Farmers Union affiliated cooperatives and other farmer-owned cooperatives are encouraged to pay the full five [5%] per cent educational funds to Farmers Union.

6. SDFU’s contributions toward strengthening the economic position of all of agriculture are enhanced by the support of farmer cooperatives through membership checkoffs.

7. We urge CHS Inc. cooperatives to aggressively seek ways to keep locally-owned cooperatives open to serve the farmer patron.
8. We encourage women, Native Americans and other minorities to become members of, and directors of, cooperatives.

D. Legislation

1. Effective legislative activity is an essential part of the overall Farmers Union effort to preserve and strengthen our family farm and ranch system. We urge all Farmers Union members to become active participants in legislative activity at the national, state and county levels.
2. Farmers Union organizations and members are strongly encouraged to take part in the Rural Lobbyist Program at the state level during legislative session.
3. The SDFU Rural Lobbyist is a valuable tool when fully utilized by rural lobbyists.
4. We support the continuation of the Farmers Union Washington, D.C., Fly-In lobbying efforts conducted on behalf of family farmers and ranchers. We ask that our national and state organizations continue to publish voting records of members of Congress and our state legislature.
5. All Farmers Union officers and members are encouraged to subscribe to and read NFU News.

E. Foundation

1. We encourage all members to support the endowment strengthening the foundation; a nonprofit organization raising funds for educating young minds, building new leadership and creating new opportunities for economic growth in rural S.D.
2. We endorse the various approved scholarship programs within the Farmers Union for college education and vocational training.

F. Long-Range Farm Policy – The Parity of Income Plan

1. When the concept of parity was first introduced in agricultural law in 1936, the goal of national farm policy was to provide farm families a net income that was on par with the net income of non-farm families to ensure that producers had the same purchasing power as their urban neighbors. The 1910-14 base was selected as the appropriate economic period to achieve the goal of income parity.
2. The failure of farm programs to provide a parity of income for family farmers is a violation of the social contract between family farmers and consumers in which farmers are responsible for production of a dependable supply of food and fiber in return for a parity of income with the rest of our society.
3. To return to the principle of parity of income, federal farm policies must provide agricultural incentive payments to family farmers to make up the difference between commodity prices in the marketplace and full parity for all agricultural commodities. These payments should be made to all family farmers based on their units of production to raise the return on their labor and management to the national median family income. Such payments must be strictly limited to family farm operators through a maximum payment level that would provide full-time family farm operators a parity of net income.
4. The payments would be based on a per-unit rate for the commodities produced by the family farm to make up the difference, if any, between prices received and the parity price of each commodity. The volume of commodities for which each farm family would be eligible to receive payments would be computed by the difference between the cost of production [excluding labor and management returns] and parity. This fair
margin of return would be divided into the national median family income level to determine the maximum number of units of production for which payments could be made.  

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

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

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

XI. ACROYNMS AND TERMS GLOSSARY

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

1987 Farm Credit Act – The Agricultural Credit Act of 1987  

ADC – Animal Damage Control  

ADT – Animal Disease Traceability  

AIB – Animal Industry Board  

AMS – Agricultural Marketing Service  

BSE – Bovine spongiform encephalopathy  

Capper-Volstead Act – The Cooperative Marketing Association Act of 1922  

Cell Cultured Protein – Food made by extracting cells from an animal and growing them in a bioreactor.  

CFTC – Commodity Futures Trading Commission  

CRP – Conservation Reserve Program  

COLA – Cost-of-Living Adjustment  

COOL – Country-of-Origin Labeling  

DOI – United States Department of the Interior  

DOJ – United States Department of Justice  

DRG – Diagnostic Related Groups  

E30 – a motor fuel blend that contains 30 percent ethanol fuel  

E50 – a motor fuel blend that contains 50 percent ethanol fuel  

E85 – a motor fuel blend that consists 85 percent ethanol fuel  

EBC – Equivalent bushel concept  

EEP – Employee Education Program  

EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentive Program  

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency  

EAJA – Equal Access to Justice Act  

ESA – Endangered Species Act of 1973  

ESL – English as a Second Language  

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015  

FACS – Family and Consumer Science  

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  

FCS – Farm Credit System  

FDA – Food and Drug Administration  

FDIC – Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  

FERC – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  

FFA – National FFA Organization  

Fourth Amendment – the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides for: individual protections from unreasonable searches and seizures; and a right to due process and just compensation.  

FMD – Foot and mouth disease  

FOIA – Freedom of Information Act  

Food for Peace Act – The Food for Peace Act of 1966
Illinois Brick Case – a United States Supreme Court case, Illinois Brick Co. V. Illinois, sets out the “Illinois Brick doctrine,” that prohibited indirect purchasers of goods or services from recovering antitrust damages from antitrust violators.

Illinois Brick Co. V. Illinois set out the “Illinois Brick doctrine,” which prohibited indirect purchasers of goods or services from recovering antitrust damages from antitrust violators.

IM 22 – Initiated Measure 22

IMSET – Inventory Management Soil Enhancement Tool

Ionophores – a lipid soluble molecule that is used as an antibiotic and/or growth enhancing feed additive.

IRS – Internal Revenue Service

Missouri Seed Availability and Competition Act – House Bill 317 introduced in the Missouri State Legislature. It provides for farmers to register with the State Department of Agriculture in order to retain seed from harvest for next year’s planting season.

NFU – National Farmers Union

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service

OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PAC – Political Action Committee

Pick-Sloan Act – The Pick-Sloan Flood Control Act of 1944

PMA – Power Marketing Administration

POA – Power of Attorney

PSA – Public Service Ad

Public Law 480 – The Food for Peace Act of 1966

PUC – South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

REA – Rural Electrification Administration

REDI – Revolving Economic Development and Initiative

RMA – Risk Management Agency

Rural Electrification Act – The Rural Electrification Act of 1935

SDBIC – South Dakota Beef Industry Council

SDDA – South Dakota Department of Agriculture. *In 2021, The South Dakota Department of Agriculture was merged with the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources to form South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

SDDOT – South Dakota Department of Transportation

SDFU – South Dakota Farmers Union

SDPB – South Dakota Public Broadcasting

SDSU – South Dakota State University

SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SSA – Social Security Administration

UN – United Nations

USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers

USD – University of South Dakota

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

USF – Universal Service Fund

USMEF – U.S. Meat Export Federation

USPS – United States Postal Service

VA – United States Department of Veterans Affairs

Voting Rights Act – The Voting Rights Act of 1965

WAPA – Western Area Power Administration

WIC – Woman, Infants and Children

XII. SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Special Order 1
FSA/Conservation/Extension Support: Farmers Union calls on state and federal government officials and lawmakers to provide enhanced funding for FSA, NRCS, Extension, and other local government offices to have sufficient staffing and equipment to run an effective and efficient office to meet producers' needs in a timely manner.

Special Order 2

The recent Supreme Court decision that replaced the Chevron Deference Doctrine—which afforded EPA with extraordinary power in its regulatory discretion—with the “Major Questions Doctrine” requiring EPA to follow the express will of Congress opens the door to enforcement of section 202(l) of the Clean Air Act. Congress expects EPA to replace carcinogenic benzene-based BTEX used by petroleum refiners to enhance gasoline octane ratings with environmentally superior ethanol. If EPA does not act immediately, direct injection engines will dramatically increase the most dangerous toxic emissions. Be it resolved: SDFU and its supporters shall retain qualified legal counsel to compel EPA to do its job to protect public health and the environment by establishing a national E30 “Clean Octane” standard to achieve the greatest degree of reductions achievable in harmful BTEX emissions.

Special Order 3

Whereas, carbon pipe development in SD has demonstrated eminent domain laws in the state do not protect property owner rights to the degree property owners need or expect. Therefore, Brown County Farmers Union recommends South Dakota Farmers Union work with property owners and other like-minded organizations and attorneys to develop language for state statute addressing needs of properties of farmers and ranchers and other private property owners. Such changes must address surveying and any other pre-construction business needed to develop such pipelines by giving landowners prior notice of at least 90 days of such operations. No such work can begin without said landowners written approval and proper compensation agreement signed and paid.

Special Order 4

Preservation of South Dakota’s County Fairgrounds

In general, South Dakota Farmers Union recognizes the importance of education, as one of its three organizational pillars. More specifically, we know agriculture education opportunities are essential in attracting and engaging future farmers and ranchers for South Dakota. County fairgrounds are one of the few remaining places where children and adults alike can learn about South Dakota’s number one industry, as well as showcase their animals, grains, and ingenuity. Due to strained county budgets, county fairgrounds’ infrastructure, including barns, roads, and utilities are severely deteriorating. Although fairgrounds generate significant tax revenue through the commerce of vendors, camping, and entertainment; counties are currently unable to keep any of those profits as they all go to the State of South Dakota. Without significant investments in our county fairgrounds, these lands will be unable to accommodate the various activities, shows, and fairs they currently host. South Dakota Farmers Union supports legislative efforts to return the sales and tourism tax generated on county fairgrounds back to those same fairgrounds in order to preserve agriculture educational opportunities for future generations.