



2023

POLICY
BOOK



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

2023 PROGRAM AND POLICY STATEMENT OF THE
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION AS ADOPTED BY THE DELEGATES AT THE
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION CONVENTION
DECEMBER 15-16, 2022

I. MISSION

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

II. AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

A. Commodities

**1. Commodity Research and Promotion
Programs**

a. Checkoff Programs

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

A. Checkoff Board Appointment

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

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

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

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

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

b. National Beef Checkoff

i. We believe in beef checkoff reform.

ii. We urge 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
grants-in-aid to state-operated programs of
seed and fertilizer inspection, plant and
livestock, pest disease eradication and

control, forest fire prevention, market news and warehouse licensing and other farmer and consumer protective and marketing services including those carried out by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as well as by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

c. We 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 be 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 confinements 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:

i. Development of farmer and rancher-owned and/or local or regional meat packing and retail cooperatives.

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

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

g. Transportation

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

ii. 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.

c. 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.

1 e. We support the continuation of the
2 limited resource loan program and urge that
3 35 percent of FSA loans be set aside for this
4 program.

5 f. We urge loans for construction and/or
6 improvement of farm/ranch homes be made
7 available.

8 g. We continue to support the major
9 provisions of the 1987 Farm Credit Act and
10 demand that FSA observe the intent of that
11 legislation. In cases of an appeal, the State
12 Mediation Board should be used to ensure
13 impartiality.

14 15 **6. Grain Inspection, Packers and** 16 **Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)**

17 a. We urge the USDA to continually
18 monitor the operation of the mandatory
19 livestock price reporting system.

20 b. We urge that the Packers and Stockyards
21 Act be fully enforced with equal attention
22 paid to the problems of monopolistic control,
23 manipulation of prices, deception and fraud.

24 c. GIPSA must be maintained and
25 adequately funded to accomplish its mission.
26 It should be prepared to fully coordinate
27 research and investigative work with the
28 Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

29 d. We urge GIPSA to review and revise its
30 livestock buyer bonding requirements to
31 ensure adequate protection to the sellers of
32 livestock.

33 e. We support the break-up of multinational
34 companies and incentivize local and regional
35 processor development, and prevent harmful
36 vertical integration.

37 38 **7. Marketing and Research**

39 a. We strongly urge the Agricultural
40 Marketing Service (AMS) to utilize the best
41 and most accurate information for releasing
42 crop and livestock production reports.

43 b. It is very important that the USDA
44 provide accurate, up-to-date information to
45 the public with regard to farm prices, income
46 and parity levels.

47 c. The USDA Secretary should present the
48 facts concerning the costs and benefits of
49 public expenditures and of the small share of
50 the consumer food dollar received by farmers
51 and ranchers.

52 d. We urge continued research for USDA at
53 universities to develop better pest control
54 techniques and educational programs to assist
55 farmers and foresters in the best and safest
56 use of pesticides, other agricultural chemicals
57 and other means to assure wholesome food
58 and a clean environment.

59 60 **8. Payment Limitations**

61 a. So-called multiple entity rules allowing
62 farms to be artificially divided in order to
63 avoid payment limitations should be
64 abolished.

65 b. We are opposed to the use of commodity
66 certificates or any other means of exceeding
67 payment limitations.

68 69 **9. Agricultural Data**

70 We support the property rights of all
71 producers in relation to their agricultural
72 data. This includes but is not limited to yield
73 maps, variable rate fertilizer, variable rate
74 seeding, dual hybrid planters, and all
75 livestock data.

76 77 **D. South Dakota Department of** 78 **Agriculture (SDDA)***

79 80 **1. Agricultural Services**

81 a. We recommend that the SDDA provide
82 for poultry inspection as a part of the state
83 meat inspection program.

84 b. We encourage the expansion of the S.D.
85 Pesticide Disposal Program as a way of
86 preventing ground water contamination.

87 c. We urge the SDDA to continue the
88 voluntary credit counseling service for
89 economically hard-pressed family farmers
90 and ranchers.

91 d. We support legislation to provide
92 adequate funding for uniform inspection of

1 moisture and protein measuring devices by
2 the SDDA.

3 e. We urge the legislature to increase
4 funding for insect control and we urge the
5 SDDA to take advantage of federal funds that
6 are available.

7 f. The SDDA should be adequately funded
8 to enable it to:

9 i. Research, identify and develop
10 markets for S.D. agricultural products.

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

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

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

20

21 **2. Animal Industry Board (AIB)**

22 a. Strong controls are needed to prevent and
23 eradicate livestock and poultry diseases.

24 b. Domesticated wild animals, birds and
25 dogs should be treated as livestock.

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

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

33

34 **3. Brand Board**

35 a. Every member of the brand board must be
36 the owner of a registered brand and elected
37 from districts from which the board members
38 and voters reside.

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

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

45

46 **4. Marketing and Research**

47 a. We support SDDA expanding marketing
48 and branding efforts of South Dakota
49 agricultural products.

50 b. We support expanding research into
51 adapting crops in S.D. and recognize
52 alternative crops may be viable with further
53 development.

54

55

56

57 **5. Mediation**

58 a. We support continuation of the Farm
59 Credit Mediation Program. It has been
60 demonstrated that this program reduces the
61 number of farm bankruptcy filings and helps
62 to alleviate tensions between lenders and
63 borrowers.

64 b. We further express our support for Rural
65 Renewal Coalition efforts to expand the
66 mediation program to cover additional areas
67 of conflict involving farmers, ranchers,
68 government agencies and other entities.
69 When one party asks for mediation all parties
70 must participate.

71 c. Fees ought to be regularly reviewed and
72 reduced if their impact would deny access to
73 the program or jeopardize future federal
74 funding.

75

76 **6. Office of the Secretary**

77 We support the concept of an elected
78 Secretary of Agriculture.

79

80 **7. State Fair**

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

82 b. We support legislation that would allow
83 the State Fair to keep all sales tax revenues
84 collected on the fairgrounds.

85 c. We need research to enhance the State
86 Fair.

87 d. We ask that the Legislature reinstate the
88 voting power of the State Fair Commission.

89 e. We support the state investing in capital
90 improvements at the State Fair.

91 f. We support State Fair funding as a line
92 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 1. We support conservation programs
2 funded at levels that ensure continued
3 protection of our soil, water, and native sod.

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

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

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

17 **B. Land Use**

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

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

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

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

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

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

50 **7. Eminent Domain**

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

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

62 c. We support severance damages including
63 payment for the diminution of remaining land
64 values and increased expenses and
65 inconvenience suffered by affected
66 landowners and operators. After initial court
67 expenses, including attorneys' and
68 appraisers' fees, additional expenses must be
69 borne by the constructing agency in
70 condemnation proceedings.

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

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

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

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

84 **8. Fifth Amendment**

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

89 b. We urge Congress to define in law "a
90 taking" as any action by the government

1 which deprives citizens of use of their
2 property or reduces the value of that property.

3 4 **9. Planning and Zoning**

5 a. Any state legislation should recognize
6 that agricultural land must be preserved for
7 the future. Family farmers should be
8 represented in all zoning deliberations.

9 b. We encourage counties to enact
10 comprehensive land use plans and zoning
11 ordinances to control and regulate the
12 potential expansion of large-scale livestock
13 confinement facilities and cattle feed lots.

14 c. We oppose any effort to replace county
15 zoning laws with statewide zoning laws.

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

18 19 **10. Private Property**

20 a. Anyone trespassing on private land
21 should be liable for his or her own action.

22 b. No person should be allowed on private
23 property using water as access without the
24 landowner's permission.

25 c. Any state entity that controls public
26 waters that cause damage to private property
27 should be held responsible for returning the
28 property to its original form.

29 30 **11. Public Lands**

31 a. Rental fees for the lease of state-owned or
32 other public lands for grazing or other
33 agricultural purposes must be consistent with
34 rental fees on private lands in the same area
35 and of equal productivity.

36 b. When state-owned land is sold, the
37 appraised price per acre must also be
38 consistent with the value of private lands in
39 the same locality and of equal access.

40 41 **C. Natural Resources Conservation** 42 **Service (NRCS)***

43 44 **1. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

45 a. We support continuation of CRP.

46 b. CRP eligibility should be modified to
47 include lands that have been cropped during
48 at least two of the previous 10 years. CRP
49 eligibility should also be extended to include
50 farmland and pastureland that has been
51 affected by declared weather- related
52 disasters or crop diseases during at least two
53 of the previous 10 years.

54 c. CRP payments should be established at
55 fiscally-responsible levels and enrollment, or
56 re-enrollment, should target lands to promote
57 restoration of soil health with payments
58 based on county average cash rents.
59 Farmland and pastures that have been
60 flooded for one or more years and cropland
61 that has been repeatedly plagued by disease
62 should also be eligible for enrollment.

63 d. CRP contracts should continue to be long
64 term.

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

67 68 **2. Environmental Quality Incentive** 69 **Program (EQIP)**

70 While dealing with pollution problems, EQIP
71 assistance should be targeted to family farm
72 agricultural production units with 1,000
73 animal units or less per site.

74 75 **3. Watershed and Flood Prevention**

76 a. We urge continued funding of the Small
77 Watersheds Flood Prevention and
78 Conservation Program.

79 b. Federal funding provided through the
80 NRCS should also be targeted toward
81 reducing erosion along the Missouri River
82 watershed.

83 84 **D. Mineral Rights**

85
86 1. All mineral rights should be returned to
87 the owner of the land in 10 years or when land
88 is resold.

89 2. All mineral rights should be retained by
90 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

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

4. Watersheds

1 We support the federal funding for watershed
2 restoration projects.

3 4 **M. Waste**

5
6 1. We strongly urge a safe site be found to
7 establish a hazardous waste disposal site and
8 recognize that disposal of hazardous
9 chemical wastes poses a serious threat to
10 public health and the environment in many
11 areas of the U.S.

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

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

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

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

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

31 32 **N. Weed and Pest Control**

33
34 1. We support steps to control noxious
35 weeds, insects, and other pests on U.S. Forest
36 Service (FS) grazing land, trust land and all
37 land within U.S. Department of the Interior
38 (DOI) and waterfowl production areas as
39 well as right-of-ways.

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

43 3. We support stricter enforcement of
44 present law and the establishment of an
45 expanded educational program at the county
46 level under the county agent's direction.

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

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

56 **O. Wetlands**

57
58 1. We support preservation of the nation's
59 wetlands. Land should only be designated as
60 a wetland if all three criteria [1. hydrology, 2.
61 predominance of hydric soil, and 3. a
62 prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation] are
63 present.

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

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

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

76 77 **VI. ENERGY AND** 78 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

79 80 **A. Energy**

81 82 **1. Biodiesel and Ethanol**

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

86 b. Education and research are the keys to a
87 successful transition from our present day
88 petroleum dependency to a future self-
89 sufficiency based on our own renewable
90 resources. We should take every opportunity
91 to dispel lies and misinformation regarding
92 the safety of ethanol.

1 c. We support an ethanol fuel program
2 utilizing low-interest federal loans to farmers
3 and groups of farmers to build ethanol
4 production plants.
5 d. We support the governor for requiring
6 Premium E30 in all state owned, non-flex
7 fuel vehicles.
8 e. We support moving S.D. ethanol market
9 share to 30% by 2024 and 50% by 2028.
10 f. We support continuation of the present
11 combination of state gas tax exemption and
12 producer incentives to encourage further
13 development of the ethanol industry in S.D.
14 g. We oppose any effort to impose a state tax
15 on corn to fund ethanol producer incentive
16 payments.
17 h. We urge all consumers to make a greater
18 use of higher blends of ethanol and bio-diesel
19 in their motor vehicles when practical.
20 i. We encourage the promotion and use of
21 100/RON clean octane E30 through farmer-
22 owned and branded blender pumps in S.D.
23 We will work with cooperatives and others to
24 assure success through S.D.'s cooperative
25 fuel retailers to offer 100/RON clean octane
26 E30 providing opportunity for fuel
27 efficiency, national security and cleaner air,
28 while also cementing a market place for
29 farmers and the enhancement of rural
30 economies.

31 32 **2. Development**

33 a. Agriculture is an energy producer and
34 national security improves as domestic
35 energy resources are diversified.
36 Agricultural policy and energy policy should
37 work together effectively.
38 b. Energy policy must be consistent with our
39 system of family agriculture.
40 c. Programs for the development of
41 environmentally friendly renewable energy
42 sources should be conducted, with special
43 emphasis on solar energy, wind energy and
44 bio-based fuels, such as ethanol and bio-
45 diesel.

46 d. Elements of an effective national energy
47 policy include:
48 i. Equitable distribution and efficient
49 development of energy to assure adequate
50 production of food and fiber;
51 ii. Pricing policy which will prevent
52 economic hardship;
53 iii. A massive program to develop
54 renewable sources of energy;
55 iv. Economic assistance for family
56 farmers and ranchers to make agriculture
57 more self-sufficient through increased
58 application of alternative forms of energy.

59 60 **3. Electricity**

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

85 86 **4. Federal Energy Regulatory** 87 **Commission (FERC)**

88 Regulations must be established by the FERC
89 to assure that farmers and ranchers receive
90 adequate supplies of energy necessary to
91 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

1 serve the farmers and ranchers of this
2 country.

3 b. We also urge landowner-friendly
4 development of the electrical transmission
5 facilities.

6 c. We support the cyber protection of our
7 electric grid.

9 **9. Wind Energy**

10 a. We support the development of wind and
11 other alternative energy sources.

12 b. We urge farmers, ranchers and other
13 landowners to consider the establishment of
14 wind energy cooperatives and/or landowner
15 associations to represent their own interests
16 during the development process. Provisions
17 of wind energy leases should be open for
18 public review.

19 c. We urge electric companies to purchase
20 wind energy from individuals who set up
21 wind turbines on their own property or those
22 who cooperate to build wind turbines, for the
23 same price that they pay for energy from
24 other sources.

25 d. We support extending benefits to
26 community wind projects and cooperative
27 investment projects equal to tax credits now
28 offered to wind projects.

29 e. We support the development of minimum
30 criteria of regulating the development of
31 wind energy.

32 f. We support designating a portion of all
33 transmission lines in S.D. for wind energy.

34 g. We request that the name plate revenue
35 collected from wind farms be dedicated to
36 support local public schools.

38 **B. Telecommunications**

40 **1. Regulation**

41 a. The deregulation of telecommunications
42 services should be approached with extreme
43 care in order to protect the interests of the
44 consuming public.

45 b. To serve the best interests of rural
46 communities of S.D., we encourage

47 investment in infrastructure to improve
48 telecommunication delivery systems in our
49 state.

50 c. We request that Congress and appropriate
51 regulatory agencies take whatever action is
52 necessary to protect the interests of
53 consumers and prosecute companies or
54 individuals found guilty of fraudulent acts.

55 **2. South Dakota Public Utilities**

56 **Commission (PUC)**

57 a. We believe that the PUC should be
58 provided with adequate personnel and
59 funding to ensure proper protection of the
60 interests of consumers.

61 b. The regulatory powers of the PUC should
62 not be tampered with unless it can be clearly
63 demonstrated that such action is in the best
64 interests of the people of S.D.

65 c. We strongly support continued regulatory
66 oversight of the telecommunications industry
67 by the PUC.

69 **3. Universal Service Fund (USF)**

70 a. We support the continuation of the USF
71 for rural telecommunications cooperatives.

72 b. To serve high-cost areas with affordable,
73 state of the art telecommunication services,
74 we encourage the full funding of the USF.

76 **VII. ECONOMICS**

78 **A. Anti-Monopoly Policies**

80 1. We believe that monopolistic
81 concentration in the meat packing,
82 transportation, energy, and seed industries
83 has reduced competition to a point where
84 producers no longer have access to fair and
85 equitable markets. We strongly urge USDA
86 and DOJ to exercise its subpoena power
87 investigating monopolistic concentration.

88 2. We support a full federal investigation of
89 the effects of concentration in the
90 transportation industry, especially rail
91 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 favor a full-scale congressional investigation of unjustified industry spread between producer and consumer prices.

9. 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. Interest rates of more than six percent are unacceptable.

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

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

6. 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

1 confined to the construction or enhancement
2 of public facilities.

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

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

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

11 **9. Property Taxes**

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 g. We support a sellers' fee assessed on
37 property sales to be distributed on a local
38 level.

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

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

43 **10. Sales Tax**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

75 **11. Tax Code**

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

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

85 c. Every effort should be made to restore an
86 enhanced degree of progressivity to the tax
87 code by increasing the number of brackets
88 and increasing the maximum tax rate for the
89 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.

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.

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. Initiatives and referendums are based on what SD voters contribute.

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.

1 d. We oppose any actions to increase the
2 number of signatures required to initiate or
3 refer a law.

4 e. We urge repeal of rules requiring
5 anything more than printing of name,
6 signature, address or box number and date of
7 signing initiative, referendum, constitutional
8 amendment and candidate petitions.

9 f. We favor legislation to require full
10 disclosure of federal tax returns by
11 candidates for state constitutional offices and
12 the state Legislature at least two months
13 before the general election.

14 g. We support whatever constitutional or
15 other action is necessary to restore the right
16 of citizens to initiate or refer measures that
17 include state revenue.

18 h. We oppose any effort to reduce the
19 required percentage of voter approval in local
20 bond issue elections.

21 i. We support keeping all local voting rolls,
22 including names, addresses, voting records,
23 social security numbers, from becoming
24 public record.

25

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

27 We support any efforts to bring substantive
28 reform to the EAJA.

29

30 **7. Line Item Veto**

31 We oppose the line item veto.

32

33 **8. S.D. State Legislature**

34 a. We are opposed to changing the
35 legislature to a unicameral or single-house
36 body.

37 b. We support legislation to elect state
38 senators for a four-year term.

39 c. We support some form of compensation
40 to legislators performing legislative related
41 duties on weekends and when the Legislature
42 is not actually in session.

43 d. We support repeal of the so-called S.D.
44 ‘gag law.’ Under the guise of preserving
45 confidentiality, this legislation has allowed

46 government to conceal the public’s business
47 from the public.

48 e. We support establishing a non-partisan
49 redistricting body and single member house
50 districts statewide.

51 f. We support legislation requiring all
52 registered lobbyists to fully report all fees and
53 compensation which they receive for their
54 legislative activity.

55 **9. State Agencies**

56 a. We ask that the tax advocate position in
57 state government be taken away from the
58 S.D. Department of Revenue and be placed
59 under the S.D. Department of Legislative
60 Audit.

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

63

64 **10. Tort Law**

65 We strongly support tort reform.

66

67 **E. Health Care**

68

69 1. We support a comprehensive, universal,
70 national, prepaid health care and medical
71 facilities insurance program. This program
72 should enable every citizen to receive fully
73 adequate medical, dental, hospital,
74 chiropractic and other health care services,
75 including treatment for alcoholism, drug
76 addiction, mental illness, and prescription
77 drugs. This program should also include
78 preventative health care services.

79 2. We recommend a careful study of health
80 care systems in other states and nations.

81 3. We support the single payer system.

82 4. We support hospice care for the
83 terminally ill.

84 5. We continue to support the “division of
85 assets” concept.

86 6. We support assisted living and minimum-
87 care homes for those people who do not
88 require the care of nursing homes.

89 7. We believe insurers should be required to
90 cover the full cost of regular check-ups and
91 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

1 and on behalf of individuals, be appropriated
2 to the Social Security Fund. Social Security
3 taxes should be paid on unearned as well as
4 earned income with Social Security payments
5 being the only exception.

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

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

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

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

21 2. We particularly support continuation of
22 agriculturally oriented programming.

24 **O. Transportation**

26 **1. Highways**

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

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

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

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

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

45 f. Grain combines often must move on state
46 highways on weekends during peak harvest

47 season and should be granted this privilege
48 where necessary.

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

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

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

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

76 **2. Railroads**

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

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

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

89 d. We support changes in state law that
90 would allow businesses using the tracks to
91 reimburse the state for repairs over a
92 reasonable period of time.

1 e. Shippers captive to a single rail line
2 should be protected from excessive rates and
3 healthy competition among railroads should
4 be encouraged.

5 f. We urge legislation allowing adjoining
6 landowners to initiate a process of abandoned
7 railroad right-of-way to convert to adjoining
8 land.

9 g. Landowners adjoining abandoned
10 railroad lines should have first right of refusal
11 to purchase the property.

12 h. We urge legislation requiring
13 reflectorizing of the sides of railroad cars.
14 Lights on business structures should be
15 regulated so they do not interfere with traffic.

17 **P. U.S. Postal Service (USPS)**

19 1. We are strongly opposed to any proposal
20 which would result in the sale or transfer of
21 the USPS to private business. The USPS was
22 established as a national responsibility more
23 than 200 years ago and that is what it should
24 remain.

25 2. We deplore USPS cutbacks in service in
26 rural areas.

27 3. We oppose any further closings of post
28 offices, processing centers and reductions in
29 service to rural people.

30 4. We believe that postal service is a right
31 and not a privilege. We believe, therefore,
32 that the USPS should not be required by law
33 to be a self-supporting institution, especially
34 if that status results in oppressive increases in
35 postal rates and reduction of services.

36 5. We support allowing the USPS to fund its
37 pension similarly to private enterprise.

39 **Q. Veterans**

41 1. The nation must honor all promises of
42 rights and benefits made to veterans.

43 2. We especially advocate the continued
44 availability of medical services for all
45 honorably discharged veterans through the

46 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
47 hospitals.

48 3. We ask that the burial expense for all
49 veterans be reinstated.

50 4. Provision of services should not be
51 contingent on economic status of the veteran.

52 5. We oppose the shifting of guaranteed
53 veterans' home loans from one bank to
54 another to facilitate certain banks getting out
55 of such loans in agricultural communities.

56 6. We encourage all nursing homes to have
57 the right to admit veterans with the same
58 benefits they have at a VA hospital.

60 **R. Working People**

62 1. We support legislation that allows all
63 people to earn a living wage.

64 2. It is our belief there should be
65 communication between agriculture and
66 labor on matters of vital interest to both.

67 3. We support the rights of youth to work
68 and participate in all agricultural activities.

69 4. We believe in a strong federal
70 immigration policy, but do not support the
71 hiring of illegal workers.

72 5. We believe in a guest worker program
73 that supports the hiring of reliable
74 agricultural workers. This policy should be a
75 coherent, viable, effective worker program.

76 6. We support reforms to the visa system to
77 make it responsive to the needs of our
78 economy and businesses, with a focus on
79 public safety as well as protecting the
80 interests of the workers.

81 7. We believe that serious attention should
82 be given to the proposal to require worker's
83 compensation for hired farm workers and that
84 any such law should provide for exemptions
85 for short-term or seasonal farm workers.

86 8. We oppose any undue state burdens that
87 may inhibit the ability for the agricultural
88 industry to employ an adequate work force.

90 **IX. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

1 **A. Aid**

2
3 1. Foreign aid has been of great assistance
4 to emerging democracies and other
5 underprivileged nations. Provision of foreign
6 aid must never be contingent upon a
7 country's acceptance of private American
8 investment capital. U.S. financial aid should
9 be used to buy products made in the U.S.
10 when possible.

11 2. Farmer-to-farmer programs, Public Law
12 480 and other international assistance
13 programs have had positive benefits around
14 the world. We support necessary
15 improvements in their delivery system, but
16 oppose termination.

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

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

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

31
32 **B. Embargos**

33
34 Agricultural products should be exempt from
35 all embargoes.

36
37 **C. Imports**

38
39 1. We demand that all agricultural products
40 imported to this country be required to meet
41 the same standards of sanitation required of
42 American agricultural products and labeled
43 as to point of origin. We are especially
44 concerned about lapses that have allowed
45 foreign beef to enter the U.S. through Canada
46 or Mexico with inadequate or no inspection.

47 We strongly oppose new USDA food safety
48 provisions, which would transfer
49 responsibility for meat inspections to
50 individual meat packers.

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

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

62
63 **D. Military Armaments**

64
65 We support continuation of arms control
66 negotiations between all nations.

67
68 **E. Peace Corps**

69
70 We urge the continuation and expansion of
71 the Peace Corps program.

72
73 **F. Trade Negotiations**

74
75 1. We oppose any kind of "Trade Promotion
76 Authority" legislation for free-trade
77 agreements, and urge Congress to vote on
78 each package. In order for these trade
79 agreements to be fair, factors such as labor
80 standards, growing practices, differing
81 currency exchange rates and food safety
82 regulations must be considered. In any free-
83 trade agreement negotiation, the U.S.
84 Representatives should create a commodity-
85 by-commodity breakdown of the effect that
86 the agreement will have on the U.S.
87 agriculture industry.

88 2. We respect all nations' sovereignty and
89 food policies and thus urge open dialogue,
90 cooperation and understanding in trade
91 negotiations relating to biotechnology.

1 **G. United Nations (UN)**

2
3 1. We endorse the original concept behind
4 the UN. We believe that it must continue to
5 serve as a forum for countries of the world to
6 seek peaceful relations with each other. The
7 UN or any other world court should never
8 take precedence over or be superior to the
9 Constitution of the U.S. or the Bill of Rights.

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

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

23
24 **X. APPENDIX**

25
26 **A. Membership**

27
28 1. A large membership of family farmers and
29 ranchers is the base of a strong, respected and
30 influential SDFU. Among the benefits of
31 membership in the Farmers Union are:

32 a. The right to full participation in activities
33 and policy-making decisions and the right to
34 election as an officer or delegate to state and
35 national conventions.

36 b. Participation in the Farmers Union youth
37 and other educational activities and
38 conferences.

39 c. A subscription to the South Dakota Union
40 Farmer, the official publication of the state
41 organization.

42 d. We encourage all Farmers Union
43 Insurance policy holders to become members
44 and for members to buy Farmers Union
45 Insurance.

46 e. Eligibility for membership in the
47 Traveler's Motor Club

48 f. Membership incentive programs for
49 transportation and lodging to the NFU
50 Convention. We encourage county
51 organizations to actively seek associate
52 members (non-voting).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

89
90 **B. Education**

1 1. The education of Farmers Union members
2 is an ongoing project. We recommend that
3 this educational program include seminars
4 for our young adults and stress the
5 importance of district education directors.
6 Education directors must help to maintain the
7 quality and philosophy of the Farmers Union
8 organization. Major emphasis should also be
9 placed on a comprehensive adult education
10 program for Farmers Union families to
11 include coordination with vocational
12 agricultural instructors, cooperative leaders
13 and agriculturally oriented institutions of
14 higher learning.
15 2. We advocate youth classes in every
16 Farmers Union local and county
17 organization. We recognize the value of
18 young Farmers Union members participating
19 in and working with the entire Farmers Union
20 organization. The participation of all must be
21 a goal of the youth program.
22 3. We recommend that the Education
23 Department continue the awards for
24 completion of activities approved by the
25 Education Council and stated in the
26 handbook.
27 4. We recommend that one or more state
28 Senior Youth Camps be held each year. We
29 urge every county and district Farmers Union
30 to participate in a youth camp to acquaint
31 more young people with Farmers Union
32 work.
33 5. We recommend that a Youth Advisory
34 Council be elected at each state Senior Youth
35 Camp.
36 6. We recommend that the SDFU Education
37 Department coordinate incentive tours for
38 Farmers Union youth.
39 7. We support ag in the classroom and
40 encourage Farmers Union education leaders
41 to become involved in farm safety training
42 programs.
43 8. We support the creation of collegiate
44 Farmers Union groups. We also encourage
45 collegiate Farmers Union groups to urge the
46 universities that they attend to offer classes

47 and/or majors pertaining to cooperatives,
48 rural life, or farm management and marketing
49 as stated in state issues H subsection K.

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

55 **C. Cooperatives**

56

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28

29 **XI. ACROYNMS AND TERMS** 30 **GLOSSARY**

31

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

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

40 **ADC** – Animal Damage Control

41 **ADT** – Animal Disease Traceability

42 **AIB** – Animal Industry Board

43 **AMS** – Agricultural Marketing Service

44 **BSE** – Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

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

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

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

52 **CRP** – Conservation Reserve Program

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

54 **COOL** – Country-of-Origin Labeling

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

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

58 **DRG** – Diagnostic Related Groups

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

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

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

65 **EBC** – Equivalent bushel concept

66 **EEP** – Employee Education Program

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

69 **EPA** – Environmental Protection Agency

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

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

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

73 **Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015**

74 **FACS** – Family and Consumer Science

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

77 **FCS** – Farm Credit System

78 **FDA** – Food and Drug Administration

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

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

83 **FFA** – National FFA Organization

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

89 **FMD** – Foot and mouth disease

90 **FOIA** – Freedom of Information Act

91 **Food for Peace Act** – The Food for Peace
92 Act of 1966

1 **FOR** – Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve
2 **FS** – United States Forest Service
3 **FSA** – Farm Service Agency
4 **FTC** – Federal Trade Commission
5 **FWS** – United States Fish and Wildlife
6 Service
7 **GFP** – South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
8 **GIPSA** – Grain Inspection, Packers and
9 Stockyards Administration
10 **GMO** – Genetically modified organism
11 **GOED** – Governor’s Office of Economic
12 Development
13 **Illinois Brick Case** – a United States
14 Supreme Court case, Illinois Brick Co. V.
15 Illinois, sets out the “Illinois Brick doctrine,”
16 that prohibited indirect purchasers of goods
17 or services from recovering antitrust damages
18 from antitrust violators
19 **IM 22** – Initiated Measure 22
20 **IMSET** – Inventory Management Soil
21 Enhancement Tool
22 **Ionophores** – a lipid soluble molecule that is
23 used as an antibiotic and/or growth
24 enhancing feed additive.
25 **IRS** – Internal Revenue Service
26 **Missouri Seed Availability and**
27 **Competition Act** – House Bill 317
28 introduced in the Missouri State Legislature.
29 It provides for farmers to register with the
30 State Department of Agriculture in order to
31 retain seed from harvest for next year’s
32 planting season.
33 **NFU** – National Farmers Union
34 **NRCS** – Natural Resources Conservation
35 Service
36 **OSHA** – Occupational Safety and Health
37 Administration
38 **PAC** – Political Action Committee
39 **Pick-Sloan Act** – The Pick-Sloan Flood
40 Control Act of 1944
41 **PMA** – Power Marketing Administration
42 **POA** – Power of Attorney
43 **PSA** - Public Service Ad
44 **Public Law 480** – The Food for Peace Act of
45 1966

46 **PUC** – South Dakota Public Utilities
47 Commission
48 **REA** – Rural Electrification Administration
49 **REDI** – Revolving Economic Development
50 and Initiative
51 **RMA** – Risk Management Agency
52 **Rural Electrification Act** – The Rural
53 Electrification Act of 1935
54 **SDBIC** – South Dakota Beef Industry
55 Council
56 **SDDA** – South Dakota Department of
57 Agriculture. *In 2021, The South Dakota
58 Department of Agriculture was merged with
59 the South Dakota Department of
60 Environment and Natural Resources to form
61 South Dakota Department of Agriculture
62 and Natural Resources.
63 **SDDOT** – South Dakota Department of
64 Transportation
65 **SDFU** – South Dakota Farmers Union
66 **SDPB** – South Dakota Public Broadcasting
67 **SDSU** – South Dakota State University
68 **SNAP** – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
69 Program
70 **SSA** – Social Security Administration
71 **UN** – United Nations
72 **USACE** – United States Army Corps of
73 Engineers
74 **USD** – University of South Dakota
75 **USDA** – United States Department of
76 Agriculture
77 **USF** – Universal Service Fund
78 **USMEF** – U.S. Meat Export Federation
79 **USPS** – United States Postal Service
80 **VA** – United States Department of Veterans
81 Affairs
82 **Voting Rights Act** – The Voting Rights Act
83 of 1965
84 **WAPA** – Western Area Power
85 Administration
86 **WIC** – Woman, Infants and Children
87
88 **XII. SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS**
89
90 **Special Order 1**

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

10 **Special Order 2**
11 The recent Supreme Court decision that
12 replaced the Chevron Deference Doctrine—
13 which afforded EPA with extraordinary
14 power in its regulatory discretion—with the
15 “Major Questions Doctrine” requiring EPA
16 to follow the express will of Congress opens
17 the door to enforcement of section 202(l) of
18 the Clean Air Act. Congress expects EPA to
19 replace carcinogenic benzene-based BTEX
20 used by petroleum refiners to enhance
21 gasoline octane ratings with environmentally
22 superior ethanol. If EPA does not act
23 immediately, direct injection engines will
24 dramatically increase the most dangerous
25 toxic emissions.

26 Be it resolved: SDFU and its supporters
27 shall retain qualified legal counsel to compel
28 EPA to do its job to protect public health
29 and the environment by establishing a
30 national E30 “Clean Octane” standard to
31 achieve the greatest degree of reductions
32 achievable in harmful BTEX emissions.

33

34 **Special Order 3**
35 Whereas, carbon pipe development in SD
36 has demonstrated eminent domain laws in
37 the state do not protect property owner
38 rights to the degree property owners need or
39 expect.

40 Therefore, Brown County Farmers Union
41 recommends South Dakota Farmers Union
42 work with property owners and other like-
43 minded organizations and attorneys to
44 develop language for state statute addressing
45 needs of properties of farmers and ranchers
46 and other private property owners. Such

47 changes must address surveying and any
48 other pre-construction business needed to
49 develop such pipelines by giving
50 landowners prior notice of at least 90 days
51 of such operations. No such work can begin
52 without said landowners written approval
53 and proper compensation agreement signed
54 and paid.

55

56 **Special Order 4**
57 **Preservation of South Dakota’s County**
58 **Fairgrounds**
59 In general, South Dakota Farmers Union
60 recognizes the importance of education, as
61 of one its three organizational pillars. More
62 specifically, we know agriculture education
63 opportunities are essential in attracting and
64 engaging future farmers and ranchers for
65 South Dakota.

66 County fairgrounds are one of the few
67 remaining places where children and adults
68 alike can learn about South Dakota’s
69 number one industry, as well as showcase
70 their animals, grains, and ingenuity.

71 Due to strained county budgets, county
72 fairgrounds’ infrastructure, including barns,
73 roads, and utilities are severely
74 deteriorating.

75 Although fairgrounds generate significant
76 tax revenue through the commerce of
77 vendors, camping, and entertainment;
78 counties are currently unable to keep any of
79 those profits as they all go to the State of
80 South Dakota.

81 Without significant investments in our
82 county fairgrounds, these lands will be
83 unable to accommodate the various
84 activities, shows, and fairs they currently
85 host.

86 South Dakota Farmers Union supports
87 legislative efforts to return the sales and
88 tourism tax generated on county fairgrounds
89 back to those same fairgrounds in order to
90 preserve agriculture educational
91 opportunities for future generations.

92



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