



2024 Farm Bureau Policy

Adopted by delegates at the
104th Wisconsin Farm Bureau
Federation Annual Meeting.

 Wisconsin **Farm Bureau**
FEDERATION

About Farm Bureau

Vision

The trusted voice leading
Wisconsin agriculture forward.

Mission

Empowering the Wisconsin agricultural community through our
grassroots membership to preserve and promote the advancement
of agriculture.

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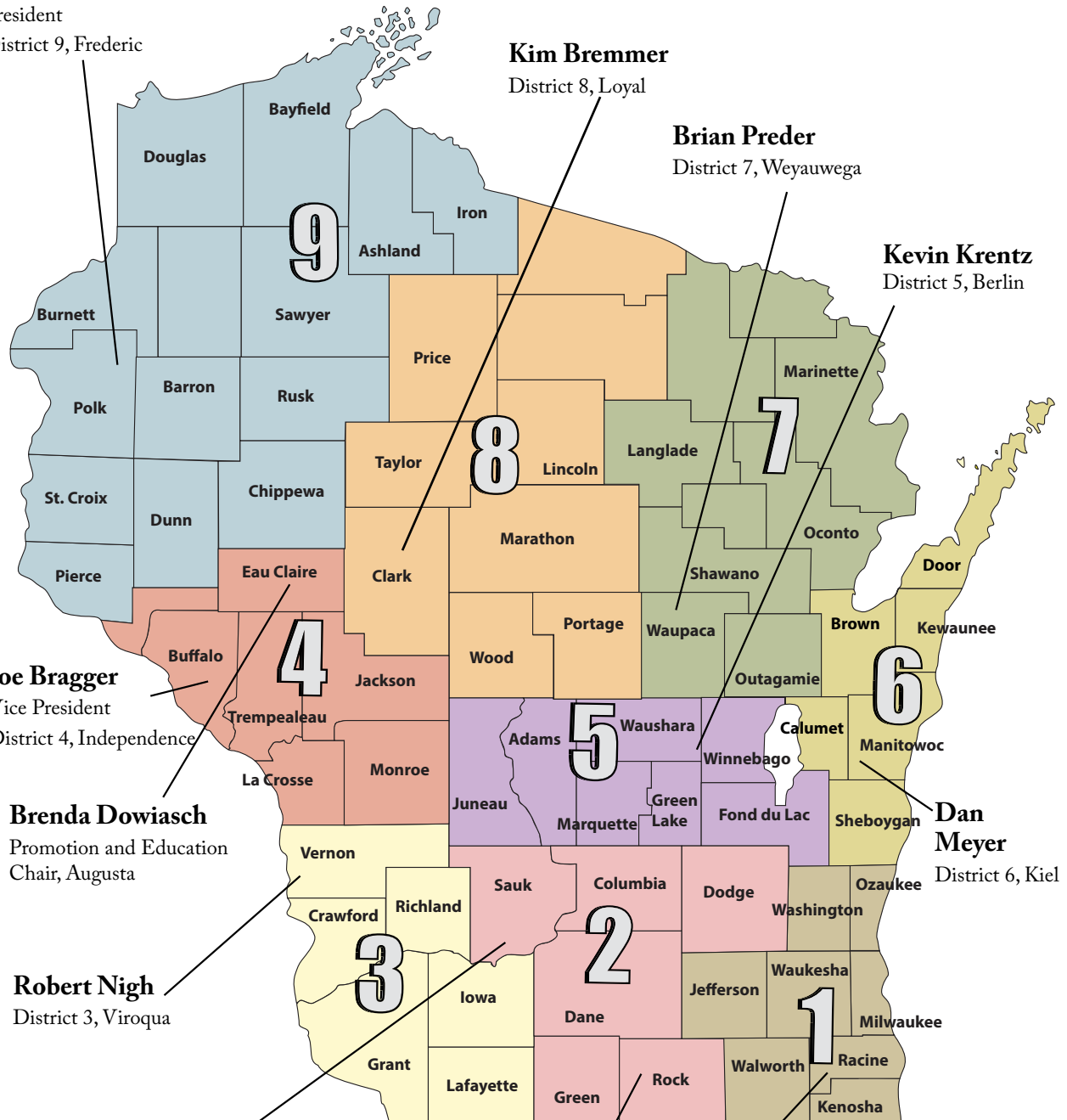
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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Policy

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DAIRY

Antibiotics - We support dairy plants using a standardized test for antibiotic testing.

Dairy Goats and Sheep - We support establishing separate milk quality regulations for dairy cattle, sheep and goats.

Inspections - We support the frequency and extent of individual farm inspections be in direct relation to the quality of milk, regardless of grade, being produced on each farm. An existing well, which is producing safe water, should not, because of its location, force a producer off the Grade A market.

We support requiring inspectors to give a 12-hour notice to the farmer/farm manager and present proper credentials/identification to the farmer/farm manager upon arrival.

When a dairy farmer has a suspect sample, we support allowing a retest within a week. If the retest sample meets milk quality standards, the dairy farm should remain on its current inspection schedule.

We support farmers being allowed to fix a high plate count and somatic cell count before they are assigned to an increase in inspection.

We support updating dairy inspection regulations to reflect current technology, construction, and production practices.

We support grandfathering existing operating grade A dairies to be transitioned to the next operator without equipment design changes.

We support the transferring of a grade A permit from seller to buyer with a grace period to update current codes if necessary.

We support notification being given to dairy producers within 30 days if there are changes to standards or changes to enforcements of standards. Producers should have six months to meet these new requirements.

We support DATCP defining clear and concise rules and regulations for Automated Milking Installations farms.

We support requiring consistent interpretations of regulations by state inspectors and federal surveys for individual farm inspections.

Labeling - We support allowing only cheese manufactured exclusively in the state to be labeled as “Wisconsin cheese.”

We oppose the use of the term ‘milk’ to label and describe food products that are derived from vegetative plants and trees.

We support terms typically used to define dairy products, i.e. cheese, butter, yogurt, should only be used to describe items derived using milk from mammals. Milk comes from mammals not plants.

Milk Production and Supply - We support a producer’s ability to sell milk not fit for human consumption for alternative uses.

We support the research and development of dairy policies and programs that provide increased dairy-industry stability and producer profitability with continued education for farmers and industry.

We support the dairy revitalization plan.

We support the implementation of the dairy revitalization plan.

We support finding approaches to reducing risk for the dairy industry.

1 We support revising the Federal Milk Marketing Orders.
2
3 We support requiring all milk processors to give farms 60 days-notice before any changes to premium structure
4 or required fees. We support requiring all milk processors to give 90 days-notice before issuing a termination of
5 service.
6
7 We oppose de-pooling of milk by processors.
8
9 **Promotion** - We support the efforts of the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and its funding for dairy promotion and
10 product development purposes.
11
12 We support a Wisconsin interstate and international export brand.
13
14 **Raw Milk Sales** - We support the sale of raw milk from farms that meet Grade A requirements and Raw Milk
15 Institute standards.
16
17 **School Milk** - We support all schools in the state having milk vending machines to make milk available
18 throughout the school day.
19
20 We support eliminating the size and calorie restrictions for milk/dairy products in milk vending machines in
21 schools.
22
23 We support school districts offering students the choice of all varieties of white and flavored milk.
24
25 **Technology** - We support the use of scientifically proven technologies for agricultural production practices.
26
27 **EDUCATION**
28 **Ag Education** - We support all schools to have agriculture courses. We support school districts recognizing
29 agriculture courses as science credits.
30
31 We support revisions in the teacher certification requirements to allow for dual certification in agriculture and
32 science for education majors graduating in Wisconsin.
33
34 We support increased agricultural career education through programs for school counselors/administrators and
35 having agricultural career material on hand.
36
37 We support incentive programs to encourage students to pursue careers in meat processing.
38
39 We support education of crop and livestock husbandry within culinary education.
40
41 **Ag in the Classroom** - We support more education on modern agriculture and food production at the
42 elementary and secondary levels.
43
44 **Ag Research** - We support increased funding of agricultural research. We support biotechnology research that
45 is properly monitored with reasonable safety, social and economic standards being followed prior to and during
46 implementation of the research.
47
48 We support public and private funded research on best management practices that will result in less reliance
49 on agricultural chemicals for weed and pest control.
50
51 We support the University of Wisconsin System placing more emphasis on applied research for the benefit of
52 production agriculture.
53
54 We support public and private research for “new uses” of farm commodities and alternative crops.
55
56 We support agricultural research taking nutritional value into consideration when developing new crop
57 varieties, not just yield and appearance.

We support the Discovery Farms Program and the UW-Platteville Pioneer Farm which were created to develop practical and affordable methods and techniques for complying with environmental standards.

Elementary and Secondary - We oppose local school boards being forced to comply with additional state and federal standards to qualify for aids. We support legislation that will return control of education to the local boards of education and the citizens they represent.

We support the rights of all teachers and support staff perform to their duties in a safe work environment.

We support the Department of Public Instruction notifying all school districts that local school boards have the right to opt out of Common Core in their school district at any time.

We oppose school boards approving higher spending for school operation and maintenance than was approved at the annual meeting. We support the call of a special meeting by the school board if they significantly exceed the budget adopted at the annual meeting.

We oppose state-mandated preschool programs.

We support initiatives to expand access to affordable rural childcare.

We support the school calendar and the school day to be a local decision.

We oppose the creation of school districts through forced consolidation of outlying districts into metro districts.

Since some students have special educational needs that place an additional burden on the property tax, we support special education funding be the responsibility of state government.

We support requiring schools that receive voucher funds from the state to be held to the same testing standards as public schools. We oppose any further expansion of the school voucher system.

We support having basic agriculture questions on state standardized testing to support the implementation of the Wisconsin Agricultural Food and Natural Resource Standards in schools.

We support the reinstatement of basic life skills curriculum in middle and high school classrooms.

We support requiring all public high school students to take an introduction to agriculture class in order to graduate.

We support more education on modern agriculture and food production at the elementary and secondary levels, with more focus on the secondary level so they can make educated decisions about their food purchases.

School Aids - We support maintaining state funding to school districts with declining enrollment with special consideration for rural schools.

Technical College System - We support Technical College System tuition that more closely reflects the costs associated with the program being offered. We support the method the Wisconsin Technical board uses to appoint members to Technical College boards.

We support the development of closer coordination between post high school vocational and academic education programs to better utilize our educational facilities. The Technical College System should serve the needs of the farm community.

We support maintaining the agricultural technical programs and encourage having a curriculum where the credits will transfer into the UW system.

1 We support technical colleges and UW Extension offering safety courses, including the Wisconsin Safe
2 Operation of Tractor and Machinery Certification Program, on operating equipment found on farms and
3 implements of husbandry on farms and public roads.
4
5 **UW System** - We support programs to enhance the capability of our Colleges of Agriculture to respond
6 to the educational and research needs of farmers, which ultimately benefits all of society. We support the
7 transferability of all credits within our state university and technical college systems.
8
9 We support colleges and universities requiring agriculture courses as part of their general education
10 curriculum.
11
12 We support maintaining necropsy services and employing a state licensed veterinarian at the diagnostic lab in
13 Barron.
14
15 We support collaboration within the UW System, the Technical College System, Research Farms, Discovery
16 Farms and UW Extension to utilize resources more effectively to serve the agricultural community.
17
18 We support an in-person Farm and Industry Short Course program be offered at an agriculture campus with
19 available housing.
20
21 We support UW Extension agricultural agents working across county lines. We oppose any requirements that
22 these agents have a master's degree.
23
24 We support UW Extension establishing regions in which agricultural specialists are assigned. We support
25 requiring these specialists to have a master's degree.
26
27 We support a strong UW Extension agricultural program in Wisconsin. We support county boards appointing
28 an UW Extension user group advisory board. Members should be appointed by UW Extension user groups and
29 be voting members of the committee.
30
31 We support that the University of Wisconsin continue to support the Extension Program at the county level
32 with trained personnel and equipment to provide programs, services, and education opportunities.
33
34 We support an exemption or modification from current UW Madison risk and liability requirements for the UW
35 Extension System 4H program in order to continue the services the 4H program provides to youth and leaders.
36
37 We support maintaining 4-H programming in each county.
38
39 We support the UW System incorporating literature into its curriculum that reflects a balanced perspective
40 based on sound science and technology when discussing food production systems.
41
42 We support funding for the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.
43
44 We support the Dairy Innovation Hub and funding for additional scientific research for the dairy industry.
45
46 We support increased government incentives for vocational training for transitioning to off-farm employment.
47
48 We support a state-wide task force, with at least 25% farmer representation, charged with evaluating advanced
49 educational offerings within Wisconsin's agricultural sectors and making recommendations for the future.
50

51 **ENERGY**

52 **Alternative Sources** - We support research and incentives to develop alternate sources of energy and
53 electrical generation within the state.
54
55 We support Wisconsin law requiring an Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) to construct commercial solar and
56 wind projects on agricultural land.
57

1 We support preserving Wisconsin agriculture land for agricultural production.
2
3 All new solar projects have to utilize brown fields, rooftops and degraded lands or low-yield, underutilized or
4 marginalized farmland.
5
6 We support safety training for first responders around renewable energy sources.
7
8 We oppose farmland preservation tax credits to be claimed for land in solar and wind energy projects unless it
9 is an accessory use of the farm.
10
11 We support third party audits for stray voltage.
12
13 We support making biofuels (both diesel and gas) more accessible for use across the state.
14
15 We support coal plants being able to operate until their useful life has been reached.
16
17 We support the research and development of methane digesters and phosphorous recovery systems as a way to
18 create an alternative energy source and reduce the nutrient density of liquid manure resources by transferring
19 those nutrients to stackable nutrient-rich solids phosphorus in manure and create an alternative energy
20 source.
21
22 We support allowing third party investors to develop alternate energy sources.
23
24 We support all alternative energy businesses to fund bonding that would require the businesses to pay for
25 cleanup of all equipment, waste and restoration of the land.
26
27 We support requiring regular gasoline to contain 15% ethanol year-round with ethanol free gasoline as an
28 option.
29
30 We support the use of ethanol, E-85, or biodiesel in all school buses, and all other taxpayer supported vehicles.
31
32 We support requiring wind and solar projects to make payments to cover municipal services.
33
34 We support requiring the Public Service Commission (PSC) to evaluate PSC128 at a minimum of every three
35 years.
36
37 **Electrical Quality** - We support efforts to address stray voltage, electromagnetic fields, electric fields, ground
38 currents and other electrical quality problems. We support expanding educational programs for farmers,
39 veterinarians, electricians, equipment dealers, utility ag representatives and others regarding electrical quality
40 concerns. We support all utilities and alternative energy projects being held accountable for electrical quality
41 problems caused by their lines and equipment.
42
43 We support establishing a state standard for determining stray voltage on a farm provided that the testing
44 method is done without resistors at cow contact at peak-to-peak voltage at all frequencies.
45
46 We oppose stray voltage legislation that results in allowing utilities automatic immunity, stray voltage cases
47 having a shorter statute of limitations than other civil cases, limiting testing of electrical current or voltage
48 levels to utilities only and limiting legal remedy by use of PSC definitions.
49
50 **Electrical Transmission and Distribution System** - We support the modernization and maintenance of
51 lines, equipment and facilities for all utilities to meet current and future demands and alleviate electrical
52 quality problems. We support requiring utilities to comply with Wisconsin State Electrical Codes.
53
54
55
56
57

We support requiring the PSC to establish a timeline when the earth can no longer be used as a primary neutral return path. We support expanded research and development of alternative distribution systems to replace the current multi-grounded neutral system. We oppose proposed high voltage power lines running through private property when avoidable. We support having all new lines run along roads and highways when possible.

We support power companies placing electric poles at least 25 feet from farm driveways.

We support requiring the PSC to increase the rate of return from renewable energy sources.

We oppose energy companies charging back more than six months for faulty meters.

We support legislation that will restrict state or federally licensed utility providers from requiring nondisclosure agreements between plaintiffs upon settlement or judgement of lawsuits.

We support legislation that utilities companies do a larger swath trimming trees along their lines, as they are falling on lines and charging towns when they go down.

Electrical Wiring on Farms - We support livestock farmers having isolators installed. We support farmers updating the wiring on their farms to have a four-wire system with a separate neutral and separate ground return. We support requiring the certified inspection of new on-farm wiring.

General - We support a state and national energy policy which includes energy conservation, increased domestic production and marketing of renewable fuels and energy, including but not limited to ethanol, biodiesel, crop-based fuels, methane, water, wind and solar.

We support regulation of energy generation projects on the state and local levels during the siting, permitting, and operational stages, including regulations regarding the provision of financial security for removal of such projects.

We support the construction of new generation coal-fired power plants in areas of the state experiencing expanding electrical demands to eliminate the need for long distance transmission lines and to ensure adequate electricity at an affordable price.

We support the development and use of nuclear power plants for the production of electricity over solar and wind projects. We support the rebuilding and maintenance of existing dams for hydroelectric power and flood control purposes.

We support utility companies having the responsibility for removing all markers placed on behalf of the company, so the markers are not harvested in livestock feed. We support biodegradable markers.

We support the increased availability of natural gas in rural Wisconsin.

We oppose banning the use of fossil fuels in production agriculture.

Rural Electric Cooperatives - We support the unrestricted right and responsibility of all rural electric systems to serve those areas in which they initiate service and continue to serve. We oppose any imposition of conditions or restrictions that disadvantage the cooperatives in extending or continuing service in these areas.

FARM FINANCE

Beginning Farmers - We support incentive programs (i.e. loans, tax incentives and grants), through existing lending institutions and government agencies, that assist in the transfer or startup of a farm. We support allowing loan guarantees to be extended to individuals providing land contracts similar to what is provided to lending institutions.

We support tax incentives and credits to transfer farms from older generations to younger generations or beginning farmers.

We support the creation of a program to connect farmers wishing to transition out of production agriculture with beginning farmers looking to purchase land.

General - We support adding a filing to the UCC system to allow the transfer on death of farm equipment to be recorded.

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority - We support Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority loan programs to agriculture and agribusiness.

We support requiring lending institutions and other creditors remove their filings from the uniform commercial code at the time the lien has been satisfied.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Accountability - In the interest of maintaining accountability in our democratic form of government, we support our government representatives keeping the laws and regulations of the land as brief as possible and understandable to the common person. We support legislation denying all pensions, benefits, and retirement funds to any government official that is convicted of a felony crime while in office. We support more privatization of government services.

We support public employee wages and benefits to better reflect those in the private sector.

We support allowing official legal notices to be in free newspaper publications if no other paid publications are available within the county.

We support the collaboration between farmers and the state attorney general's office to identify anti-trust law violations in agriculture.

We support all state indemnity payments be paid directly to producers, not to processors and not through processors.

Cabinet Government - We support having the Governor appoint the DATCP Secretary and the DNR Secretary.

Cooperatives - We support all agricultural cooperatives maintaining the principle of one member, one vote. Only members of an agricultural cooperative should be eligible to be voting members of the board of directors.

County Boards - We oppose allowing county boards to change their size between each census.

We support requiring a two-thirds majority vote by the county board to approve any bonding authority for new county projects.

County Fairs - We support increasing state funding for county fair premiums. We support having a county fair coordinator at DATCP.

County Farm Service Agency Boards - We support having equitable representation from each county on the consolidated FSA board if county FSA offices are closed.

We support having at least one seat on the Land Conservation committee being an agricultural producer.

We support the proper training of FSA structure staff regarding new programs prior to the program's start date.

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection - We support DATCP as an individual department. We oppose transferring DATCP's consumer protection functions to the Department of Justice. We support establishing a one-stop shop for all permits needed for farms and agribusinesses.

1 We support above ground farm fuel storage tanks being regulated by DATCP without a fee. All aboveground
2 farm fuel storage tanks less than 5,001 gallons shall be exempt from regulation, including inspection, plan
3 review and professional installation requirements.
4

5 We support voluntary farm mapping to assist, protect and prepare emergency responders through the National
6 Farm Medical Center without a fee.
7

8 We support dog kennel inspectors leaving completed inspection forms on site.
9

10 We support the production, processing, commercialization, and utilization of industrial hemp and that it be
11 regulated by USDA rather than the Drug Enforcement Administration.
12

13 We support increased trade deals that benefit Wisconsin and U.S. agriculture.
14

15 We support uniform training of milk and meat inspectors to reflect current technology, construction, and
16 production practices at both the state and federal levels.
17

18 We support clarification and standardization of food expiration terms. (i.e. best by, sell by, use by)
19

20 We support Farm to School Programs to promote buying local foods and education of food promotion, nutrition,
21 and the environment.
22

23 We support having a government program to provide technical resources and funding assistance in the
24 form of grants and low interest loans to help in the purchase of equipment, construction, or purchase of an
25 existing business as it pertains to small, local slaughter plants, meat packing plants and other small local food
26 processing facilities.
27

28 We support the state adding more meat inspectors to allow for increased local meat packing and slaughter
29 plant capacity.
30

31 We support state funds for a Wisconsin Office of Agricultural Tourism (WiOAgT).
32

33 We support voluntary farm mapping to assist, protect and prepare emergency responders through the National
34 Farm Medical Center without a fee.
35

36 **Department of Corrections** - We are opposed to the expansion of the farming operation at the Department of
37 Corrections and support the sale of all excess acres.
38

39 **Department of Safety and Professional Services** - We support the Wisconsin Fund which helps support
40 upgrading septic systems.
41

42 **Department of Natural Resources** - We support requiring at least one DNR Board seat be occupied by a
43 farmer.
44

45 We support certified private sector professionals to be allowed to assist the DNR by providing the on-site and
46 written reviews necessary to meet DNR requirements.
47

48 We support having the names of individuals filing a complaint with the DNR against a landowner disclosed to
49 that landowner.
50

51 We support a local approval process to hold the DNR responsible for their decisions at the township and county
52 level.
53

54 We support a reduction in funding to the DNR in the state budget.
55

56 We support having the DNR work towards creating a more transparent, user-friendly agency when interacting
57 with the agricultural sector.

In a time of disaster or emergency, we support having any fees, permits or hold times waived to aid people with bridges and creek crossings.

We support the DNR to be required to obtain a search warrant to enter personal property.

Elections - We support having school, county and other local referendums offered only on regularly scheduled election days. We support having referendums written in simple and concise language to not confuse the voter. We support uniform poll hours of 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. throughout Wisconsin. We support photo identification for all voters.

We support staggered terms for town supervisor elections. We support raising the minimum percentage for a recall election of town officials from 25 percent to 50 percent of the voters in the last presidential election.

We support giving the state Supreme Court the responsibility of redistricting.

We support requiring accumulated campaign funds of any state elected official not seeking re-election to be transferred to the state's general fund.

We support revising the use of recall elections only in cases of criminal activity or willful neglect of duty.

We support the Wisconsin Election Board reviewing the mandates presented to municipalities of population of 3500 or less for elections such as costly voting machines and electronic pollbooks costs and updates needed.

We are in favor of term limits for legislators and the governor.

We support legislation that would not allow mass mailings of ballots for elections. Any absentee ballot should be requested by a voter.

Fences - We support the state fence law.

We oppose any general requirement that all streams or lakes must be fenced. We support having the DNR comply with the state fence law.

We support requiring licensed real estate agents to list the Wisconsin Fence Law on real estate purchase agreements, so buyers are informed of the law.

Jurisdiction - We support USDA licensed and inspected agricultural and research businesses. We oppose municipalities (including but not limited to Towns, Villages, Cities or other governing body) from making laws/ordinances which interfere with agricultural and research businesses.

Lawsuits - We support legislation that protects the food industry from frivolous lawsuits by making consumers responsible for their eating habits.

We oppose the use of tax money by any unit of government for litigation against farmers who have not been cited by a government agency for violating any laws or regulations.

We support limits on the amount of compensation a person can receive for pain and suffering.

We support increased enforcement of anti-trust regulations.

Mandated Programs - We support having the costs of government mandated programs picked up by the unit of government which mandates the program.

Minimum Markup - We support limiting the minimum markup law to prohibit the selling of products below cost except in merchandise clearing instances.

We support repeal of the minimum markup law as it relates to gasoline and diesel fuel.

Nutrition Assistance - We oppose food stamps being used as payment at restaurants or on taxable foods from the grocery store. We support requiring photo identification to utilize food stamps.

Veto Authority - We support limiting the Governor's line-item veto to prohibit the transfer of funds from one project to another.

Volunteer Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Staff - We oppose efforts that force the disbandment of volunteer fire departments and EMS units and mandate the hiring of full-time employees due to lack of economic resources in rural fire protection districts.

We support simplifying the Emergency Medical Responder Certification examination for more localized questions and information that fits the training they were given.

We support elimination of the requirement to take the NREMT for EMR level first responders.

We support ambulance/EMS districts and services to be levy limit exempt.

We support addressing the challenges in rural communities to provide EMS and fire services.

We support all law enforcement, EMTs, first responders and fire departments serving our rural and urban communities.

We support funding to rural EMS to improve and purchase needed equipment.

HEALTH and SAFETY

Health Care - We support efforts to develop a comprehensive solution for private, affordable, high quality, accessible health care, mental health care and health insurance.

We support allowing farmers and their employees to enroll in the state health insurance program.

We support the Farmer's Health Cooperative.

We support requiring all medical providers to send an itemized billing to every recipient of medical services.

We oppose insurance companies allowing health insurance groups to mature without adding new business.

We support tax deductible health savings accounts. We support changing BadgerCare eligibility criteria to exclude depreciation from net taxable income. We support 100% deductibility from income taxes for long-term health care premiums.

We support science-based community health education including but not limited to vaccination, nutrition, and tobacco and e-cigarette use.

We support increased government incentives for mental health care and health services in rural communities.

Safety - We support educational and training programs for emergency personnel to help prepare them for farm and other agricultural emergencies.

We support classifying skid steers as agriculture, as well as construction equipment.

We support training and safety programs/certification for youth similar to All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and Utility-Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Certification and Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery Certification programs.

We support a state funded voluntary grant program to reimburse farmers to purchase and install rollover protection structures on farm tractors.

HUNTING and WILDLIFE

Bag Limits - We support an increase in daily bag limits and permits to reduce deer, bear, goose and turkey populations due to overpopulation. When deer management units are above their overwinter goal, we support instituting an earn-a-buck season or any other program with incentives to reduce the deer herd. We support an earn-a-gobbler season for turkeys.

We support the DNR reducing the time it takes to get a bear hunting license to three years or issue more damage abatement shooting permits.

Baiting and Feeding - We support banning deer feeding and baiting to prevent the spread of disease. We support requiring the DNR to practice good stewardship and provide reasonable accommodation for food as well as habitat on land owned by the DNR.

Chronic Wasting Disease - We support requiring DNR to pay 100% of the cost for any double fencing order to any agricultural cervid farm affected by a positive CWD test within five miles of the farm.

Hunting Regulations - We support the right to hunt, fish, trap, and to take game subject to reasonable rules and regulations. We support allowing crossbow hunting during the muzzleloader season. We support over the counter sales for turkey and bear licenses. Operating farmers should be issued a free deer, bear and turkey license and that the license be an open season license upon request to be used on the landowner's property.

We support the right to protect domestic livestock or pets from predators regardless of the predators' endangered status.

We support a year-round open hunting season for coyote.

We support the carrying of a gun with the shells in the magazine (not the chamber) while entering and exiting the woods before and after posted hunting hours.

Hunting Seasons - We support a hunting season and management for Sandhill Cranes.

We support the consumption of sandhill crane meat resulting from depredation permit hunting.

We support eliminating the closed season on raccoon until the population is under control.

We support establishing a general turkey hunting season.

We support spring and fall bear hunting seasons starting April 15 and August 15, respectively.

We support a spring hunting season on Canada geese.

We support better management/increasing permits for predatory animals including but not limited to cougars, bear, bobcats, and wolves.

License Revocation - We support a three-year revocation of all sporting licenses for the following infractions: illegal shining, trespass and causing injury to livestock.

Roadkill - We support local governments being responsible for removal of large, undomesticated roadkill carcasses from highway right of ways in a timely manner.

We support the disposal of a dead deer on a landowner's property without applying for a permit to move the carcass.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program - We support action being taken in certain areas of the state where excessive wildlife population is causing a severe loss of crops and income for farm families. These areas include:

- General - Landowners enrolled in the program should be permitted to charge a fee for recreational use purposes. Farmers and aquaculturists should be able to harvest animals causing crop and livestock damage. We support eliminating the September 15 deadline for wildlife damage permit performance standards.
- We support allowing minors to enter into the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims program.
- Funding - We support increased hunting license fees and/or general-purpose revenues when necessary to fund damage claims at 100 percent. Wildlife Damage Program funds should be used only for payment to farmers for crop damage and abatement.
- Non-game and protected species - We support extension of Wildlife Damage Program coverage to protected non-game species. We support the removal of seagulls and Sandhill Cranes from the protected list. We support easier access and no cost to obtain sandhill crane crop damage tags.
- We support exempting sandhill cranes from the hunting season requirement for participation in the wildlife damage, abatement, and claims program.
- We support cost-share for the use of repellents to prevent damage to crops from sandhill cranes.
- We support the addition of a “no public hunting” for elk in the wildlife abatement and claim program.
- We support the WI DNR paying 100% of crop damage for damage done by elk.
- Payments - Property that receives crop damage payments should be open to the public for hunting of that particular species, with hunter access controlled by the landowner. We support Wildlife Damage Program participant farmers receiving a payment of \$50 to \$100 per deer registered with animal damage tags. Farmers should be able to collect 100 percent of assessed crop damage on rented land where the landowner will not allow hunting to fulfill abatement program shooting requirements. Farmers should be compensated for their time and labor needed to participate in the program. We support eliminating the trapping and relocation of bear as part of the wildlife damage and abatement program. We support lowering the deductible and increasing the claims limit for farmers participating in the DNR’s crop damage program.
- Shooting and Nuisance Permits - We support the shooting permit program to allow for the additional harvest of deer, bear, Canada Geese and wild turkeys on farms suffering chronic damage. We support expanding the shooting permit program to include Sandhill Cranes. Nuisance permits should be issued for bear when crop or livestock damage exceeds \$500.
- We support the removal of \$10,000 max payout from the DNR for wildlife depredation programs and changing to a percentage payout system where farms are compensated equally based on damage amounts.
- We support including any damage to crops due to placing wildlife traps in/near any crop field in the wildlife damage claims figure.
- Technology - At the DNR’s expense, we support requiring the use of technology (i.e. UAVs and electronic trap monitors) to monitor wildlife abatement traps and to assess crop damage.
- We support all bear traps be equipped with trap monitors to both reduce time spent by farmers and to ensure the health of the trapped animals.
- We support combining the authorization to trap and hunt bears on a renter’s property on one form.
- Wildlife Introduction** - We support requiring the DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct an agricultural impact statement and host public hearings before any species of wildlife is introduced into a new area and distribute the results to local landowners. If the species is introduced, we support requiring the DNR to pay for any crop and livestock damage resulting from such action.

We support a financial penalty to any person found introducing a non-typical game species into the wild. We support the eradication of non-typical game species outside the confines of a licensed game farm. We oppose the introduction of elk to the central forest area. We support allowing elk causing damage to be harvested.

Wildlife Population - We support reducing the deer herd to at least DNR goals. The DNR should not have an “over winter” goal of more than 25 deer per square mile in any deer management area. We support increasing the yearly goose harvest in proportion to flock growth to reduce the over winter population.

We support limiting the bear population to the original state goal.

We support better tracking and studying of movement of any relocated bear, elk, or wolves.

We support requiring DNR to accurately reflect wildlife populations and the damage being done in Wisconsin. We support appropriate actions to reduce populations.

We support the DNR creating sub-zones for better control of over-populated wildlife (bear, deer, goose, and turkey) in a small area.

We support the state controlling the populations of predatory wildlife with compensation being paid out for missing livestock or evidence of a predator attack.

Wolf Management - We support keeping the wolf population at or below 350 animals. We support requiring DNR to include farmer participation in wolf management planning.

We support full reimbursement to farmers within 60 days, for all direct and indirect damage caused to their farms by wolves. This includes reimbursement for missing livestock and other domestic animals where there is evidence of wolves or a history of wolf/livestock conflicts on that farm.

We support a cost-share program to assist farmers in deterring wolf attacks and stress on livestock, through such practices as using guardian animals, wolf barriers, lights or alarms, and lambing or calving shelters.

We support the delisting of wolves to allow hunting and/or trapping seasons for wolves.

We support eliminating all predator animal re-introduction funding to the DNR.

We support disclosure by the DNR of wolf incidents on their website including establishing warning areas when wolf packs are involved and providing instant e-mail notification of all incidents.

LABOR

We support a Wisconsin task force in conjunction with other agriculture and agricultural related businesses to study the impacts of labor shortages in the production, manufacturing, processing, and distribution.

Mediation/Arbitration - We support teachers and other local government employees having responsibility for contract negotiations.

We support changing the mediation arbitration process to allow arbitrators to modify either side’s proposal in order to reach a compromise. We oppose final and binding arbitration.

Minimum Wage - We oppose increasing the state minimum wage or any other labor requirements beyond those required federally. We support a two-tiered minimum wage for agriculture workers with adult minimum wage at \$7.25 per hour and minor minimum wage at 80 percent of the adult minimum wage.

Prevailing Wage Law - We oppose a prevailing wage law.

Workers’ Compensation - We support the minimum number of employees to be six to be required for workers compensation and increase the minimum days required from 21 to 60.

LAND USE

We support the review of current policies and legislation to better protect the state's land and businesses from foreign ownership.

Annexation - We support allowing only the annexation of land owned by the petitioners.

We support greater town control over the annexation of property and urge more boundary agreements among municipalities.

We support requiring a municipality that annexes land from a neighboring town to pay off the town debt allocated to that land as part of the annexation.

Eminent Domain - We support eminent domain laws that do not confiscate private property for private uses, private gain or power generation.

We support a law change at both the state and national levels to allow payment to be deferred at the option of the seller in order to not incur higher income and capital gains taxes.

We support eminent domain rules that evaluate and reflect real land values and the cost to relocate.

We support changing the wording of Wisconsin's eminent domain law from "for the public good" to "for the public necessity." We support a definition of "public necessity" as "that without which the public health and safety would be endangered."

We support having a consistent definition for the use of blighted land in the state statutes.

We support prohibiting local governments from declaring productive farmland "blighted" to take it by eminent domain and turn it over to a private developer.

We support using state eminent domain laws rather than federal condemnation procedures in siting gas pipelines. We support requiring eminent domain projects to utilize public land as much as possible.

We support requiring landowners affected by eminent domain projects to be notified and given the opportunity to participate in any negotiated agricultural mitigation agreements. Any agricultural mitigation agreement should contain an enforcement clause with a sufficient non-compliance penalty.

We support requiring the DOT and utility companies to compensate the crop producer for crops being destroyed through eminent domain or during construction of the project.

We support requiring an agriculture impact statement be done to assist in the approval process and help determine compensation for projects that are using eminent domain.

Farmland Preservation - We support local planning and/or zoning as the primary mechanisms to preserve farmland.

We support municipalities devising land use plans that minimize the loss of productive agricultural land and that achieve a balance between local goals and individual landowners' financial needs. We support ordinances that create exclusive agricultural zones in which farming is designated as the priority use and other users remain in these zones without recourse to abate the practices which are common to farming.

We support notification for property owners if their property is located in an area zoned for agriculture or if farms are located nearby.

We support a 10-year contract requirement to enter an Ag Enterprise Area.

We support adding, for the Working Lands Initiative Program, a formula similar to the Farmland Preservation Credit based on the property taxes and income and give landowners a choice based on which is more beneficial to encompass the financial needs of all farm taxpayers.

We support an increase in FPP tax credits in each category.

Local Planning and Zoning - We support the goals of the Smart Growth program provided the planning process is locally controlled and the state provides adequate funding for the development of these plans in rural areas. We oppose state and federal regulation of land use. Zoning and land use plans should apply to government bodies as well as private individuals. We support creating an “opt-out” provision for municipalities within the Smart Growth Planning law.

We support counties adopting housing density zoning for cluster development to help save productive farmland.

We support the publication of proposed changes in zoning rules and ordinances with a reasonable time to allow the public to take action to correct any injustices. When government bodies are taking action on individual zoning changes, special assessments or other matters affecting the value of private property, we support notification in writing to the owner of the property and adjoining landowners prior to meetings or hearings on the actions.

We oppose extra-territorial zoning. We support increasing the population threshold to 50,000 in order for cities to exercise extra-territorial zoning within a three-mile radius.

We support allowing farmers to sell products, grown on their farm, at a location on their farm without having to be rezoned. We support allowing farmers to erect and maintain a professionally painted sign on their property to advertise their farm produce. We oppose town or county ordinances prohibiting such signage on farmer owned property.

We support state, county and local governments to reduce restrictions on agriculture businesses that offer agricultural tourism experiences, build a retail center, and not to restrict the number of events held at private agricultural event venues that do not sell alcohol.

We oppose local units of government being permitted to regulate USDA licensed and inspected kennels.

If a farm is zoned agricultural and has a USDA or state-licensed and inspected kennel/ breeding operation, we support this activity as a part of the agribusiness on the farm. We support uniformity in state and USDA regulations for the inspection and licensing of kennels.

Property Rights - We support our belief in the rights of private property ownership, and in the ability of landowners to make wise land use decisions. We support legislation requiring any governmental entity to compensate property owners when its actions reduce property values.

We support legislation to facilitate the recovery of financial loss for nuisance lawsuits for time, attorney fees, and lost income for not being able to develop ethanol plants, wind farms, water plants, generating plants, non-metallic mining and livestock facilities.

We support the state’s adverse possession law as it has historically existed.

We support property purchase agreements listing manure storage structures and other contracted conservation projects so that the buyer is aware.

Public Land - We support a public policy which would require all public agencies to use lands which are less valuable for agricultural use for public projects. We support the acquisition of land by the government only for truly public purposes, and any government owned lands which are not used for public purposes should be returned to the former or adjacent property owner. We support requiring state agencies that buy land to notify all local units of government affected by the land purchase at least 60 days in advance. We support written justification by state and federal agencies for the price paid on land when they outbid private landowners.

1 We support limiting the amount of land owned or controlled by all units of government to no more than 20
2 percent of the land in a town. We support accountability for units of government providing services that are
3 required for the land.

4
5 We support towns and counties working with landowners to investigate a process for land owners to be
6 compensated for doing maintenance within the highway rights-of-way.

7
8 We support requiring individuals and entities digging in the road right of ways or easements to notify property
9 owners before beginning digging (to avoid damages to tile lines, etc.)

10
11 We support agricultural land owned by the DNR to be leased back to farmers at local rates and under local
12 customs.

13
14 **Purchase of Development Rights** - We support efforts to target Stewardship Program funds for the
15 purchase of development rights of productive agricultural land.

16
17 We support purchase of development rights programs and transfer of development rights programs that are
18 consistent with local comprehensive planning and zoning. We support acreage minimums and local decision
19 making in this process.

20
21 We support using funds from the USDA Farm and Ranch Land Protection program to help fund purchase of
22 development rights programs.

23
24 We support requiring purchases by land trusts that receive government funding to be consistent with local
25 comprehensive planning and zoning.

26
27 **Right-to-Farm** - We support efforts which will protect agricultural operations from nuisance suits resulting
28 from odor, dust, noise, etc. when the farming enterprise is operated in accordance with accepted agricultural
29 practices. We support the positive role zoning, education, research, and other activities may play in helping to
30 prevent or alleviate these conflicts between differing land uses.

31
32 We support amending the Right-to Farm Law to prohibit plaintiffs from applying public human health and
33 safety standards to the environment. We support increasing the penalty for filing nuisance lawsuits found
34 to have no merit. We support a punitive penalty equal to 50 percent of the producer's legal costs to defend
35 himself/herself.

36
37 We support having public agencies (town, county, and state) that file nuisance lawsuits be held liable for
38 defense costs in litigation where the case is found to have no merit.

39
40 We support that if a complaint is issued against a farmer, and an investigation finds the farmer in compliance
41 with applicable laws, we support any investigatory expenses incurred being issued to the complainant.

42
43 We oppose local units of government regulating or banning the use or growing of biotech or genetically
44 engineered crops or products.

45
46 We support statewide uniform standards, provided they do not put us at a competitive disadvantage with
47 other states, for farming operations rather than a patchwork of local and county ordinances. We support
48 farmers ability to operate and expand their farms as they choose as long as they comply with state and federal
49 environmental regulations.

50
51 **Stewardship Program** - We support a reduction in the Stewardship Program, prohibiting stewardship
52 purchases of tillable land and targeting program purchases to non-agricultural land. We oppose bonding by the
53 DNR for land purchases.

54
55 We support prohibiting the DNR from purchasing land under the stewardship program until a county and its
56 towns have completed a comprehensive plan. Stewardship Program purchases of land must be consistent with
57 the adopted plan.

We support that any and all stewardship land be open for hunting, no matter the date of purchase.

We oppose allowing non-profit tax-exempt groups to buy property and then sell it to a governmental entity for a profit in the name of preservation. We support requiring the DNR to sell two acres of land for every acre it purchases.

We support payment in lieu of property taxes to be calculated at the purchase price when the DNR purchases agricultural land.

Surveying - We support all parties, especially utility companies, to use material other than metal to mark reference points on farm property.

Trespass and Liability - We support action to recognize and enforce ownership rights to prohibit unwanted activities on private property, including those of government agencies. We support requiring DNR wardens to enforce trespass laws.

We support a substantial increase in the maximum amount of compensation allowed for recreational use. We oppose landowners being held liable for those injured when using land, with or without permission.

LIVESTOCK

Animal Identification System - We support the state's livestock premise registration program. We oppose fees on producers to pay for livestock premise registration.

We oppose any mandate on individual animal identification.

Animal Welfare - We support a farmer's right, in consultation with their veterinarians, to set appropriate protocol for common animal husbandry practices to be administrated by the farmer or trained employee that are appropriate for their farm. We support further education of consumers on the merits of common animal husbandry practices.

We support the use of tools and resources to ensure livestock and herds are protected on our farms, including the use of livestock guardian dogs.

We support animal-based medical research which benefits both humans and animals.

We support stricter penalties, punishable under organized criminal code, for the unauthorized release of animals used in agricultural production or for research purposes.

We support allowing audio and/or visual recordings on private property, including farms and livestock handling facilities, but only if approved by the facility owners.

We support requiring persons witnessing animal abuse to report findings to management and the proper authorities within 24 hours of witnessing such action, or face being prosecuted. Any video footage submitted must be unedited.

We oppose local units of government regulating animal care and welfare. We support granting this authority to DATCP.

We support requiring all county sheriffs and state troopers to have animal handling training.

We oppose any Wisconsin state law that would mandate animal husbandry practices and restrict or prohibit the sale of products if those practices were not followed by a producer.

We support local and mobile locker plants having more flexibility in processing for personal use and any packaging labeled not for sale.

We support creating a task force to research tail-docking dairy animals as it relates to animal welfare, environmental cleanliness, milk quality, and employee safety.

Disease - We support interstate testing for brucellosis of livestock from states that are not “class-free.” We support stronger action be taken against those who violate brucellosis laws and regulations.

We support having both domestic and wild animal health regulations under DATCP’s authority.

Liability - We support apiarists right to farm and civil liability protection.

Veterinarians - We support an incentive program to encourage large animal study and practice in the state.

We support requiring veterinarians to make portable written prescriptions available to their clients.

We oppose the classification of horses and other equine as companion animals.

We support efforts to recruit and retain veterinarians and certified veterinary technicians.

MARKETING

Direct Marketing - We support allowing local breweries, distilleries, meaderies, and wineries to directly market their products and have equivalent operating hours as taverns and restaurants.

We support allowing tasting rooms to sample wines, spirits, beers and ciders made by other producers.

We support agricultural tourism to include agricultural event venues. Agriculture event venues should not be required to obtain liquor licenses as long as they are not selling alcohol.

We support allowing meat, fruit, vegetable and dairy farms to direct market their products to the end consumer without making the process too burdensome in state, county and local regulations.

Disparagement - Since false claims about food products can have a devastating impact on the livelihood of farm families, we support state disparagement legislation.

Labeling - We oppose mandated labeling of Genetically Modified Organism products or ingredients.

We oppose using misleading food labels as a marketing campaign.

We oppose use of “all-natural” and “GMO Free” synonymously with “organic” to avoid producer certification as an organic grower.

We oppose lab grown or plant based and/or created proteins being produced and labeled as meat or milk.

We support more prominent labeling of U.S. made products to aid consumers in marketing and purchasing.

We support standardization of vomitoxin testing for grain merchandisers and laboratories used by crop insurance adjusters. Vomitoxin levels should be included on each weight slip.

Producer Security - We support an indemnity fund law to enhance a producer’s ability to recover losses due to the financial failure of a handler or processor. We support the following changes to the program.

- Cap the level of the fund and keep dairy, grain, and vegetable accounts separate. This keeps one industry from subsidizing a failure in another.
- Limit the purpose of Agriculture Producer fund to defaults due to business failure.
- Allow all contractors who meet or exceed certain financial criteria to be exempt from the indemnity fund assessments.
- Allow processors to post private security instead of participating in the program.

- Cap assessment rates for each milk contractor at a rate determined by a simple average of the assessment rates over a three-year moving average of program participation. This would stop milk buyers from being “punished” for revolving equity or expanding their business.
- Require financial statements ordinarily used by the processor. Eliminate DATCP staff review of financial statements to save staff expenses.
- Exempt producers that retain title to their commodities throughout the processing and sale of the finished products.
- Interest from funds should go toward program costs to reduce fees.
- Require DATCP to substantially reduce administrative costs.
- Include all potato and vegetable production under the Ag Producer Security Program.

We support payment for all produce within 30 days of delivery or per contract stipulations.

We support allowing producer associations to negotiate on behalf of producers for fair and equitable contracts.

Promotion - We support labeling and special advertising promotion for Wisconsin agricultural products.

We support programs that emphasize innovations in product development, manufacturing, and marketing strategies for all agricultural products.

We support increasing local direct marketing opportunities and giving priority to Wisconsin products in our state’s purchasing practices.

We support the efforts of the Wisconsin Beef Council and its funding for beef promotion and product development purposes.

Sustainability - We support active engagement between farmers and consumers in sustainability discussions. Responsibility for a balanced approach must include all stakeholders contributing to an outcome that enhances the quality of life for present and future generations. We recognize there are three essential components to defining sustainability: social, environmental, and economic. Costs should not be transferred solely to the farmer.

Each component should contain the following goals:

Social

- Fair treatment and wages for employees
- Acceptable land stewardship and animal care
- Local involvement within the community
- Educate and demonstrate about farming and agricultural practices

Environmental

- Efficient use of natural resources – land, water and air
- Ensuring adequate habitat for native plants and wildlife
- Research to enhance cropping and livestock systems

Economic

- Farmers should have the opportunity to earn a reasonable living
- Producing abundant, safe and healthy food
- Flexibility to change farming systems to meet marketplace demands

We support developing these three goals to achieve an ongoing cooperative relationship between farmers and consumers utilizing adaptive management techniques to resolve environmental, social and economic issues.

We support certified third-party audits of farms for animal care practices and land conservation practices to ensure market access and instill consumer confidence.

We support a farmer's right to sole proprietary ownership of collected third-party audit information and audit information should be released only as aggregated data.

NATURAL RESOURCES and THE ENVIRONMENT

Ag Chemicals - We oppose a complete ban on the use of any agricultural chemical or drug unless it can be demonstrated positively by prolonged and responsible research that use of a product represents a clear and present danger to health or that its use would seriously jeopardize our environment. We oppose state pesticide and herbicide registrations and regulations that are more restrictive than federal standards.

We support that DATCP should have a process by which atrazine restricted areas can be repealed once water samples have been proven to reach an acceptable level. We support that any new atrazine prohibition area in the state come out of a recommendation of the state atrazine advisory council before DATCP can proceed in the rule making process to add these new areas.

We support DATCP's current procedures for testing and license renewal for the Pesticide Certification and Training program.

We support the original intent of the Agrichemical Management Fund and when necessary, we support utilizing a portion of the fees collected for agriculture research and agriculture education.

We support the tonnage fee on fertilizer but are in favor of distributing more funding to the Wisconsin Fertilizer Research Fund.

We oppose requiring secondary containment for bulk fertilizer and pesticides stored on the farm.

We support the state's Clean Sweep program.

Climate Change - We oppose climate change legislation at the state level that would increase costs to production agriculture.

We support addressing this issue at the national and international levels.

We support a voluntary carbon credit market that reflects the supply and demand of carbon credit.

- Carbon programs must be science-based, provide a positive ROI, and provide farmers choice between programs on a voluntary basis.
- Programs should be private based and be supported, not governed, by public bodies (government programs).
- Programs should be stackable and not prohibit a farmer from participating in other farm programs.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations - We oppose lowering the 1,000-animal unit threshold requirement for concentrated animal feeding operations to get a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. We support requiring DNR and DATCP to use the federal animal unit calculation method in their rules and regulations.

We support transferring CAFO permitting from DNR to DATCP.

We support all CAFO permits having a final determination within 12 months after original submittal or automatically approved by the department.

We support legislation to allow private sector professionals to help with the CAFO certifications.

We support multiple AFO sites that are under the same ownership not be combined to create a CAFO.

We oppose government bodies establishing moratoria on CAFO or imposing such onerous regulations as to effectively bar CAFO operations.

Cost Sharing - We support tax incentives and increased cost sharing of pollution abatement practices to encourage their use and to diminish potentially devastating costs.

We support state funding for planting of cover crops.

Drainage and Water Law - We support legislation to revise our laws pertaining to navigable waters to provide less regulation and ensure that the riparian rights of landowners are better recognized. We support creating a statutory definition for navigability. Navigability should be defined as a majority of the year and not one day. We support farmers' ability to maintain and upgrade farm drainage systems and ditches to protect the productivity of farmland and farmable fields.

We support allowing stream bank reconstruction to pre-storm conditions following storm damage.

We support regulation with better engineering and enforcement of runoff from subdivisions and commercial development onto agricultural lands.

We support allowing drainage districts to maintain ditches in municipalities and on public lands and assess costs accordingly. The state and counties must maintain and support the historic drainage concept.

We support additional staffing for State Drainage District administration.

We support that farmers should be able to thinly spread dredged material from drainage ditching maintenance projects on adjacent lands and should be able to do this as part of maintenance work without obtaining a Chapter 30 wetland fill permit.

We support requiring any entity allowing or causing the deterioration of water drainage systems that adversely affect other agriculture land to be held liable for the correction of that drainage system.

We support changes requiring municipalities to control storm water runoff to reduce the serious flooding and financial losses this water can cause downstream. We support the inclusion of an appeal process in all storm water management decisions made by municipalities. We support the fencing of municipal drainage holding ponds, or other appropriate precautions, to prevent children from being attracted to them. Farmland should be exempt from storm water management assessments given their volume of permeable surface.

We oppose DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services interference with water control and construction of dams, including those on cranberry operations. We support the DNR classifying aquaculture and cranberries as water dependent. We support defining aquaculture as an agricultural activity.

Environmental Regulations - We support the use of consistent standards and interpretations between all government agencies with respect to environmental issues. Any regulations should consider practical methods of maintaining environmental quality consistent with efficient and economical farming operations.

We support remedying at public expense environmental incidents occurring when farmers have complied with accepted guidelines and regulations.

We support having the forfeitures for violating water quality standards directed to the Discovery Farms Program for water quality research.

We support the concept of credit trading and adaptive management between municipal and industrial dischargers and farmers to reduce phosphorus discharge into surface waters, provided farmers are not held liable for non-point sources out of their control.

We support existing farm conservation practices being eligible for credit trading.

We support encouraging NRCS to open technical service providers to allow certified farmers to participate and complete conservation projects.

We support sampling of all non-agricultural sourced biosolids applied to lands for the presence of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). We support use of the funds in the newly created/adopted PFAS fund be used to also fund the sampling and be conducted in an expedited manner.

Groundwater - We support increased monitoring, research and education relating to groundwater problems. We support amending the law regarding the installation of high-capacity wells serving municipalities to require that there be no adverse impact on the quality and supply of other local wells.

We are opposed to the use of cumulative impact studies regarding high capacity well approvals.

We support developing a standard for well water testing and sampling systems.

We oppose defining multiple small wells located on contiguous land being classified as a high capacity well.

We support grandfathering in existing high-capacity wells under the laws in which they were installed or upgraded including:

- Renewal of existing well permits
- Any existing well permit transfers with the sale of the land
- Any reconstruction or repair of an existing well
- Ability to replace a well if there is nominal movement from the original well location

In areas where groundwater quality is an issue, we support DNR establishing groundwater management areas. We support allowing DNR to regulate usage of water in a groundwater management area in consultation with an approval from a local advisory committee comprised of representatives from agriculture, industry, and municipalities.

We support requiring high capacity well permits to be processed within 60 days.

Invasive Species - We support the state working closely with other Midwest states in the Great Lakes Basin to stop the spread of invasive species.

We oppose regulating agricultural crops as an invasive species.

Liability - We support liability protection for an unknowing buyer of property for pollution caused by prior owners. We support liability protection for property owners, and previous property owners, for the discovery of hazardous materials against the time those materials were legally disposed.

We support the indemnification of farmers if PFAS and PFOS are found to exceed acceptable levels if it makes farming non-viable or are unable to sell assets if not at fault.

Livestock Siting - We support statewide uniform standards for livestock operations rather than individual local ordinances. Livestock siting regulations should not be more restrictive than the state's nonpoint standards. We support the use of scientifically proven best management practices to mitigate odor and address air emissions from livestock operations. We support reverse setbacks as a part of the state's livestock siting standards.

We support DATCP as the sole entity to provide the health assessment for livestock siting operations.

Managed Forest Law - We support a fee payable to towns to offset the costs of providing fire protection and other services. We support having the managed forest program only offer contracts to land listed by the FSA as forestland. We support greater effort by DNR to enforce compliance with the management contracts entered into under the Managed Forest Law.

We support county foresters to hold office hours within each county they represent.

Nonpoint - We support nonpoint pollution control efforts that are practical, scientifically-based best management practices, rather than the lowest cost practices, and have adequate cost sharing for farmers to economically implement any required practices, including compensation for lost opportunity costs.

We support conservation credit as part of the non-point program. We oppose any regulation that requires landowners to give an easement for public access to participate. We support allowing temporary manure stacking when weather conditions prevent spreading on eligible land in accordance with NRCS standard 313.

We support 70 percent funding for the cost incurred by farmers to implement any new nonpoint source pollution regulations. Cost sharing should be provided if feed leachate runoff containment is required. We support adequate funding to local units of government to implement the nonpoint program, provided that local regulations do not exceed state standards.

We support allowing regional DNR offices to have short form authority to quickly permit County Land Conservation Department (CLCD) and NRCS cost-share projects.

We support requiring NRCS, DNR, DATCP and CLCDs to coordinate with each other to utilize resources more effectively to serve farmers. We support requiring program consistency and implementation by CLCDs to prioritize local programs of importance. We support base funding for CLCDs to implement programs. We support additional funding going to counties as competitive grants for priority projects.

We oppose the dumping of raw sewage by municipalities into lakes and waterways. We support requiring urban and suburban lands to meet similar nonpoint standards as agricultural lands.

We support the disposal of snow containing road salt to be at least 300 feet from streams and 1,000 feet from lakes.

Noxious Weeds - We support mandatory enforcement of noxious weed laws, on Conservation Reserve Program lands, alternative energy projects, and land owned by lending institutions, absentee landowners and the government including town, county, and state road right of ways. We support the inclusion of bittersweet multi-flora roses, purple loosestrife, European buckthorn, valerian, pampas grass and wild parsnip and phragmites on the state's noxious weed list. We support compensatory programs for farmers to eradicate noxious weeds.

Nutrient Management Plans - We support allowing farmers to write their own NMP.

We support establishing a tiered NMP program. Nutrient management planning needs to be simplified to reduce paperwork. We support submitting NMP updates once every four years.

NMPs should be exempt from the open records law.

We support federal, state and county agency consistency and uniformity in the NMP application. We support an increase in funding to assist producers in writing the NMP.

We support increased phosphate, nitrogen, and potash levels for NMP planning due to higher yields and the ability of hybrids to better utilize these nutrients.

We support efforts to assist agriculture to understand its role regarding nutrient management for surface water and groundwater.

We support plant tissue sampling accompanied by a soil sample, as way to, account for usable nutrients in any and all 590 nutrient management plans.

Nutrient Management Regulations - We support reasonable and uniform state laws and regulations governing manure handling and/or leachate runoff problems with appropriate consequences for those who disregard them.

We oppose a ban on the winter spreading of manure. Winter manure applications should be based on a farmer's NMP. We support requiring municipal and industrial waste applications to be at the nutrient needs of the crop rotation and included in the NMP. (i.e. The same as standards for livestock manure applications.)

1 We oppose towns and counties imposing stricter requirements than state standards without relevant scientific
2 research.

3
4 We support allowing manure to be applied by any application methods as long as rates and timing are in
5 compliance with a NMP.

6
7 Due to variations in karst areas, we oppose a blanket regulation that would cover the entire state. We support
8 regulations specific to individual areas affected.

9
10 We support reasonable scientifically based best management practices for the protection of groundwater
11 resources in high-risk areas like Karst.

12
13 We oppose the expansion of the NR151 Silurian bedrock performance standards to other areas of the state
14 until the impact of the implementation of the standards on water quality and agricultural producers can be
15 evaluated.

16
17 We support developing technical standards for the irrigation of manure and processed wastewater.

18
19 We support legislation that would urge regulatory agencies to put a “check and balance” procedure into place
20 when responding to manure application complaints, especially if the farm is found to be in compliance with
21 their Nutrient Management Plan.

22
23 **Recycling** - We support more agricultural plastics recycling. We support allowing landowners to burn
24 nonrecyclable resources on their property.

25
26 We support stricter enforcement of our current litter laws to reduce the losses incurred by farmers due to
27 damaged equipment and injury to livestock.

28
29 We support requiring all salvage yards to document photo ID for anyone selling scrap material and report any
30 suspicious items.

31
32 **Wetlands** - We support adopting a consistent set of definitions and guidelines for all wetlands. We support
33 allowing wetlands that have been farmed to remain in agricultural production. We support the process of
34 relocating wetlands being simplified.

35
36 We support the idea that a farmers’ rights should be recognized in any wetlands legislation or regulations,
37 including the right to maintain farm drainage systems and ditches. We support compensatory damages for
38 restrictions placed on any farmers’ lands classified as wetlands.

39
40 We support consistency in county and state regulations covering wetlands, flood plains and navigable streams.

41
42 We support a quick and simple approval process for DNR to allow removal of silt and sediment from
43 streambeds.

44
45 We support farmer led soil and water quality initiatives, such as producer led watersheds.

46
47 We support managed grazing as an approved method of stream bank management and managed wetland
48 areas.

49 **TAXATION**

50
51 **Assessment** - We support use value assessment of agricultural land. We support land dedicated to
52 conservation practices (i.e. wind breaks, buffer strips, etc.) or programs be assessed as farmland under use
53 value. We support the 50 percent prorated assessment of undeveloped land and agricultural forestland.

54
55 We support current assessors to be uniformly well educated on use value assessment.

56
57 We oppose county or regional assessors.

Capital Gains - We support allowing a taxpayer to defer taxes from the sale of agricultural property and machinery by investing the proceeds into a retirement account with taxes due at withdrawal.

We oppose a state capital gains tax on the sale of a farm.

Depreciation - We support adopting federal depreciation laws as part of state tax laws.

Excise Tax - If medical and recreational marijuana is legalized, we support a minimum of 60% of all production, excised and consumption taxes are directly added to the Local Transportation Facility Improvement Assistance Program in the biennial state budget.

Estate Tax - We oppose a state estate tax.

Fees - We oppose the indexing of fees.

Fuel Tax - We support the state fuel tax exemption for agricultural purposes.

We recognize the need to increase transportation funds to ensure we have an adequate transportation infrastructure. Thus, we support any of the following revenue generators:

- Raising:
 - Fuel Tax
 - Vehicle Registration Fees
 - Farm Truck Registration Fees
 - Environmental Fee (PECFA)
- Establishing:
 - Local Sales Tax
 - Tolling
 - New Vehicle Tax
 - User fee for LP gas, natural gas and electric powered cars and trucks

A significant portion of any new funding shall be allocated to local roads, culverts and bridges.

Income Taxes - We support incorporating federal income tax deductions into Wisconsin income tax laws.

Lapses - When a fee or state tax is collected for a specific purpose, we oppose a transfer or raid on that fund for other uses.

Local Fees - We oppose counties implementing a general tax or fee on farmers or farmland to pay for CLCD programs or other county programs.

Lottery Tax Credits - We support reinstatement of the Farmland Tax Relief Credit.

Property Taxes - We support two-thirds state funding for local school costs. We support the present system of semi-annual or annual payment of property taxes. We support a tax exemption on all machinery and equipment on farms.

Sales Tax Exemption - We support sales tax exemptions on items and services used directly in farming operations.

We support allowing counties to raise the sales tax by an additional 0.5% with funds being used for county and town roads. The money should be distributed on a percentage rate based on road miles between counties and towns.

Shared Revenues - We support having shared revenues distributed equitably between towns, villages, and cities.

Special Assessments - We support extending sewer and water assessment protection provisions for farmland located within towns to farmland located within cities and villages. We support expanding this protection to include unwanted road improvements.

We oppose any municipality or county having the ability to levy a special assessment on agricultural property for constructing any public work or improvement.

Spending Caps - We support limiting the amount of taxes or fees that can be levied and/or establishing spending caps for all units of government.

We support limiting the amount of property taxes that can be levied by all units of government. We support maintaining revenue limits.

We oppose a decrease in school-spending limits if a school does not spend up to its limits in any year. We oppose exceeding levy limits, except by referendum.

Tax Credits - We support the creation of a meat processing facility tax credit to increase the capacity and availability of local processors and retailers.

Tax Exempt Real Estate - We support requiring all tax-exempt real estate at least make a payment for municipal services (i.e. police, fire, etc.). We support full and equitable payment of the local property tax for property owned by the state and federal government, non-profit organizations, federal trust lands and other revenue producing property.

We support a tax incentive for selling and/or renting land, livestock, and equipment to beginning/young farmers.

Technical College System - We support a portion of property taxes to be used for funding the Wisconsin Technical Colleges.

TECHNOLOGY

We support the responsible deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) in agriculture, prioritizing the enhancement of farming practices, ensuring fair compensation for their contributions, and having access to transparent and accessible AI technologies.

Privacy - We support the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) for commercial and agricultural purposes. We support requiring an operator of a UAS to gain consent of the land operator and/or farmer to operate in corresponding airspace, and any information or data collected or generated on a farm is the sole property of the land operator and/or farmer.

We support the use of data by others only if a consent form has been signed by the land operator and/or farmer.

We support legislation that helps farmers protect and own data collected within their farming operation.

Telecommunications - We support the design and construction of all telecommunication facilities to be in compliance with the Public Service Commission (PSC) rules.

We strongly support additional appropriations and accelerated implementation of expanded high quality cellular, broadband, fiber optic, and telecommunication coverage in rural areas to enhance rural education and agribusiness needs.

We support the PSC holding companies accountable that receive public project funding for rural broadband.

We support expanded high quality cellular and broadband telecommunication coverage for rural areas.

We support the right of farmers to be able to obtain necessary software and equipment to maintain their equipment.

TRANSPORTATION

Highways - We support the use of highway user taxes and sales taxes collected on over-the-road only for highway construction and maintenance purposes. We support more equitable distribution of and an increase in local road funding.

We support limiting debt service payments from the transportation fund to 15% of expenditures. We support designating any additional sources of revenue for transportation to local municipalities for infrastructure projects.

We support adequate funding for rural bridge improvements and establishing more reasonable construction standards for off-system bridges to minimize costs. We support requiring a gravel shoulder at least three feet in width on all new county road construction.

We support allowing wider driveways for easier access to farmers' yards from state highways.

We support, for safety concerns, having additional agricultural driveways from cropland along state and local highways.

We support a greater emphasis be placed on improvement and maintenance of existing highways rather than on new highway construction, using existing right of way wherever possible.

We support the equal treatment of agricultural land to wetlands when DOT is obtaining land for the building of roads. We support an equitable degree of effort by DOT in preserving agriculture land as is used in preserving wetlands.

We oppose requiring a landowner to pay for emergency road maintenance if a county does not have an ordinance to charge extra fees for maintenance of a road during an emergency situation.

We support designing roundabouts to accommodate large trucks, semis, and farm equipment.

We support less control by the DNR in road construction projects to allow their completion in a timely and reasonable manner.

We support the installation of culverts when roads are built or rebuilt to assist in or ease manure applications in order to reduce transportation of manure on roads.

We support allowing local government to permit the piping of manure in road right of ways.

We support requiring the DNR to maintain local roads adjacent and through DNR owned land.

We support early mowing or use of herbicides along state and county roads to control the spread of noxious weeds.

Implements of Husbandry - We oppose the registration of Implements of Husbandry (IOH) or the licensing of their operators.

We support the use of turn signals on farm implements.

We support a consistent definition of IOH be used in all state statutes.

We support removing conflicting lighting requirements for agricultural vehicles. We support uniform manufacturing requirements for lighting and visibility markings on certain agricultural vehicles and IOH.

We support the ability to operate or transport IOH of unlimited width on all roads. We support requiring an escort vehicle with flashing hazards activated if an IOH is more than 22 feet in width.

We support legislation for a lemon law applicable to IOH.

1 **License** - We support the ability for immigrant workers to obtain a valid driver's license provided they meet
2 the criteria for state driving requirements. These immigrants need to be issued a different type of license to
3 show they are not citizens until they become citizens.
4

5 **Railroads** - We support a viable rail system in Wisconsin for the shipment of agricultural products.
6
7 We support the trucking and railroad industry working together to improve the efficiency of product movement.
8
9 We oppose granting a government agency the right of first refusal to buy abandoned right-of-way or any other
10 land. Abandoned right of ways should revert back to the present landowners. Reclaimed railroad right-of-ways
11 should be properly maintained.
12
13 We oppose closing roads and private access roads for the railroad's benefit.
14
15 We support user fees and not public money to primarily fund alternative forms of public transportation, such
16 as light rail.
17
18 We support giving more control over the railroads to state and local governments.
19

20 **Safety** - We support using higher quality reflective paint in highway markings to improve visibility. We
21 support the installation of a backup warning device system on all commercial milk, cattle, feed, and other
22 trucks making farm pickups or deliveries.
23
24 We support highway departments regularly maintaining highway right of ways to reduce weed and brush
25 problems and improve highway safety.
26
27 We support increased education for law enforcement agents, as well as the general public, in regard to slow
28 moving vehicles and the standard slow-moving vehicle signs that are required by law. We support stronger
29 enforcement of this law.
30
31 We support expanding the section, which addresses agricultural issues, to the driver's education training
32 manual published by the DOT.
33
34 We support mandatory rural traffic safety curriculum in driver's education classes.
35
36 We support requiring a person to demonstrate knowledge of hand signals to pass a driver's license test or
37 obtain their renewal.
38
39 We support requiring bicyclists be more visible when traveling on public highways.
40
41 We support requiring any bicycle rally or event with 15 or more bicycles be forced to get a permit to help pay
42 for law enforcement.
43
44 We support requiring a non-probationary driver's license to operate any agricultural equipment categorized as
45 an Ag CMV.
46
47 We support requiring all animal drawn vehicles to have a slow-moving vehicle sign and proper lighting and
48 reflective tape on public roads.
49
50 We support improving safety for recreational use of ATVs and UTVs and requiring liability insurance for use
51 on public roads.
52
53 We support a standardized rulebook for law enforcement regarding agricultural semi use including dyed fuel,
54 licensing requirements, etc.
55

56 **Vehicle Length** - We support opening all state constructed or funded highways to all trucks meeting state
57 length and weight limitations.

- 1 **Vehicle Regulations** - We support excluding farm pickup trucks, in combination with a trailer or IOH, over
2 26,000 lbs, from the DOT commercial vehicle regulations.
3
- 4 We support having the DOT educate its enforcement agents of the rules and regulations governing farm trucks
5 and that the same information is made available to farm truck owners.
6
- 7 We support exempting ATVs, snowmobiles and lightweight utility vehicles used exclusively for agricultural
8 purposes from registration and license fees.
9
- 10 We support increasing the registration fee on electric vehicles.
11
- 12 We support EV and hybrid eclectic vehicles being identified on the license plate.
13
- 14 We support better enforcement of regulations governing mud flaps and covered loads on commercial vehicles to
15 reduce incidents of gravel or other debris from these vehicles damaging vehicles to the rear.
16
- 17 We support subjecting all state-owned vehicles to the same DOT requirements as privately-owned vehicles.
18
- 19 We support requiring a sign on the back of school buses indicating that they stop at railroad crossings.
20
- 21 We support notification from the DOT on new driver requirements, such as health cards with renewal notices.
22
- 23 **Vehicle Weight** - We support increasing truck weight limits to 98,000 pounds on six axles.
24
- 25 We support exempting category B self-propelled IOH from axle weight requirements.
26
- 27 We support moving the start date of the Fall Harvest Exemption to July 1.
28
- 29 We support feed, livestock, milk, and farm supply/input haulers having the same special and spring weight
30 exemption as transporters of septic, public utility, and propane.
31
- 32 We support extending weight limits that exist for milk haulers to vehicles transporting maple sap from the
33 point of collection to production or storage.
34
- 35 We support all oversized and weight penalties assessed on vehicles on town roads should go back to that town.

THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Policy Development is the grassroots process by which Farm Bureau voting members craft, refine and propose new and updated policy through a series of steps starting at the county Farm Bureau level.

Issue Backgrounders

State PD Committee discusses policy topics that are timely for the coming year as well as policy topics that may not be addressed in the policy book for members to discuss.



County Level

Counties discuss policy in a variety of ways by having a county policy development meeting, district policy meetings, county policy development committee and approve resolutions at the county Farm Bureau annual meeting.



State Policy Development Committee

County approved policy resolutions are submitted to the State Policy Development Committee. This committee reviews all resolutions and approves policy to be advanced to the delegate body for consideration at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



WFBF Annual Meeting

WFBF delegates from each County Farm Bureau convene at the delegate session to discuss and approve policy on behalf of the organization for the next year.

ACRONYM GUIDE:

- DATCP - (WI) Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
- UW - University of Wisconsin
- PSC - (WI) Public Service Commission
- DNR - (WI) Department of Natural Resources
- FSA - Farm Service Agency
- USDA - United States Department of Agriculture
- DOT - (WI) Department of Transportation
- NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- CLCD - County Land Conservation Department
- NMP - Nutrient Management Plan
- IOH - Implements of Husbandry
- Ag CMV - Agricultural Commercial Motor Vehicle
- FPP - Farmland Preservation Program

[illegible]



