

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION 2019 PROGRAM AND POLICY STATEMENT

<u>I. MISSION</u>	5
<u>II. AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS</u>	5
A. Commodities	5
1. Commodity Research and Promotion Programs	5
2. Genetically Modified Organisms	5
3. Marketing	5
4. Grain	5
5. Specialty Crops	6
6. Livestock	6
B. New and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers	8
1. Lending Programs	8
2. Recruitment	8
C. U.S. Department of Agriculture	8
1. Animal, Plant, Health Inspection Service	8
2. Labeling	9
3. Crop Insurance	9
4. Risk Management Agency (RMA)	9
5. Farm Service Agency (FSA).....	9
6. Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration	10
7. Marketing and Research	10
8. Payment Limitations	10
9. Agricultural Data	10
D. South Dakota Department of Agriculture	10
1. Agricultural Services	10
2. Animal Industry Board	11
3. Brand Board	11
4. Marketing and Research	11
5. Mediation	11
6. Office of the Secretary	11
7. State Fair	11
<u>III. COOPERATIVES</u>	11
A. Elections	11
B. Credit Unions	12
C. Farm Credit System	12
D. Marketing and Promotion	12
E. Taxation	12
F. Value-Added	12
<u>IV. EDUCATION</u>	13
A. Ag Education in the Classroom	13

B. Extension Service.....	13
C. Federal.....	13
D. Higher Education	13
1. S.D. Board of Regents	13
2. South Dakota State University.....	13
3. University of South Dakota	13
4. South Dakota Technical Schools	14
E. Public Education	14
F. South Dakota Board of Education.....	14
<u>V. CONSERVATION AND LAND USE</u>	<u>14</u>
A. Conservation.....	14
B. Land Use	15
8. Eminent Domain	15
9. Fifth Amendment	15
10. Planning and Zoning	16
11. Private Property	16
12. Public Lands.....	16
C. Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	16
1. Conservation Reserve Program.....	16
2. Environmental Quality Incentive Program	16
3. Watershed and Flood Prevention	16
D. Mineral Rights.....	16
E. Mining	17
F. Oil and Gas.....	17
G. Outdoor Recreation	17
H. Pipelines	17
I. Predator Control	18
J. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks	18
K. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	18
L. Water	18
1. Law	18
2. Rural Water Resource Development Program.....	18
3. Rural Water System	19
3. Watersheds	19
M. Waste.....	19
N. Weed and Pest Control.....	19
O. Wetlands	19
<u>VI. ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.....</u>	<u>20</u>
A. Energy	20
1. Biodiesel and Ethanol	20
2. Development	20
3. Electricity	21
4. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	21
5. Missouri River Dams	21

6. Public Power	21
7. Rural Electrification Administration.....	22
8. Transmission.....	22
9. Wind Energy.....	22
B. Telecommunications.....	23
1. Deregulation.....	23
2. Infrastructure.....	23
3. Rates.....	23
4. South Dakota Public Utilities Commission	23
5. Universal Service Fund.....	23
<u>VII. ECONOMICS</u>	23
A. Anti-Monopoly Policies	23
B. Federal Reserve Board	24
C. Loans	24
D. Fees and Licenses	24
E. National Debt.....	24
F. Producer Income.....	24
G. Rural Development	24
H. Taxation	25
1. Carbon Carrier Pipeline Tax	25
2. Contractor’s Excise Tax.....	25
3. Excess-Profits Tax	25
4. Federal Estate Tax.....	25
5. Income Tax	25
6. Investment Tax Credit.....	25
7. Mineral Severance Taxes.....	26
8. Motor Fuel Taxes.....	26
9. Property Taxes	26
10. Sales Tax.....	26
11. Tax Code.....	27
12. Water Tax.....	27
13. Tax Freezes	27
<u>VIII. PUBLIC AFFAIRS</u>	27
A. Agricultural Practices.....	27
1. Corporate Farming	27
2. Land Ownership.....	27
3. Sustainable Agriculture.....	28
B. Consumer Protection	28
C. Corporations.....	28
D. Drug Abuse	28
E. Gambling.....	28
F. Governmental Reform	28
1. Campaign Finance	28
2. Civil Liberties	29

3. Discrimination.....	29
4. Elected Officials.....	29
5. Elections.....	29
6. Equal Access to Justice Act	30
7. Line Item Veto	30
8. S.D. State Legislature	30
9. State Agencies.....	30
10. Tort Law.....	30
G. Health Care	30
H. Mental Health and Addiction	31
I. Humanitarian Aid	31
J. Medicaid and Medicare.....	31
K. Nutrition	31
L. Occupational Safety and Health	32
M. Retirement System	32
N. Seniors.....	32
O. Social Security	32
P. South Dakota Public Broadcasting	33
Q. Transportation	33
1. Highways	33
2. Railroads	33
R. U.S. Postal Service.....	34
S. Veterans	34
T. Working People	34
<u>IX. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.....</u>	<u>35</u>
A. Aid	35
B. Embargos	35
C. Imports.....	35
D. Military Armaments	35
E. Peace Corps.....	35
F. Trade Negotiations	35
G. United Nations.....	36
<u>X. APPENDIX</u>	<u>36</u>
A. Membership.....	36
B. Education	37
C. Cooperatives	37
D. Legislation.....	38
E. Foundation	38
F. Long-Range Farm Policy – The Parity of Income Plan.....	38
<u>XI. ACROYNMS AND TERMS GLOSSARY.....</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>XII. SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS.....</u>	<u>41</u>

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

2019 PROGRAM AND POLICY STATEMENT OF THE
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION AS ADOPTED BY THE DELEGATES AT THE
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 29-30, 2018

1 **I. MISSION**

2
3 Uniting farmers, ranchers, and communities
4 to strengthen South Dakota.

6 **II. AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS**

8 **A. Commodities**

10 **1. Commodity Research and Promotion
11 Programs**

12 a. Checkoff Programs

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

18 A. That disbursement of funds
19 collected is controlled by boards of all
20 producers elected by the producers assessed.

21 B. The operations of the program are
22 controlled by those producers' boards.

23 C. The programs are voluntary at the
24 point of sale.

25 D. At least 75 percent of all collected
26 checkoff dollars each year are spent.

27 b. National Beef Checkoff

28 i. We believe in beef checkoff reform.

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

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

36 iv. We urge complete separation
37 between the beef checkoff and the National
38 Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA).

39 c. South Dakota Beef Industry Council
40 (SDBIC)

41 i. We support at least three
42 representatives from South Dakota Farmers
43 Union (SDFU) on SDBIC.

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

47 **3. Marketing**

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

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

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

69 **4. Grain**

70 a. Bonding

71 i. The cost of elevator bonding has
72 created recurring problems for farmers and
73 their cooperatives during recent years. We
74 urge continued monitoring of bonding costs
75 and a review of possible alternatives.

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

8 b. Inspection

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

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

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

28 c. Sale

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

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

41 d. Protections

42 i. We support a contract grower's bill
43 of rights.

44 ii. We support the establishment and
45 enforcement of international grain standards
46 designed to protect the interests of

47 agricultural producers and consumers
48 throughout the world.

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

51 iv. We support the validity of a farmer's
52 warehouse receipt as proof of his ownership
53 of stored grain in an elevator. We also
54 support legislation prohibiting seizure of
55 said grain by elevator creditors upon
56 foreclosure of elevators.

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

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

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

71 viii. We support removing grain
72 regulations from the PUC, and to be
73 regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

74

75 **5. Specialty Crops**

76 a. Specialty crops include but are not limited
77 to fruits, vegetables, dried fruits, nursery
78 crops, floriculture and horticulture including
79 turf grass, sod, pulse and herbal crops.

80 b. We support the reclassification of
81 industrial hemp as a non-controlled
82 substance and adopt policy to allow South
83 Dakota Farmers to grow industrial hemp
84 under state law without affecting eligibility
85 for USDA benefits, and supports legislation
86 to allow for industrial hemp to become a
87 crop in the U.S. again.

88

89 **6. Livestock**

90 a. Animal Welfare

91 i. We support continued cooperation
92 with other agricultural organizations to

1 combat misinformation and support good
2 animal husbandry practices.

3 ii. We support all efforts to refute anti-
4 meat campaigns. Farmers Union members
5 are urged to write letters and contact the
6 media with accurate information on the use
7 and benefits of all meats.

8 iii. We recommend that SDFU assign a
9 person to monitor the activities of animal
10 rights advocates.

11 iv. We oppose the ideologies and
12 agendas of extremist organizations.

13 v. We favor the humane treatment of
14 animals; however, we urge caution in
15 passing laws regarding animal rights so that
16 sound management practices are not
17 adversely affected.

18 vi. We support agricultural industry
19 established standards for the management,
20 care and treatment of animals in agriculture,
21 commerce and research.

22 b. Antibiotics

23 Ionophores should not be defined as an
24 antibiotic and all subsequent research
25 statistics should be defined as separate
26 entities.

27 c. Dairy

28 i. We support regional milk marketing
29 compacts provided they:

30 A. Address the price of all classes of
31 milk — not just Class I.

32 B. Set the compact price at the cost
33 of production.

34 ii. We support a dairy pricing system
35 that protects a profit margin.

36 iii. We understand health measures but
37 resist further consolidation and burdensome
38 restrictions on raw milk sales from on-farm
39 production to the public as long as adequate
40 labeling is provided.

41 iv. We support the family dairy industry
42 and statewide efforts for continued
43 development of dairy production and
44 manufacturing.

45 d. Development

46 i. Livestock production is essential to
47 the well-being of S.D.

48 ii. We actively promote the
49 development of livestock production in S.D.
50 as a vital component in maintaining a
51 healthy agricultural sector.

52 iii. Rural citizens here and in other states
53 are voicing increasing concern about the
54 safety of waste disposal procedures at large-
55 scale livestock facilities—especially hog
56 confinement and dairy complexes. Frequent
57 reports of spills and leaks of millions of
58 gallons of manure into streams and aquifers
59 have made many rural citizens reluctant to
60 support these kinds of developments in their
61 communities. To answer these concerns, we
62 support the implementation of anaerobic
63 digesters at facilities which provide green
64 energy and will provide more efficient
65 fertilizer.

66 iv. We support the establishment of a
67 clean-up fund for large-scale livestock
68 facilities. Revenues should be collected
69 annually from operators of confinements
70 with 1,000 animal units or more and
71 deposited into a fund to provide for clean-up
72 of hazardous wastes attributable to such
73 facilities.

74 e. Marketing

75 We support the following efforts and
76 programs aimed at increasing the farmer's
77 and rancher's share of the consumer's meat
78 dollar:

79 A. We support development of new
80 farmer- and rancher-owned meat packing
81 and retail cooperatives.

82 B. We support continuous
83 monitoring of livestock and meat imports to
84 properly assess their impact on domestic
85 markets.

86 C. We support interstate distribution
87 of state inspected meats.

88 f. Transportation

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

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

9
10 **B. New and Beginning Farmers and**
11 **Ranchers**
12

13 **1. Lending Programs**

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

23 b. Efforts should be made to increase the
24 number of loans at lower interest rates with
25 emphasis to beginning farmers and to extend
26 the repayment terms on farm operating loans
27 to 10 years.

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

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

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

51
52 **2. Recruitment**

53 a. We encourage SDFU to develop and
54 maintain a registry for aspiring farmers as
55 well as for established farmers who desire to
56 pass their operation on to a beginning
57 farmer.

58 b. SDFU should develop an educational tool
59 to highlight that there are also many
60 opportunities in agriculture other than the
61 predominant mega-crop and livestock farms
62 and ranches of the state.

63
64 **C. U.S. Department of Agriculture**

65
66 **1. Animal, Plant, Health Inspection**
67 **Service**

68 a. Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)

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

73 A. We oppose a mandatory
74 program.

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

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

83 D. We would not support requiring
84 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA)
85 youth to sign up their parents with a premise
86 identification.

87 E. Any costs associated with the
88 development and implementation of ADT
89 should be paid by the U.S. government.
90 Also, a cost analysis should be done on
91 ADT so that the industry and individuals

1 know what the costs are and who is going to
2 pay.

3 b. Testing

4 i. We support more testing on animals
5 and plants.

6 ii. All testing should be open and
7 transparent.

8 iii. USDA should create a
9 comprehensive plan for all test results.

10 iv. We believe cattle processing plants
11 should be allowed to test for Bovine
12 Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in
13 individual animals.

14 c. Pest Control

15 We urge establishment of a USDA/farmer
16 cost-sharing program for insect and pest
17 control during times of emergency.

18
19 **2. Labeling**

20 a. Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL)

21 i. We support mandatory COOL for meat
22 products. Animals must be born, raised,
23 slaughtered, and processed in the U.S. to
24 receive a U.S. origin label.

25 ii. We recommend that USDA and
26 Congress reinstate mandatory COOL similar
27 to the current WTO compliant Australian
28 model.

29 b. Genetically Modified Organisms
30 (GMOs)

31 The rights of both GMO and non-GMO
32 producers should be respected as appropriate
33 regulatory agencies continue to research and
34 evaluate these concerns, including but not
35 limited to required consumer labeling for
36 goods made from or containing GMOs.

37 c. Lab Cultured Protein

38 Any alternative protein, including soy
39 based, vegetable based, synthetic protein
40 and cultured cells are to be prevented from
41 using the term “meat” on their product.

42 d. Milk

43 Any alternative product, not derived
44 from lactating mammals, cannot be labeled
45 as milk.

46

47 **3. Crop Insurance**

48 a. We support yield adjustments for
49 disaster losses and the encouragement of
50 expansion for specialty crops and livestock.

51 b. We continue to favor expansion of the
52 revenue assurance program.

53 c. Crop insurance should be subsidized on
54 a declining scale, with a regional adjustment
55 to premium cost

56 d. Conservation compliance should be
57 mandatory for government-subsidized crop
58 insurance.

59 e. Lending institutions should not be
60 allowed to sell crop insurance.

61

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

63 a. We support Inventory Management Soil
64 Enhancement Tool (IMSET) as a
65 mechanism for farmers to voluntarily use
66 annually to enhance individual farmers’s
67 pricing inventory while enhancing their
68 land’s marginal soil.

69

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

71 a. We reaffirm our support for the farmer-
72 elected committee system. This proven
73 system should not be compromised through
74 the addition of non-farm or ranch
75 appointees.

76 b. Farmer-elected committees ought to
77 have more power over day-to-day decision
78 making involved in administration of the
79 farm program.

80 c. We urge uniform interpretation of rules
81 and regulations between county and state
82 offices.

83 d. We oppose efforts to dismantle the FSA
84 delivery system through office closures and
85 elimination of county office employee jobs.
86 Efforts to reduce spending ought to be fairly
87 balanced among all agencies of the USDA
88 and federal government.

89 e. We support the continuation of the
90 limited resource loan program and urge that
91 35 percent of FSA loans be set aside for this
92 program.

1 f. We urge loans for construction and/or
2 improvement of farm/ranch homes be made
3 available.
4 g. We continue to support the major
5 provisions of the 1987 Farm Credit Act and
6 demand that FSA observe the intent of that
7 legislation. In cases of an appeal, the State
8 Mediation Board should be used to ensure
9 impartiality.

10
11 **6. Grain Inspection, Packers and**
12 **Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)**

13 a. We urge the USDA to continually
14 monitor the operation of the mandatory
15 livestock price reporting system.

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

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

26 d. We urge GIPSA to review and revise its
27 livestock buyer bonding requirements to
28 ensure adequate protection to the sellers of
29 livestock.

30
31 **7. Marketing and Research**

32 a. We strongly urge the Agricultural
33 Marketing Service (AMS) to utilize the best
34 and most accurate information for releasing
35 crop and livestock production reports.

36 b. It is very important that the USDA
37 provide accurate, up-to-date information to
38 the public with regard to farm prices,
39 income and parity levels.

40 c. The USDA Secretary should present the
41 facts concerning the costs and benefits of
42 public expenditures and of the small share of
43 the consumer food dollar received by
44 farmers and ranchers.

45 d. We urge continued research for USDA
46 at universities to develop better pest control

47 techniques and educational programs to
48 assist farmers and foresters in the best and
49 safest use of pesticides, other agricultural
50 chemicals and other means to assure
51 wholesome food and a clean environment.

52
53 **8. Payment Limitations**

54 a. So-called multiple entity rules allowing
55 farms to be artificially divided in order to
56 avoid payment limitations should be
57 abolished.

58 b. We are opposed to the use of commodity
59 certificates or any other means of exceeding
60 payment limitations.

61
62 **9. Agricultural Data**

63 a. We support the property rights of all
64 producers in relation to their agricultural
65 data.

66 b. South Dakota Farmers Union should work
67 to help farmers and ranchers gather,
68 interpret, and use all the personal
69 agricultural data to better maximize farm
70 and ranch efficiency and profitability. This
71 includes but is not limited to yield maps,
72 variable rate fertilizer, variable rate seeding,
73 dual hybrid planters, and all livestock data.

74
75 **D. South Dakota Department of**
76 **Agriculture (SDDA)**

77
78 **1. Agricultural Services**

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

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

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

89 d. We support legislation to provide
90 adequate funding for uniform inspection of
91 moisture and protein measuring devices by
92 the SDDA.

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

5 f. The SDDA should be adequately funded
6 to enable it to:

7 i. Research, identify and develop
8 markets for S.D. agricultural products.

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

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

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

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

19 a. Strong controls are needed to prevent
20 and eradicate livestock and poultry diseases.

21 b. Domesticated wild animals, birds and
22 dogs should be treated as livestock.

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

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

30 **3. Brand Board**

31 a. Every member of the brand board must
32 be the owner of a registered brand and
33 elected from districts from which the board
34 members and voters reside.

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

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

41 **4. Marketing and Research**

42 The state should expand research into
43 adapting specialty crops to S.D. Several
44 new crops may be possible with further

45 development of irrigation and more
46 adequate water supplies.

47 **5. Mediation**

48 a. We support continuation of the Farm
49 Credit Mediation Program. It has been
50 demonstrated that this program reduces the
51 number of farm bankruptcy filings and helps
52 to alleviate tensions between lenders and
53 borrowers.

54 b. We further express our support for Rural
55 Renewal Coalition efforts to expand the
56 mediation program to cover additional areas
57 of conflict involving farmers, ranchers,
58 government agencies and other entities.
59 When one party asks for mediation all
60 parties must participate.

61 c. Fees ought to be regularly reviewed and
62 reduced if their impact would deny access to
63 the program or jeopardize future federal
64 funding.

65 **6. Office of the Secretary**

66 We support the concept of an elected
67 secretary of agriculture.

68 **7. State Fair**

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

70 b. We support legislation that would allow
71 the State Fair to keep all sales tax revenues
72 collected on the fairgrounds.

73 c. We need research to enhance the State
74 Fair.

75 d. We ask that the Legislature reinstate the
76 voting power of the State Fair Commission.

77 e. We support the state investing in capital
78 improvements at the State Fair.

79 f. We support state funding as a line item
80 in the state budget.

81 **III. COOPERATIVES**

82 **A. Elections**

83 We recommend that all cooperatives use the
84 secret ballot on controversial issues and

1 elections and prohibit employees from
2 actively campaigning in any cooperative
3 election.

4 **B. Credit Unions**

5
6
7 1. We support the expansion of credit
8 unions.

9 2. We encourage Farmers Union groups to
10 be aggressive in forming and furthering
11 credit unions and promoting legislation on
12 their behalf.

13 3. We oppose efforts to tax credit union
14 earnings prior to their allocation to
15 members.

16 4. We oppose proposals to merge the
17 Credit Union Insurance Fund with the
18 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
19 (FDIC).

20 21 **C. Farm Credit System (FCS)**

22
23 1. The FCS provides a substantial portion
24 of the credit used by American farmers and
25 ranchers.

26 2. Member control by the democratic
27 process of these cooperative financial
28 institutions is essential to their continued
29 success and survival.

30 3. We support local control over these key
31 rural lending institutions.

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

34 5. All borrowers should be required to
35 purchase stock in the cooperative.

36 6. FCS institutions should be required to
37 participate in farm loan mediation programs.

38 7. We do not support the POA granting to
39 lender on operating notes.

40 41 **D. Marketing and Promotion**

42
43 1. We support designating October as
44 Co-op Month.

45 2. We urge the appropriation of funds to
46 staff a cooperative division in the SDDA

47 capable of promoting cooperatives as
48 required by law;

49 a. To promote cooperatives.

50 b. To provide expertise and advice in the
51 establishment of new credit unions and
52 cooperatives.

53 c. To provide expertise and resources in
54 establishing cooperative goals and to
55 provide information on local demographics
56 for planning.

57 d. To act as an impartial advisor to
58 financially troubled cooperatives.

59 3. We strongly urge that the farm
60 cooperative system pursue the development
61 and marketing of grain-based alcohol fuels
62 through its network of local and regional
63 cooperatives to enable producers to retain
64 some control over their commodities.

65 4. We support development of a program to
66 encourage cooperatives and governmental
67 bodies to organize local collection points for
68 material that can be recycled.

69 **E. Taxation**

70
71 1. We oppose any governmental action that
72 attempts to dictate the time and manner of
73 returning cooperative patronage earnings or
74 refunds.

75 2. We strongly support the Capper-
76 Volstead Act and urge Congress to enforce
77 it.

78 3. Taxation of cooperatives must be
79 consistent with the Federal Internal Revenue
80 Tax Code.

81 82 **F. Value-Added**

83
84 1. We strongly support value-added
85 cooperatives.

86 2. We support the S.D. Value-Added
87 Agriculture Development Center and efforts
88 to build and develop additional farmer-
89 owned, value-added cooperatives in our
90 state. We welcome the fact that more than a
91 dozen other organizations and cooperatives
92 have been willing to join with Farmers

1 Union in providing support for this
2 endeavor. We do, however, believe that
3 many traditional cooperatives could do more
4 in the way of assistance, experience and
5 cooperation for the expansion of new value-
6 added cooperatives.

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

11 **IV. EDUCATION**

12 **A. Ag Education in the Classroom**

13
14 We support legislation and utilization of
15 agriculture in the classroom in elementary
16 and secondary schools. However,
17 educational materials must be carefully
18 selected and should exclude any literature
19 promoting specific organizations or political
20 points of view.
21
22

23 **B. Extension Service**

24
25
26 1. We support reinstatement of county
27 extension services along with 4-H and well
28 trained agents.

29 2. Unbiased extension agent expertise and
30 experimental farm research are vital to S.D.

31 **C. Federal**

32
33
34 1. We urge Congress to maintain and
35 increase funds available for student loans.

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

41 3. The No Child Left Behind federal
42 education program should be fully funded to
43 implement the federal requirements or
44 eliminated if not fully funded.

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

48 5. We oppose any cuts of federal funds for
49 special education programs for the disabled
50 in S.D. school districts.

51 **D. Higher Education**

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

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

63
64 b. We encourage all S.D. colleges and
65 universities to pursue research and grants
66 that would help and enhance the farming
67 industry.
68

69 **2. South Dakota State University (SDSU)**

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

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

80 c. We urge continued research for USDA
81 at universities to develop better pest control
82 techniques and educational programs to
83 assist farmers and foresters in the best and
84 safest use of pesticides, other agricultural
85 chemicals and other means to assure
86 wholesome food and a clean environment.
87

88 **3. University of South Dakota (USD)**

89 We encourage USD graduate doctors to stay
90 and practice medicine for ten years in rural

1 S.D. in return for the payment of their entire
2 tuition by the state.

3

4 **4. South Dakota Technical Schools**

5 We recognize South Dakota Technical
6 School education programs as an important
7 part of agricultural education in South
8 Dakota.

9

10 **E. Public Education**

11

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

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

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

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

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

44 6. We fully support agriculture education,
45 Family and Consumer Science (FACS),
46 trade and industrial training programs, and

47 recognize that FFA is an integral part of
48 agriculture education.

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

55 8. We support reinstatement of adult farm
56 management courses in S.D.

57 9. We oppose the construction of major
58 school buildings without the approval by
59 vote of the people of the school district.

60 10. We support the S.D. Literacy Council
61 and its accomplishments.

62 11. Because of its negative impact on S.D.,
63 we oppose any unfunded mandates
64 regarding education.

65 12. We support additional state funding to
66 schools that offer career and technical
67 education classes such as agriculture
68 education, family and consumer sciences,
69 and trade and industrial training programs.

70 13. We urge state lawmakers to increase the
71 per-student allocation for English as a
72 second language program (ESL) for
73 students.

74

75 **F. South Dakota Board of Education**

76

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

87

88 **V. CONSERVATION AND LAND USE**

89

90 **A. Conservation**

91

- 1 1. We support conservation programs
2 funded at levels that ensure continued
3 protection of our soil, water, and virgin sod.
- 4 2. We favor a paid land diversion program
5 with environmental benefits.
- 6 3. Base acres established prior to entering
7 any farm program, or being displaced by
8 natural disasters for multiple years, should
9 be preserved for times when land comes
10 back into production.
- 11 4. We urge the state of S.D. to restore a
12 shelter belt incentive program as a means of
13 encouraging the planting and renovation of
14 shelterbelts.

15 **B. Land Use**

- 18 1. We support aerial land map availability
19 to the public.
- 20 2. We favor multiple uses of appropriate
21 national forest and other public and private
22 lands to include grazing of livestock and the
23 raw resources industries, commensurate
24 with family-sized farm and ranch operations.
- 25 3. We support a comprehensive land use
26 policy that recognizes the objectives of land
27 tenure, promotion of family farms,
28 population distribution, stabilizing farm
29 income and production, conservation of
30 natural resources and providing land for
31 public use.
- 32 4. Land use regulation should be left to
33 local government except in situations that
34 lead to multi-county or interstate problems.
- 35 5. We oppose the acquisition of productive
36 farmland to extend wildlife habitat. The
37 arbitrary designation of farm units for
38 wildlife mitigation without negotiation with
39 a willing farm operator is disruptive and
40 destructive to the efficiency of family farm
41 management. Land to extend wildlife
42 habitat should be acquired only by short-
43 term lease or rental contract.
- 44 6. We urge both governmental and private
45 groups to continue expanding their efforts to
46 take action to rectify pollution problems.

- 47 7. We support county commissioners
48 having the final decision on the sale of
49 property to government entities.

50 **8. Eminent Domain**

- 52 a. We understand that issues of eminent
53 domain are significant for landowners.
54 Every effort should be made to adequately
55 resolve these issues. However, it is
56 important that the welfare of the entire state
57 receive equal consideration.
- 58 b. We believe eminent domain should be
59 reserved for public projects. Where eminent
60 domain may eventually be used, individual
61 notification and public hearings must be
62 held before the project is allowed to
63 proceed.
- 64 c. We support severance damages
65 including payment for the diminution of
66 remaining land values and increased
67 expenses and inconvenience suffered by
68 affected landowners and operators. After
69 initial court expenses, including attorneys'
70 and appraisers' fees, additional expenses
71 must be borne by the constructing agency in
72 condemnation proceedings.
- 73 d. We believe eminent domain
74 consideration should be given to routes that
75 minimize adverse human impact.
- 76 e. We call upon federal authorities to
77 resolve eminent domain and environmental
78 impact issues to provide greater competition.
- 79 f. We oppose further expansion of eminent
80 domain for private industry and for private
81 use.
- 82 g. We oppose the use of eminent domain to
83 exchange property to only increase tax base
84 for state income.

85 **9. Fifth Amendment**

- 86 a. We support the Fifth Amendment of the
87 United States Constitution which declares
88 that government cannot seize property
89 without just compensation.
- 90 b. We urge Congress to define in law "a
91 taking" as any action by the government
92

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

4 5 **10. Planning and Zoning**

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

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

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

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

20

21 **11. Private Property**

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

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

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

31

32 **12. Public Lands**

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

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

42

43 **C. Natural Resources Conservation** 44 **Service (NRCS)**

45

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

47 a. We support continuation of CRP.

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

56 c. CRP payments should be established at
57 fiscally-responsible levels and enrollment,
58 or re-enrollment, should target highly-
59 erodible lands with payments based on
60 county average cash rents for highly
61 erodible land. Farmland and pastures that
62 have been flooded for one or more years and
63 cropland that has been repeatedly plagued
64 by disease should also be eligible for
65 enrollment.

66 d. CRP contracts should continue to be
67 long term.

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

70

71 **2. Environmental Quality Incentive** 72 **Program (EQIP)**

73 While dealing with pollution problems,
74 EQIP assistance should be targeted to family
75 farm agricultural production units with
76 1,000 animal units or less per site.

77

78 **3. Watershed and Flood Prevention**

79 a. We urge continued funding of the Small
80 Watersheds Flood Prevention and
81 Conservation Program.

82 b. Federal funding provided through the
83 NRCS should also be targeted toward
84 reducing erosion along the Missouri River
85 watershed.

86

87 **D. Mineral Rights**

88

89 1. All mineral rights should be returned to
90 the owner of the land in 10 years or when
91 land is resold.

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

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

5 6 **E. Mining** 7

8 1. We are categorically opposed to the
9 mining of uranium in S.D. Not only is there
10 a great health risk in the form of potentially
11 hazardous exposure to radioactive mining
12 dust, but there are also considerable
13 additional negative environmental impacts
14 on land and water.

15 2. We support the adoption and
16 enforcement of a comprehensive strip-
17 mining bill. Our goal must be to ensure the
18 best use of land and to return mined land to
19 its original use.

20 3. We believe that the beauty of the Black
21 Hills constitutes a natural treasure that must
22 be protected and preserved for the
23 enjoyment of future generations. We,
24 therefore, oppose strip mining of gold and
25 the utilization of mining methods which
26 jeopardize the environment.

27 28 **F. Oil and Gas** 29

30 1. We support proper environmental
31 safeguards to protect the economic interests
32 of farmers and ranchers.

33 2. Full protection should be given during
34 the planning, exploration, development and
35 reclamation from all processes related to oil
36 and gas exploration and development.

37 3. Land affected by oil and gas exploration
38 and development should be given 10 percent
39 obsolescence from land taxes due to the
40 devaluation of the surface.

41 4. Mediation for surface damages and
42 reclamation should be under the auspices of
43 the SDDA and should be mandatory if the
44 surface owner requests mediation 90 days
45 from the beginning of negotiations with the
46 oil and gas exploration company.

47 5. Payments for loss of income and
48 damages to the surface resulting from
49 ongoing oil and gas development should be
50 made annually until total reclamation of the
51 affected surface is complete.

52 53 **G. Outdoor Recreation** 54

55 1. We support state statutes requiring
56 landowner permission prior to hunting on
57 private property.

58 2. We encourage the development of a
59 system to provide a percentage of hunting
60 and fishing license revenues to counties and
61 townships.

62 3. The authority to set license fees should
63 be returned to the state legislature.

64 4. We oppose any further increases in
65 hunting and fishing license fees. Hunters on
66 preserves should be charged the same out-
67 of-state license fees assessed against other
68 out-of-state hunters.

69 5. We favor enactment of legislation based
70 on the Wisconsin model prohibiting
71 harassment of hunters by animal rights
72 activists.

73 6. Road hunting should not be permitted
74 without the adjoining landowner's
75 permission.

76 7. We urge limiting the ability for a game
77 warden to enter private land to inspect
78 licenses while hunting without landowner's
79 permission unless noticeable violations are
80 occurring.

81 82 **H. Pipelines** 83

84 1. We believe that proper environmental
85 safeguards must be implemented and the
86 economic interests of farmers and ranchers
87 be fully protected during the construction
88 and operation of oil or other pipelines.

89 2. We recommend that appropriate
90 legislation be enacted to ensure pipeline
91 safety and to protect against
92 environmentally damaging leaks.

1 **I. Predator Control**

2
3 1. It is essential that the federal government
4 establish a program utilizing both federal
5 and state departments of agriculture to
6 control predatory animals. We recognize
7 the need for livestock producers to protect
8 their livestock from predators. We urge the
9 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
10 and Congress to continue the use of
11 approved practices such as the M-44 Sodium
12 Cyanide capsules and Sodium Fluoroacetate
13 (commonly known as “compound 1080”).

14 2. We support a comprehensive review of
15 the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973.

16 3. We urge the legislature to adopt a state
17 bounty on all predators, except endangered
18 species.

19
20 **J. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks**
21 **(GFP)**

22
23 1. GFP should be required to control
24 noxious weeds on lands they own or control.

25 2. The GFP should be more accountable to
26 the state Legislature by placing their budget
27 under the authority of the appropriations
28 committee.

29 3. GFP should be required to pay taxes on
30 their lake access land at the same rate as
31 adjoining agricultural land. All state park
32 lands should be thoroughly investigated as
33 to use or non-use.

34 4. GFP should be authorized to utilize
35 funds earmarked for land acquisition to
36 make necessary repairs on dams located on
37 state-owned or leased property.

38 5. We support legislation to require GFP to
39 offer a free deer and antelope license to each
40 resident landowner with a production unit of
41 160 acres or more.

42 6. We support the idea of a transferable
43 landowner’s deer license. The number of
44 licenses would be limited as deemed
45 necessary by the GFP.

46 7. We urge GFP to formulate and
47 implement a plan for the management of the
48 black-tailed prairie dog on state and federal
49 land.

50 8. We urge GFP to manage wildlife and
51 water to reduce depredation and reimburse
52 landowners for depredation.

53 **9. Animal Damage Control (ADC)**

54 a. We support any legislation for the
55 transfer of the ADC program to the SDDA.

56 10. We support the election of GFP
57 secretary and commissioners.

58
59 **K. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE)**

60
61 1. We encourage ACE to address the
62 siltation problems behind mainstream
63 Missouri River dams.

64 2. We recommend that the ACE,
65 appropriate conservation districts and the
66 states of Neb. and S.D. work together to
67 resolve erosion and sedimentation problems
68 on the Missouri and Niobrara Rivers.

69 3. We are strongly opposed to the sale of
70 water and waterway user’s fees by ACE.

71 4. We support the upgrade of the
72 Mississippi locks and dams’ systems.

73
74 **L. Water**

75
76 **1. Law**

77 a. We urge adoption of the following order
78 of preference in the use of water: [a]
79 domestic and municipal consumption; [b]
80 hydroelectric power; [c] industrial
81 consumption; [d] irrigation [e] wildlife and
82 recreation, and [f] navigation.

83 b. We agree with the objectives in the
84 water user district law by which S.D. will
85 keep priority rights on water within its
86 boundaries.

87
88 **2. Rural Water Resource Development**
89 **Program**

1 a. The state of S.D. should have a rural
2 water resource development program
3 wherein:

4 i. The state would provide increased
5 financial assistance for the development of
6 rural water systems.

7 ii. The state would also expand research
8 and technical assistance for developing these
9 systems on an increased cooperative basis to
10 lower the cost.

11 iii. We support establishing a funding
12 program for rural water systems.

13 iv. There should be more stringent
14 inspection of refuse and runoff from cities
15 and towns, as well as from manufacturing
16 and processing plants.

17 **3. Rural Water System**

18 We support the S.D. Rural Water systems
19 and full Congressional authorization and
20 funding.
21

22 **4. Watersheds**

23 We support the federal funding for
24 watershed restoration projects.
25

26 **M. Waste**

27
28
29 1. Because of unstable and unsuitable soils
30 in certain areas, we strongly urge a safe site
31 be found to establish a hazardous waste
32 disposal site.

33 2. We recognize that disposal of hazardous
34 chemical wastes poses a serious threat to
35 public health and the environment in many
36 areas of the U.S.

37 3. We strongly oppose the establishment of
38 a disposal site for hazardous chemical
39 wastes in S.D.

40 4. We encourage the development of
41 hazardous waste disposal methods, other
42 than landfills, with stricter enforcement of
43 laws on transporting and handling hazardous
44 waste. Our ground water must be
45 safeguarded from contamination.

46 5. We support the waste pesticide
47 collection and pesticide container recycling
48 measures approved by the 1992 S.D.
49 Legislature. These programs, when fully
50 implemented, will help to remove a major
51 threat to our rural environment.

52 6. We support efforts to recycle, reuse, or
53 conserve products and resources when cost
54 effective and environmentally safe.

55 7. We oppose allowing S.D. to become a
56 national center for solid waste disposal.
57

58 **N. Weed and Pest Control**

59
60 1. We expect the federal government to
61 take steps to control noxious weeds, insects,
62 and other pests on U.S. Forest Service (FS)
63 grazing land, trust land and all land within
64 U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and
65 waterfowl production areas as well as right-
66 of-ways.

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

70 3. We also support stricter enforcement of
71 present law and the establishment of an
72 expanded educational program at the county
73 level under the county agent's direction.

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

77 5. We urge support of the Environmental
78 Protection Agency's (EPA) registration
79 review process for atrazine and it must
80 continue to rely on quality controlled and
81 peer-reviewed science as the basis for any
82 outcome.
83

84 **O. Wetlands**

85
86 1. We support preservation of the nation's
87 wetlands. However, jurisdiction and
88 implementation of wetlands programs has
89 been confused and arbitrary and has often
90 violated the rights of landowners.

- 1 2. Land should only be designated as a
2 wetland if all three criteria [1. hydrology, 2.
3 predominance of hydric soil, and 3. a
4 prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation] are
5 present.
6 3. We support the memorandum of
7 understanding between the USDA, EPA and
8 ACE placing responsibility for designation
9 of agricultural wetlands with the NRCS.
10 4. Arbitrary and excessive penalties
11 mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
12 Service (FWS) have had a devastating
13 impact on farmers. Increased local control
14 and common sense would relieve many of
15 the problems associated with designation
16 and supervision of wetlands.
17 5. Federal regulations should be amended
18 to allow farmers to consolidate wetlands in a
19 given acreage, provided there is no net loss
20 of wetlands in such acreage.

21

22 **VI. ENERGY AND** 23 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

24

25 **A. Energy**

26

27 **1. Biodiesel and Ethanol**

- 28 a. Even if the United States becomes a net
29 oil exporter, our troops will be at risk
30 assuring oil flows freely throughout the
31 world. Creating ethanol blends sweet spot,
32 E30-E50, as a viable alternative to oil,
33 supports our troops.
34 b. We recommend continued congressional
35 vigilance to assure that EPA regulations
36 require use of all ethanol blended fuels.
37 b. Education and research are the keys to a
38 successful transition from our present day
39 petroleum dependency to a future self-
40 sufficiency based on our own renewable
41 resources. We should take every opportunity
42 to dispel lies and misinformation regarding
43 the safety of ethanol.
44 c. We support an ethanol fuel program
45 utilizing low-interest federal loans to

46 farmers and groups of farmers to build
47 ethanol production plants.

48 d. We urge the governor to require
49 Premium E30 in all state owned, non-flex
50 fuel vehicles.

51 e. We support continuation of the present
52 combination of state gas tax exemption and
53 producer incentives to encourage further
54 development of the ethanol industry in S.D.
55 We believe producer incentives ought to be
56 made available to all those engaged in
57 ethanol production in S.D.

58 f. We oppose any effort to impose a state
59 tax on corn to fund ethanol producer
60 incentive payments.

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

64 h. We encourage the promotion and use of
65 100/RON clean octane E30 through farmer-
66 owned and branded blender pumps in S.D.
67 We will work with cooperatives and others
68 to assure success through S.D.'s cooperative
69 fuel retailers to offer 100/RON clean octane
70 E30 providing opportunity for fuel
71 efficiency, national security and cleaner air,
72 while also cementing a market place for
73 farmers and the enhancement of rural
74 economies.

75

76 **2. Development**

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

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

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

90 d. Elements of an effective national energy
91 policy include:

- 1 i. Equitable distribution and efficient
- 2 development of energy to assure adequate
- 3 production of food and fiber;
- 4 ii. Pricing policy which will prevent
- 5 economic hardship;
- 6 iii. A massive program to develop
- 7 renewable sources of energy;
- 8 iv. Economic assistance for family
- 9 farmers and ranchers to make agriculture
- 10 more self-sufficient through increased
- 11 application of alternative forms of energy.

12 **3. Electricity**

- 14 a. We support the maintenance of
- 15 territorial protection for rural electric
- 16 systems to guarantee access to affordable
- 17 electric power.
- 18 b. We oppose retail wheeling and federally
- 19 mandated restructuring of the electric utility
- 20 industry. Retail wheeling would force rural
- 21 consumers to pay for stranded costs that
- 22 would result if large customers leave the
- 23 electric grid and purchase their electricity
- 24 elsewhere.
- 25 c. Rural electric cooperatives have recently
- 26 acquired broad new capabilities to promote
- 27 rural economic development. Local rural
- 28 electric boards should be fully informed of
- 29 their potential new role in providing credit
- 30 for new rural development.
- 31 d. We oppose mandatory, time-certain
- 32 deregulation of the electric industry at the
- 33 federal level. Each state should determine
- 34 the timing and method of any restructuring
- 35 or deregulation of electricity.
- 36 e. We support development of
- 37 comprehensive, science-based standards to
- 38 help producers and utilities work together to
- 39 detect and mitigate stray voltage. We also
- 40 support requiring that any testing for stray
- 41 voltage be completed by a certified
- 42 professional engineer or certified master
- 43 electrician.

44 **4. Federal Energy Regulatory**

45 **Commission (FERC)**

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

55 **5. Missouri River Dams**

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

71 **6. Public Power**

- 72
- 73
- 74 a. Publicly-owned resources should, to the
- 75 greatest extent possible, be developed on a
- 76 not-for-profit basis. First preference should
- 77 be given to publicly and cooperatively-
- 78 owned utilities.
- 79 b. We reaffirm our support for the
- 80 preference clause which provides a
- 81 preference in the sale of hydropower to
- 82 cooperatives and public bodies in our belief
- 83 that public dollars used to provide the
- 84 benefit of flood control, navigation,
- 85 irrigation, increased fish and wildlife and
- 86 recreation, as well as hydropower, should be
- 87 used for the well-being of the general public
- 88 and not the stockholders of private utilities.
- 89 c. The Western Area Power Administration
- 90 (WAPA) and other federally-owned Power
- 91 Marketing Administrations (PMAs) are an
- 92 essential element in the delivery of

1 affordable electric power to members of
2 rural electric cooperatives and customers of
3 municipally-owned utilities. We strongly
4 oppose any legislation that would result in
5 sale of the PMAs.

6 d. Many hydropower dams have been built
7 and operated on public domain by private
8 power companies leasing these sites and
9 operating for profit. We urge the DOI to
10 reclaim these sites and facilities upon the
11 termination of leases so that the fullest
12 possible development can be made for the
13 benefit of the power-using public.

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

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

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

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

33

34 **7. Rural Electrification Administration** 35 **(REA)**

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

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

41 c. We strongly oppose any efforts to
42 "privatize" the REA or federal power
43 marketing agencies.

44 d. We urge Congress to approve
45 amendments to the Rural Electrification Act
46 which are designed to ensure the

47 continuation of adequate, long-term
48 financing for the nation's rural electric and
49 telecommunications systems provided that
50 lower interest rates are made available to
51 systems serving sparsely settled areas.

52

53 **8. Transmission**

54 a. We support the development and
55 transmission of electrical power to better
56 serve the farmers and ranchers of this
57 country.

58 b. We also urge landowner-friendly
59 development of the electrical transmission
60 facilities.

61 c. We support the cyber protection of our
62 electric grid.

63

64 **9. Wind Energy**

65 a. We support the development of wind
66 and other alternative energy sources.

67 b. We urge farmers, ranchers and other
68 landowners to consider the establishment of
69 wind energy cooperatives and/or landowner
70 associations to represent their own interests
71 during the development process. Provisions
72 of wind energy leases should be open for
73 public review.

74 c. We urge electric companies to purchase
75 wind energy from individuals who set up
76 wind turbines on their own property or those
77 who cooperate to build wind turbines, for
78 the same price that they pay for energy from
79 other sources.

80 d. We support extending benefits to
81 community wind projects and cooperative
82 investment projects equal to tax credits now
83 offered to wind projects.

84 e. We support the development of
85 minimum criteria of regulating the
86 development of wind energy.

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

89 g. We request that the name plate revenue
90 collected from wind farms be dedicated to
91 support local public schools.

92

1 **B. Telecommunications**

2
3 **1. Deregulation**

4 a. Congressional action to further
5 deregulate cable television and other rapidly
6 changing elements of the communications
7 industry must not be allowed to result in the
8 creation of new regional or national
9 monopolies. The clear public interest
10 mandates that we retain strong competition
11 and full access to a broad range of
12 information and opinion. Congressional and
13 U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) attention
14 ought to focus on the potential effects of the
15 latest round of mergers in the
16 communications industry and whether or not
17 those mergers are restraining competition.

18 b. The deregulation of telecommunications
19 services should be approached with extreme
20 care in order to protect the interests of the
21 consuming public.

22 c. No telecommunications service should
23 be deregulated without adequate proof that
24 sufficient competition exists. Every effort
25 must be made to ensure that the goal of
26 universal telecommunications service is not
27 jeopardized and that rural and urban
28 consumers are not subjected to prohibitive
29 rate increases.

30
31 **2. Infrastructure**

32 To serve the best interests of rural
33 communities of S.D., we encourage
34 investment in infrastructure to improve
35 telecommunication delivery systems in our
36 state.

37
38 **3. Rates**

39 The addition of new telecommunications
40 service providers may have helped to lower
41 rates, but it has also led to an increase in
42 reports of unscrupulous practices, such as
43 switching providers for consumers without
44 their knowledge or written approval. We
45 request that Congress and appropriate
46 regulatory agencies take whatever action is

47 necessary to protect the interests of
48 consumers and prosecute companies or
49 individuals found guilty of fraudulent acts.

50
51 **4. South Dakota Public Utilities
52 Commission (PUC)**

53 a. We believe that the PUC should be
54 provided with adequate personnel and
55 funding to ensure proper protection of the
56 interests of consumers.

57 b. The regulatory powers of the PUC
58 should not be tampered with unless it can be
59 clearly demonstrated that such action is in
60 the best interests of the people of S.D.

61 c. We strongly support continued
62 regulatory oversight of the
63 telecommunications industry by the PUC.

64 d. We urge the PUC to order that all
65 telephone exchanges in S.D. discontinue
66 zone rate charges in favor of an equal rate
67 for all rural customers.

68
69 **5. Universal Service Fund (USF)**

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

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

75
76 **VII. ECONOMICS**

77
78 **A. Anti-Monopoly Policies**

79
80 1. We believe that monopolistic
81 concentration in the meat packing,
82 transportation, energy, and seed industries
83 has reduced competition to a point where
84 producers no longer have access to fair and
85 equitable markets.

86 2. We support a full federal investigation of
87 the effects of concentration in the
88 transportation industry, especially rail
89 transportation.

90 3. We support anti-trust action to increase
91 competition in the private sector of energy
92 industries.

1 4. We support implementation of
2 temporary moratorium on large agricultural
3 mergers. The moratorium is necessary to
4 provide Congress with time to review
5 current law and strengthen it as appropriate
6 to restore market competition for producers
7 and consumers.

8 5. We urge that a national conference be
9 held to include representatives of farmers,
10 ranchers, consumers and organized labor in
11 an effort to eliminate monopolistic practices
12 in the food industry.

13 6. We support legislation to prohibit
14 ownership or control of feedlots by meat
15 packing firms.

16 7. We oppose ownership of livestock by
17 packing firms except for the reason of
18 immediate slaughter.

19 8. We favor a full-scale congressional
20 investigation of unjustified industry spread
21 between producer and consumer prices.

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

28 29 **B. Federal Reserve Board**

30
31 The Federal Reserve Board should be
32 reconstituted to include representatives of
33 agriculture, small business and labor.

34 35 **C. Loans**

36
37 1. Feed grain loan rates should be increased
38 to better reflect their renewable energy
39 value.

40 2. Loan rates should be based on the cost of
41 production. The county base yields should
42 be updated.

43 3. We oppose the sale of federally-financed
44 loans at a discounted rate unless the
45 individual or entity affected has the right of

46 first refusal to purchase their loan at the
47 established discount rate.

48 49 **D. Fees and Licenses**

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

54 55 **E. National Debt**

56
57 a. Reforms in our inequitable tax structure
58 are essential if we are to reduce the national
59 debt.

60 b. Farmers are not a major cause of the
61 rising national debt. A lower national debt
62 can be realized as farmers become more
63 reliant on their own management abilities
64 through programs such as IMSET and use of
65 100/RON clean octane E30.

66 67 **F. Producer Income**

68
69 We oppose any budgetary proposals that
70 would result in a direct or indirect loss of net
71 farm income to family farmers and ranchers.

72 73 **G. Rural Development**

74
75 1. We support economic development for
76 rural SD communities by adding value to
77 agriculture production by family farmers.

78 2. We support the S.D. Board of Economic
79 Development.

80 3. We believe that any program seriously
81 proposing to boost adding value to grain and
82 livestock production in S.D. must receive
83 interest rates that are at least comparable to
84 those available to businesses through the
85 Governor's Office of Economic
86 Development (GOED) Revolving Economic
87 Development and Initiative (REDI) Fund.
88 Interest rates of more than six percent are
89 unacceptable.

90 4. We support the expanded use of the
91 REDI Fund by S.D. family farmers and

1 ranchers. These changes also recognize that
2 rural people paid a disproportionate share of
3 the one-cent sales tax increase.
4 5. We urge greater use of the value-added
5 sub fund.
6 6. We support continued S.D. funding for
7 the Northern Crops Institute.
8 7. We recommend that revenues from state
9 taxes on endoparasiticides and
10 ectoparasiticides be designated for deposit in
11 a new fund dedicated to the expansion of
12 SDSU Animal Disease Research and
13 Diagnostic Lab.
14 8. We pledge our cooperation and support
15 for the legislative Rural Renewal Coalition.
16 9. We support establishment of venture
17 capital groups for producer-owned
18 businesses.
19 10. We support continued statewide efforts
20 to promote increases in state processing of
21 agricultural products. These efforts should
22 include cooperation with farmers, ranchers
23 and their organizations in promoting and
24 constructing cooperatively-owned
25 processing plants in S.D.
26 11. We support the establishment of
27 enterprise communities and empowerment
28 zones as a means of assisting development
29 in economically disadvantaged rural areas.
30 12. We continue to support the Beadle and
31 Spink Enterprise Community (BASEC) and
32 efforts of citizens in Day County and other
33 regions of the state.
34 13. We urge the appropriation of public and
35 private funds for the establishment of an
36 enterprise facilitation program. Facilitation
37 programs should be able to apply and
38 receive rural development funds.

40 **H. Taxation**

42 **1. Carbon Carrier Pipeline Tax**

43 We support a tax on carbon carrier pipelines
44 for S.D.

45
46

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

48 We urge repeal of the contractor's excise tax
49 and replaced with a corporate income tax.
50 S.D. is currently the only state in the union
51 to impose this form of pyramiding taxation.

53 **3. Excess-Profits Tax**

54 An excess-profits tax should be levied on
55 those corporations whose profits are clearly
56 out of line with reasonable rate of return on
57 invested capital.

59 **4. Federal Estate Tax**

60 We support a 35 percent estate tax after
61 exempting the first \$10 million.

63 **5. Income Tax**

64 a. We believe that personal and corporate
65 income taxes ought to be a part of a
66 balanced state tax structure. The goal of
67 reform should be a structure wherein state
68 and local tax revenues are raised
69 approximately one-third from property
70 taxes, one-third from sales taxes and one-
71 third from income taxes.

72 b. We support the federal income tax
73 deductibility of 100 percent of health
74 insurance premium and health care costs for
75 self-employed persons.

76 c. To relieve property taxes in S.D. and to
77 provide for a more equitable sharing of the
78 costs of education, we favor state enactment
79 of a graduated personal income tax and a
80 corporate profits tax.

81 d. A state income tax should be simple,
82 have a low administrative cost, be based on
83 net income from the federal income tax
84 form, with all revenues going to education
85 and for real estate tax relief.

87 **6. Investment Tax Credit**

88 We urge that the investment tax credit be
89 reinstated at an incremental level beneficial
90 to family farmers and small businesses.

91
92

1 **7. Mineral Severance Taxes**

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

8 b. South Dakota's non-renewable natural
9 resources are being severed from our state
10 and lost forever. We firmly believe that
11 those business firms engaged in this practice
12 must adequately compensate our state for
13 severed resources.

14
15 **8. Motor Fuel Taxes**

16 a. We continue our long-term support for
17 an exemption from the state gas tax at the
18 time of delivery for non-highway users.

19 b. We recognize that a certain portion of
20 gas tax revenue is directly attributable to
21 boating. Expenditure of these revenues
22 should be confined to the construction or
23 enhancement of public facilities.

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

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

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

32
33 **9. Property Taxes**

34 a. S.D.'s over-reliance on property taxes
35 for funding primary and secondary
36 education has placed an unfair burden on
37 agriculture and contributed to the economic
38 depression that confronts many rural
39 communities.

40 b. To achieve fairness and equality, the
41 assessments on agriculture land should be
42 based on the capability to produce, land use,
43 terrain, climate, location, soil type, and
44 actual use.

45 c. We continue to support efforts to
46 establish limitations in future property tax
47 increases.

48 d. We urge a full review of recent major
49 reductions in valuations and assessments for
50 centrally-assessed property including that
51 which is owned by utilities. These
52 reductions have shifted an even greater
53 property tax burden onto agricultural, other
54 business and residential property.

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

60 f. We oppose any action to reinstitute the
61 personal property tax.

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

67 h. We support a sellers' fee assessed on
68 property sales to be distributed on a local
69 level.

70 i. We are opposed to frontage roadway
71 assessment in rural areas.

72 j. We oppose a shift in capital outlay funds
73 to general funds for education.

74
75 **10. Sales Tax**

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

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

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

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

89 e. The spread of the city sales tax has made
90 rural people victims of taxation without

1 representation. We regard the city sales tax
2 as a regressive, unfair and unacceptable
3 means of funding local property tax relief.
4 We continue to oppose all city sales taxes
5 unless purchases by non-resident, rural
6 citizens can be exempted.

7 f. We oppose any permissive legislation
8 authorizing enactment of county sales taxes.

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

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

21

22 **11. Tax Code**

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

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

32 c. Every effort should be made to restore
33 an enhanced degree of progressivity to the
34 tax code by increasing the number of
35 brackets and increasing the maximum tax
36 rate for the wealthy.

37 d. Foundations and churches should be
38 taxed while engaging in commercial, profit-
39 making activities.

40 e. We believe in equitable tax treatment for
41 all businesses. We, therefore, support the
42 right of state governments to collect sales
43 taxes on Internet and catalog sales.

44 f. Until we have equitable tax treatment for
45 all retail businesses, we favor imposition of

46 state sales taxes on Internet and catalog
47 sales.

48 g. Alien owners of U.S. farmland and other
49 property should be subject to the same taxes
50 as domestic owners.

51

52 **12. Water Tax**

53 a. We oppose any state tax on water use
54 and/or water permits.

55 b. We urge repeal of state statutes requiring
56 fees for water rights permit on land
57 developed for water spreading to ensure that
58 its population will always have safe, clean
59 water for human and livestock use.

60

61 **13. Tax Freezes**

62 We urge the legislature to repeal all tax
63 freezes on schools, counties, and townships.
64 Local governments have more of an
65 understanding of their needs rather than the
66 legislators of the state.

67

68 **VIII. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

69

70 **A. Agricultural Practices**

71

72 **1. Corporate Farming**

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

84

85 **2. Land Ownership**

86 a. We believe that continued ownership
87 and control of U.S. agricultural land by
88 family farmers and ranchers is vital to the
89 moral and economic welfare of this nation.
90 We strongly support constitutional
91 restrictions on non-family farm or ranch

1 corporate ownership of agricultural land and
2 livestock. We urge like-minded
3 organizations to continue regional and
4 national cooperation to enact or strengthen
5 anti-corporate farm legislation.

6 b. We continue to support existing
7 statutory restrictions that limit the ownership
8 of agricultural land by individual, non-
9 resident aliens to 160 acres.

10 c. We urge Congress to prohibit the sale of
11 farmland in the FSA inventory to non-
12 resident foreign investors.

13 d. We support either of the following: a
14 buffer of 6 foot to prevent livestock
15 enticement or the nullification of liability for
16 the livestock producer for any trespassing
17 damages on non-buffered fence lines.

18 **3. Sustainable Agriculture**

19 We support farm bill provisions making
20 agriculture more sustainable and productive.

21 **B. Consumer Protection**

22
23
24
25 1. We favor strengthening the S.D.
26 Division of Consumer Protection through
27 better funding and adequate staffing.

28 2. We reject the sale of private browser
29 history under the Browser Act of 2017 and
30 request its repeal.

31 **C. Corporations**

32
33
34 1. We support legislation to prohibit
35 corporations from developing or selling seed
36 that contains a terminator gene and, thus,
37 cannot reproduce.

38 2. We denounce all actions and
39 governments which promote the welfare of
40 multi-national corporations and holders of
41 extreme wealth at the expense of the
42 American people.

43 3. Due to the fact that the Supreme Court
44 never ruled that corporations were granted
45 the rights of natural persons in the 14th
46 Amendment and corporations are persons of

47 the artificial sort, corporations should only
48 be granted rights specifically granted by the
49 Secretary of State's filing.

50 **D. Drug Abuse**

51
52
53 1. We demand stricter penalties for those
54 convicted of selling "hard" and "dangerous"
55 drugs. [e.g. 15-year minimum sentences
56 with no parole for 10 years].

57 2. We advocate further education on the
58 problem of drug abuse.

59 3. Drug users volunteering to overcome
60 their drug problems should be able to obtain
61 help from proper organizations without
62 incurring police records.

63 **E. Gambling**

64
65
66 1. We oppose further increases in bet limits
67 or the number of slot machines or video
68 lottery machines allowed in each
69 establishment.

70 2. The state's share of gambling revenue
71 should be increased and used for property
72 tax relief only.

73 3. We advocate an "off the top" percentage
74 from state- and federally-sanctioned
75 gambling. These funds should be earmarked
76 for law enforcement and social problems
77 attributed to the gambling industry.

78 4. All tribal gambling casinos must be
79 within the borders of a reservation and on
80 tribally owned land.

81 5. We encourage the state of S.D. to
82 conduct a study to determine the social costs
83 of gambling in our state.

84 **F. Governmental Reform**

85 **1. Campaign Finance**

86
87
88 a. We support comprehensive campaign
89 finance reform including:

90 i. Presidential candidates should
91 continue to receive matching federal funds
92 for campaign expenses. Similar financial

1 assistance should also be provided to
2 candidates for the U.S. House of
3 Representatives and U.S. Senate.

4 ii. Contributions from individuals
5 should be limited to \$1,000 per candidate.
6 Contributions by each Political Action
7 Committee (PAC) should be limited to
8 \$5,000 per candidate

9 iii. Caps should be instituted on total
10 campaign spending.

11 iv. All types of campaign contributions
12 should be fully reported.

13 v. We support eventual shift to public
14 financing and elimination of PACs.

15 b. We urge ethics legislation at the state
16 level that would result in more in depth
17 investigation of where campaign funds
18 originate and how they are used.

19 c. We recommend legislation to place
20 reasonable limits on campaign spending and
21 the length of campaigns. Elimination of soft
22 money contributions should be a top
23 priority.

24 d. We support a progressive sales tax on
25 campaign spending based on what the
26 elected office holder receives for that office.
27 Initiatives and referendums are based on
28 what SD voters contribute.

29 e. We are opposed to the ruling by the U.S.
30 Supreme Court that makes it possible for a
31 corporation to be considered as an
32 "individual" regarding campaign
33 contributions.

34 35 **2. Civil Liberties**

36 a. It shall be our purpose to seek to
37 preserve and broaden the civil liberties and
38 rights of all the people. The demands of the
39 Declaration of Independence and the
40 safeguards guaranteed to the people by the
41 Constitution and its Bill of Rights and
42 subsequent amendments must be made a
43 code of conduct for our nation.

44 b. We shall oppose those persons or forces
45 which seek to abridge, abrogate, or eliminate
46 any of our civil rights and liberties.

47 **3. Discrimination**

48 We shall continue to seek as individuals and
49 as an organization to remove every
50 remaining vestige of discrimination in any
51 government agency whenever and wherever
52 it may arise.

53 54 **4. Elected Officials**

55 a. We support legislation requiring
56 complete disclosure of income and sources
57 of income by legislators and other elected
58 public officials.

59 b. We oppose any merger of constitutional
60 offices.

61 62 **5. Elections**

63 a. All electronic voting machines shall
64 have a paper record to verify the votes.

65 b. Having a complete and accurate vote
66 count is more important than having a count
67 deadline.

68 c. We urge that no unnecessary restrictions
69 be placed on voter registration or the right of
70 citizens to vote by absentee ballot.

71 d. We urge strong enforcement of the
72 Voting Rights Act.

73 e. We oppose any actions to increase the
74 number of signatures required to initiate or
75 refer a law.

76 f. Recent rule changes regarding
77 circulation and signing of initiative,
78 referendum and candidate petitions
79 complicate the process and discourage
80 participation by citizens. We urge repeal of
81 rules requiring anything more than printing
82 of name, signature, address or box number
83 and date of signing.

84 g. We favor legislation to require full
85 disclosure of federal tax returns by
86 candidates for state constitutional offices
87 and the state Legislature at least two months
88 before the general election.

89 h. We support whatever constitutional or
90 other action is necessary to restore the right
91 of citizens to initiate or refer measures that
92 include state revenue.

1 i. We oppose any effort to reduce the
2 required percentage of voter approval in
3 local bond issue elections.

4 j. We support keeping all local voting rolls,
5 including names, addresses, voting records,
6 social security numbers, from becoming
7 public record.

8

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

10 We support any efforts to bring substantive
11 reform to the EAJA.

12

13 **7. Line Item Veto**

14 We oppose the line item veto.

15

16 **8. S.D. State Legislature**

17 a. We are opposed to changing the
18 legislature to a unicameral or single-house
19 body.

20 b. We support legislation to elect state
21 senators for a four-year term.

22 c. We support some form of compensation
23 to legislators performing legislative related
24 duties on weekends and when the
25 Legislature is not actually in session.

26 d. We support repeal of the so-called S.D.
27 ‘gag law.’ Under the guise of preserving
28 confidentiality, this legislation has allowed
29 government to conceal the public’s business
30 from the public.

31 e. We support establishing a non-partisan
32 redistricting body and single member house
33 districts statewide.

34 f. We support legislation requiring all
35 registered lobbyists to fully report all fees
36 and compensation which they receive for
37 their legislative activity.

38

39 **9. State Agencies**

40 a. We ask that the tax advocate position in
41 state government be taken away from the
42 S.D. Department of Revenue and be placed
43 under the S.D. Department of Legislative
44 Audit.

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

47 **10. Tort Law**

48 We strongly support tort reform.

49

50 **G. Health Care**

51

52 1. We support a comprehensive, universal,
53 national, prepaid health care and medical
54 facilities insurance program. This program
55 should enable every citizen to receive fully
56 adequate medical, dental, hospital,
57 chiropractic and other health care services,
58 including treatment for alcoholism, drug
59 addiction, mental illness, and prescription
60 drugs. This program should also include
61 preventative health care services.

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

64 3. We support the single payer system.

65 4. We support hospice care for the
66 terminally ill.

67 5. We continue to support the “division of
68 assets” concept.

69 6. We support assisted living and
70 minimum-care homes for those people who
71 do not require the care of nursing homes.

72 7. It has been proven that preventative
73 health care can reduce the overall cost of the
74 health care system. Insurers should be
75 required to cover the full cost of regular
76 check-ups.

77 8. We support the inclusion of reasonable
78 chiropractic care in any state healthcare
79 plan.

80 9. We support an expansion of a risk pool
81 for uninsurable South Dakotans. We view
82 this as a necessary step toward enactment of
83 a comprehensive, universal state health care
84 reform program.

85 10. We urge that any national or state health
86 reform plans maintain rural access and cost
87 containment as important priorities.

88 11. We support legislation that would allow
89 American pharmacists and distributors to
90 import prescription drugs approved by the
91 FDA and sell them at more affordable
92 prices.

1 12. We urge the U.S. government and health
2 care providers to negotiate with drug
3 manufacturers to make prescription drug
4 prices more in line with those that are
5 available in other countries.

6 13. We urge substantially increased federal
7 appropriations for research on all major
8 diseases and for study of prevention and
9 effective treatment of mental illness.

10 14. We support federal legislation aimed at
11 providing equal coverage of Medicare
12 reimbursement procedures in order that vital
13 rural medical facilities may survive.

14 15. We support 100 percent deductibility for
15 health insurance premiums to include all
16 health care costs.

17 16. We demand that Congress limit the
18 ability of health insurance companies to
19 dictate length of stay or possible hospital
20 procedures.

21 17. We support a patient's right to choose
22 their medical provider.

23 18. We support elimination of
24 discriminatory pricing of prescription drugs.

25 19. The definition of "group" should be
26 expanded to make group policies available
27 to all people.

28

29 **H. Mental Health and Addiction**

30

31 1. We support public and private programs
32 to incentivize mental health and addiction
33 professionals to move to and practice in
34 rural communities

35 2. We support full mental health care
36 coverage by insurance groups.

37 3. We support increased mental health care
38 availability in our public schools.

39 4. We support evidence based prevention
40 treatment efforts to reduce illegal substance
41 use, addiction and suicide.

42

43 **I. Humanitarian Aid**

44

45 We recognize that children constitute our
46 greatest asset and we support nutritional,

47 educational and financial assistance
48 programs targeted to improving the current
49 welfare and future opportunities for all
50 children.

51

52 **J. Medicaid and Medicare**

53

54 1. We support larger reimbursements from
55 our state for Medicaid residents of long-term
56 care facilities.

57 2. We regard the method of classifying
58 Medicare patients under the Diagnostic
59 Related Groups (DRG) policy as an insult to
60 our older citizens. We recognize the
61 necessity of controlling increases in
62 Medicare and other health care costs, but a
63 policy that forces hospitals to discharge
64 Medicare patients once their Medicare
65 eligibility has run out is wrong. Patients in
66 need of further medical care should be
67 allowed to remain in the hospital with
68 expenses paid through Medicare
69 supplemental insurance or in cash.

70 3. We recommend that the time period for
71 changing the medications or prices paid by
72 insurance companies and the time period for
73 an individual to change an insurance carrier
74 shall be the same.

75

76 **K. Nutrition**

77

78 1. We deplore reductions in domestic food
79 utilization and distribution programs such as
80 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
81 Program (SNAP), school lunches, Woman,
82 Infants and Children (WIC) programs,
83 elderly nutrition programs, and summer food
84 service programs, which assist low-income
85 people in obtaining sufficient food to meet
86 their nutritional needs.

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

- 1 3. Federal agencies should be prohibited
2 from using imported commodities in school
3 lunch and other organization programs.
- 4 4. We oppose federally-mandated nutrition
5 standards for school lunches that replace
6 long accepted health standards with menu
7 choices that reduce or eliminate meat and
8 dairy products.
- 9 5. Federally-owned surplus commodities
10 should be utilized in the school lunch and
11 summer food service programs.
- 12 6. We feel the USDA should use all
13 authorities it has, including donations, to
14 dispense of any excess commodities to those
15 people, both domestic and worldwide, who
16 are in need.

17
18 **L . Occupational Safety and Health**
19 **Administration (OSHA)**

20
21 We endorse the concept of the federal
22 OSHA because of the importance of
23 providing safe and healthful working
24 conditions. Due process of law must be
25 guaranteed in determining guilt and
26 assessing fines.

27
28 **M. Retirement System**

- 29
30 1. We ask that the present retirement
31 system for elected officials [president, vice
32 president and Congress] be made more
33 equitable within the level of the Social
34 Security formula.
- 35 2. We encourage individual, personal
36 retirement plans.

37
38 **N. Seniors**

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

44
45 **O. Social Security**

- 46 1. We believe in a strong Social Security
47 system in the U.S. We recommend that:
 - 48 a. Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)
49 must be recalculated to include real-world
50 expenses. Simply pinning COLA to the rate
51 of inflation is an inefficient and detrimental
52 method; necessities such as food, fuel,
53 prescription medication, health care, and
54 insurance must be included.
 - 55 b. Some provision should be made to
56 provide Social Security benefits for widows
57 or widowers who are not now eligible but
58 need some assistance.
 - 59 c. Dependents of beneficiaries should
60 receive support through four years of
61 college.
 - 62 d. Aid to disabled persons between the ages
63 of 18 and 55 should not be contingent upon
64 the economic status of the spouse, parents or
65 other relatives.
 - 66 e. For purposes of Social Security benefits,
67 we recommend the same formula be used to
68 determine the amount of benefits regardless
69 of the year of birth. Discrimination against
70 so-called “notch people” should be
71 abolished. A reasonable limit should be
72 placed on the earned and unearned income
73 of retired persons or widows with dependent
74 children.
- 75 2. We urge the Social Security
76 Administration (SSA) to determine the
77 number of farm women who are not covered
78 by Social Security. We also urge the SSA
79 and NFU to dispense information on how
80 these farm women may qualify for coverage
81 under Social Security.
- 82 3. We recommend that federal matching
83 funds, equal to the annual contributions by
84 and on behalf of individuals, be appropriated
85 to the Social Security Fund. Social Security
86 taxes should be paid on unearned as well as
87 earned income with Social Security
88 payments being the only exception.
- 89 4. We oppose the use of Social Security
90 funds for purposes other than Social
91 Security benefits, such as private plans.

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

8
9 **P. South Dakota Public Broadcasting**
10 **(SDPB)**
11

12 1. Reductions in federal and state funding
13 threaten the survival of quality radio and
14 television programming that we have come
15 to expect from SDPB.

16 2. We support efforts to restore funding for
17 these educational programs.

18 3. We particularly support continuation of
19 agriculturally oriented programming.

20
21 **Q. Transportation**
22

23 **1. Highways**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

51 h. An adequate highway system, including
52 farm-to-market roads, is essential to the
53 economic health of rural S.D.

54 i. We are opposed to any change in federal
55 highway funding which would eliminate aid
56 for secondary roads and bridge repair. Such
57 a change would be grossly unfair to rural
58 states like S.D. which have a
59 disproportionately large amount of
60 secondary highway mileage.

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

72
73 **2. Railroads**

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

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

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

86 d. Currently, grain elevators and other
87 businesses located on the state-owned
88 railroad property which depend on rail
89 service for their business are required to
90 repair tracks on sidings at their own
91 expense, even though they have no equity or
92 ownership in the tracks or right-of-way

1 property. We support changes in state law
2 that would allow businesses using the tracks
3 to reimburse the state for repairs over a
4 reasonable period of time.

5 e. Shippers captive to a single rail line
6 should be protected from excessive rates and
7 healthy competition among railroads should
8 be encouraged.

9 f. We urge legislation allowing adjoining
10 landowners to initiate a process of
11 abandoned railroad right-of-way to convert
12 to adjoining land.

13 g. Landowners adjoining abandoned
14 railroad lines should have first right of
15 refusal to purchase the property.

16 h. We urge legislation requiring
17 reflectorizing of the sides of railroad cars.
18 Lights on business structures should be
19 regulated so they do not interfere with
20 traffic.

21

22 **R. U.S. Postal Service (USPS)**

23

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

30 2. We deplore USPS cutbacks in service in
31 rural areas.

32 3. We oppose any further closings of post
33 offices, processing centers and reductions in
34 service to rural people.

35 4. We believe that postal service is a right
36 and not a privilege. We believe, therefore,
37 that the USPS should not be required by law
38 to be a self-supporting institution, especially
39 if that status results in oppressive increases
40 in postal rates and reduction of services.

41 5. We support allowing the USPS to fund
42 its pension similarly to private enterprise.

43

44 **S. Veterans**

45

46 1. The nation must honor all promises of
47 rights and benefits made to veterans.

48 2. We especially advocate the continued
49 availability of medical services for all
50 honorably discharged veterans through the
51 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
52 hospitals.

53 3. We ask that the burial expense for all
54 veterans be reinstated.

55 4. Provision of services should not be
56 contingent on economic status of the
57 veteran.

58 5. We oppose the shifting of guaranteed
59 veterans' home loans from one bank to
60 another to facilitate certain banks getting out
61 of such loans in agricultural communities.

62 6. We encourage all nursing homes to have
63 the right to admit veterans with the same
64 benefits they have at a VA hospital.

65

66 **T. Working People**

67

68 1. We support legislation that allows all
69 people to earn a living wage.

70 2. It is our belief there should be
71 communication between agriculture and
72 labor on matters of vital interest to both.

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

75 4. We believe in a strong federal
76 immigration policy, but do not support the
77 hiring of illegal workers.

78 5. We believe in a guest worker program
79 that supports the hiring of reliable
80 agricultural workers. This policy should be a
81 coherent, viable, effective worker program.

82 6. We support reforms to the visa system to
83 make it responsive to the needs of our
84 economy and businesses, with a focus on
85 public safety as well as protecting the
86 interests of the workers.

87 7. We believe that serious attention should
88 be given to the proposal to require worker's
89 compensation for hired farm workers and
90 that any such law should provide for

1 exemptions for short-term or seasonal farm
2 workers.

3 8. We oppose any undue state burdens that
4 may inhibit the ability for the agricultural
5 industry to employ an adequate work force.

6 7 **IX. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

8 9 **A. Aid**

10
11 1. Foreign aid has been of great assistance
12 to emerging democracies and other
13 underprivileged nations. Provision of
14 foreign aid must never be contingent upon a
15 country's acceptance of private American
16 investment capital. U.S. financial aid should
17 be used to buy products made in the U.S.
18 when possible.

19 2. Farmer-to-farmer programs, Public Law
20 480 and other international assistance
21 programs have had positive benefits around
22 the world. We support necessary
23 improvements in their delivery system, but
24 oppose termination.

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

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

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

39 40 **B. Embargos**

41
42 Agricultural products should be exempt
43 from all embargoes.

44 45 **C. Imports**

46

47 1. We demand that all agricultural products
48 imported to this country be required to meet
49 the same standards of sanitation required of
50 American agricultural products and labeled
51 as to point of origin. We are especially
52 concerned about lapses that have allowed
53 foreign beef to enter the U.S. through
54 Canada or Mexico with inadequate or no
55 inspection. We strongly oppose new USDA
56 food safety provisions, which would transfer
57 responsibility for meat inspections to
58 individual meat packers.

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

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

71 72 **D. Military Armaments**

73
74 We support continuation of arms control
75 negotiations between all nations.

76 77 **E. Peace Corps**

78
79 We urge the continuation and expansion of
80 the Peace Corps program.

81 82 **F. Trade Negotiations**

83
84 1. We oppose any kind of "Trade
85 Promotion Authority" legislation for free-
86 trade agreements, and urge Congress to vote
87 on each package. In order for these trade
88 agreements to be fair, factors such as labor
89 standards, growing practices, differing
90 currency exchange rates and food safety
91 regulations must be taken into account. In
92 any free-trade agreement negotiation, the

1 U.S. Representatives should create a
2 commodity-by-commodity breakdown of
3 the effect that the agreement will have on
4 the U.S. agriculture industry.
5 2. We respect all nations' sovereignty and
6 food policies and thus urge open dialogue,
7 cooperation and understanding in trade
8 negotiations relating to biotechnology.

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

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

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

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

34 **X. APPENDIX**

36 **A. Membership**

38 1. A large membership of family farmers
39 and ranchers is the base of a strong,
40 respected and influential SDFU. Among the
41 benefits of membership in the Farmers
42 Union are:

43 a. The right to full participation in
44 activities and policy-making decisions and
45 the right to election as an officer or delegate
46 to state and national conventions.

47 b. Participation in the Farmers Union youth
48 and other educational activities and
49 conferences.

50 c. A subscription to the South Dakota
51 Union Farmer, the official publication of the
52 state organization.

53 d. We encourage all Farmers Union
54 Insurance policy holders to become
55 members and for members to buy Farmers
56 Union Insurance.

57 e. Eligibility for membership in the
58 Traveler's Motor Club

59 f. Membership incentive programs for
60 transportation and lodging to the NFU
61 Convention. We encourage county
62 organizations to actively seek associate
63 members (non-voting).

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 8. We urge members to inform the state
2 office of their email addresses.
3 9. We urge members and interested parties
4 to utilize the SDFU and NFU websites and
5 the websites of its affiliated organizations
6 such as the SDFU Foundation and the SDFU
7 Insurance Agency.

8

9 **B. Education**

10

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

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

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

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

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

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

49 7. We support the S.D. Ag in the Classroom
50 program and encourage Farmers Union
51 education leaders to become involved in
52 farm safety training programs.

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

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

65

66 **C. Cooperatives**

67

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

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

80 3. Farmers Union local, county and district
81 organizations need to establish and maintain
82 strong communications, participation,
83 patronage, and membership with local
84 cooperatives' boards of directors, managers,
85 and employees; and local and district
86 Farmers Union Insurance personnel.

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

90 5. Farmers Union affiliated cooperatives and
91 other farmer-owned cooperatives are

1 encouraged to pay the full five [5%] per cent
2 educational funds to Farmers Union.

3 6. SDFU's contributions toward
4 strengthening the economic position of all of
5 agriculture are enhanced by the support of
6 farmer cooperatives through membership
7 checkoffs.

8 7. We urge CHS Inc. cooperatives to
9 aggressively seek ways to keep locally-
10 owned cooperatives open to serve the farmer
11 patron.

12 8. We encourage women, Native Americans
13 and other minorities to become members of,
14 and directors of, cooperatives.

15 **D. Legislation**

16 1. Effective legislative activity is an
17 essential part of the overall Farmers Union
18 effort to preserve and strengthen our family
19 farm and ranch system. We urge all Farmers
20 Union members to become active
21 participants in legislative activity at the
22 national, state and county levels.

23 2. Farmers Union organizations and
24 members are strongly encouraged to take
25 part in the Rural Lobbyist Program at the
26 state level during legislative session.

27 3. The SDFU Rural Lobbyist is a valuable
28 tool when fully utilized by rural lobbyists.

29 4. We support the continuation of the
30 Farmers Union Washington, D.C., Fly-In
31 lobbying efforts conducted on behalf of
32 family farmers and ranchers. We ask that
33 our national and state organizations continue
34 to publish voting records of members of
35 Congress and our state legislature.

36 5. All Farmers Union officers and members
37 are encouraged to subscribe to and read
38 NFU News.

39 **E. Foundation**

40 1. We encourage all members to support the
41 endowment strengthening the foundation; a
42 nonprofit organization raising funds for

43 educating young minds, building new
44 leadership and creating new opportunities
45 for economic growth in rural S.D.

46 2. We endorse the various approved
47 scholarship programs within the Farmers
48 Union for college education and vocational
49 training.

50 **F. Long-Range Farm Policy – The Parity 51 of Income Plan**

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

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

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

85 4. The payments would be based on a per-
86 unit rate for the commodities produced by

1 the family farm to make up the difference, if
2 any, between prices received and the parity
3 price of each commodity. The volume of
4 commodities for which each farm family
5 would be eligible to receive payments would
6 be computed by the difference between the
7 cost of production [excluding labor and
8 management returns] and parity. This fair
9 margin of return would be divided into the
10 national median family income level to
11 determine the maximum number of units of
12 production for which payments could be
13 made.

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

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

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

37 38 **XI. ACROYNMS AND TERMS** 39 **GLOSSARY**

40
41 **100/RON clean octane E30** - An octane
42 rating is a standard measure of the
43 performance of an engine fuel. Fuels with a
44 higher octane rating are used in high
45 performance gasoline engines that require
46 higher compression ratios.

47 **1987 Farm Credit Act** – The Agricultural
48 Credit Act of 1987

49 **ACE** – United States Army Corps of
50 Engineers

51 **ADC** – Animal Damage Control

52 **ADT** – Animal Disease Traceability

53 **AIB** – Animal Industry Board

54 **AMS** – Agricultural Marketing Service

55 **BASEC** – Beadle and Spink Enterprise
56 Community

57 **BSE** – Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

58 **Capper-Volstead Act** – The Cooperative
59 Marketing Association Act of 1922

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

63 **CFTC** – Commodity Futures Trading
64 Commission

65 **CRP** – Conservation Reserve Program

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

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

68 **DOI** – United States Department of the
69 Interior

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

71 **DRG** – Diagnostic Related Groups

72 **E30** – a motor fuel blend that contains 30
73 percent ethanol fuel

74 **E50** – a motor fuel blend that contains 50
75 percent ethanol fuel

76 **E85** – a motor fuel blend that consists 85
77 percent ethanol fuel

78 **EBC** – Equivalent bushel concept

79 **EOP** – Employee Education Program

80 **EQIP** – Environmental Quality Incentive
81 Program

82 **EPA** – Environmental Protection Agency

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

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

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

86 **FACS** – Family and Consumer Science

87 **FAO** – Food and Agriculture Organization
88 of the United Nations

89 **FCS** – Farm Credit System

90 **FDA** – Food and Drug Administration

91 **FDIC** – Federal Deposit Insurance
92 Corporation

1 **FERC** – Federal Energy Regulatory
2 Commission
3 **FFA** – Future Farmers of America
4 **Fifth Amendment** – the Fifth Amendment
5 of the U.S. Constitution provides for:
6 individual protections from double jeopardy
7 and self-incrimination; and a right to due
8 process and just compensation.
9 **FMD** – Foot and mouth disease
10 **FOIA** – Freedom of Information Act
11 **Food for Peace Act** – The Food for Peace
12 Act of 1966
13 **FOR** – Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve
14 **FS** – United States Forest Service
15 **FSA** – Farm Service Agency
16 **FTC** – Federal Trade Commission
17 **FWS** – United States Fish and Wildlife
18 Service
19 **GFP** – South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
20 **GIPSA** – Grain Inspection, Packers and
21 Stockyards Administration
22 **GMO** – Genetically modified organism
23 **GOED** – Governor’s Office of Economic
24 Development
25 **Illinois Brick Case** – a United States
26 Supreme Court case, Illinois Brick Co. V.
27 Illinois, sets out the “Illinois Brick
28 doctrine,” that prohibited indirect purchasers
29 of goods or services from recovering
30 antitrust damages from antitrust violators
31 **IM 22** – Initiated Measure 22
32 **IMSET** – Inventory Management Soil
33 Enhancement Tool
34 **Ionophores** – a lipid soluble molecule that
35 is used as an antibiotic and/or growth
36 enhancing feed additive.
37 **IRS** – Internal Revenue Service
38 **Missouri Seed Availability and**
39 **Competition Act** – House Bill 317
40 introduced in the Missouri State Legislature.
41 It provides for farmers to register with the
42 State Department of Agriculture in order to
43 retain seed from harvest for next year’s
44 planting season.
45 **NFU** – National Farmers Union
46 **No Child Left Behind** – No Child Left
47 Behind Act of 2001
48 **NRCS** – Natural Resources Conservation
49 Service
50 **OSHA** – Occupational Safety and Health
51 Administration
52 **PAC** – Political Action Committee
53 **Pick-Sloan Act** – The Pick-Sloan Flood
54 Control Act of 1944
55 **PMA** – Power Marketing Administration
56 **POA** – Power of Attorney
57 **PSA** - Public Service Ad
58 **Public Law 480** – The Food for Peace Act
59 of 1966
60 **PUC** – South Dakota Public Utilities
61 Commission
62 **REA** – Rural Electrification Administration
63 **REDI** – Revolving Economic Development
64 and Initiative
65 **RMA** – Risk Management Agency
66 **Rural Electrification Act** – The Rural
67 Electrification Act of 1935
68 **SDBIC** – South Dakota Beef Industry
69 Council
70 **SDDA** – South Dakota Department of
71 Agriculture
72 **SDDOT** – South Dakota Department of
73 Transportation
74 **SDFU** – South Dakota Farmers Union
75 **SDPB** – South Dakota Public Broadcasting
76 **SDSU** – South Dakota State University
77 **SNAP** – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
78 Program
79 **SSA** – Social Security Administration
80 **UN** – United Nations
81 **USD** – University of South Dakota
82 **USDA** – United States Department of
83 Agriculture
84 **USF** – Universal Service Fund
85 **USMEF** – U.S. Meat Export Federation
86 **USPS** – United States Postal Service
87 **VA** – United States Department of Veterans
88 Affairs
89 **Voting Rights Act** – The Voting Rights Act
90 of 1965

1 **WAPA** – Western Area Power
2 Administration
3 **WIC** – Woman, Infants and Children

4

5 **XII. SPECIAL ORDERS**

6

7 **Special Order 1**

8 *Truth in Labeling*

9 Whereas, South Dakota Farmers Union
10 (SDFU) supports the use of the term beef
11 (pork, poultry, lamb, seafood) in a food label
12 to be exclusively for meat harvested from
13 live animals in the traditional manner, and,
14 Whereas, cell cultured technology continues
15 to be developed, and,

16 Whereas, SDFU supports the use of USDA
17 inspection stamps be used on meat.

18 Therefore, Be it resolved, if a stamp is used
19 on cell cultured proteins, SDFU asks USDA
20 to create a separate USDA stamp or marking
21 for cell cultured proteins that are inspected
22 by the USDA and by states, using a different
23 format and color ink on the stamp. Neither
24 the Federal or State meat inspection stamps
25 shall appear on the cell culture protein
26 products, retail packaging or wholesale
27 containers or shall the USDA grade shield
28 appear on any cell cultured product or
29 packaging. While we believe these products
30 should be required to pass the same strict
31 standards of food inspection as meat
32 products that come from animals raised in
33 the traditional manner, we do not believe
34 they are the same category of food and
35 therefore should not bear a USDA meat
36 inspection stamp, and,

37 Therefore, Be it further resolved, that SDFU
38 supports new categories of food be
39 developed and used for cell cultured proteins
40 and plant based proteins, and that while we
41 understand that the product is protein we ask
42 that it not be included as meat, dairy, or eggs
43 in the dietary guidelines, but as its own class
44 of protein, and,

45 Therefore, Be it further resolved, that any
46 alternative protein, including soy based,

47 vegetable based, synthetic protein and
48 cultured cells are to be prevented from using
49 the term “meat” on their product.

50

51 **Special Order 2**

52 *Promotion of Meat Products*

53 Whereas, SDFU recognizes that cell
54 cultured proteins are destined to be in
55 international trade deals, we believe that
56 they should require separate negotiations
57 than beef, pork, or poultry as the process of
58 production, packaging, and inspection will
59 be different than that of real meat products,
60 and,

61 Whereas, countries such as France have
62 recently created labeling laws that do not
63 allow alternative proteins to use meat-
64 related terms. Each country now needs to
65 define how cell cultured products will be
66 inspected and keep standards for trade
67 acceptance for these products separate from
68 beef, pork, or poultry, and,

69 Whereas, The U.S. Meat Export Federations
70 website defines themselves as “*The U.S.
71 Meat Export Federation (www.usmef.org) is
72 the trade association responsible for
73 developing international markets for the
74 U.S. red meat industry. It is funded by
75 USDA; the beef, pork, lamb, corn and
76 soybean checkoff programs, as well as its
77 members representing nine industry sectors:
78 beef/veal producing & feeding, pork
79 producing & feeding, lamb producing &
80 feeding, packing & processing, purveying &
81 trading, oilseeds producing, feed-grains
82 producing, farm organizations and supply &
83 service organizations.*”

84 Therefore, Be it resolved, SDFU does not
85 support that alternative proteins, plant based
86 proteins, insects, or cell cultured proteins be
87 allowed to be included in the check-off acts
88 and orders.

89

90

91

92

1 **Special Order 3**
2 *Human Nutrition*
3 Whereas, the human diet is a complex issue,
4 and,
5 Whereas, certain advisory groups are
6 misinterpreting nutritional needs and
7 nutritional components of foods that come
8 from plants and animals, and,
9 Whereas, some foods and food groups are
10 discouraged or encouraged not on their food
11 values but on economic and political
12 reasons, and,
13 Whereas, some foods are misunderstood and
14 misidentified as to their essential ingredients
15 and values.
16 Therefore, Be it resolved, SDFU will find
17 like-minded individuals, groups, and
18 researchers to identify present research on
19 the subject, do research to further
20 understand the effect of micro-nutrients, and
21 promote healthy nutritional diets based on
22 scientific research.

23
24 **Special Order 4**
25 *Ethanol Promotion*
26 We encourage SDFU to continue to invest in
27 a joint ad campaign with commodity groups
28 to inform standard auto owners it is legal to
29 fuel their autos with ethanol's sweet spot
30 blends of E30-E50.

31
32 **Special Order 5**
33 *Corn Utilization Council*
34 Whereas, ethanol is a major market for corn
35 industry.
36 Therefore, Be it resolved, SDFU members
37 request that the SD Corn Utilization Council
38 present a written accounting of investments
39 in SD ethanol plants with shares and value
40 earnings on those investments, and present it
41 at January 2019 Annual Meeting.
42 Therefore, Be it further be resolved, that SD
43 Corn Utilization Council invest annual
44 income and dividends, a minimum of one
45 (1) million dollars annually, on ethanol
46 specific promotions to include higher blends

47 (such as premium E30), tanks, blender
48 pumps, and other infrastructures.

49
50 **Special Order 6**
51 *Pipeline Tax*
52 Whereas, history documents that the 1985
53 one cent/gallon sales tax on SD imported
54 gasoline and diesel at the pipeline was the
55 best investment petroleum consumers ever
56 made to lower gasoline prices and save
57 money, and,
58 Whereas, consumers save an average of 30
59 cents to a dollar per gallon on petroleum
60 based fuels, and,
61 Whereas, we believe that consumers can
62 continue to save money.
63 Therefore, Be it resolved, that SDFU
64 supports the continued pipeline tax no
65 longer be phased out of state law. We
66 believe this money should be used to further
67 invest in ethanol plants and grow the ethanol
68 industry in SD, and,
69 Therefore, Be it further resolved, that this
70 money also be used to educate and advertise
71 that it is legal to fuel standard autos with
72 ethanol's sweet spot blends of E30-E50.