



# POLICY BOOK



# 2019



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## **SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION 2019 PROGRAM AND POLICY STATEMENT**

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**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.

5  
6 **II. AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS**

7  
8 **A. Commodities**

9  
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.

46

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.

68

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  
5 **B. Credit Unions**  
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 b. We encourage all S.D. colleges and  
64 universities to pursue research and grants  
65 that would help and enhance the farming  
66 industry.  
67

### 68 **2. South Dakota State University (SDSU)**

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

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.

### 6 **E. Mining**

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.

### 28 **F. Oil and Gas**

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.

### 53 **G. Outdoor Recreation**

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.

### 82 **H. Pipelines**

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**

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

### 72 **6. Public Power**

- 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.  
52

### 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.  
58

### 59 **4. Federal Estate Tax**

60 We support a 35 percent estate tax after  
61 exempting the first \$10 million.  
62

### 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.  
86

### 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.

### 19 **3. Sustainable Agriculture**

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

### 23 **B. Consumer Protection**

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.

### 32 **C. Corporations**

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 14<sup>th</sup>  
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.

### 51 **D. Drug Abuse**

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

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

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

### 64 **E. Gambling**

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

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

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

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

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

### 85 **F. Governmental Reform**

#### 87 **1. Campaign Finance**

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.

## 9 10 **G. United Nations (UN)**

11  
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.

## 33 34 **X. APPENDIX**

### 35 36 **A. Membership**

37  
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 **EEP** – 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](http://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.



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