



2020 POLICY BOOK



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

2020 PROGRAM AND POLICY STATEMENT OF THE
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION AS ADOPTED BY THE DELEGATES AT THE
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION CONVENTION
DECEMBER 10-11, 2019

1 **I. MISSION**

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

6 **II. AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS**

8 **A. Commodities**

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

12 a. Checkoff Programs

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

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

21 B. The operations of the program are
22 controlled by those producers' boards,
23 excluding individuals with ties to foreign
24 entities.

25 C. The programs are voluntary at the
26 point of sale.

27 D. At least 75 percent of all collected
28 checkoff dollars each year are spent.

29 b. National Beef Checkoff

30 i. We believe in beef checkoff reform.

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

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

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

41 c. South Dakota Beef Industry Council
42 (SDBIC)

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

46 ii. We urge the representation of the dairy
47 cattle industry.

48

49 **2. Marketing**

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

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

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

70

71 **3. Grain**

72 a. Bonding

73 i. The cost of elevator bonding has
74 created recurring problems for farmers and

1 their cooperatives during recent years. We
2 urge continued monitoring of bonding costs
3 and a review of possible alternatives.

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

11 b. Inspection

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

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

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

30 c. Sale

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

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

43 d. Protections

44 i. We support a contract grower's bill of
45 rights.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

76
77 **4. Specialty Crops**

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

82 b. We support policy allowing South Dakota
83 Farmers to grow industrial hemp under state
84 law following federal standards.

85
86 **5. Livestock**

87 a. Animal Welfare

88 i. We support continued cooperation
89 with other agricultural organizations to
90 combat misinformation and support good
91 animal husbandry practices.

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

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

9 iv. We oppose the ideologies and
10 agendas of extremist organizations.

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

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

20 b. Antibiotics

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

25 c. Dairy

26 i. We support regional milk marketing
27 compacts provided they:

28 A. Address the price of all classes of
29 milk — not just Class I.

30 B. Set the compact price at the cost
31 of production.

32 ii. We support a dairy pricing system that
33 protects a profit margin.

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

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

43 d. Development

44 i. Livestock production is essential to
45 the well-being of S.D.

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

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

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

73 e. Marketing

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

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

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

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

87 f. Transportation

88 i. We support transportation of all
89 livestock, including horses, for slaughter
90 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 government’s
15 status as a guarantor of loans by commercial
16 lenders must be balanced with direct lending
17 programs targeted at assisting beginning
18 farmers. Direct loans should be viewed as
19 “yardstick” credit to keep interest on private
20 loans and government-insured loans at the
21 lowest possible levels.

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

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

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

44 e. In addition, we propose that loan
45 payments to the Farm Service Agency (FSA)
46 be placed in a state FSA revolving fund

47 which would then be made available for
48 future loans within the state.

49
50 **2. Recruitment**

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

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

60
61 **C. U.S. Department of Agriculture**

62
63 **1. Animal, Plant, Health Inspection**
64 **Service**

65 a. Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)

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

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

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

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

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

86 b. Testing

87 i. We support more testing on animals
88 and plants.

89 ii. All testing should be open and
90 transparent.

91 iii. USDA should create a
92 comprehensive plan for all test results.

1 iv. We believe cattle processing plants
2 should be allowed to test for Bovine
3 Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in
4 individual animals.

5 c. Pest Control

6 We urge establishment of a USDA/farmer
7 cost-sharing program for insect and pest
8 control during times of emergency.

9

10 **2. Labeling**

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

12 i. We support mandatory COOL for meat
13 products. Animals must be born, raised,
14 harvested, and processed in the U.S. to
15 receive a U.S. origin label such as “Product
16 of USA”.

17 ii. We recommend that USDA and
18 Congress reinstate mandatory COOL similar
19 to the current WTO compliant Australian
20 model.

21 b. Genetically Modified Organisms
22 (GMOs)

23 The rights of both GMO and non-GMO
24 producers should be respected as appropriate
25 regulatory agencies continue to research and
26 evaluate these concerns, including but not
27 limited to required consumer labeling for
28 goods made from or containing GMOs.

29 c. Lab Cultured Protein

30 Any alternative protein, including soy
31 based, vegetable based, synthetic protein and
32 cultured cells are to be prevented from using
33 the term “meat” on their product.

34 d. Milk

35 Any alternative product, not derived from
36 lactating mammals, cannot be labeled as
37 milk.

38

39 **3. Crop Insurance**

40 a. We support yield adjustments for disaster
41 losses and the encouragement of expansion
42 for specialty crops and livestock.

43 b. We continue to favor expansion of the
44 revenue assurance program.

45 c. Crop insurance should be subsidized on a
46 declining scale, with a regional adjustment to
47 premium cost

48 d. Conservation compliance should be
49 mandatory for government-subsidized crop
50 insurance.

51 e. Lending institutions should not be
52 allowed to sell crop insurance.

53

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

55 a. We support Inventory Management Soil
56 Enhancement Tool (IMSET) as a mechanism
57 for farmers to voluntarily use annually to
58 enhance individual farmers’s pricing
59 inventory while enhancing their land’s
60 marginal soil.

61

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

63 a. We reaffirm our support for the farmer-
64 elected committee system. This proven
65 system should not be compromised through
66 the addition of non-farm or non-ranch
67 appointees.

68 b. Farmer-elected committees ought to have
69 more power over day-to-day decision making
70 involved in administration of the farm
71 program.

72 c. We urge uniform interpretation of rules
73 and regulations between county and state
74 offices.

75 d. We oppose efforts to dismantle the FSA
76 delivery system through office closures and
77 elimination of county office employee jobs.
78 Efforts to reduce spending ought to be fairly
79 balanced among all agencies of the USDA
80 and federal government.

81 e. We support the continuation of the
82 limited resource loan program and urge that
83 35 percent of FSA loans be set aside for this
84 program.

85 f. We urge loans for construction and/or
86 improvement of farm/ranch homes be made
87 available.

88 g. We continue to support the major
89 provisions of the 1987 Farm Credit Act and
90 demand that FSA observe the intent of that

1 legislation. In cases of an appeal, the State
2 Mediation Board should be used to ensure
3 impartiality.

4

5 **6. Grain Inspection, Packers and**
6 **Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)**

7 a. We urge the USDA to continually
8 monitor the operation of the mandatory
9 livestock price reporting system.

10 b. We urge that the Packers and Stockyards
11 Act be fully enforced with equal attention
12 paid to the problems of monopolistic control,
13 manipulation of prices, deception and fraud.

14 c. GIPSA must be maintained and
15 adequately funded to accomplish its mission.
16 It should be prepared to fully coordinate
17 research and investigative work with the
18 Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

19 d. We urge GIPSA to review and revise its
20 livestock buyer bonding requirements to
21 ensure adequate protection to the sellers of
22 livestock.

23

24 **7. Marketing and Research**

25 a. We strongly urge the Agricultural
26 Marketing Service (AMS) to utilize the best
27 and most accurate information for releasing
28 crop and livestock production reports.

29 b. It is very important that the USDA
30 provide accurate, up-to-date information to
31 the public with regard to farm prices, income
32 and parity levels.

33 c. The USDA Secretary should present the
34 facts concerning the costs and benefits of
35 public expenditures and of the small share of
36 the consumer food dollar received by farmers
37 and ranchers.

38 d. We urge continued research for USDA at
39 universities to develop better pest control
40 techniques and educational programs to assist
41 farmers and foresters in the best and safest
42 use of pesticides, other agricultural chemicals
43 and other means to assure wholesome food
44 and a clean environment.

45

46

47 **8. Payment Limitations**

48 a. So-called multiple entity rules allowing
49 farms to be artificially divided in order to
50 avoid payment limitations should be
51 abolished.

52 b. We are opposed to the use of commodity
53 certificates or any other means of exceeding
54 payment limitations.

55

56 **9. Agricultural Data**

57 We support the property rights of all
58 producers in relation to their agricultural
59 data. This includes but is not limited to yield
60 maps, variable rate fertilizer, variable rate
61 seeding, dual hybrid planters, and all
62 livestock data.

63

64 **D. South Dakota Department of**
65 **Agriculture (SDDA)**

66

67 **1. Agricultural Services**

68 a. We recommend that the SDDA provide
69 for poultry inspection as a part of the state
70 meat inspection program.

71 b. We encourage the expansion of the S.D.
72 Pesticide Disposal Program as a way of
73 preventing ground water contamination.

74 c. We urge the SDDA to continue the
75 voluntary credit counseling service for
76 economically hard-pressed family farmers
77 and ranchers.

78 d. We support legislation to provide
79 adequate funding for uniform inspection of
80 moisture and protein measuring devices by
81 the SDDA.

82 e. We urge the legislature to increase
83 funding for insect control and we urge the
84 SDDA to take advantage of federal funds that
85 are available.

86 f. The SDDA should be adequately funded
87 to enable it to:

88 i. Research, identify and develop
89 markets for S.D. agricultural products.

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

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

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

7
8 **2. Animal Industry Board (AIB)**

9 a. Strong controls are needed to prevent and
10 eradicate livestock and poultry diseases.

11 b. Domesticated wild animals, birds and
12 dogs should be treated as livestock.

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

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

20
21 **3. Brand Board**

22 a. Every member of the brand board must be
23 the owner of a registered brand and elected
24 from districts from which the board members
25 and voters reside.

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

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

32 **4. Marketing and Research**

33 The state should expand research into
34 adapting specialty crops to S.D. Several new
35 crops may be possible with further
36 development of irrigation and more adequate
37 water supplies.

38
39 **5. Mediation**

40 a. We support continuation of the Farm
41 Credit Mediation Program. It has been
42 demonstrated that this program reduces the
43 number of farm bankruptcy filings and helps
44 to alleviate tensions between lenders and
45 borrowers.

46 b. We further express our support for Rural
47 Renewal Coalition efforts to expand the
48 mediation program to cover additional areas
49 of conflict involving farmers, ranchers,
50 government agencies and other entities.
51 When one party asks for mediation all parties
52 must participate.

53 c. Fees ought to be regularly reviewed and
54 reduced if their impact would deny access to
55 the program or jeopardize future federal
56 funding.

57
58 **6. Office of the Secretary**

59 We support the concept of an elected
60 secretary of agriculture.

61
62 **7. State Fair**

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

64 b. We support legislation that would allow
65 the State Fair to keep all sales tax revenues
66 collected on the fairgrounds.

67 c. We need research to enhance the State
68 Fair.

69 d. We ask that the Legislature reinstate the
70 voting power of the State Fair Commission.

71 e. We support the state investing in capital
72 improvements at the State Fair.

73 f. We support State Fair funding as a line
74 item in the state budget.

75
76 **III. COOPERATIVES**

77
78 **A. Elections**

79
80 We recommend that all cooperatives use the
81 secret ballot on controversial issues and
82 elections and prohibit employees from
83 actively campaigning in any cooperative
84 election.

85
86 **B. Credit Unions**

87
88 1. We support the expansion of credit
89 unions.

90 2. We encourage Farmers Union groups to
91 be aggressive in forming and furthering

1 credit unions and promoting legislation on
2 their behalf.

3 3. We oppose efforts to tax credit union
4 earnings prior to their allocation to members.

5 4. We oppose proposals to merge the Credit
6 Union Insurance Fund with the Federal
7 Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

8

9 **C. Farm Credit System (FCS)**

10

11 1. The FCS provides a substantial portion of
12 the credit used by American farmers and
13 ranchers.

14 2. Member control by the democratic
15 process of these cooperative financial
16 institutions is essential to their continued
17 success and survival.

18 3. We support local control over these key
19 rural lending institutions.

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

22 5. All borrowers should be required to
23 purchase stock in the cooperative.

24 6. FCS institutions should be required to
25 participate in farm loan mediation programs.

26 7. We do not support the POA granting to
27 lender on operating notes.

28

29 **D. Marketing and Promotion**

30

31 1. We support designating October as
32 Co-op Month.

33 2. We urge the appropriation of funds to
34 staff a cooperative division in the SDDA
35 capable of promoting cooperatives as
36 required by law;

37 a. To promote cooperatives.

38 b. To provide expertise and advice in the
39 establishment of new credit unions and
40 cooperatives.

41 c. To provide expertise and resources in
42 establishing cooperative goals and to provide
43 information on local demographics for
44 planning.

45 d. To act as an impartial advisor to
46 financially troubled cooperatives.

47 3. We strongly urge that the farm
48 cooperative system pursue the development
49 and marketing of grain-based alcohol fuels
50 through its network of local and regional
51 cooperatives to enable producers to retain
52 some control over their commodities.

53 4. We support development of a program to
54 encourage cooperatives and governmental
55 bodies to organize local collection points for
56 material that can be recycled.

57

58 **E. Taxation**

59

60 1. We oppose any governmental action that
61 attempts to dictate the time and manner of
62 returning cooperative patronage earnings or
63 refunds.

64 2. We strongly support the Capper-Volstead
65 Act and urge Congress to enforce it.

66 3. Taxation of cooperatives must be
67 consistent with the Federal Internal Revenue
68 Tax Code.

69

70 **F. Value-Added**

71

72 1. We strongly support value-added
73 cooperatives.

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

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

91

92

1 **IV. EDUCATION**

2
3 **A. Ag Education in the Classroom**

4
5 We support legislation and utilization of
6 agriculture in the classroom in elementary
7 and secondary schools. However,
8 educational materials must be carefully
9 selected and should exclude any literature
10 promoting specific organizations or political
11 points of view.

12
13 **B. Extension Service**

- 14
15 1. We support expansion of extension
16 services at the county level along with well
17 trained 4-H county advisors.
18 2. Unbiased extension agent expertise and
19 experimental farm research are vital to S.D.
20 3. We encourage continued education of
21 extension personnel and urge reduced tuition
22 for all.

23
24 **C. Federal**

- 25
26 1. We urge Congress to maintain and
27 increase funds available for student loans.
28 2. We believe young people should also be
29 given the option of participating for at least
30 two years in a national service corps as partial
31 or complete repayment of student loans.
32 3. The “Every Student Succeeds” federal
33 education program should be fully funded to
34 implement the federal requirements or
35 eliminated if not fully funded.
36 4. We support federal Perkins funding to
37 local school districts that offer career and
38 technical education curriculum.
39 5. We oppose any cuts of federal funds for
40 special education programs in S.D. school
41 districts.

42
43
44
45
46

47 **D. Higher Education**

48
49 **1. S.D. Board of Regents**

- 50 a. We recommend that the state legislature
51 and the S.D. Board of Regents as well as
52 academic faculty and administrators direct,
53 divert, and prioritize state legislative
54 appropriations in research funding to our
55 state land grant institutions toward the
56 implementation of research and development
57 of organic farming and alternative uses of our
58 crops.
59 b. We encourage all S.D. colleges and
60 universities to pursue research and grants that
61 would help and enhance the farming industry.

62
63 **2. South Dakota State University (SDSU)**

- 64 a. We urge SDSU to maintain research
65 independent of bio-technology companies to
66 allow unbiased research.
67 b. We urge SDSU to place greater emphasis
68 on increasing farm and ranch profitability
69 through improved farm management and
70 marketing. We also urge emphasis on courses
71 pertaining to rural life studies which
72 emphasize the contributions made by family
73 farmers and ranchers.
74 c. We urge continued research for USDA at
75 universities to develop better pest control
76 techniques and educational programs to assist
77 farmers and foresters in the best and safest
78 use of pesticides, other agricultural chemicals
79 and other means to assure wholesome food
80 and a clean environment.

81
82 **3. University of South Dakota (USD)**

83 We encourage USD graduate doctors to stay
84 and practice medicine for ten years in rural
85 S.D. in return for the payment of their entire
86 tuition by the state.

87
88 **4. South Dakota Technical Schools**

89 We recognize South Dakota Technical
90 School education programs as an important
91 part of agricultural education in South
92 Dakota.

1 **E. Public Education**

2
3 1. SDFU has consistently supported our
4 educational system. We strongly recommend
5 the continued support of these institutions of
6 learning in their endeavors to enhance the
7 cultural and economic life of the people of
8 our state and nation.

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

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

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

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

35 6. We fully support agriculture education,
36 Family and Consumer Science (FACS), trade
37 and industrial training programs, and
38 recognize that FFA is an integral part of
39 agriculture education.

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

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

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

50 10. Because of its negative impact on S.D.,
51 we oppose any unfunded mandates regarding
52 education.

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

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

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

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

65
66 We urge the Board of Education to restore
67 funding support for extended service
68 contracts for agriculture education
69 instructors. Loss of this funding greatly
70 reduces the effectiveness of agriculture
71 education instruction at S.D. high schools
72 and reduces the educational opportunities for
73 students who may not have access to project
74 advice from agriculture education instructors
75 during the key summer months.

77 **V. CONSERVATION AND LAND USE**

79 **A. Conservation**

80
81 1. We support conservation programs
82 funded at levels that ensure continued
83 protection of our soil, water, and virgin sod.

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

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

1 4. We urge the state of S.D. to restore a
2 shelter belt incentive program as a means of
3 encouraging the planting and renovation of
4 shelterbelts.

5
6 **B. Land Use**
7

8 1. We support aerial land map availability to
9 the public.

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

15 3. We support a comprehensive land use
16 policy that recognizes the objectives of land
17 tenure, promotion of family farms,
18 population distribution, stabilizing farm
19 income and production, conservation of
20 natural resources and providing land for
21 public use.

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

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

34 6. We urge both governmental and private
35 groups to continue expanding their efforts to
36 take action to rectify pollution problems.

37 7. We support county commissioners
38 having the final decision on the sale of
39 property to government entities.
40

41 **8. Eminent Domain**

42 a. We understand that issues of eminent
43 domain are significant for landowners. Every
44 effort should be made to adequately resolve
45 these issues. However, it is important that the

46 welfare of the entire state receive equal
47 consideration.

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

53 c. We support severance damages including
54 payment for the diminution of remaining land
55 values and increased expenses and
56 inconvenience suffered by affected
57 landowners and operators. After initial court
58 expenses, including attorneys' and
59 appraisers' fees, additional expenses must be
60 borne by the constructing agency in
61 condemnation proceedings.

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

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

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

71 g. We oppose the use of eminent domain to
72 exchange property to only increase tax base
73 for state income.
74

75 **9. Fifth Amendment**

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

80 b. We urge Congress to define in law "a
81 taking" as any action by the government
82 which deprives citizens of use of their
83 property or reduces the value of that property.
84

85 **10. Planning and Zoning**

86 a. Any state legislation should recognize
87 that agricultural land must be preserved for
88 the future. Family farmers should be
89 represented in all zoning deliberations.

90 b. We encourage counties to enact
91 comprehensive land use plans and zoning

1 ordinances to control and regulate the
2 potential expansion of large-scale livestock
3 confinement facilities and cattle feed lots.
4 c. We oppose any effort to replace county
5 zoning laws with statewide zoning laws.
6 d. County planning and zoning boards should
7 be made up of a majority of rural residents.
8

9 **11. Private Property**

10 a. Anyone trespassing on private land
11 should be liable for his or her own action.
12 b. No person should be allowed on private
13 property using water as access without the
14 landowner's permission.
15 c. Any state entity that controls public
16 waters that cause damage to private property
17 should be held responsible for returning the
18 property to its original form.
19

20 **12. Public Lands**

21 a. Rental fees for the lease of state-owned or
22 other public lands for grazing or other
23 agricultural purposes must be consistent with
24 rental fees on private lands in the same area
25 and of equal productivity.
26 b. When state-owned land is sold, the
27 appraised price per acre must also be
28 consistent with the value of private lands in
29 the same locality and of equal access.
30

31 **C. Natural Resources Conservation** 32 **Service (NRCS)** 33

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

35 a. We support continuation of CRP.
36 b. CRP eligibility should be modified to
37 include lands that have been cropped during
38 at least two of the previous 10 years. CRP
39 eligibility should also be extended to include
40 farmland and pastureland that has been
41 affected by declared weather- related
42 disasters or crop diseases during at least two
43 of the previous 10 years.
44 c. CRP payments should be established at
45 fiscally-responsible levels and enrollment, or
46 re-enrollment, should target highly-erodible

47 lands with payments based on county average
48 cash rents for highly erodible land. Farmland
49 and pastures that have been flooded for one
50 or more years and cropland that has been
51 repeatedly plagued by disease should also be
52 eligible for enrollment.
53 d. CRP contracts should continue to be long
54 term.
55 e. Uniform standards should be applied for
56 enrollment or re-enrollment of land in CRP.
57

58 **2. Environmental Quality Incentive** 59 **Program (EQIP)**

60 While dealing with pollution problems, EQIP
61 assistance should be targeted to family farm
62 agricultural production units with 1,000
63 animal units or less per site.
64

65 **3. Watershed and Flood Prevention**

66 a. We urge continued funding of the Small
67 Watersheds Flood Prevention and
68 Conservation Program.
69 b. Federal funding provided through the
70 NRCS should also be targeted toward
71 reducing erosion along the Missouri River
72 watershed.
73

74 **D. Mineral Rights** 75

76 1. All mineral rights should be returned to
77 the owner of the land in 10 years or when land
78 is resold.
79 2. All mineral rights should be retained by
80 the surface owner.
81 3. Landowners with severed mineral rights
82 need to be justly compensated and protected.
83

84 **E. Mining** 85

86 1. We are categorically opposed to the
87 mining of uranium in S.D. Not only is there
88 a great health risk in the form of potentially
89 hazardous exposure to radioactive mining
90 dust, but there are also considerable
91 additional negative environmental impacts
92 on land and water.

1 2. We support the adoption and enforcement
2 of a comprehensive strip-mining bill. Our
3 goal must be to ensure the best use of land
4 and to return mined land to its original use.
5 3. We believe that the beauty of the Black
6 Hills constitutes a natural treasure that must
7 be protected and preserved for the enjoyment
8 of future generations. We, therefore, oppose
9 strip mining of gold and the utilization of
10 mining methods which jeopardize the
11 environment.

12

13 **F. Oil and Gas**

14

15 1. We support proper environmental
16 safeguards to protect the economic interests
17 of farmers and ranchers.

18 2. Full protection should be given during the
19 planning, exploration, development and
20 reclamation from all processes related to oil
21 and gas exploration and development.

22 3. Land affected by oil and gas exploration
23 and development should be given 10 percent
24 obsolescence from land taxes due to the
25 devaluation of the surface.

26 4. Mediation for surface damages and
27 reclamation should be under the auspices of
28 the SDDA and should be mandatory if the
29 surface owner requests mediation 90 days
30 from the beginning of negotiations with the
31 oil and gas exploration company.

32 5. Payments for loss of income and damages
33 to the surface resulting from ongoing oil and
34 gas development should be made annually
35 until total reclamation of the affected surface
36 is complete.

37

38 **G. Outdoor Recreation**

39

40 1. We support state statutes requiring
41 landowner permission prior to hunting on
42 private property.

43 2. We encourage the development of a
44 system to provide a percentage of hunting
45 and fishing license revenues to counties and
46 townships.

47 3. The authority to set license fees should be
48 returned to the state legislature.

49 4. We oppose any further increases in
50 hunting and fishing license fees. Hunters on
51 preserves should be charged the same out-of-
52 state license fees assessed against other out-
53 of-state hunters.

54 5. We favor enactment of legislation based
55 on the Wisconsin model prohibiting
56 harassment of hunters by animal rights
57 activists.

58 6. Road hunting should not be permitted
59 without the adjoining landowner's
60 permission.

61 7. We urge limiting the ability for a game
62 warden to enter private land to inspect
63 licenses while hunting without landowner's
64 permission unless noticeable violations are
65 occurring.

66

67 **H. Pipelines**

68

69 1. We believe that proper environmental
70 safeguards must be implemented and the
71 economic interests of farmers and ranchers
72 be fully protected during the construction and
73 operation of oil or other pipelines.

74 2. We recommend that appropriate
75 legislation be enacted to ensure pipeline
76 safety and to protect against environmentally
77 damaging leaks.

78 **I. Predator Control**

79

80 1. It is essential that the federal government
81 establish a program utilizing both federal and
82 state departments of agriculture to control
83 predatory animals. We recognize the need
84 for livestock producers to protect their
85 livestock from predators. We urge the
86 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and
87 Congress to continue the use of approved
88 practices such as the M-44 Sodium Cyanide
89 capsules and Sodium Fluoroacetate
90 (commonly known as "compound 1080").

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

1 3. We urge the legislature to adopt a state
2 bounty on all predators, except endangered
3 species.

4
5 **J. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks**
6 **(GFP)**
7

8 1. GFP should be required to control
9 noxious weeds on lands they own or control.

10 2. The GFP should be more accountable to
11 the state Legislature by placing their budget
12 under the authority of the appropriations
13 committee.

14 3. GFP should be required to pay taxes on
15 their lake access land at the same rate as
16 adjoining agricultural land. All state park
17 lands should be thoroughly investigated as to
18 use or non-use.

19 4. GFP should be authorized to utilize funds
20 earmarked for land acquisition to make
21 necessary repairs on dams located on state-
22 owned or leased property.

23 5. We support legislation to require GFP to
24 offer a free deer and antelope license to each
25 resident landowner with a production unit of
26 160 acres or more.

27 6. We support the idea of a transferable
28 landowner's deer license. The number of
29 licenses would be limited as deemed
30 necessary by the GFP.

31 7. We urge GFP to formulate and
32 implement a plan for the management of the
33 black-tailed prairie dog on state and federal
34 land.

35 8. We urge GFP to manage wildlife and
36 water to reduce depredation and reimburse
37 landowners for depredation.

38 9. We support the Animal Damage Control
39 program.

40 10. We support the election of GFP secretary
41 and commissioners.

42
43
44
45
46

47 **K. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE)**
48

49 1. We encourage ACE to address the
50 siltation problems behind mainstream
51 Missouri River dams.

52 2. We recommend that the ACE,
53 appropriate conservation districts and the
54 states of Neb. and S.D. work together to
55 resolve erosion and sedimentation problems
56 on the Missouri and Niobrara Rivers.

57 3. We are strongly opposed to the sale of
58 water and waterway user's fees by ACE.

59 4. We support the upgrade of the
60 Mississippi locks and dams' systems.

61

62 **L. Water**
63

64 **1. Law**

65 a. We urge adoption of the following order
66 of preference in the use of water: [a] domestic
67 and municipal consumption; [b]
68 hydroelectric power; [c] industrial
69 consumption; [d] irrigation [e] wildlife and
70 recreation, and [f] navigation.

71 b. We agree with the objectives in the water
72 user district law by which S.D. will keep
73 priority rights on water within its boundaries.
74

75 **2. Rural Water Resource Development**
76 **Program**

77 a. The state of S.D. should have a rural
78 water resource development program
79 wherein:

80 i. The state would provide increased
81 financial assistance for the development of
82 rural water systems.

83 ii. The state would also expand research
84 and technical assistance for developing these
85 systems on an increased cooperative basis to
86 lower the cost.

87 iii. We support establishing a funding
88 program for rural water systems.

89 iv. There should be more stringent
90 inspection of refuse and runoff from cities
91 and towns, as well as from manufacturing
92 and processing plants.

1 **3. Rural Water System**

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

4
5 **4. Watersheds**

6 We support the federal funding for watershed
7 restoration projects.

8
9 **M. Waste**

10
11 1. Because of unstable and unsuitable soils
12 in certain areas, we strongly urge a safe site
13 be found to establish a hazardous waste
14 disposal site.

15 2. We recognize that disposal of hazardous
16 chemical wastes poses a serious threat to
17 public health and the environment in many
18 areas of the U.S.

19 3. We strongly oppose the establishment of
20 a disposal site for hazardous chemical wastes
21 in S.D.

22 4. We encourage the development of
23 hazardous waste disposal methods, other than
24 landfills, with stricter enforcement of laws on
25 transporting and handling hazardous waste.
26 Our ground water must be safeguarded from
27 contamination.

28 5. We support the waste pesticide collection
29 and pesticide container recycling measures
30 approved by the 1992 S.D. Legislature. These
31 programs, when fully implemented, will help
32 to remove a major threat to our rural
33 environment.

34 6. We support efforts to recycle, reuse, or
35 conserve products and resources when cost
36 effective and environmentally safe.

37 7. We oppose allowing S.D. to become a
38 national center for solid waste disposal.

39
40 **N. Weed and Pest Control**

41
42 1. We expect the federal government to take
43 steps to control noxious weeds, insects, and
44 other pests on U.S. Forest Service (FS)
45 grazing land, trust land and all land within
46 U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and

47 waterfowl production areas as well as right-
48 of-ways.

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

52 3. We also support stricter enforcement of
53 present law and the establishment of an
54 expanded educational program at the county
55 level under the county agent's direction.

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

59 5. We urge support of the Environmental
60 Protection Agency's (EPA) registration
61 review process for atrazine and it must
62 continue to rely on quality controlled and
63 peer-reviewed science as the basis for any
64 outcome.

65
66 **O. Wetlands**

67
68 1. We support preservation of the nation's
69 wetlands. However, jurisdiction and
70 implementation of wetlands programs has
71 been confused and arbitrary and has often
72 violated the rights of landowners.

73 2. Land should only be designated as a
74 wetland if all three criteria [1. hydrology, 2.
75 predominance of hydric soil, and 3. a
76 prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation] are
77 present.

78 3. We support the memorandum of
79 understanding between the USDA, EPA and
80 ACE placing responsibility for designation of
81 agricultural wetlands with the NRCS.

82 4. Arbitrary and excessive penalties
83 mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
84 Service (FWS) have had a devastating impact
85 on farmers. Increased local control and
86 common sense would relieve many of the
87 problems associated with designation and
88 supervision of wetlands.

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

1 **VI. ENERGY AND**
2 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

3
4 **A. Energy**

5
6 **1. Biodiesel and Ethanol**

- 7 a. Even if the United States becomes a net
8 oil exporter, our troops will be at risk
9 assuring oil flows freely throughout the
10 world. Creating ethanol blends sweet spot,
11 E30-E50, as a viable alternative to oil,
12 supports our troops.
13 b. We recommend continued congressional
14 vigilance to assure that EPA regulations
15 require use of all ethanol blended fuels.
16 b. Education and research are the keys to a
17 successful transition from our present day
18 petroleum dependency to a future self-
19 sufficiency based on our own renewable
20 resources. We should take every opportunity
21 to dispel lies and misinformation regarding
22 the safety of ethanol.
23 c. We support an ethanol fuel program
24 utilizing low-interest federal loans to farmers
25 and groups of farmers to build ethanol
26 production plants.
27 d. We support the governor for requiring
28 Premium E30 in all state owned, non-flex
29 fuel vehicles.
30 e. We support moving S.D. ethanol market
31 share to 30% by 2024 and 50% by 2028.
32 f. We support continuation of the present
33 combination of state gas tax exemption and
34 producer incentives to encourage further
35 development of the ethanol industry in S.D.
36 We believe producer incentives ought to be
37 made available to all those engaged in
38 ethanol production in S.D.
39 g. We oppose any effort to impose a state tax
40 on corn to fund ethanol producer incentive
41 payments.
42 h. We urge all consumers to make a greater
43 use of higher blends of ethanol and bio-diesel
44 in their motor vehicles when practical.
45 i. We encourage the promotion and use of
46 100/RON clean octane E30 through farmer-

47 owned and branded blender pumps in S.D.
48 We will work with cooperatives and others to
49 assure success through S.D.'s cooperative
50 fuel retailers to offer 100/RON clean octane
51 E30 providing opportunity for fuel
52 efficiency, national security and cleaner air,
53 while also cementing a market place for
54 farmers and the enhancement of rural
55 economies.

56
57 **2. Development**

- 58 a. Agriculture is an energy producer and
59 national security improves as domestic
60 energy resources are diversified.
61 Agricultural policy and energy policy should
62 work together effectively.
63 b. Energy policy must be consistent with our
64 system of family agriculture.
65 c. Programs for the development of
66 environmentally friendly renewable energy
67 sources should be conducted, with special
68 emphasis on solar energy, wind energy and
69 bio-based fuels, such as ethanol and bio-
70 diesel.
71 d. Elements of an effective national energy
72 policy include:
73 i. Equitable distribution and efficient
74 development of energy to assure adequate
75 production of food and fiber;
76 ii. Pricing policy which will prevent
77 economic hardship;
78 iii. A massive program to develop
79 renewable sources of energy;
80 iv. Economic assistance for family
81 farmers and ranchers to make agriculture
82 more self-sufficient through increased
83 application of alternative forms of energy.

84
85 **3. Electricity**

- 86 a. We support the maintenance of territorial
87 protection for rural electric systems to
88 guarantee access to affordable electric power.
89 b. We oppose retail wheeling and federally
90 mandated restructuring of the electric utility
91 industry. Retail wheeling would force rural
92 consumers to pay for stranded costs that

1 would result if large customers leave the
2 electric grid and purchase their electricity
3 elsewhere.

4 c. Rural electric cooperatives have recently
5 acquired broad new capabilities to promote
6 rural economic development. Local rural
7 electric boards should be fully informed of
8 their potential new role in providing credit for
9 new rural development.

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

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

24 **4. Federal Energy Regulatory 25 Commission (FERC)**

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

35 **5. Missouri River Dams**

36 The amortization of the cost of constructing
37 main stem Missouri River dams was
38 established more than three decades ago.
39 There is no sound economic reason to make
40 any change in this rate structure. The power
41 produced is intended primarily for preference
42 customers who are non-profit bodies such as
43 rural electric cooperatives, public power
44 districts and municipal power systems. We
45 are opposed to any unjustified increases to
46 those rates. The power revenues derived

47 from the mainstream dams are on schedule
48 with the requirements of the Pick-Sloan Act,
49 which established the original criteria.

51 **6. Public Power**

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

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

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

76 d. Many hydropower dams have been built
77 and operated on public domain by private
78 power companies leasing these sites and
79 operating for profit. We urge the DOI to
80 reclaim these sites and facilities upon the
81 termination of leases so that the fullest
82 possible development can be made for the
83 benefit of the power-using public.

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

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

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

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

11 12 **7. Rural Electrification Administration** 13 **(REA)**

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

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

19 c. We strongly oppose any efforts to
20 "privatize" the REA or federal power
21 marketing agencies.

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

30 31 **8. Transmission**

32 a. We support the development and
33 transmission of electrical power to better
34 serve the farmers and ranchers of this
35 country.

36 b. We also urge landowner-friendly
37 development of the electrical transmission
38 facilities.

39 c. We support the cyber protection of our
40 electric grid.

41 42 **9. Wind Energy**

43 a. We support the development of wind and
44 other alternative energy sources.

45 b. We urge farmers, ranchers and other
46 landowners to consider the establishment of

47 wind energy cooperatives and/or landowner
48 associations to represent their own interests
49 during the development process. Provisions
50 of wind energy leases should be open for
51 public review.

52 c. We urge electric companies to purchase
53 wind energy from individuals who set up
54 wind turbines on their own property or those
55 who cooperate to build wind turbines, for the
56 same price that they pay for energy from
57 other sources.

58 d. We support extending benefits to
59 community wind projects and cooperative
60 investment projects equal to tax credits now
61 offered to wind projects.

62 e. We support the development of minimum
63 criteria of regulating the development of
64 wind energy.

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

67 g. We request that the name plate revenue
68 collected from wind farms be dedicated to
69 support local public schools.

70 71 **B. Telecommunications**

72 73 **1. Deregulation**

74 a. Congressional action to further
75 deregulate cable television and other rapidly
76 changing elements of the communications
77 industry must not be allowed to result in the
78 creation of new regional or national
79 monopolies. The clear public interest
80 mandates that we retain strong competition
81 and full access to a broad range of
82 information and opinion. Congressional and
83 U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) attention
84 ought to focus on the potential effects of the
85 latest round of mergers in the
86 communications industry and whether or not
87 those mergers are restraining competition.

88 b. The deregulation of telecommunications
89 services should be approached with extreme
90 care in order to protect the interests of the
91 consuming public.

1 c. No telecommunications service should be
2 deregulated without adequate proof that
3 sufficient competition exists. Every effort
4 must be made to ensure that the goal of
5 universal telecommunications service is not
6 jeopardized and that rural and urban
7 consumers are not subjected to prohibitive
8 rate increases.

9

10 **2. Infrastructure**

11 To serve the best interests of rural
12 communities of S.D., we encourage
13 investment in infrastructure to improve
14 telecommunication delivery systems in our
15 state.

16

17 **3. Rates**

18 The addition of new telecommunications
19 service providers may have helped to lower
20 rates, but it has also led to an increase in
21 reports of unscrupulous practices, such as
22 switching providers for consumers without
23 their knowledge or written approval. We
24 request that Congress and appropriate
25 regulatory agencies take whatever action is
26 necessary to protect the interests of
27 consumers and prosecute companies or
28 individuals found guilty of fraudulent acts.

29

30 **4. South Dakota Public Utilities**

31 **Commission (PUC)**

32 a. We believe that the PUC should be
33 provided with adequate personnel and
34 funding to ensure proper protection of the
35 interests of consumers.

36 b. The regulatory powers of the PUC should
37 not be tampered with unless it can be clearly
38 demonstrated that such action is in the best
39 interests of the people of S.D.

40 c. We strongly support continued regulatory
41 oversight of the telecommunications industry
42 by the PUC.

43 d. We urge the PUC to order that all
44 telephone exchanges in S.D. discontinue
45 zone rate charges in favor of an equal rate for
46 all rural customers.

47 **5. Universal Service Fund (USF)**

48 a. We support the continuation of the USF
49 for rural telecommunications cooperatives.

50 b. To serve high-cost areas with affordable,
51 state of the art telecommunication services,
52 we encourage the full funding of the USF.

53

54 **VII. ECONOMICS**

55

56 **A. Anti-Monopoly Policies**

57

58 1. We believe that monopolistic
59 concentration in the meat packing,
60 transportation, energy, and seed industries
61 has reduced competition to a point where
62 producers no longer have access to fair and
63 equitable markets.

64 2. We support a full federal investigation of
65 the effects of concentration in the
66 transportation industry, especially rail
67 transportation.

68 3. We support anti-trust action to increase
69 competition in the private sector of energy
70 industries.

71 4. We support implementation of temporary
72 moratorium on large agricultural mergers.
73 The moratorium is necessary to provide
74 Congress with time to review current law and
75 strengthen it as appropriate to restore market
76 competition for producers and consumers.

77 5. We urge that a national conference be
78 held to include representatives of farmers,
79 ranchers, consumers and organized labor in
80 an effort to eliminate monopolistic practices
81 in the food industry.

82 6. We support legislation to prohibit
83 ownership or control of feedlots by meat
84 packing firms.

85 7. We oppose ownership of livestock by
86 packing firms except for the reason of
87 immediate slaughter.

88 8. We favor a full-scale congressional
89 investigation of unjustified industry spread
90 between producer and consumer prices.

91 9. We support passage of legislation that
92 would repeal the adverse impact of the U.S.

1 Supreme Court’s decision in the Illinois
2 Brick Case and allow producers and
3 consumers to bring anti-trust actions whether
4 damages were direct or indirect.

5
6 **B. Federal Reserve Board**

7
8 The Federal Reserve Board should be
9 reconstituted to include representatives of
10 agriculture, small business and labor.

11
12 **C. Loans**

- 13
14 1. Feed grain loan rates should be increased
15 to better reflect their renewable energy value.
16 2. Loan rates should be based on the cost of
17 production. The county base yields should be
18 updated.
19 3. We oppose the sale of federally-financed
20 loans at a discounted rate unless the
21 individual or entity affected has the right of
22 first refusal to purchase their loan at the
23 established discount rate.

24
25 **D. Fees and Licenses**

26
27 We urge Congress to immediately investigate
28 the imposition of excessive technological
29 fees assessed against farmers.

30
31 **E. National Debt**

- 32
33 a. Reforms in our inequitable tax structure are
34 essential if we are to reduce the national debt.
35 b. Farmers are not a major cause of the rising
36 national debt. A lower national debt can be
37 realized as farmers become more reliant on
38 their own management abilities through
39 programs such as IMSET and use of
40 100/RON clean octane E30.

41
42 **F. Producer Income**

43
44 We oppose any budgetary proposals that
45 would result in a direct or indirect loss of net
46 farm income to family farmers and ranchers.

47 **G. Rural Development**

- 48
49 1. We support economic development for
50 rural SD communities by adding value to
51 agriculture production by family farmers.
52 2. We support the S.D. Board of Economic
53 Development.
54 3. We believe that any program seriously
55 proposing to boost adding value to grain and
56 livestock production in S.D. must receive
57 interest rates that are at least comparable to
58 those available to businesses through the
59 Governor’s Office of Economic
60 Development (GOED) Revolving Economic
61 Development and Initiative (REDI) Fund.
62 Interest rates of more than six percent are
63 unacceptable.
64 4. We support the expanded use of the REDI
65 Fund by S.D. family farmers and ranchers.
66 These changes also recognize that rural
67 people paid a disproportionate share of the
68 one-cent sales tax increase.
69 5. We urge greater use of the value-added
70 sub fund.
71 6. We support continued S.D. funding for
72 the Northern Crops Institute.
73 7. We recommend that revenues from state
74 taxes on endoparasiticides and
75 ectoparasiticides be designated for deposit in
76 a new fund dedicated to the expansion of
77 SDSU Animal Disease Research and
78 Diagnostic Lab.
79 8. We pledge our cooperation and support
80 for the legislative Rural Renewal Coalition.
81 9. We support establishment of venture
82 capital groups for producer-owned
83 businesses.
84 10. We support continued statewide efforts to
85 promote increases in state processing of
86 agricultural products. These efforts should
87 include cooperation with farmers, ranchers
88 and their organizations in promoting and
89 constructing cooperatively-owned
90 processing plants in S.D.
91 11. We support the establishment of
92 enterprise communities and empowerment

1 zones as a means of assisting development in
2 economically disadvantaged rural areas.

3 12. We continue to support the Beadle and
4 Spink Enterprise Community (BASEC) and
5 efforts of citizens in Day County and other
6 regions of the state.

7 13. We urge the appropriation of public and
8 private funds for the establishment of an
9 enterprise facilitation program. Facilitation
10 programs should be able to apply and receive
11 rural development funds.

12 14. We support efforts to increase affordable
13 housing in the rural communities.

14

15 **H. Taxation**

16

17 **1. Carbon Carrier Pipeline Tax**

18 We support a tax on carbon carrier pipelines
19 for S.D.

20

21

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

23 We urge repeal of the contractor's excise tax
24 and replaced with a corporate income tax.
25 S.D. is currently the only state in the union to
26 impose this form of pyramiding taxation.

27

28 **3. Excess-Profits Tax**

29 An excess-profits tax should be levied on
30 those corporations whose profits are clearly
31 out of line with reasonable rate of return on
32 invested capital.

33

34 **4. Federal Estate Tax**

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

37

38 **5. Income Tax**

39 a. We believe that personal and corporate
40 income taxes ought to be a part of a balanced
41 state tax structure. The goal of reform should
42 be a structure wherein state and local tax
43 revenues are raised approximately one-third
44 from property taxes, one-third from sales
45 taxes and one-third from income taxes.

46 b. We support the federal income tax
47 deductibility of 100 percent of health
48 insurance premium and health care costs for
49 self-employed persons.

50 c. To relieve property taxes in S.D. and to
51 provide for a more equitable sharing of the
52 costs of education, we favor state enactment
53 of a graduated personal income tax and a
54 corporate profits tax.

55 d. A state income tax should be simple, have
56 a low administrative cost, be based on net
57 income from the federal income tax form,
58 with all revenues going to education and for
59 real estate tax relief.

60

61 **6. Investment Tax Credit**

62 We urge that the investment tax credit be
63 reinstated at an incremental level beneficial
64 to family farmers and small businesses.

65

66

67 **7. Mineral Severance Taxes**

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

74 b. South Dakota's non-renewable natural
75 resources are being severed from our state
76 and lost forever. We firmly believe that those
77 business firms engaged in this practice must
78 adequately compensate our state for severed
79 resources.

80

81 **8. Motor Fuel Taxes**

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

85 b. We recognize that a certain portion of gas
86 tax revenue is directly attributable to boating.
87 Expenditure of these revenues should be
88 confined to the construction or enhancement
89 of public facilities.

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

- 1 d. We oppose any new increase in fuel tax
2 for roads without an adequate amount of the
3 proceeds going to counties and townships.
4 e. We encourage any license fee increase
5 for vehicles over 5 years old to be retained in
6 the county.

8 **9. Property Taxes**

- 9 a. S.D.'s over-reliance on property taxes for
10 funding primary and secondary education has
11 placed an unfair burden on agriculture and
12 contributed to the economic depression that
13 confronts many rural communities.
14 b. To achieve fairness and equality, the
15 assessments on agriculture land should be
16 based on the capability to produce, land use,
17 terrain, climate, location, soil type, and actual
18 use.
19 c. We continue to support efforts to
20 establish limitations in future property tax
21 increases.
22 d. We urge a full review of recent major
23 reductions in valuations and assessments for
24 centrally-assessed property including that
25 which is owned by utilities. These reductions
26 have shifted an even greater property tax
27 burden onto agricultural, other business and
28 residential property.
29 e. We urge the state legislature to rewrite
30 policy directing the 25 percent property tax
31 reduction to South Dakotans most in need of
32 property tax relief. Specifically, we suggest
33 the establishment of a homestead exemption.
34 f. We oppose any action to reinstitute the
35 personal property tax.
36 g. Federal and state government and Indian
37 lands should be required to pay an amount in
38 lieu of taxes equal to the amount of real estate
39 taxes paid on similar private lands in each
40 county.
41 h. We support a sellers' fee assessed on
42 property sales to be distributed on a local
43 level.
44 i. We are opposed to frontage roadway
45 assessment in rural areas.

- 46 j. We oppose a shift in capital outlay funds
47 to general funds for education.

49 **10. Sales Tax**

- 50 a. We urge that the deductibility of state
51 sales taxes be restored to the federal tax code.
52 b. We are opposed to the imposition of a
53 national value-added, general sales tax,
54 manufacturer's tax, or any other similar tax.
55 c. We are opposed to the sales tax monthly
56 remittance procedures presently in existence
57 due to the extra burden that has been placed
58 on small businesses.
59 d. We favor legislation that will eliminate
60 the state sales tax on food, used agricultural
61 machinery, and general farm repairs.
62 e. The spread of the city sales tax has made
63 rural people victims of taxation without
64 representation. We regard the city sales tax as
65 a regressive, unfair and unacceptable means
66 of funding local property tax relief. We
67 continue to oppose all city sales taxes unless
68 purchases by non-resident, rural citizens can
69 be exempted.
70 f. We oppose any permissive legislation
71 authorizing enactment of county sales taxes
72 without county voter approval.
73 g. We strongly oppose any expansion of
74 state sales and use taxes that do not include
75 exemptions for grocery store food and
76 clothing, and is not specifically earmarked
77 for education.
78 h. We support the reinstatement of sales tax
79 exemptions for personal property sold at
80 auction, newspaper sales and subscriptions,
81 cattle semen, amateur sports officiating,
82 veterinary services, state and county fair
83 parking and the exchange of processed for
84 raw agricultural products.

86 **11. Tax Code**

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

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

6 c. Every effort should be made to restore an
7 enhanced degree of progressivity to the tax
8 code by increasing the number of brackets
9 and increasing the maximum tax rate for the
10 wealthy.

11 d. Foundations and churches should be
12 taxed while engaging in commercial, profit-
13 making activities.

14 e. We believe in equitable tax treatment for
15 all businesses. We, therefore, support the
16 right of state governments to collect sales
17 taxes on Internet and catalog sales.

18 f. Until we have equitable tax treatment for
19 all retail businesses, we favor imposition of
20 state sales taxes on Internet and catalog sales.

21 g. Alien owners of U.S. farmland and other
22 property should be subject to the same taxes
23 as domestic owners.

24 **12. Water Tax**

25 a. We oppose any state tax on water use
26 and/or water permits.

27 b. We urge repeal of state statutes requiring
28 fees for water rights permit on land
29 developed for water spreading to ensure that
30 its population will always have safe, clean
31 water for human and livestock use.

32 **13. Tax Freezes**

33 We urge the legislature to repeal all tax
34 freezes on schools, counties, and townships.
35 Local governments have more of an
36 understanding of their needs rather than the
37 legislators of the state.

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47 **VIII. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

48 **A. Agricultural Practices**

49 **1. Corporate Farming**

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

61 **2. Land Ownership**

62 a. We believe that continued ownership and
63 control of U.S. agricultural land by family
64 farmers and ranchers is vital to the moral and
65 economic welfare of this nation. We strongly
66 support constitutional restrictions on non-
67 family farm or ranch corporate ownership of
68 agricultural land and livestock. We urge like-
69 minded organizations to continue regional
70 and national cooperation to enact or
71 strengthen anti-corporate farm legislation.

72 b. We continue to support existing statutory
73 restrictions that limit the ownership of
74 agricultural land by individual, non-resident
75 aliens to 160 acres.

76 c. We urge Congress to prohibit the sale of
77 farmland in the FSA inventory to non-
78 resident foreign investors.

79 d. We support either of the following: a
80 buffer of 6 foot to prevent livestock
81 enticement or the nullification of liability for
82 the livestock producer for any trespassing
83 damages on non-buffered fence lines.

84 **3. Sustainable Agriculture**

85 We support farm bill provisions making
86 agriculture more sustainable and productive.

87
88
89
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92

1 **B. Consumer Protection**

2
3 1. We favor strengthening the S.D. Division
4 of Consumer Protection through better
5 funding and adequate staffing.

6 2. We reject the sale of private browser
7 history under the Browser Act of 2017 and
8 request its repeal.

9
10 **C. Corporations**

11
12 1. We support legislation to prohibit
13 corporations from developing or selling seed
14 that contains a terminator gene and, thus,
15 cannot reproduce.

16 2. We denounce all actions and
17 governments which promote the welfare of
18 multi-national corporations and holders of
19 extreme wealth at the expense of the
20 American people.

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

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

30
31 **D. Drug Abuse**

32
33 1. We demand stricter penalties for those
34 convicted of selling “hard” and “dangerous”
35 drugs. [e.g. 15-year minimum sentences with
36 no parole for 10 years].

37 2. We advocate further education on the
38 problem of drug abuse.

39 3. Drug users volunteering to overcome
40 their drug problems should be able to obtain
41 help from proper organizations without
42 incurring police records.

47 **E. Gambling**

48
49 1. We oppose further increases in bet limits
50 or the number of slot machines or video
51 lottery machines allowed in each
52 establishment.

53 2. The state’s share of gambling revenue
54 should be increased and used for property tax
55 relief only.

56 3. We advocate an “off the top” percentage
57 from state- and federally-sanctioned
58 gambling. These funds should be earmarked
59 for law enforcement and social problems
60 attributed to the gambling industry.

61 4. All tribal gambling casinos must be
62 within the borders of a reservation and on
63 tribally owned land.

64 5. We encourage the state of S.D. to conduct
65 a study to determine the social costs of
66 gambling in our state.

67
68 **F. Governmental Reform**

69
70 **1. Campaign Finance**

71 a. We support comprehensive campaign
72 finance reform including:

73 i. Presidential candidates should
74 continue to receive matching federal funds
75 for campaign expenses. Similar financial
76 assistance should also be provided to
77 candidates for the U.S. House of
78 Representatives and U.S. Senate.

79 ii. Contributions from individuals
80 should be limited to \$1,000 per candidate.
81 Contributions by each Political Action
82 Committee (PAC) should be limited to
83 \$5,000 per candidate

84 iii. Caps should be instituted on total
85 campaign spending.

86 iv. All types of campaign contributions
87 should be fully reported.

88 v. We support eventual shift to public
89 financing and elimination of PACs.

90 b. We urge ethics legislation at the state
91 level that would result in more in depth

1 investigation of where campaign funds
2 originate and how they are used.

3 c. We recommend legislation to place
4 reasonable limits on campaign spending and
5 the length of campaigns. Elimination of soft
6 money contributions should be a top priority.

7 d. We support a progressive sales tax on
8 campaign spending based on what the elected
9 office holder receives for that office.
10 Initiatives and referendums are based on
11 what SD voters contribute.

12 e. We are opposed to the ruling by the U.S.
13 Supreme Court that makes it possible for a
14 corporation to be considered as an
15 "individual" regarding campaign
16 contributions.

17

18 **2. Civil Liberties**

19 a. It shall be our purpose to seek to preserve
20 and broaden the civil liberties and rights of all
21 the people. The demands of the Declaration
22 of Independence and the safeguards
23 guaranteed to the people by the Constitution
24 and its Bill of Rights and subsequent
25 amendments must be made a code of conduct
26 for our nation.

27 b. We shall oppose those persons or forces
28 which seek to abridge, abrogate, or eliminate
29 any of our civil rights and liberties.

30 **3. Discrimination**

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

35

36 **4. Elected Officials**

37 a. We support legislation requiring
38 complete disclosure of income and sources of
39 income by legislators and other elected
40 public officials.

41 b. We oppose any merger of constitutional
42 offices.

43

44 **5. Elections**

45 a. All electronic voting machines shall have
46 a paper record to verify the votes.

47 b. Having a complete and accurate vote
48 count is more important than having a count
49 deadline.

50 c. We urge that no unnecessary restrictions
51 be placed on voter registration or the right of
52 citizens to vote by absentee ballot.

53 d. We urge strong enforcement of the
54 Voting Rights Act.

55 e. We oppose any actions to increase the
56 number of signatures required to initiate or
57 refer a law.

58 f. Recent rule changes regarding circulation
59 and signing of initiative, referendum and
60 candidate petitions complicate the process
61 and discourage participation by citizens. We
62 urge repeal of rules requiring anything more
63 than printing of name, signature, address or
64 box number and date of signing.

65 g. We favor legislation to require full
66 disclosure of federal tax returns by
67 candidates for state constitutional offices and
68 the state Legislature at least two months
69 before the general election.

70 h. We support whatever constitutional or
71 other action is necessary to restore the right
72 of citizens to initiate or refer measures that
73 include state revenue.

74 i. We oppose any effort to reduce the
75 required percentage of voter approval in local
76 bond issue elections.

77 j. We support keeping all local voting rolls,
78 including names, addresses, voting records,
79 social security numbers, from becoming
80 public record.

81

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

83 We support any efforts to bring substantive
84 reform to the EAJA.

85

86 **7. Line Item Veto**

87 We oppose the line item veto.

88

89 **8. S.D. State Legislature**

90 a. We are opposed to changing the
91 legislature to a unicameral or single-house
92 body.

- 1 b. We support legislation to elect state
2 senators for a four-year term.
- 3 c. We support some form of compensation
4 to legislators performing legislative related
5 duties on weekends and when the Legislature
6 is not actually in session.
- 7 d. We support repeal of the so-called S.D.
8 ‘gag law.’ Under the guise of preserving
9 confidentiality, this legislation has allowed
10 government to conceal the public’s business
11 from the public.
- 12 e. We support establishing a non-partisan
13 redistricting body and single member house
14 districts statewide.
- 15 f. We support legislation requiring all
16 registered lobbyists to fully report all fees and
17 compensation which they receive for their
18 legislative activity.

19 **9. State Agencies**

21 a. We ask that the tax advocate position in
22 state government be taken away from the
23 S.D. Department of Revenue and be placed
24 under the S.D. Department of Legislative
25 Audit.

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

28 **10. Tort Law**

29 We strongly support tort reform.

30 **G. Health Care**

33 1. We support a comprehensive, universal,
34 national, prepaid health care and medical
35 facilities insurance program. This program
36 should enable every citizen to receive fully
37 adequate medical, dental, hospital,
38 chiropractic and other health care services,
39 including treatment for alcoholism, drug
40 addiction, mental illness, and prescription
41 drugs. This program should also include
42 preventative health care services.

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

45 3. We support the single payer system.

46 4. We support hospice care for the
47 terminally ill.

48 5. We continue to support the “division of
49 assets” concept.

50 6. We support assisted living and minimum-
51 care homes for those people who do not
52 require the care of nursing homes.

53 7. It has been proven that preventative
54 health care can reduce the overall cost of the
55 health care system. Insurers should be
56 required to cover the full cost of regular
57 check-ups.

58 8. We support the inclusion of reasonable
59 chiropractic care in any state healthcare plan.

60 9. We support an expansion of a risk pool
61 for uninsurable South Dakotans. We view
62 this as a necessary step toward enactment of
63 a comprehensive, universal state health care
64 reform program.

65 10. We urge that any national or state health
66 reform plans maintain rural access and cost
67 containment as important priorities.

68 11. We support legislation that would allow
69 American pharmacists and distributors to
70 import prescription drugs approved by the
71 FDA and sell them at more affordable prices.
72 12. We urge the U.S. government and health
73 care providers to negotiate with drug
74 manufacturers to make prescription drug
75 prices more in line with those that are
76 available in other countries.

77 13. We urge substantially increased federal
78 appropriations for research on all major
79 diseases and for study of prevention and
80 effective treatment of mental illness.

81 14. We support 100 percent deductibility for
82 health insurance premiums to include all
83 health care costs.

84 15. We demand that Congress limit the
85 ability of health insurance companies to
86 dictate length of stay or possible hospital
87 procedures.

88 16. We support a patient’s right to choose
89 their medical provider.
90

- 1 17. We support elimination of discriminatory
2 pricing of prescription drugs.
3 18. The definition of “group” should be
4 expanded to make group policies available to
5 all people.
6 19. We support the establishment of a self
7 funding cooperative movement for health
8 insurance.

9 10 **H. Mental Health and Addiction**

- 11
12 1. We support public and private programs
13 to incentivize mental health and addiction
14 professionals to move to and practice in
15 rural communities
16 2. We support full mental health care
17 coverage by insurance groups.
18 3. We support increased mental health care
19 availability in our public schools.
20 4. We support evidence based prevention
21 treatment efforts to reduce illegal substance
22 use, addiction and suicide.
23

24 **I. Humanitarian Aid**

25
26 We recognize that children constitute our
27 greatest asset and we support nutritional,
28 educational and financial assistance
29 programs targeted to improving the current
30 welfare and future opportunities for all
31 children.
32

33 **J. Medicaid and Medicare**

- 34
35 1. We support larger reimbursements from
36 our state for Medicaid residents of long-term
37 care facilities.
38 2. We support federal legislation aimed at
39 providing equal coverage of Medicare
40 reimbursement procedures in order that vital
41 rural medical facilities may survive.
42 3. We regard the method of classifying
43 Medicare patients under the Diagnostic
44 Related Groups (DRG) policy as an insult to
45 our older citizens. We recognize the
46 necessity of controlling increases in

47 Medicare and other health care costs, but a
48 policy that forces hospitals to discharge
49 Medicare patients once their Medicare
50 eligibility has run out is wrong. Patients in
51 need of further medical care should be
52 allowed to remain in the hospital with
53 expenses paid through Medicare
54 supplemental insurance or in cash.
55 4. We recommend that the time period for
56 changing the medications or prices paid by
57 insurance companies and the time period for
58 an individual to change an insurance carrier
59 shall be the same.
60

61 **K. Nutrition**

- 62
63 1. We deplore reductions in domestic food
64 utilization and distribution programs such as
65 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
66 Program (SNAP), school lunches, Woman,
67 Infants and Children (WIC) programs,
68 elderly nutrition programs, and summer food
69 service programs, which will assist people in
70 obtaining sufficient food to meet their
71 nutritional needs, including donated meat
72 that is processed at a state inspected facility.
73 2. We call upon the administration to
74 expand the school milk and school lunch
75 programs to every school child. Reduction of
76 surpluses and improved child nutrition would
77 be advanced by offering school children
78 additional cartons of milk.
79 3. Federal agencies should be prohibited
80 from using imported commodities in school
81 lunch and other organization programs.
82 4. We oppose federally-mandated nutrition
83 standards for school lunches that replace long
84 accepted health standards with menu choices
85 that reduce or eliminate meat and dairy
86 products.
87 5. Federally-owned surplus commodities
88 should be utilized in the school lunch and
89 summer food service programs.
90 6. We feel the USDA should use all
91 authorities it has, including donations, to
92 dispense of any excess commodities to those

1 people, both domestic and worldwide, who
2 are in need.

3
4 **L . Occupational Safety and Health**
5 **Administration (OSHA)**
6

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

12
13 **M. Retirement System**
14

15 1. We ask that the present retirement system
16 for elected officials [president, vice president
17 and Congress] be made more equitable
18 within the level of the Social Security
19 formula.

20 2. We encourage individual, personal
21 retirement plans.

22
23 **N. Seniors**

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

29
30 **O. Social Security**

31 1. We believe in a strong Social Security
32 system in the U.S. We recommend that:

33 a. Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)
34 must be recalculated to include real-world
35 expenses. Simply pinning COLA to the rate
36 of inflation is an inefficient and detrimental
37 method; necessities such as food, fuel,
38 prescription medication, health care, and
39 insurance must be included.

40 b. Some provision should be made to
41 provide Social Security benefits for widows
42 or widowers who are not now eligible but
43 need some assistance.

44 c. Dependents of beneficiaries should
45 receive support through four years of college.

46 d. Aid to disabled persons between the ages
47 of 18 and 55 should not be contingent upon
48 the economic status of the spouse, parents or
49 other relatives.

50 e. For purposes of Social Security benefits,
51 we recommend the same formula be used to
52 determine the amount of benefits regardless
53 of the year of birth. Discrimination against
54 so-called “notch people” should be
55 abolished. A reasonable limit should be
56 placed on the earned and unearned income of
57 retired persons or widows with dependent
58 children.

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

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

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

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

82
83 **P. South Dakota Public Broadcasting**
84 **(SDPB)**
85

86 1. Reductions in federal and state funding
87 threaten the survival of quality radio and
88 television programming that we have come to
89 expect from SDPB.

90 2. We support efforts to restore funding for
91 these educational programs.

1 3. We particularly support continuation of
2 agriculturally oriented programming.

3
4 **Q. Transportation**

5
6 **1. Highways**

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

10 b. We strongly oppose any proposals to
11 lessen the historical congressional
12 commitments for funding to support rural
13 America's secondary and farm-to-market
14 highway systems.

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

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

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

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

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

33 h. An adequate highway system, including
34 farm-to-market roads, is essential to the
35 economic health of rural S.D.

36 i. We are opposed to any change in federal
37 highway funding which would eliminate aid
38 for secondary roads and bridge repair. Such a
39 change would be grossly unfair to rural states
40 like S.D. which have a disproportionately
41 large amount of secondary highway mileage.

42 j. All efforts should be made to reduce
43 unnecessary damage to S.D. highways and
44 secondary roads. However, we strongly
45 oppose any effort to allow law enforcement
46 officials to obtain elevator weight tickets

47 without a search warrant and to retroactively
48 charge truckers with weight violations. Any
49 legislation to alter load limits or legal trailer
50 length should include provisions to allow
51 current operators a sufficient grace period to
52 comply with the law.

53
54 **2. Railroads**

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

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

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

67 d. Currently, grain elevators and other
68 businesses located on the state-owned
69 railroad property which depend on rail
70 service for their business are required to
71 repair tracks on sidings at their own expense,
72 even though they have no equity or
73 ownership in the tracks or right-of-way
74 property. We support changes in state law
75 that would allow businesses using the tracks
76 to reimburse the state for repairs over a
77 reasonable period of time.

78 e. Shippers captive to a single rail line
79 should be protected from excessive rates and
80 healthy competition among railroads should
81 be encouraged.

82 f. We urge legislation allowing adjoining
83 landowners to initiate a process of abandoned
84 railroad right-of-way to convert to adjoining
85 land.

86 g. Landowners adjoining abandoned
87 railroad lines should have first right of refusal
88 to purchase the property.

89 h. We urge legislation requiring
90 reflectorizing of the sides of railroad cars.
91 Lights on business structures should be
92 regulated so they do not interfere with traffic.

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

2
3 1. We are strongly opposed to any proposal
4 which would result in the sale or transfer of
5 the USPS to private business. The USPS was
6 established as a national responsibility more
7 than 200 years ago and that is what it should
8 remain.

9 2. We deplore USPS cutbacks in service in
10 rural areas.

11 3. We oppose any further closings of post
12 offices, processing centers and reductions in
13 service to rural people.

14 4. We believe that postal service is a right
15 and not a privilege. We believe, therefore,
16 that the USPS should not be required by law
17 to be a self-supporting institution, especially
18 if that status results in oppressive increases in
19 postal rates and reduction of services.

20 5. We support allowing the USPS to fund its
21 pension similarly to private enterprise.

22
23 **S. Veterans**

24
25 1. The nation must honor all promises of
26 rights and benefits made to veterans.

27 2. We especially advocate the continued
28 availability of medical services for all
29 honorably discharged veterans through the
30 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
31 hospitals.

32 3. We ask that the burial expense for all
33 veterans be reinstated.

34 4. Provision of services should not be
35 contingent on economic status of the veteran.

36 5. We oppose the shifting of guaranteed
37 veterans' home loans from one bank to
38 another to facilitate certain banks getting out
39 of such loans in agricultural communities.

40 6. We encourage all nursing homes to have
41 the right to admit veterans with the same
42 benefits they have at a VA hospital.

47 **T. Working People**

48
49 1. We support legislation that allows all
50 people to earn a living wage.

51 2. It is our belief there should be
52 communication between agriculture and
53 labor on matters of vital interest to both.

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

56 4. We believe in a strong federal
57 immigration policy, but do not support the
58 hiring of illegal workers.

59 5. We believe in a guest worker program
60 that supports the hiring of reliable
61 agricultural workers. This policy should be a
62 coherent, viable, effective worker program.

63 6. We support reforms to the visa system to
64 make it responsive to the needs of our
65 economy and businesses, with a focus on
66 public safety as well as protecting the
67 interests of the workers.

68 7. We believe that serious attention should
69 be given to the proposal to require worker's
70 compensation for hired farm workers and that
71 any such law should provide for exemptions
72 for short-term or seasonal farm workers.

73 8. We oppose any undue state burdens that
74 may inhibit the ability for the agricultural
75 industry to employ an adequate work force.

76
77 **IX. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

78
79 **A. Aid**

80
81 1. Foreign aid has been of great assistance
82 to emerging democracies and other
83 underprivileged nations. Provision of foreign
84 aid must never be contingent upon a
85 country's acceptance of private American
86 investment capital. U.S. financial aid should
87 be used to buy products made in the U.S.
88 when possible.

89 2. Farmer-to-farmer programs, Public Law
90 480 and other international assistance
91 programs have had positive benefits around
92 the world. We support necessary

1 improvements in their delivery system, but
2 oppose termination.

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

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

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

17 **B. Embargos**

18 Agricultural products should be exempt from
19 all embargoes.

20 **C. Imports**

21 1. We demand that all agricultural products
22 imported to this country be required to meet
23 the same standards of sanitation required of
24 American agricultural products and labeled
25 as to point of origin. We are especially
26 concerned about lapses that have allowed
27 foreign beef to enter the U.S. through Canada
28 or Mexico with inadequate or no inspection.
29 We strongly oppose new USDA food safety
30 provisions, which would transfer
31 responsibility for meat inspections to
32 individual meat packers.

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

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

44 **D. Military Armaments**

45 We support continuation of arms control
46 negotiations between all nations.

47 **E. Peace Corps**

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

50 **F. Trade Negotiations**

51 1. We oppose any kind of "Trade Promotion
52 Authority" legislation for free-trade
53 agreements, and urge Congress to vote on
54 each package. In order for these trade
55 agreements to be fair, factors such as labor
56 standards, growing practices, differing
57 currency exchange rates and food safety
58 regulations must be taken into account. In
59 any free-trade agreement negotiation, the
60 U.S. Representatives should create a
61 commodity-by-commodity breakdown of the
62 effect that the agreement will have on the
63 U.S. agriculture industry.

64 2. We respect all nations' sovereignty and
65 food policies and thus urge open dialogue,
66 cooperation and understanding in trade
67 negotiations relating to biotechnology.

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

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

76 2. We support the World Food Program of
77 the Food and Agriculture Organization

1 (FAO), and we ask that technical assistance
2 for various UN programs be expanded.
3 3. We support the recognition and activities
4 of World Food Day. International food
5 security would be enhanced by the
6 establishment of a UN Strategic Grain
7 Reserve. This reserve should be financed by
8 member nations according to their ability to
9 pay and located in the major grain producing
10 nations. The reserve should be sufficient to
11 meet expected international emergencies.

12

13 **X. APPENDIX**

14

15 **A. Membership**

16

17 1. A large membership of family farmers and
18 ranchers is the base of a strong, respected and
19 influential SDFU. Among the benefits of
20 membership in the Farmers Union are:

21 a. The right to full participation in activities
22 and policy-making decisions and the right to
23 election as an officer or delegate to state and
24 national conventions.

25 b. Participation in the Farmers Union youth
26 and other educational activities and
27 conferences.

28 c. A subscription to the South Dakota Union
29 Farmer, the official publication of the state
30 organization.

31 d. We encourage all Farmers Union
32 Insurance policy holders to become members
33 and for members to buy Farmers Union
34 Insurance.

35 e. Eligibility for membership in the
36 Traveler's Motor Club

37 f. Membership incentive programs for
38 transportation and lodging to the NFU
39 Convention. We encourage county
40 organizations to actively seek associate
41 members (non-voting).

42 2. All local, county and district Farmers
43 Union organizations should have a full set of
44 active action officials. Active officers
45 provide greater membership participation
46 and education. They should establish good

47 public relations with local newspapers,
48 coordinate membership drives and turn in
49 financial reports at the end of the fiscal year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

78

79 **B. Education**

80

81 1. The education of Farmers Union members
82 is an ongoing project. We recommend that
83 this educational program include seminars
84 for our young adults and stress the
85 importance of district education directors.
86 Education directors must help to maintain the
87 quality and philosophy of the Farmers Union
88 organization. Major emphasis should also be
89 placed on a comprehensive adult education
90 program for Farmers Union families to
91 include coordination with vocational
92 agricultural instructors, cooperative leaders

1 and agriculturally oriented institutions of
2 higher learning.
3 2. We advocate youth classes in every
4 Farmers Union local and county
5 organization. We recognize the value of
6 young Farmers Union members participating
7 in and working with the entire Farmers Union
8 organization. The participation of all must be
9 a goal of the youth program.
10 3. We recommend that the Education
11 Department continue the awards for
12 completion of activities approved by the
13 Education Council and stated in the
14 handbook.
15 4. We recommend that one or more state
16 Senior Youth Camps be held each year. We
17 urge every county and district Farmers Union
18 to participate in a youth camp to acquaint
19 more young people with Farmers Union
20 work.
21 5. We recommend that a Youth Advisory
22 Council be elected at each state Senior Youth
23 Camp.
24 6. We recommend that the SDFU Education
25 Department coordinate incentive tours for
26 Farmers Union youth.
27 7. We support the S.D. Ag in the Classroom
28 program and encourage Farmers Union
29 education leaders to become involved in farm
30 safety training programs.
31 8. We support the creation of collegiate
32 Farmers Union groups. We also encourage
33 collegiate Farmers Union groups to urge the
34 universities that they attend to offer classes
35 and/or majors pertaining to cooperatives,
36 rural life, or farm management and marketing
37 as stated in state issues H subsection K.
38 9. We recommend that the SDFU Education
39 Department provide seminars for young
40 adults to explore various production and
41 value-added agriculture opportunities.

42 **C. Cooperatives**

43 1. Farmer- and patron-owned cooperatives
44 play an important role as a stabilizing force

47 in our economic life and in the promotion of
48 the democratic process through their
49 emphasis on the Rochdale Cooperative
50 Principles.

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

57 3. Farmers Union local, county and district
58 organizations need to establish and maintain
59 strong communications, participation,
60 patronage, and membership with local
61 cooperatives' boards of directors, managers,
62 and employees; and local and district
63 Farmers Union Insurance personnel.

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

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

71 6. SDFU's contributions toward
72 strengthening the economic position of all of
73 agriculture are enhanced by the support of
74 farmer cooperatives through membership
75 checkoffs.

76 7. We urge CHS Inc. cooperatives to
77 aggressively seek ways to keep locally-
78 owned cooperatives open to serve the farmer
79 patron.

80 8. We encourage women, Native Americans
81 and other minorities to become members of,
82 and directors of, cooperatives.

83 **D. Legislation**

84 1. Effective legislative activity is an essential
85 part of the overall Farmers Union effort to
86 preserve and strengthen our family farm and
87 ranch system. We urge all Farmers Union
88 members to become active participants in
89 legislative activity at the national, state and
90 county levels.
91
92

1 2. Farmers Union organizations and members
2 are strongly encouraged to take part in the
3 Rural Lobbyist Program at the state level
4 during legislative session.

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

7 4. We support the continuation of the
8 Farmers Union Washington, D.C., Fly-In
9 lobbying efforts conducted on behalf of
10 family farmers and ranchers. We ask that our
11 national and state organizations continue to
12 publish voting records of members of
13 Congress and our state legislature.

14 5. All Farmers Union officers and members
15 are encouraged to subscribe to and read NFU
16 News.

17

18 **E. Foundation**

19

20 1. We encourage all members to support the
21 endowment strengthening the foundation; a
22 nonprofit organization raising funds for
23 educating young minds, building new
24 leadership and creating new opportunities for
25 economic growth in rural S.D.

26 2. We endorse the various approved
27 scholarship programs within the Farmers
28 Union for college education and vocational
29 training.

30

31 **F. Long-Range Farm Policy – The Parity 32 of Income Plan**

33

34 1. When the concept of parity was first
35 introduced in agricultural law in 1936, the
36 goal of national farm policy was to provide
37 farm families a net income that was on par
38 with the net income of non-farm families to
39 ensure that producers had the same
40 purchasing power as their urban neighbors.
41 The 1910-14 base was selected as the
42 appropriate economic period to achieve the
43 goal of income parity.

44 2. The failure of farm programs to provide a
45 parity of income for family farmers is a
46 violation of the social contract between

47 family farmers and consumers in which
48 farmers are responsible for production of a
49 dependable supply of food and fiber in return
50 for a parity of income with the rest of our
51 society.

52 3. To return to the principle of parity of
53 income, federal farm policies must provide
54 agricultural incentive payments to family
55 farmers to make up the difference between
56 commodity prices in the marketplace and full
57 parity for all agricultural commodities.
58 These payments should be made to all family
59 farmers based on their units of production to
60 raise the return on their labor and
61 management to the national median family
62 income. Such payments must be strictly
63 limited to family farm operators through a
64 maximum payment level that would provide
65 full-time family farm operators a parity of net
66 income.

67 4. The payments would be based on a per-unit
68 rate for the commodities produced by the
69 family farm to make up the difference, if any,
70 between prices received and the parity price
71 of each commodity. The volume of
72 commodities for which each farm family
73 would be eligible to receive payments would
74 be computed by the difference between the
75 cost of production [excluding labor and
76 management returns] and parity. This fair
77 margin of return would be divided into the
78 national median family income level to
79 determine the maximum number of units of
80 production for which payments could be
81 made.

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

89 6. The goal of such payments is to provide a
90 parity of income and encourage full-time
91 production by the farm family. Unearned
92 income [from interest, dividends, rent, etc.]

1 and off-farm income [from wages, etc.]
2 would reduce the maximum number of units
3 of production eligible for incentive payments
4 proportionately to the net income goal of the
5 incentive payment program.

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

13 **XI. ACRONYMS AND TERMS** 14 **GLOSSARY**

15
16 **100/RON clean octane E30** - An octane
17 rating is a standard measure of the
18 performance of an engine fuel. Fuels with a
19 higher octane rating are used in high
20 performance gasoline engines that require
21 higher compression ratios.

22 **1987 Farm Credit Act** - The Agricultural
23 Credit Act of 1987

24 **ACE** - United States Army Corps of
25 Engineers

26 **ADC** - Animal Damage Control

27 **ADT** - Animal Disease Traceability

28 **AIB** - Animal Industry Board

29 **AMS** - Agricultural Marketing Service

30 **BASEC** - Beadle and Spink Enterprise
31 Community

32 **BSE** - Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

33 **Capper-Volstead Act** - The Cooperative
34 Marketing Association Act of 1922

35 **Cell Cultured Protein** - Food made by
36 extracting cells from an animal and growing
37 them in a bioreactor.

38 **CFTC** - Commodity Futures Trading
39 Commission

40 **CRP** - Conservation Reserve Program

41 **COLA** - Cost-of-Living Adjustment

42 **COOL** - Country-of-Origin Labeling

43 **DOI** - United States Department of the
44 Interior

45 **DOJ** - United States Department of Justice

46 **DRG** - Diagnostic Related Groups

47 **E30** - a motor fuel blend that contains 30
48 percent ethanol fuel

49 **E50** - a motor fuel blend that contains 50
50 percent ethanol fuel

51 **E85** - a motor fuel blend that consists 85
52 percent ethanol fuel

53 **EBC** - Equivalent bushel concept

54 **EEP** - Employee Education Program

55 **EQIP** - Environmental Quality Incentive
56 Program

57 **EPA** - Environmental Protection Agency

58 **EAJA** - Equal Access to Justice Act

59 **ESA** - Endangered Species Act of 1973

60 **ESL** - English as a Second Language

61 **Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015**

62 **FACS** - Family and Consumer Science

63 **FAO** - Food and Agriculture Organization of
64 the United Nations

65 **FCS** - Farm Credit System

66 **FDA** - Food and Drug Administration

67 **FDIC** - Federal Deposit Insurance
68 Corporation

69 **FERC** - Federal Energy Regulatory
70 Commission

71 **FFA** - Future Farmers of America

72 **Fifth Amendment** - the Fifth Amendment of
73 the U.S. Constitution provides for: individual
74 protections from double jeopardy and self-
75 incrimination; and a right to due process and
76 just compensation.

77 **FMD** - Foot and mouth disease

78 **FOIA** - Freedom of Information Act

79 **Food for Peace Act** - The Food for Peace
80 Act of 1966

81 **FOR** - Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve

82 **FS** - United States Forest Service

83 **FSA** - Farm Service Agency

84 **FTC** - Federal Trade Commission

85 **FWS** - United States Fish and Wildlife
86 Service

87 **GFP** - South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

88 **GIPSA** - Grain Inspection, Packers and
89 Stockyards Administration

90 **GMO** - Genetically modified organism

91 **GOED** - Governor's Office of Economic
92 Development

1 **Illinois Brick Case** – a United States
2 Supreme Court case, Illinois Brick Co. V.
3 Illinois, sets out the “Illinois Brick doctrine,”
4 that prohibited indirect purchasers of goods
5 or services from recovering antitrust damages
6 from antitrust violators
7 **IM 22** – Initiated Measure 22
8 **IMSET** – Inventory Management Soil
9 Enhancement Tool
10 **Ionophores** – a lipid soluble molecule that is
11 used as an antibiotic and/or growth
12 enhancing feed additive.
13 **IRS** – Internal Revenue Service
14 **Missouri Seed Availability and**
15 **Competition Act** – House Bill 317
16 introduced in the Missouri State Legislature.
17 It provides for farmers to register with the
18 State Department of Agriculture in order to
19 retain seed from harvest for next year’s
20 planting season.
21 **NFU** – National Farmers Union
22 **NRCS** – Natural Resources Conservation
23 Service
24 **OSHA** – Occupational Safety and Health
25 Administration
26 **PAC** – Political Action Committee
27 **Pick-Sloan Act** – The Pick-Sloan Flood
28 Control Act of 1944
29 **PMA** – Power Marketing Administration
30 **POA** – Power of Attorney
31 **PSA** - Public Service Ad
32 **Public Law 480** – The Food for Peace Act of
33 1966
34 **PUC** – South Dakota Public Utilities
35 Commission
36 **REA** – Rural Electrification Administration
37 **REDI** – Revolving Economic Development
38 and Initiative
39 **RMA** – Risk Management Agency
40 **Rural Electrification Act** – The Rural
41 Electrification Act of 1935
42 **SDBIC** – South Dakota Beef Industry
43 Council
44 **SDDA** – South Dakota Department of
45 Agriculture

46 **SDDOT** – South Dakota Department of
47 Transportation
48 **SDFU** – South Dakota Farmers Union
49 **SDPB** – South Dakota Public Broadcasting
50 **SDSU** – South Dakota State University
51 **SNAP** – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
52 Program
53 **SSA** – Social Security Administration
54 **UN** – United Nations
55 **USD** – University of South Dakota
56 **USDA** – United States Department of
57 Agriculture
58 **USF** – Universal Service Fund
59 **USMEF** – U.S. Meat Export Federation
60 **USPS** – United States Postal Service
61 **VA** – United States Department of Veterans
62 Affairs
63 **Voting Rights Act** – The Voting Rights Act
64 of 1965
65 **WAPA** – Western Area Power
66 Administration
67 **WIC** – Woman, Infants and Children
68
69 **XII. SPECIAL ORDERS**
70
71 **Special Order 1**
72 *Supporting Family Farms and Ranches*
73 United States Farmer and Rancher
74 delinquencies continue to rise and
75 commodity prices continue to decline
76 resulting in Banks rejecting farm and ranch
77 loan applications. FSA is a lender of last
78 resort for riskier agricultural borrowers who
79 don’t qualify for commercial loans. Subsidy
80 program payments to producers help replace
81 lost income. The American public is getting
82 a perception that agricultural producers are
83 too heavily subsidized and that the new Farm
84 Bill opens loop holes allowing payment
85 limitations to be multiplied by adding
86 extended family members. We encourage
87 congressional delegation to close the
88 loopholes in the Farm Bill implementation
89 and promote low interest loans and other
90 programs that benefit US Farmers and
91 Ranchers furthermore, that also promote US

1 public awareness of the necessity of these
2 programs to traditional family farms.

3
4 **Special Order 2**

5 *Human Nutrition*

6 The human diet is a complex issue.
7 Some groups use foods to promote their own
8 agenda for political and economical gain.
9 This leads to a great misunderstanding of the
10 healthy ingredients in food.

11 SDFU will work with like-minded
12 individuals, groups, and researchers to
13 identify present research on the subject, do
14 research to further understand the effect of
15 macro- and micro-nutrients, and promote
16 healthy nutritional diets based on scientific
17 research.

18
19 **Special Order 3**

20 *Pipeline Marketing Fee*

21 History documents that the 1985 one
22 cent/gallon marketing fee on S.D. imported
23 gasoline and diesel at the pipeline was the
24 best investment petroleum consumers ever
25 made to lower gasoline prices and saved
26 money. But more importantly, they continue
27 to build the clean octane alliance, the
28 coalition of healthcare, Gasolagate and the
29 Health and Clean Air Act.

30 Consumers save an average of 30 cents to a
31 dollar per gallon on petroleum based fuels,
32 and,

33 SDFU believes that they can continue to save
34 money.

35 SDFU supports the continuation of the
36 pipeline marketing fee. We believe this
37 money should be used to further invest in
38 ethanol plants and grow the ethanol industry
39 in SD, and, also be used to educate and
40 advertise that it is legal to fuel standard autos
41 with ethanol blends of E30-E50.

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47 **Special Order 4**

48 *Truth in Labeling and Promotion of Meat*
49 *Products*

50 South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU)
51 supports the use of the term beef, pork,
52 poultry, lamb, seafood in a food label to be
53 exclusively for meat harvested from live
54 animals in the traditional manner.

55 SDFU supports the use of USDA inspection
56 stamps be used on meat.

57 If a stamp is used on cell cultured proteins,
58 SDFU asks USDA to create a separate USDA
59 stamp or marking for cell cultured proteins
60 that are inspected by the USDA and by states,
61 using a different format and color ink on the
62 stamp. Neither the Federal or State meat
63 inspection stamps shall appear on the cell
64 culture protein products, retail packaging or
65 wholesale containers nor shall the USDA
66 grade shield appear on any cell cultured
67 product or packaging. We believe these
68 products should be required to pass the same
69 strict standards of food inspection as meat
70 products that come from animals raised in the
71 traditional manner, we do not believe they are
72 the same category of food and therefore
73 should not bear a USDA meat inspection
74 stamp, and,

75 SDFU supports new categories of food be
76 developed and used for comingled proteins,
77 cell cultured proteins and plant based
78 proteins. We understand that the product is
79 protein however, we ask that it not be
80 included as meat, dairy, or eggs in the dietary
81 guidelines, but as its own class of protein and
82 Be it further resolved, that any alternative
83 protein, including soy based, vegetable
84 based, synthetic protein and cultured cells
85 are to be prevented from using the term
86 “meat” on their product.

87 SDFU recognizes that cell cultured proteins
88 are destined to be in international trade deals,
89 we believe that they should require separate
90 negotiations than beef, pork, or poultry as the
91 process of production, packaging, and

1 inspection will be different than that of real
2 meat products, and,
3 Countries such as France have recently
4 created labeling laws that do not allow
5 alternative proteins to use meat-related terms.
6 Each country now needs to define how cell
7 cultured products will be inspected and keep
8 standards for trade acceptance for these
9 products separate from beef, pork, or poultry,
10 and,

11 The U.S. Meat Export Federations website
12 defines themselves as “*The U.S. Meat Export*
13 *Federation* (www.usmef.org) *is the trade*
14 *association responsible for developing*
15 *international markets for the U.S. red meat*
16 *industry. It is funded by USDA; the beef,*
17 *pork, lamb, corn and soybean checkoff*
18 *programs, as well as its members*
19 *representing nine industry sectors: beef/veal*
20 *producing & feeding, pork producing &*
21 *feeding, lamb producing & feeding, packing*
22 *& processing, purveying & trading, oilseeds*
23 *producing, feed-grains producing, farm*
24 *organizations and supply & service*
25 *organizations.”*, SDFU does not support that
26 alternative proteins, plant based proteins,
27 insects, or cell cultured proteins be allowed
28 to be included in the check-off acts and
29 orders.

30 We request USDA to educate and put to rest
31 misinformation on increased carbon created
32 by livestock production.

33

34 **Special Order 5**

35 *Competition Creates Fair Market* 36 *Opportunities*

37 Consolidation of the meat packing industry
38 has reduced competition among cattle
39 buyers to the point where consumer demand
40 is not transparent with prices offered to
41 livestock producers. It’s led to fewer
42 profitable marketing opportunities for
43 livestock producers who depend on fair
44 prices in order to survive.

45 Further, the consolidated packing industry
46 has power to manipulate the entire beef

47 industry. These few packers control
48 advertising & promotion and they
49 overwhelm the voice of livestock producers
50 on discussions of topics including COOL,
51 lab-cultured proteins, and other critical
52 issues with government officials and the
53 general public.

54 Additionally, mandatory price reporting
55 must be adhered to. In mandatory price
56 reporting, there should be native and non-
57 native classifications of cattle.

58 South Dakota Farmers Union calls on
59 elected officials and the judicial system to
60 investigate unfair market practices while
61 also promoting a healthy free market system
62 by implementing existing anti-trust
63 regulations and by offering realistic
64 incentives to encourage new entrants
65 (competition) in the packing industry.

66

67 **Special Order 6**

68 *Checkoff Board Appointment*

69 Producers affiliated with a foreign owned
70 entity should be prohibited from serving on
71 a Checkoff board. South Dakota Farmers
72 Union calls on the United States Department
73 of Agriculture to ensure that there is no
74 conflict of interest among Checkoff board
75 appointments.

76

77 **Special Order 7**

78 *Preventing the privatization of the United* 79 *States Postal Service*

80 There is currently a strong backing by the
81 Federal administration to privatize the
82 United States Postal Service by selling it off
83 to private corporations.

84 Unique and unfair mandates, placed on the
85 USPS account for nearly all of the financial
86 losses occurred by this entirely self-funding
87 operation.

88 South Dakota Farmers Union supports
89 protecting the USPS by eliminating the
90 mandates and the push to privatize the
91 service and leveling the playing field to
92 make it operate more efficiently.

1 **Special Order 8**
2 Agriculture Education in the Classroom
3 As a rural state with agriculture as the #1
4 industry, agriculture education should be
5 mandated in all South Dakota schools.
6 Teaching our youth important information
7 on topics about production agriculture,
8 agriculture business, agriculture policy, farm
9 safety, and food nutrition should be a
10 priority in our schools.
11 South Dakota Farmers Union calls on state
12 officials to make agriculture in the
13 classroom mandatory as part of the
14 education standards in all schools and to
15 make relevant information and resources
16 available.
17
18

