

# POLICY SESSION





# 2026 POLICY COMMITTEE

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## **BRENDA WIEDEMANN CHAPMAN, EL RENO CHAIRMAN**

Dr. Brenda Chapman is a lifelong resident of Canadian County. She grew up in Okarche and has always been involved in the farming and ranching operations of Slash C Ranch. The ranching operation is currently located in Canadian and Kingfisher counties in Oklahoma; Harper County in Kansas; and Baca, Lincoln and Kiowa counties in Colorado. She now serves as co-owner and chief operations officer for the ranch.

Chapman earned an associate degree in nursing from Oklahoma State University-OKC, a bachelor's in nursing and master's in education from the University of Central Oklahoma, a master's in rangeland ecosystem science from Colorado State University and a doctorate in educational leadership from Oral Roberts

University.

As a registered nurse, Chapman worked as the Okarche Hospital Supervisor of Surgery, Labor/Delivery, and Emergency Room from 1980 to 1986. She taught pre-nursing at Francis Tuttle Technology Center from 1986 to 2017 and science at Crossings Christian School from 2017 to 2019. She has operated the Slash C Ranch full-time since 2019.

Chapman is passionate about the survival of agricultural families and sustainability of the local family farm. She and her husband, Dale, have been married 26 years; they have two daughters and four grandchildren.



## **ELISABETH BUTLER, KEOTA VICE CHAIRMAN**

Elisabeth Butler grew up on a family farm in Missouri, where she was homeschooled and developed a love for farming and appreciation for rural life. After marrying her husband, Dean, she moved to Arkansas, where they were blessed with three sons and began raising their family. In 2008, the Butlers relocated to Oklahoma, where they raised stocker calves and cows and expanded their operation in 2014 by purchasing a broiler-breeder poultry farm.

Raising their boys on the farm was a priority for Butler, so she homeschooled them through their elementary years before transitioning them into Keota Public Schools for high school. Through school and community involvement, the family became deeply connected to the Keota area and has formed many lasting

friendships.

After working full-time on the farm while raising her children, she began a new professional chapter at First National Bank of Stigler, where she worked for five years. She later joined the Akins Insurance Agency in Keota as a licensed AFR Insurance agent and, in April 2025, purchased the agency. She values the opportunity to serve and work closely with the community she calls home.

In 2022, Elisabeth was honored to receive the Keota Education, Service and Action (ESA) Woman of the Year Award. Her greatest accomplishment, however, is her three sons: L.J., a sergeant in the U.S. Army serving as a combat medic specialist; Garrett, who graduated with honors from Oklahoma State University with a degree in animal science in 2025; and Bret, who is beginning his career as an electrician.

# 2026 POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## BRADLEY BULLOCK, STILLWATER

Bradley Bullock is a licensed AFR Insurance agent and owns Bullock Insurance Agency in Stillwater. He and his wife, Kasey, and son, S.J., reside just outside Stillwater on a small horse farm. Bullock is originally from Branford, Fla., a small rural community located in northern Florida, where he was raised on a small horse and cattle farm.

Bullock attended Branford High School, where he was involved in FFA, athletics and rodeo. He played every sport offered, although his true passions were baseball and rodeo. Not many colleges in the southeast offer the opportunity to play baseball and rodeo, so Bullock accepted a scholarship further west at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva in 2009, which allowed him to compete in both sports. He finished his collegiate rodeo career in the Central Plains Region with a top 10 finish his junior year and a fourth-place finish his

senior year in team roping. Throughout his college years, he also assisted with a 1,500-acre cattle and crop operation in Woods and Custer counties.

After earning a degree in agri-business from NWOSU in 2013, Bullock began his career as a landman with Targa Pipeline. From 2014-2021, he worked his way through the energy sector as a landman with Targa Pipeline, Mid-States Petroleum, and Explorer, and as a project manager for Allegiant Land.

In 2018, Bullock and his wife married and moved to Stillwater. In 2021, he purchased the Charles Porter Insurance Agency in Stillwater, now known as Bullock Insurance Agency. Bradley's wife, Kasey, has owned Bullock Home and Land, a real estate brokerage firm, since 2017.

In addition to operating their businesses, Bullock and his family are members of First Baptist Church of Perkins, where he serves on the stewardship committee. He also holds the current chair position of the Stillwater Chamber Agribusiness Committee and serves as a member of the AFR Policy Committee. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, team roping, hunting and fishing, and anything else outdoors.



## JAMIE CASE, TONKAWA

Jamie Case was raised in Osage County. After graduating from Pawhuska High School, she earned her bachelor's degree in agribusiness from Northwestern Oklahoma State University. She worked in the promotional product and banking industry before starting her career in insurance.

Case is the office manager at Blubaugh Insurance Agency in Tonkawa, where she has been a licensed agent for 15 years. In addition to her duties at the agency, she is the business manager for Blubaugh Angus Ranch and Blubaugh Angus Ranch Beef. She is a graduate of the Leadership Tonkawa Program and a member of the AFR Strive program. She currently serves as vice-president of the Tonkawa Education Foundation and secretary for both Osage County AFR and AFR Local #260. She is also the reporter for the Tonkawa Livestock Boosters and an active 4-H volunteer.

Case and her husband of 18 years, Taner, and daughter, Katie Jo, reside southeast of Ponca City, where they have a small cow-calf operation. She enjoys spending time with family and friends while air-boating on the river.

# 2026 POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## MIKE COHOON, RINGLING

Mike Cohoon lived in Love County for 42 years, where he built a life centered on hard work, service and agriculture. He spent 30 years working for Michelin in Ardmore, demonstrating long-term dedication and reliability throughout his career.

Cohoon served his community as a volunteer firefighter for 38 years, including five years as the fire chief in Marietta. His leadership and commitment played an important role in protecting the community and mentoring others in fire service. Cohoon has long been involved in agriculture. He has operated a cow/calf operation in Love County for many years and continues that work today while living in Jefferson County, maintaining strong ties to the agricultural community.

Cohoon has also been active in agricultural advocacy and education. He served on the board of AFR Local #741 and served as president for one year. He is currently serving on the board of Love County AFR.

In 2020, Cohoon helped start the FFA Agricultural Mechanics program in Love County, supporting hands-on education and the next generation of agricultural professionals.

Mike has carried personal insurance with AFR for 30 years, reflecting his long-standing trust and involvement with the organization.



## JOE HALLEY, EL RENO

Joe Halley is a lifelong resident of El Reno in Canadian County and has been a member of AFR/OFU since the age of 16. He graduated from El Reno High School in 2007 and continued his education while playing collegiate baseball at Vernon Junior College. Halley later transferred to Cameron University in Lawton, where he continued his baseball career and earned a Bachelor of Science in 2011. Following Cameron, he attended the University of Oklahoma and completed a master's degree in education with an emphasis in intercollegiate athletic administration in 2014.

During and after his graduate studies, Halley worked in the OU Athletic Department within the student-athlete conduct office, gaining valuable experience in administration and leadership. In 2015, he began his professional career with American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union in the customer service department and later transitioned into the claims department, working as an adjuster in both liability and property claims.

In 2018, Halley returned to El Reno to work as an AFR agent alongside longtime agent Darrell Wiedemann. He assumed sole ownership of the agency in 2022, which now operates as Halley Insurance Agency. Halley has been actively involved in AFR leadership, serving as vice president of AFR Local #43 since 2018 and as secretary of Canadian County AFR since 2018. He also served as a council member on the AFR Life Ambassadors Board in 2022.

Joe and his wife, Cheryl, have been married for 12 years and have two children, Peyton and Hudson. They are members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in El Reno, where Joe is an active member of the Knights of Columbus. He also serves on the Sacred Heart Catholic School Advisory Council. Joe values his role in serving his community through his profession, faith, and involvement in AFR.

# 2026 POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## LANDEN HENDON, MACOMB

Landen Hendon grew up in Little Axe. After graduating from Little Axe High School, he began his career with the City of Norman in their street department, where he still works today as a crew chief.

Growing up, Hendon owned horses, but the thought of owning cattle had not yet crossed his mind. At 18, he wanted to learn about hay production, so he helped a farmer in Pottawatomie County. The compensation was just hay to feed his horses. Hendon was so intrigued with the process that he learned every aspect. With only one open cab tractor to make it through the first season, Hendon bought himself a closed cab tractor to speed up the production the next year. By that next year, he was chasing down new hay leases and performing most of the work. Not getting a fair return, he and his father moved on, investing in their own equipment and starting their own hay business.

In 2011, Hendon moved to a house on five acres near where he grew up. That small acreage inspired the thought of owning a few head of cattle. With no background in agriculture, specifically cattle production, he started researching, attended extension education classes, became an active member in the Oklahoma Cattleman's Association, and started networking to build relationships with fellow producers and others in agriculture.

Hendon's passion for cattle and agriculture has grown stronger over the years. He continued to lease land to grow his cattle operation. What started out as five head turned into what Hendon Cattle Company is today. In 2021, Landen and his wife partnered with his parents to buy a ranch in Macomb. He now manages the family's cow/calf, backgrounding, stocker, and finishing operations. He has also broadened the hay operation by adding triticale and summer crops.

Landen, his wife, Marisa, and their three children are building their home on the ranch, where he plans to make many memories with his family. The Hendons are current members of the AFR Strive program.



## CLAYTON NEUMANN, RINGWOOD

Clayton Neumann grew up south of San Antonio in the brush country of South Texas. As a young man, he worked alongside his family on their operation, growing peanuts, green beans, spinach, watermelons and small grains. They also had a commercial cow/calf operation and backgrounded their own calves.

Neumann graduated from Gregory-Portland High School near Corpus Christi. He attended college for a couple of years, but left to pursue a career as a livestock auctioneer and full-time cattleman. He graduated from the Worldwide College of Auctioneering in 2014 and has made his living auctioneering since. He also owns a successful cattle order buying business, CN Cattle Consulting.

After a short stint in Oklahoma, Neumann moved to Arkansas in 2014. He returned to Oklahoma in 2020 to manage his wife's family stocker operation. He continues to auctioneer and order buy.

Neumann is a current class member of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program. He is involved in the AFR Strive Program and is a Major County AFR Board Member. He and his wife, Laici, reside near Ringwood.

# 2026 POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## RICHARD WELLS, LAVERNE

For more than four generations, the Wells family has been deeply rooted in the Panhandle Plains of Oklahoma; Richard Wells proudly continues that legacy. The Wells Family Farm and Ranch was recognized with the Centennial Award in 1993, honoring over a century of agricultural heritage. A Laverne Tiger through and through, Wells graduated from Laverne High School before pursuing his education at Panhandle State University, where he earned a degree in agriculture education.

Though equipped with his degree, Wells' heart called him back to the ranch, where he has built a thriving operation from humble beginnings. Starting with just one bred heifer and one bred gilt—gifts from his father—Wells now manages hundreds of cows and stockers when feasible. He enjoys working alongside his son, passing down the knowledge and work ethic that has sustained his family

for generations.

Despite the demanding nature of ranching, Wells makes time to serve his community. His 14 years on the Laverne Public School Board, where he served in various leadership roles, culminated in his recognition as a 2025 All State School Board member. Over the past four decades, Wells' community involvement has touched nearly every corner of Laverne life: volunteering as a high school baseball coach, assisting with stock shows, running the time clock at athletic events, and supporting FFA, 4-H, and the band program. He has also served on the Laverne Public School Foundation, the Farm Credit nominating committee and currently the Panhandle Telephone Cooperative Board.

Above all, Richard treasures time spent with his wife, Julie, and their blended family of four children, their spouses, and grandchildren—the next generation of what he hopes will be many more to come in the Oklahoma Panhandle.

## JIM WILSON, NEWCASTLE

Jim Wilson graduated from Newcastle High School and attended Spartans School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, where he received his pilot's license and his Aviation Maintenance Technician license.

Wilson retired after 33 years of service to the Federal Aviation Administration. During his career, he served in multiple executive leadership roles, including managing organizations with more than 300 employees stationed throughout the continental U.S. and overseas. His wealth of experience was instrumental in serving on an international committee responsible for establishing worldwide aviation navigational equipment calibrations standards.

In addition to his aviation career, Wilson has been a lifelong farmer, raising cattle and crops throughout the years. Currently his family operation includes a cow/calf herd and top-quality Bermuda hay. He has customers from across the state

come to purchase both round and small square bales.

Wilson currently serves as an elected district director for the McClain County Conservation District. He has served as mayor of Newcastle, president of the McClain County Cattlemen's Association, and a member of the FSA McClain County Committee. He is a member of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. He has been married to his wife, Cheryl, for more than 40 years. They have two sons and three grandchildren. His favorite role is Grandpa and watching his grandchildren grow.





# 20265 Policy Statement



American Farmers & Ranchers is a general farm organization, which has been representing family farmers, ranchers and rural Americans since 1905. It is the oldest and one of the largest general farm and rural organizations in Oklahoma, with members in all 77 counties.

With a broadly based farm, ranch and rural community membership, American Farmers & Ranchers is known as the “Voice of the Family Farmer and Rural America.”

The members themselves make our policy. They do this through a system of annual meetings. Local and county organizations send recommendations to the state level for policy committee review. The local and county organizations also send delegates to the annual state convention to approve our platform, which guides the organization’s actions.

This policy establishes the legislative direction of the organization and represents the diverse and complex interests of the people of rural Oklahoma. AFR strives to represent these issues in a non-partisan manner on a local, state and national level.

**AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS**  
**20265 PROPOSED POLICY POSITIONS**

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## AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS

## PREAMBLE

We believe in this nation, under God, and for the great hope for eternal freedom, which it holds for humanity everywhere.

We re-affirm our convictions of the truth and the rightness of the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and its Bill of Rights.

We pray our state and national leaders place national security and the preservation of our form of government as their foremost responsibility.

We support prudent policy and programs that ~~will~~ preserve the American system of family farms. Furthermore, we encourage all commodity groups and all farmers and ranchers to cooperate in formulating solutions and promoting sustainability.

Under our economic and political system, the family farm system of agriculture is the most productive and efficient in the world. Since ~~the~~our nation's beginning, family farmers and ranchers have brought forth from the soil new wealth in abundant production of food and fiber and even today agriculture remains the number one industry.

## PURPOSE

The American Farmers & Ranchers' mission is to provide effective grassroots leadership for the enhancement and protection of farmers and ranchers, so their rural communities may thrive and prosper. Guided by its educational, cooperative and legislative principles, American Farmers & Ranchers is committed to work for the advancement of the quality of life for its membership and people everywhere.

We are also committed to providing a continuing, safe and stable supply of high-quality food and fiber for consumers.

We support the right of farmers and ranchers to engage in modern farming and ranching practices which shall be forever guaranteed in this state. No law shall be enacted which abridges the right of farmers and ranchers to employ agricultural technology, modern livestock production and ranching practices.

American Farmers & Ranchers makes a concerted effort to properly inform consumers, legislative leaders and members of Congress of the problems confronting farmers and ranchers.

American Farmers & Ranchers strives to make aggressive efforts at the national, state and local levels to educate farmers and the general public on the policy and issue positions of other organizations when the position will benefit family farmers, ranchers or our rural communities, and oppose those issues which would negatively impact them.

The role of the family agricultural producer must be that of leadership and stewardship in preserving our natural resources.

The farm and ranch family and its welfare, therefore, is the keystone of our policy. To ensure its continuation, we support a competitive market with fair price discovery.

These families have always been, and remain, the foremost stewards of this land. We have the responsibility to assure that this legacy, with its broad dispersion of land ownership, is passed on to our children and grandchildren.

## **SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

## DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAMS

We support an effort to give Farm Bill disaster relief programs permanent authority.

## ~~LIVESTOCK ANTIBIOTICS~~

~~We oppose FDA Guidance GFI 263 that restricts the use of commonly used livestock antibiotics that were previously available over the counter.~~

## ~~STATE TAXES~~

~~We oppose reductions to state taxes that put undue financial strain on our rural public school systems and increase the likelihood of additional ad valorem taxes.~~

We encourage tribal nations to contribute to utilities, infrastructure, government funds, ad valorem taxation, etc., at the percentage of tribal members per capita, to match the contributions of a non-tribal citizen.

## EDUCATION

We support the Oklahoma State Legislature continuing to address the crisis within the public education funding system. No public school should be funded at a lower per student rate than any charter school.

~~We support all public education designated revenue from ad valorem taxation and any other common local, state, or federal government funding remaining in the public school system and not being transferred by voucher or any other method.~~

## HEALTHCARE & HUMAN SERVICES

We believe Oklahoma should make increased access to healthcare in rural areas a priority and work to preserve rural hospitals. We recommend reopening any structurally viable rural hospitals that are currently closed.

We support state and federal legislation to reduce the cost of medical and mental health-care and prescription drugs.

We oppose the further closing of Oklahoma's Department of Human Services (DHS) county offices. We strongly support opening a DHS county office in each county in Oklahoma.

## IMMIGRATION

We support immigration laws that provide a system of identification, classification and taxation.

## FARM LABOR

We support modernizing the federal H-2A visa program to safeguard the American agriculture industry, which currently lacks a stable legal workforce.

## RIGHT TO REPAIR

We support farmers and ranchers having the right to repair their own equipment and/or cause to be repaired through third-party non-manufacturers. We support increased access to to and reasonable pricing of service manuals, product guides, on-board diagnostics and other information to identify and repair machinery, parts and software.

We oppose the further consolidation of farm machinery dealerships and branded repair facilities.

1  
2 **ANTITRUST ENFORCEMENT**

3 We demand enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act, the Sherman Antitrust Act, and the  
4 Clayton Antitrust Acts, specifically regarding the antitrust issues surrounding the packing segment  
5 of the beef industry in the United States.

6  
7 **TRUTH IN LABELING STANDARDS**

8 We demand the USDA enforce truth in labeling. We oppose the use of food product labeling that  
9 misleads consumers. To qualify for “Product of USA” labeling, livestock and poultry must be  
10 bred, born, fed, harvested and processed within the borders of the United States.

11 We support Congress establishing strict labeling restrictions on all lab-grown or plant-based  
12 imitation meat and dairy, and such issues being regulated by the USDA.

13  
14 **MANAGING FARM STRESS**

15 ~~The stress load on Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers is incredible. We support National Farmers~~  
16 ~~Union's all organizations' financial and emotional stress and crisis management efforts at both the~~  
17 ~~state and national levels partnering with other farm organizations and encourage further~~  
18 ~~development of resources for farmers and ranchers in duress.~~

19  
20 **BROADBAND**

21 ~~We support greater access to high-speed broadband internet in rural Oklahoma.~~

22  
23 **FED CATTLE MARKETING**

24 ~~We support an increase in the amount of the negotiated cash trade percentage as it relates to the~~  
25 ~~fed cattle market.~~

26 To address the issue of captive supply in the fed cattle industry, we recommend that no one of the  
27 major four beef packing companies may purchase more than 25% of their weekly slaughter needs  
28 from any one feeding entity.

29 We urge Congress to update and modernize the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act to create  
30 fairness and transparency in the marketplace.

31  
32 **MARIJUANA INDUSTRY**

33 ~~We recognize the production of medical marijuana is an evolving industry in Oklahoma. We~~  
34 ~~recommend continued attention be given to developing policies that protect Oklahoma's rural~~  
35 ~~citizens, landowners and communities.~~

36  
37 **AGRICULTURAL INPUT PRICES**

38 We support incentives and reduced regulations to encourage companies to produce agricultural  
39 inputs within the United States.

40  
41 **ODWC LAND PURCHASES**

42 We oppose the ODWC purchasing more land in the State of Oklahoma.

43  
44 **LAND-USE RESTRICTIONS**

45 We oppose municipalities and counties imposing land-use restrictions outside city limits.

1 We oppose municipalities incorporating large swaths of rural land without landowner consent.  
2 We further oppose the unjustified use of emergency annexation as a means for municipalities to  
3 incorporate property.

4

## 5 **EMINENT DOMAIN**

6 We oppose the purchasing of private property by eminent domain to satisfy an environmental  
7 conservation goal.

8 Eminent domain should not be the most economical way to acquire private property. Land acquired  
9 by eminent domain should have a settlement value of significantly more than the replacement cost  
10 for like property plus intangible damages.

11 We oppose the use of eminent domain for the acquisition of lands for parks, recreation, historical  
12 trails, and non-public utilities that are non-cooperatives. We further urge this type of eminent  
13 domain question be handled by a state entity, rather than federal.

14

## 15 **ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION**

16 We support a producer's voluntary application of technology, age verification and trace back  
17 methods which can enhance producer profits. We support current non-electronic animal  
18 identification methods. We oppose any mandatory electronic animal identification requirements,  
19 whether mandated by state or federal authorities.

20

## 21 **INTEREST RATES**

22 In light of the heavy burden placed on farmers and ranchers due to high interest rates, we support  
23 an interest subsidy program in the upcoming Farm Bill.

24

## 25 **WATER**

26 We support water metering for any irrigation or commercial wells pulling from critically depleting  
27 aquifers. We prefer this metering be managed on a regional basis.

28

## 29 **PROPERTY RIGHTS**

30 We firmly support personal property rights and believe others should not interfere with individual  
31 landowners' rights to make decisions about economic development on their property, as long as  
32 that development falls within lawful guidelines.

33

## 34 **PROPERTY TAXES**

35 We oppose any change to state statute or the Oklahoma Constitution, which shifts the current  
36 sinking fund indebtedness of counties and schools from all property owners to only non-  
37 homestead landowners.

38

## 39 **FSA OFFICE CLOSURE**

40 Farming and agribusiness does not stop. Therefore, in light of the recent historic government  
41 shutdown, we support FSA employees being classified as "essential" employees during times of  
42 government shutdown or other times of mass federal closures.

43

## 44 **LAB-GROWN MEAT**

45 We support a complete ban on lab-grown meat, including but not limited to retail sale,  
46 manufacturing and research.

## COMMENDATIONS

We commend National Farmers Union for their leadership and active role in the concentration and competition issues in agriculture, particularly in regard to the functionality of the fed cattle market. (2022)

We commend Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers in their efforts to be good stewards of the land as they combat frequent droughts and other adverse weather conditions. (2024)

We commend our AFR Farm Stress Management team members who act as “farm stress first responders” for fellow producers throughout Oklahoma. (2021, Amended 2022)

We commend rural, often volunteer, firefighters who have tirelessly responded to untold numbers of fires and rescue operations. *(2022, Amended 2024)*

We commend the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA) and the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) for their efforts toward corralling and regulating Oklahoma's medical marijuana industry to encourage the continued safety and security of Oklahoma's citizens. (2024)

We commend the Oklahoma Conservation Commission for their continued success at removing polluted streams from the EPA 303(d) list of impaired waters. We also commend the OCC for their efforts toward reducing red cedar, musk thistle and feral hog infestations in Oklahoma. (2017, Amended 2022)

We commend law enforcement officers and other emergency personnel and thank them for their service. We further commend the Oklahoma Highway Patrol for their diligence in removing improperly licensed truck drivers from Oklahoma's roads. (2016, Amended 20254)

We honor and commend our U.S. veterans and military personnel and thank them for their selfless service to our country. (2024)

We commend all AFR/OFU members that actively volunteer their time to make the organization better for all membership. (2023)

## FARM POLICY

To establish a foundation for achieving our long-term goal of returning profitability to the family farm system of agriculture and economic stability to rural areas, we recommend that the following principles be incorporated within U.S. farm policy:

We oppose the use of embargoes and sanctions of agricultural goods, unless agriculture producers are properly compensated.

~~We support the school breakfast, lunch, farm to school and milk programs.~~

We support the use and expansion of the Office of Food for Peace (PL 480) food programs that provide nutrition for underprivileged populations around the world, with proper oversight of food commodity ~~ties~~ distribution ~~ned~~.

We strongly believe that all food and fiber products imported into the United States must comply with U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) quality, safety and health standards.

We support indexing of commodity target prices to reflect cost of production and a reasonable return.

We support National School Lunch Programs (NSLP) efforts to address child hunger and promote good nutrition in schools, for children in K-12 grades. We encourage the continued oversight of the federal school nutrition program by Congress to reduce obesity, consider the impact on local school budgets, caloric intake needs relative to student needs and participation by students. We further support the school breakfast, farm-to-school and milk programs.

## A. FEDERAL FARM PROGRAMS

We encourage the development of a farm program that is simplified and economically beneficial for producers.

We encourage a farm program that takes into consideration the cost of production, as well as the price of the commodities.

Farm programs and regulations should be finalized prior to the sowing/planting seasons of all crops.

Commodity program payments should be delivered to participating farmers in a timely fashion.

**We support an effort to give Farm Bill disaster relief programs permanent authority.**

We support retention of the present historical formula (1910-1914 base) as a yardstick for measuring farm costs and income compared to present day.

Low interest loans and financial assistance should be available to family farmers and ranchers to help them establish viable farming and ranching operations.

1        We oppose farm program payment limitations merely based on the size of the operation or  
2        ethnicity of owner/operator.

3  
4        We support future farm policy that recognizes our geographical differences and provides  
5        flexibility regardless of the agriculture operation whether crops or livestock.

6  
7        We support the continuing of farm program payments to producers who graze-out their grain  
8        rather than mechanically harvest their grain.

9  
10      We support continuation of federal disaster programs for livestock and crop production.

11  
12      We support continuation of the following items without budget baseline, and if possible to  
13      be included as part of the permanent budget baseline: Small watershed rehabilitation; agriculture  
14      conservation easement programs; supplemental agricultural disaster assistance; livestock  
15      indemnity payments; livestock forage disaster program; emergency assistance for livestock,  
16      honeybees and farm-raised catfish; funding of pending rural development loan and grant  
17      applications; value-added agricultural market development program grants and rural micro-  
18      entrepreneur assistance program.

19  
20      We support permanent disaster authority assistance programs that provide quick and  
21      adequate compensation.

22  
23      We support delivery of cost-share programs to the local level utilizing a network of  
24      conservation districts' non-federal employees.

25  
26      We support reducing the paperwork requirements for young farmers to comply with  
27      beginning farmer and rancher development loans and grants programs.

28  
29      We support the federal government using available technology to monitor crop production  
30      around the world and report both quantity and quality to American producers in a timely manner.

31  
32      We support efforts to maximize the amount of dollars appropriated in the farm bill for the  
33      purpose of farm program payments to help farmers and ranchers.

34  
35      We oppose concentration and vertical integration that is detrimental to the family farm and  
36      ranch operation in agriculture, with the exception of producer-owned cooperatives.

37  
38      In an effort to promote homeland security and food safety, we strongly support only products  
39      "born, raised, slaughtered and processed" or "sprouted, grown, harvested and processed" in this  
40      country to be eligible to receive a U.S. label including products sold at eating establishments.

41  
42      We support programs which educate the media on the function of agriculture.

43  
44      We encourage the executive branch to make available to family farmers and ranchers any  
45      funds appropriated for intended agricultural purposes by Congress.

46  
47      We oppose the USDA selling government-held surplus commodityties, which artificially  
48      depresses the price received by producers.

49  
50      We favor storage—paid farmer-owned reserves not to exceed 25 percent of production.

1        We support individuals holding warehouse receipts or scale tickets marked for storage ~~will~~  
2        ~~have~~ing customer's priority in recovering their property when storage facilities file for bankruptcy.

3  
4        We support fixed land costs ~~should be~~ being included as a cost of production in government  
5        calculations.

6  
7        We oppose land owned, leased or ~~that receive~~ing funding from ~~by~~ foreign governments or  
8        ~~persons not~~non-citizens of the United States ~~should not be~~ ing eligible for any U.S. farm policy  
9        programs.

10  
11        We encourage the increase in reference price for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and  
12        Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs.

13  
14        **B. CROP & LIVESTOCK INSURANCE**

15  
16        While we believe in traditional program payments, in lieu of these we support an  
17        enhancement of revenue assurance and crop insurance programs which encourages participation  
18        by producers.

19  
20        We support enhancing, improving and strengthening crop insurance programs, without  
21        further program cuts, as a risk management tool for producers.

22  
23        In the interest of good conservation practices and not destroying residue which would  
24        encourage erosion, we support allowing producers to qualify for prevented planting for crop  
25        insurance/Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for acres in areas categorized as  
26        severe drought.

27  
28        We support the continued inclusion of all commercially grown crops in the federal insurance  
29        programs available through the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA).

30  
31        **C. CONSERVATION MEASURES**

32  
33        We support continued funding of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the  
34        Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program  
35        (CREP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); and capping CRP at 40  
36        million acres and restoring the crop base after contract expiration.

37  
38        We support establishment of a per acre payment on CRP which limits the payment to the  
39        fair rental value. We further support increasing the per-entity CRP payment cap and encourage  
40        inflation-based increases as necessary.

41  
42        We support protecting the base on any cropland converted to grassland with a prior  
43        established crop base ~~will have that base protected~~ until such time that the land is restored back to  
44        cropland use.

45  
46        We support Agriculture Conservation Easement Program – Agriculture Land Easement  
47        (ACEP-ALE) contracts be allowed to qualify for livestock feed assistance in times of severe  
48        drought to reduce the grazing pressure on enrolled lands which could cause erosion.

49  
50        We support higher emphasis on NRCS technical and financial assistance for EQIP  
51        conversion to no-till and water conservation assistance, including pond clean-out and new

1 construction, and support FSA additional resources through the Emergency Conservation  
2 Program for hooking up pasture taps, drilling wells, etc.

3  
4 In an effort to reduce costs for farmers and ranchers and to give all agriculture producers an  
5 affordable way to take part in any new environmental markets or incentives that may develop in  
6 the private sector, we support the creation of a public sector ecosystems services credit verification  
7 program at USDA NRCS that will be offered to farmers and ranchers as part of the existing suite  
8 of voluntary and free technical assistance services already provided by that agency.

9  
10 We support the Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture having the ability to declare an  
11 agricultural emergency. The Secretary declaring an agricultural drought emergency should cause  
12 the Emergency Drought Commission to be convened, as opposed to the current schedule of  
13 convening following a gubernatorial emergency declaration of drought.

14  
15 **D. FSA/NRCS**

16  
17 ~~County and district Farm Service Agency (FSA) / Natural Resources Conservation Service~~  
18 ~~(NRCS) committees should be granted authority in determining county and district needs.~~

19  
20 We support the administration of farm programs through elected community and county  
21 farmer committees.

22  
23 We oppose the closing of any FSA or NRCS county offices.

24  
25 We support the farmers' right to update their proven yields and receive reflective farm  
26 program benefits based on proven yields in lieu of FSA program yields.

27  
28 We support restoration of funding for technical assistance at FSA and NRCS to help  
29 effectively implement the farm bill.

30  
31 We support FSA employees being classified as “essential” employees during times of  
32 government shutdown or other times of mass federal closures.

33  
34 We support more focus on EQIP conservation incentive contracts.

35  
36 ~~We support restoration of authority to allow producers to extend beyond 15 year direct or~~  
37 ~~guaranteed loan borrowing from FSA.~~

38  
39 As “family farmer” is defined in this document, we support family farms and believe that  
40 program benefits, such as FSA guaranteed and direct loans, should be directed to assist the family  
41 operator.

42  
43 We support current county production information should be obtained from county  
44 agriculture producers for use by farmer-elected county FSA committee members.

45  
46 We support the existing farmer-elected county FSA committee system.

## CONSERVATION

We support utilization of cover crops in a no-till or minimum tillage system to promote soil health benefits.

We support incidental grazing of conservation buffer strips.

We support final authority over required conservation practices ~~should be~~ vested in the local soil conservation districts and the county Farm Service Agency (FSA) committee.

We support the continued appropriation of matching funds by the state to the Oklahoma Conservation Commission for flood control rehabilitation.

We support the continuation of a state cost-share program for soil and water conservation practices, including increased funding for Eastern Red Cedar removal and invasive species control.

We support the established state fund for the purpose of matching federal funds. We further support state maintenance funds be administered by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to repair and maintain watershed structures constructed by the conservation districts for the purpose of flood control within the boundaries of the state of Oklahoma. We support national efforts to provide rehabilitation funds for watershed structures.

We urge continuation of soil conservation districts and FSA programs with full authority residing in the farmer-elected county and community committees.

We support and encourage Congress to fund the small upstream flood control projects administered by NRCS.

We oppose conservation program provisions which penalize or do not consider producers for early adoption of stewardship practices.

We support and encourage the continued voluntary installation of best management practices under the Clean Water Act (CWA) as it pertains to agricultural non-point sources of pollution.

Reasonable conservation compliance standards should be established by the local FSA county committee and the local conservation district board based on the unique characteristics of the soils in that county.

~~We oppose any and all efforts to redirect CWA Sec. 319 funds away from the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.~~

We support any legislative efforts to solidify the position of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission as the state agency that receives and administers CWA Sec. 319 funds.

We encourage the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation to pursue any and all action to hold the water quality work of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, local conservation districts and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) NRCS in Oklahoma as a potential model for all states to follow to address nonpoint source pollution through locally led, voluntary, cooperative conservation instead of through regulations or lawsuits.

1        We support adequate federal participation in funding soil and water conservation  
2 programs. Land diversion programs should not discourage long-term conservation and soil  
3 building practices.

5        In an effort to better position the state of Oklahoma to assist farmers, ranchers and rural  
6 communities in times of drought, we support a continued annual appropriation of at least three  
7 million dollars into the Oklahoma Emergency Drought Fund, a continued annual appropriation  
8 of at least three million dollars into the statewide conservation cost-share fund and a continued  
9 annual appropriation of at least one million dollars into the Oklahoma Controlled Burn  
10 Indemnity Fund to be capped at a reasonable amount.

12       We support cost share programs to improve irrigation systems and other methods of water  
13 conservation.

## 17                    COMPETITION AND FAIR MARKETS

19        We support an additional title labeled “Competition” being added to the Farm Bill.

21        We support appropriate bonding requirements for all individuals and entities when working  
22 in Oklahoma.

24        We support only the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) should  
25 being charged with the enforcement and administration of all rules and regulations pertaining to  
26 production agriculture.

28        We support poultry, swine and other contract growers in their efforts to enhance their  
29 bargaining and negotiating positions so they may negotiate fair and equitable contracts with  
30 corporate processors and integrators.

32        We support farmers and ranchers having the right to repair their own equipment and cause  
33 to be repaired through third-party non-manufacturers. We further support access to and reasonable  
34 pricing of service manuals, product guides, on-board diagnostics and other information to identify  
35 and repair machinery, parts and software.

37        We support competition among agriculture suppliers and retailers and discourage territorial  
38 monopolies. Equipment manufacturers should not prevent competition.

40        We support investigation and potential regulations concerning fair trade practices in all  
41 commodity marketing exchanges. We further support a specific investigation into how the practice  
42 of short selling of commodities and futures manipulation by major national or international grain  
43 and livestock companies adversely affects the price farmers receive.

## 47                    MARKETING OF AG COMMODITIES

49        We support a joint effort among all agriculture groups in Oklahoma to create an environment  
50 of transparency between producers and consumers, rural and urban, to maintain confidence in our  
51 products and practices.

1  
2 We support agriculture advocacy initiatives and communication efforts to promote  
3 agriculture to the non-agriculture audience and to educate consumers, utilizing all available  
4 methods, including social media, podcasts and other emerging technologies.  
5

6 We favor increased farmer-operator representation on exchange boards, specifically on those  
7 committees responsible for rulemaking on agricultural commodity contracts.  
8

9 We support keeping the oversight and authorization of the Commodity Futures Trade  
10 Commission (CFTC) within the U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committees, and believe that  
11 the CFTC should:  
12

- 13 1. Guard against insider trading by individuals or firms which possess foreknowledge of  
14 significant price changes due to large market transactions.  
15
- 16 2. Ensure an adequate number of delivery points for hedging participants; and  
17
- 18 3. Monitor, with special vigilance, any market movements which indicate the deliberate  
19 accumulation of excessive speculative positions and to exercise, when necessary, those  
20 emergency powers granted by Congress.  
21

22 ~~Congress should investigate how the practice of short selling of commodities and futures  
23 manipulation by major national or international grain and livestock companies adversely affects  
24 the price farmers receive.~~  
25

26 ~~We support investigation and potential regulations concerning fair trade practices in all  
27 commodity marketing exchanges.~~  
28

29 We support sufficient bonding, federal insurance or other types of protection for persons  
30 commercially engaged in trading stocks, bonds, financial instruments, livestock or crops.  
31

32 We support the continuation of agricultural weights and measures activities by the Oklahoma  
33 Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF).  
34

35 Any meat or produce sold in the state of Oklahoma ~~and labeled as “locally Oklahoma grown”~~  
36 must be without exception ~~locally~~ grown/raised, produced and harvested within ~~state lines or~~  
37 ~~within a county boundary that borders~~ the state ~~line~~ of Oklahoma.  
38

39 We support clear parameters be set for how “locally grown” products are labeled.  
40

41 We encourage development of local and regional food systems within the state of Oklahoma,  
42 including the formation of distribution cooperatives and tribal partnerships using USDA grant  
43 dollars designated for local and regional food systems.  
44

45 We demand efforts be made to shift Oklahoma’s government beef purchases to locally  
46 sourced product, to include specifically the state prison system and public schools.  
47

48 We support a complete ban on lab-grown meat, including but not limited to retail sale,  
49 manufacturing and research.  
50

We support research into producing beef that is tolerable for consumption by individuals with alpha-gal syndrome (AGS). We further support additional research of AGS in general and the potential spread of AGS-causing vectors, to include improved tracking of AGS spread.

## TRADE

Trade mitigation payments shall not be made to multi-national corporations or foreign entities.

We understand the issues related to balancing trade with other countries. The federal government should be supportive of the agriculture industry in regard to trade issues.

To facilitate the expedient delivery of commodities relative to trade opportunities, we support increased attention to maintenance of the waterways infrastructure and railways of the United States.

We support bilateral and multi-lateral fair-trade agreements, not free trade agreements, to stabilize international grain marketing and to expand agricultural exports.

We support continuing efforts to normalize trade relations with Cuba.

We support maintaining balanced trade with foreign countries and imposing tariffs on products which disrupt domestic farm markets.

U.S. trade negotiators should consider human rights issues during negotiations on international trade.

We recognize that food and agriculture have unique characteristics that differentiate them from other sectors of the global economy. Because food is an integral part of human life, every nation should be afforded the right to establish and maintain their own domestic farm programs.

We favor producers being compensated for lost markets caused by tariff and non-tariff trade barriers.

We support U.S. funding of the World Bank to the extent that it remains beneficial to the U.S. economy.

We oppose the forgiveness of any foreign debt, whether military or economic.

We urge protection against the loss of American jobs due to off-shoring.  
We support a proposal that all foreign aid be in the form of credits to be used to buy American

We oppose export of fertilizer and other materials, including fuel, necessary for agricultural production when a definite need for these materials is evident in this country.

We support the management of tariffs to ensure a stable food supply.

We oppose importation of duty-free renewable fuel.

~~Food safety legislation must include a substantial increase in the inspection of imported food and feed products. The cost of inspection should come from fees on imports. We support aAll~~ imported food and feed products ~~should be~~ ing inspected. ~~The cost of inspection should come from fees on imports.~~

To protect U.S. food safety standards and the availability of domestically produced agricultural products, we oppose lowering any U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) standard to accommodate any foreign country's food and fiber import products.

We support aAll beef imports should being counted under the beef import quota system and maintaining the current beef import capsshould be maintained.

We oppose the importation of products from countries that do not accept the importation of U.S. agricultural products.

When possible, We support all U.S. military installations, government agencies and schools should being required to use only food produced by American farmers and ranchers when possible.

We support contract sales for agriculture exports ~~should~~ being guaranteed.

We support exempting agriculture from trade sanctions. If embargoes or sanctions are implemented, producers should be compensated for the loss of agricultural markets.

~~We oppose the establishment of the “department of trade” as a cabinet office.~~

We support the continued review of the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) and World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements. However, we strongly oppose any efforts to restrict agriculture trade export efforts.

We support agriculture organization representatives be included early in the process when considering future trade agreements, when agriculture products are involved.

We oppose the WTO and specific trade agreements having undue influence on U.S. farm policy which conflicts with the sovereignty and laws of the citizens of the United States.

We support full congressional deliberation prior to the enactment of any trade agreement.

## INSURANCE

Market conditions and competitive pricing will lead to innovation in developing solutions to problems relating to multi-peril crop insurance and mitigation. Competitive pricing and risk-based underwriting are essential to developing and maintaining a viable disaster insurance market and should be originated and enforced at the state level.

We support insurance discounts being given to drivers who complete a safe driving or emergency vehicle operations course.

1           We support delivery of insurance services by full-time, stand-alone professionals.  
2  
3  
4           We oppose mandatory workers' compensation being extended to family-size production  
5           agricultural operations and small businesses.  
6  
7           We oppose frivolous lawsuits. If the court finds in favor of an insured defendant and the case  
8           is found to be frivolous, we believe the plaintiff and/or their lawyer(s) should be made responsible  
9           for defendant's costs.  
10  
11          We support legislation to strengthen and amend the current tort reform law. Injured parties  
12          should be compensated only for the actual loss incurred, plus expenses of recovery.  
13  
14          We support a catastrophic judgement relief fund administered by the state which could re-  
15          insure against potential judgements and diversify cost beyond those borne solely by property  
16          owners.  
17  
18          Reasonable limits of liability exposure should be placed on corporate boards of directors for  
19          actions of the corporation made without their prior knowledge or consent.  
20  
21          Reasonable limits of liability exposure should be placed on state, county and municipal  
22          government.  
23  
24          We favor justifiable evidence of merit being presented to the court before filing a product or  
25          malpractice liability lawsuit.  
26  
27          We favor the establishment of certain statutes of limitations pertaining to liability lawsuits,  
28          not to exceed five years.  
29  
30          We favor legislation limiting liability of any individual to the extent of their contributory  
31          negligence.  
32  
33          We support stiffer penalties for uninsured drivers. This could include coursework or future  
34          mandatory reporting instead of fines or jailtime.  
35  
36          The AFR Mutual Insurance Company was originally established as Oklahoma Farmers  
37          Union to serve its rural membership. We urge that when decisions must be made regarding  
38          reduction of insurance services preference be given to rural insureds over metropolitan insureds.  
39  
40          We support nursing home facilities being required to carry liability insurance.  
41  
42          We support limits on liability for permitted agritourism activities.  
43  
44          We support the National Fire Protection Association Firewise Communities Program and  
45          associated educational initiatives to property owners. We encourage the participation of AFRMIC  
46          agents in the program which will result in reduced risks for company insureds.  
47  
48          We believe only AFR agents be permitted to sell a product underwritten by AFR Insurance  
49          or its subsidiaries.  
50

1        We recommend making any changes needed to Service Oklahoma to return to pre-Service  
2        Oklahoma turnaround times for motor vehicle accident reports.

4        We oppose any legislation that would move the insurance industry toward a preference for  
5        more litigious action.

7        We oppose any efforts to federalize property and casualty insurance regulations and prefer  
8        regulation remain at the state level.

10      We support Oklahoma's competitive market environment, which allows insurers to  
11      determine their own property and casualty insurance rates.

## 13      **A. CROP/LIVESTOCK INSURANCE/RISK MANAGEMENT**

15      We encourage increased investigation and prosecution of crop/livestock insurance fraud.

17      Because Oklahoma has increased loss ratios due to weather variances, we support an  
18      artificially increased actual production history (APH). We oppose crop yields that should be zeroed  
19      out being included in APH. We further oppose the requirement to harvest a crop that should be a  
20      total loss due to the adverse financial threshold of the cost to harvest. The insurance payment  
21      should be paid at the full APH and not paid at an adjustment.

23      We encourage a 30-day crop insurance payment window for all parties involved in a claim,  
24      to start when the adjuster completes the claim. We further encourage a reasonable time limitation  
25      for adjusters to complete claims.

27      We encourage increased premium assistance for producers who purchase higher levels of  
28      coverage.

30      We support private vendors handling federal crop/livestock insurance.

32      We favor destruction by feral hogs be considered a peril in multi-peril crop insurance.

34      We oppose mandatory federal crop insurance as a requirement for participating in price  
35      support programs.

37      We oppose any new restrictions on crop insurance related to livestock grazing.

39      We oppose any further insurance restrictions on broadcast wheat.

41      We encourage a review of current risk management regulations to complement each farm  
42      bill.

44      We support crop insurance premium payments being due after average harvest dates.

46      We support the continued availability of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program  
47      (NAP) for dual-purpose crops, grazing winter crops and grasslands.

49      Because farmers growing new crops on land where they have no production history are  
50      required to use T-yields until proven yields are established, we support special consideration be  
51      given to them regarding disaster assistance based on crop insurance losses.

1  
2  
3  
4 **EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS**  
5

6 We support public education, particularly in rural Oklahoma. We support state funding of  
7 public education.  
8

9 We strongly support leaving all agricultural education and FFA programs in comprehensive  
10 high schools.  
11

12 We strongly oppose the relocation of the Oklahoma Dept. of Career and Technology  
13 Education headquarters from Stillwater.  
14

15 We support an increase of funding in order to help retain key personnel at the OSU Division  
16 of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.  
17

18 In an effort to increase the number of students earning their driver's license prior to high  
19 school graduation, we support driver education courses being reinstated in public schools should  
20 be reinstated and fully funded on a school-by-school basis by an entity outside the public school  
21 system.  
22

23 We support all public education-designated revenue from ad valorem taxation and any other  
24 common local, state, or federal government funding remaining in the public school system.  
25

26 We oppose tax credits and/or vouchers for private school education. We oppose any increase  
27 to the tax credit for private school education and encourage the state to practice the highest level  
28 of scrutiny of the public dollars going to private schools. We encourage special attention be given  
29 to rural schools in regard to the impact of the current tax credit system.  
30

31 We support efforts to reduce the necessary number of superintendents and other management  
32 levels within public school districts.  
33

34 We oppose private school students participating in a public school district's extracurricular  
35 activities, such as athletics, FFA, FCCLA, etc.  
36

37 We support the continued use of non-plant-based meat and dairy in school lunch programs.  
38 We further support shifting Oklahoma's public schools beef supply to locally sourced Oklahoma  
39 beef.  
40

41 We support adequate school security funding assistance with the help of state or federal  
42 funding. We further support continual funding for at least one school resource officer or increased  
43 security measures on each public school campus.  
44

45 In order to avoid the consolidation of power, wWe support the continued public election of  
46 the Oklahoma State Superintendent.  
47

48 We support the state fulfilling their obligations to teachers who have receiving certification as national board-certified teachers, which deem them as highly qualified teachers,  
49 by providing annual incentive funding for the certification.  
50  
51

1        We oppose attracting new business and industry with tax incentives which adversely affect  
2        funding for education, unless "in lieu of" provisions are available for the impacted area from the  
3        business or industry receiving incentives.

5        We support one credit hour of general agriculture be included as a high school graduation  
6        requirement and a similar requirement in the curriculum at any Oklahoma land grant institution.

8        We favor voluntary Bible reading and prayer in our public schools.

10      ~~School children should begin each day with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, including  
11      the wording "under God."~~

13      We support the continued separation of church and state, especially as it relates to schools  
14      receiving public funds.

16      We believe K-12 students attending schools that receive public tax dollars should only be  
17      permitted to use the restroom of their biological gender at birth.

19      We support education of all citizens on the proper care and protocol of the flag of the United  
20      States of America.

22      ~~We support e~~arly childhood development ~~should be~~ing a parental choice.

24      We ~~urge our members to work to eliminate~~ oppose the use of textbooks ~~used~~ in public schools  
25      that are anti-American Constitution, anti-God and anti-family.

27      We support the study of creationism as a portion of the curriculum in public schools.

29      We encourage the use of more volunteer workers, such as senior citizens, parents and retired  
30      business people, in local schools.

32      We favor school boards and administrators having flexibility in rewarding teachers of  
33      excellence and discharging teachers with poor performance records, including those considered as  
34      certified staff.

36      We ask the Oklahoma Legislature to pass legislation allowing local school districts to vote  
37      by super majority an incentive millage of up to five mills for the betterment of education within  
38      the school district, and that these monies be non-chargeable against existing or further school aid  
39      formulas.

41      ~~When local schools are required to provide foreign language, we propose it be state or  
42      federally funded.~~

44      We support exercising all influence possible to avoid the use of false or misleading textbooks  
45      on animal rights and/or environmental issues.

47      We support broad-based representation on the state textbook committee by a diverse group  
48      of stakeholders.

50      ~~We recognize the need for a closer active relationship between AFR and early childhood  
51      agricultural education in Oklahoma. We endorse the support~~ Ag in the Classroom ~~project~~ as a way

1 to ~~reach those students. We support building a positive relationship with Ag in the Classroom~~  
2 ~~and between agriculture and students, while~~ promoting ~~their services throughout our AFR~~  
3 programming across the state.

4  
5 We support teaching animal welfare, as opposed to animal rights, through the Ag in the  
6 Classroom program and other agricultural advocacy training.

7  
8 We support educational instruction for children on nutritional values of food and balanced  
9 meal selections and further encourage connecting children with where their food is grown.

10  
11 ~~We support The restrictions on daycare centers for preschoolers~~~~childcare should~~ not be ~~ing~~  
12 so rigid that they prevent neighbors and/or relatives cooperatively caring for children or the rights  
13 of parents to choose ~~daycare~~ services.

14  
15 We support Congress designating English as the official language of the United States and  
16 the Oklahoma Legislature designating English as our state language.

17  
18 We oppose distribution of contraceptives and abortion referrals in school health programs.

19  
20 We believe ~~the choice of~~ AIDS education curriculum ~~and materials~~ should be accurate  
21 medical facts with materials continuing to be provided by the state departments of education and  
22 health, controlled by local school officials.

23  
24 Rural areas of school districts should be adequately represented on all boards of education.

25  
26 The State of Oklahoma must continue to expand its educational assistance to farmers who  
27 are in financial difficulty and/or trying to establish a new career.

28  
29 We support the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program (OALP) and annual line-item  
30 funding by the Oklahoma Legislature which is combined with private sector funding.

31  
32 We respectfully request that the Oklahoma Legislature move very cautiously in funding,  
33 making sure that all funding is "fair" to rural, as well as urban school districts.

34  
35 We oppose consolidation of schools, forced or otherwise, dependent and independent, by  
36 whatever means to meet arbitrary standards. Any assessments relative to consolidation should be  
37 an equitable comparison of all relevant factors. We support voluntary consolidation and/or  
38 innovative classroom approaches, providing incentives for such consolidations come from new  
39 money.

40  
41 ~~We oppose consolidation of schools solely based on student enrollment.~~

42  
43 We oppose mandated consolidation of administration.

44  
45 We support patrons' right to vote to annex or consolidate with another school district  
46 voluntarily.

47  
48 We support cooperative initiatives by small schools to improve efficiencies. Small rural  
49 schools should be provided telecommunication service and cooperative programs developed to  
50 provide a curriculum that meets the requirements for high school graduation and college entrance.

1           We suggest our county organizations and/or members consider assisting local school districts  
2        in purchasing distance learning equipment.

3  
4        We support state-approved core curriculum in all private schools receiving taxpayer dollars.

5  
6        We support allowing schools to be given credit for average daily attendance of students  
7        participating in virtual learning. However, we support the number of credits counting towards  
8        graduation requirements from online instruction be totally at the discretion of the local school  
9        board. We recognize the value of online learning for schools which may not be able to provide  
10      certain advanced subjects.

11  
12      We oppose state funding being sent to virtual charter schools.

13  
14      We support a fully funded teacher mentorship program for public schools.

15  
16      We support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum and programs  
17      in public schools.

18  
19      We support the Oklahoma career and technical education system as one of the best in this  
20      nation for training, re-training and future employment of our youth and adults.

21  
22      We support additional training for high school guidance/career counselors regarding trade  
23      school education opportunities.

24  
25      We support additional recruitment efforts to maintain an available pool of agriculture  
26      education instructors to meet the demand resulting from anticipated retirements in future years.

27  
28      We support the work of, and adequate funding for, the 4-H, FFA, FCCLA, other CareerTech  
29      organizations, and AFR youth programs, and any other programs promoting professional skills.  
30      We will, therefore, actively oppose any attempt to curtail the activities of these deserving groups.

31  
32      We encourage including entrepreneurial training as an academic requirement for high school  
33      students, such as the skills training demonstrated in agriculture education/FFA, 4-H clubs and  
34      career and technical education programs.

35  
36      We support the adequate funding of higher education institutions.

37  
38      We oppose discrimination against career and technical education toward meeting  
39      requirements of high school graduation and college entrance.

40  
41      We strongly encourage a minimum of two appointees made by the Governor to the Oklahoma  
42      Career and Technology Education Board have an agricultural background and/or career and  
43      technical education programs background.

44  
45      We support the Oklahoma Legislature continuing to fully fund mandated increases in  
46      teachers' salaries or other educational expenditures.

47  
48      We support adequate funding for research and development through land grant colleges and  
49      universities.

We support following the constitutional requirement and state statute that a majority of the members appointed by the Governor to the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges shall be farmers who are actually engaged in farming and/or livestock growing as their principal business or occupation in earning a livelihood.

We oppose any new legislative or State Department of Education mandates without full funding for such mandates.

We support a legislative review of the process and fees involved in public school bonds.

~~We support 4-H activities, approved by the county 4-H educator, to be counted as an excused absence for attendance purposes. The student should be given the opportunity to make up any missed work.~~

We support the funding of truancy officers in an effort to support children in detrimental family situations.

We support school districts providing an “alternative” classroom for students who are disruptive or otherwise not engaged in learning activities.

We encourage nutrition education that promotes the inclusion of animal protein in a healthy diet.

We support limiting the number of days schools engage in virtual learning.

We support all public education-designated revenue from ad valorem taxation remaining in the public school system and not being transferred by voucher or any other method.

## PROPERTY RIGHTS

We firmly support personal property rights and believe others should not interfere with individual landowners' rights to make decisions about economic development on their property, as long as that development falls within lawful guidelines.

Biological surveys, including the cataloging of plant and animal species, and water samples should not be conducted on private property without prior written consent from the landowner.

Micro-management of watersheds and streams and new user fees that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is implementing should not infringe on a producer's ability to build ponds and till soils, nor impact technical assistance to these producers by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

We support state nuisance laws which provide rural residents with immunity from nuisance claims for agricultural activities including marketing.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be restricted from writing policies and regulations that interfere with the private rights of citizens.

1        We are opposed to municipalities and counties imposing land-use restrictions outside city  
2        limits.

4        We are opposed to the state or federal government regulating or controlling billboards on  
5        private property.

7        Eminent domain should not be the most economical way to acquire private property. Land  
8        acquired by eminent domain should have a settlement value of significantly more than the  
9        replacement cost for like property plus intangible damages.

10      We support mediation in eminent domain proceedings.

13      All necessary action should be taken to:

- 15      1. Preserve the water rights of the individual citizen and prevent further usurpation of  
16        those rights,
- 18      2. To see that legislation is initiated and supported which recognizes the rights of  
19        individuals from which water has been taken, and
- 21      3. Reaffirm, renew and defend the concepts that water rights are property rights, and these  
22        established rights to the use of water by an individual should not be taken away without  
23        due process of law and adequate compensation.

25      We support governmental financial compensation for protection of endangered habitats on  
26        private land.

28      The threatened species designation and critical habitat determined by U.S. Dept. of the  
29        Interior agencies (i.e. USFWS) for certain species could infringe upon the property rights of  
30        agricultural producers and other landowners. We support ~~t~~The impacting agency ~~must~~ produc~~ing~~  
31        proven scientific data indicating need, an economic impact statement and a benefit to cost ratio for  
32        the action being taken before a designation determination becomes final.

34      We support ~~a~~All impacted public and private entities and individuals ~~shall~~ be~~ing~~  
35        compensated from the budget of the impacting agency for actual annual losses as a result of the  
36        designation. Payments shall be annualized immediately or prior to the loss.

38      We favor legislation that limits broad condemnation authority, in particular for private  
39        business purposes.

41      We oppose the use of eminent domain to acquire land believed to be the habitat of  
42        endangered species.

44      We oppose the use of eminent domain for the acquisition of lands for parks, recreation,  
45        historical trails, and non-public utilities that are non-cooperatives. We further urge this type of  
46        eminent domain question be handled by a state entity, rather than federal.

48      We oppose federal legislation that would enable the federal government to acquire land  
49        outside the normal congressional appropriations process for use as outdoor recreation, historical  
50        preservation, or environmental conservation. Congress should maintain control and oversight of  
51        such programs in the interest of all citizens.

1        We urge clarification of federal and state statutes that would allow all railroad rights-of-way  
2 resulting from reversionary easements to revert back to the present property owner if abandoned.  
3 If the rights-of-way were purchased and then abandoned, the first right to purchase the property  
4 should be offered to the current owner of the tract of land from which it was originally separated.  
5

6        We support adequate funding for an agricultural land trust or foundation for the preservation  
7 of agriculture land use.  
8

9        We support further education of property owners in setting terms relative to compensation  
10 of easements or leases of surface or subsurface property rights. We further support development  
11 of model leases relative to the activity.  
12

13        We encourage the development of model contractual instruments which allow landowners  
14 to receive annual payments for compensation of damages and royalties relative to continued  
15 generation and/or transmission of energy instead of or in addition to a one-time easement payment.  
16

17        We support the right of surface owners to influence what occurs on their property, including  
18 the use of third-party mediation when necessary.  
19

20        ~~When a change in land use is proposed, the planning body should be required to notify, by  
21 recognized notification procedures, the owners of adjacent land.~~  
22

23        Trespass laws should be strengthened and enforced with more extensive fines and penalties  
24 for repeat offenders and restitution for property damage should be pursued. Furthermore, current  
25 trespassing laws ~~currently on the books~~ should be enforced to the full extent. This enforcement  
26 should include shores and sandbars of public waters, streams and rivers. We support additional  
27 enforcement of trespassing laws dealing with ~~the~~ private land through which ~~the~~ waters flow.  
28

29        We continue to support Farmers-state-resident landowners and members of their immediate  
30 families ~~(whether residing at home or not) should be~~ ing permitted to fish in ponds on their own  
31 lands and to hunt on those lands during regularly posted hunting seasons, without licenses subject  
32 to special requirements.  
33

34        We oppose any act which mandatorily restricts grazing of livestock in pastures where  
35 running streams are located. We oppose requiring mandatory fencing of rivers, streams and ponds.  
36

37        We support owners of private property not being responsible or liable for any accident or  
38 injury sustained by persons entering property without permission.  
39

40        We support just compensation to farmers and ranchers who suffer economic losses as a result  
41 of any state or federal agency ruling.  
42

43        We support a landowner's right to keep and maintain a private, non-commercial dumpsite  
44 for disposal of non-toxic materials.  
45

46        We support a landowner's right to store equipment and vehicles on property used for  
47 agricultural purposes without restriction.  
48

49        We support a landowner's right to burn refuse on their land when located in a rural area in  
50 compliance with state and county regulations.  
51

We support the development of reasonable regulations for the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones), while respecting and protecting the property and privacy rights of landowners.

With landowners' written permission, we support the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for research purposes.

We support reimbursement of legal costs incurred by an agricultural producer or agribusiness as a defendant in litigation involving their agriculture or agribusiness operation, if the litigation is found to be frivolous or a nuisance action.

We support the ability for family agriculture to voluntarily contract with integrators in order to maintain their family farm operation.

In reference to Article 22 Section 1 of the Oklahoma Constitution, we urgently demand enforcement of existing law forbidding foreign ownership of Oklahoma real property.

We support legislation restricting investment and ownership or leasing of land and natural resources by foreign nations and non-citizens.

We oppose arrangements between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) which allow control of foreclosed lands in FSA inventory to be transferred without public hearings or impact studies.

We support development of a clear, common definition of wetlands to be used consistently by all state and federal agencies. The landowner must be notified prior to the classification or reclassification of his or her property. The owner of property taken as wetlands should be fairly and reasonably compensated for any loss of use. While we oppose the taking of ANY land by governmental agencies, no takings should occur without a sight inspection of the property and full opportunity for the owner to appeal agency decision.

## UTILITIES

We recommend a standard minimum height of at least 17 feet for new utilities across existing highways in the state of Oklahoma.

We support regulation that limits price gouging of the fuel source for utilities in times of natural disasters and other relevant emergencies.

We favor a requirement that towers taller than 50 feet be visibly identified.

We support the use of some form of identification, such as tracer wires, for underground utilities ~~that cannot otherwise be easily located~~.

When utility location services are required by law, there should be a finite response time.

We favor that final authority for utility rate making remain with officials elected by the people, namely the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC). But, we oppose special rate treatment by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

We support actions that encourage competition among electricity providers in instances that do not jeopardize the rates or access of rural citizens.

We oppose unjustified rate increases and we support increased transparency as to the justification of rate increases.

We oppose municipal utilities upcharging their customers. Individual municipalities should not be able to charge significantly more than surrounding utility providers.

~~We support legislation to direct the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to regulate telephone rates for Oklahoma in such a way that intrastate rates will be no more than comparable to interstate rates.~~

We oppose the sale of federally owned hydroelectric plants that serve our cooperatives and municipalities.

\_\_\_\_\_ We support greater access to high-speed broadband internet in rural Oklahoma.

We continue our support for the Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

We support a close review of the input cost of electricity, including the input costs for electric cooperatives, as compared to the end cost of the utility. This is both for everyday costs and in an effort to prepare for future catastrophic events.

The U.S. Congress and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) are steadfastly moving toward restructuring the electric utility industry. We believe any restructuring of Oklahoma's electric industry should embrace the following criteria:

1. Make certain we have continued universal access to electric power.
2. Make certain safeguards are in place to protect all Oklahomans from significantly increased rates and line costs from electric restructuring.
3. All classes of customers should be treated fairly.
4. Make certain rural Oklahomans gain the benefits of “competition,” while prohibiting the discriminatory aspects of “competition” that left rural Oklahomans in the dark a few decades ago.
5. Make sure revenues generated by the electric industry remain revenue-neutral to all receiving entities as much as possible.
6. Make certain the environment is protected and preserved.

## COMMUNICATIONS

We support the people's right for quality, free television.

~~We support federally funded access to broadband (Internet) communication in rural areas.~~

We support the Oklahoma Broadband Office's efforts to provide affordable and accessible high-speed internet to all rural Oklahomans. We encourage them to continue to hold internet providers accountable regarding any and all grants or funds usage and coverage map reporting.

We urge the Oklahoma Broadband Office to investigate the accuracy of their online Oklahoma Broadband Map and hold companies accountable to publish accurate upload and download speeds.

We ~~believe high-latency satellite internet should not be considered high-speed internet~~ and urge the federal government to continually monitor the state of high-speed internet and increase the speed at which internet is considered “high speed.” when needed.

We strongly support ~~legislative efforts to secure allowing~~ access to programming ~~at non-discriminatory rates~~ for ~~home satellite owner~~television viewers in rural America. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should give consideration to rural residents ~~to~~in obtaining local channels ~~of choice by satellite~~ when ~~their~~ mailing address conflicts with regulations preventing them from receiving the nearest local channel.

We support Oklahoma residents having the option to view Oklahoma news television stations even if the residence is closer to an out-of-state news source.

We support the preservation of satellite-based augmentation system (SBAS) guidance availability for agriculture and the protection of investments in existing technologies already made by producers.

We support an agricultural exemption from FCC registration requirements.

We support increased enforcement of the telephone solicitor no-call list, for both land lines and cell phones.

We oppose private or government, foreign or domestic, entities listening and collecting data without consent through cellular phones, mobile applications, and other networked devices.

We support greater access to high-speed internet in rural Oklahoma.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We support state legislation that enhances economic development in rural Oklahoma. We urge local and county AFR organizations to cooperatively work with city, county and state agencies to take advantage of economic development opportunities.

We support the continuation of sub-state planning districts and continued funding of the Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) program that provides ~~the~~-infusion of capital to assist small towns, rural communities and rural water districts.

We support the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry's (ODAFF) Made in Oklahoma (MIO) program.

We support efforts to expand, enhance or assist the “added value” industry in Oklahoma, including tax incentives for investors in value-added agricultural incentives.

We encourage increased funding for the Oklahoma Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification Program.

We encourage legislation that would establish a state program for investing in and/or financing rural business growth within the state.

We support American Farmers & Ranchers continuing to pursue agricultural value-added venture opportunities for our membership.

We support efforts to promote agritourism opportunities for rural Oklahomans as another means of complementing their existing agricultural enterprises.

ENERGY

We encourage greater emphasis on research and development and increased government support to reduce U.S. dependency on foreign oil.

We support and promote further research to reduce the potential for earthquakes due to water injection wells. We further support the creation of a fund to cover the cost of damages caused by earthquakes. The funds should be provided through an energy company fee and overseen at the state level.

We support the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) well cleanup program and the implementation of an equivalent program requiring cleanup of ~~solar and wind~~renewable energy sites.

We support the requirement of an inflation-contingent decommissioning bond for wind turbine installation to protect landowners from future cleanup expenses.

We support the continuation of 640 acres or less unit spacing for an individual vertical or horizontal oil or gas well in Oklahoma.

We support the continuation of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) as a means of extraction of energy resources.

We urge further development in the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) and propane as alternate motor fuels.

We support the use of nuclear power plants as an alternative energy source and the continued research and development for encapsulation methods for spent fuel.

We support local communities' ability to provide primary, supplemental or back-up power utilizing all power resources available.

1        Oklahoma public utilities, municipalities, school districts, and/or state-owned vehicles  
2 should be encouraged to use Oklahoma natural gas, ethanol blended gasoline, bio-diesel and  
3 propane for fuel.

4  
5        Coal produced in Oklahoma should be permitted to be used for the generation of electricity  
6 within the state.

7  
8        We support continuing research and construction of ethanol fuel plants and oilseed extraction  
9 plants. Registration, permitting and licensing fees should be held to a minimum. We encourage  
10 streamlining the permitting process for inland energy refineries, alternative energy production and  
11 food-grade oils.

12  
13        We support the continued development of energy alternatives appropriate to the area and  
14 environment.

15  
16        Any large-scale energy production or storage entity, such as battery storage, solar farms, etc.,  
17 shall be responsible for managing and sufficiently maintaining their own emergency management  
18 system, including a published emergency plan, fire suppression equipment, personnel, etc. The  
19 siting of these types of facilities shall consider proximity to the public.

20  
21        We support legislation to establish reasonable set-back ~~laws~~ regarding wind turbine  
22 proximity to established dwellings.

23  
24 ~~We propose property owners adjacent to a wind turbine be compensated for visual and  
25 auditory pollution and potential safety hazards. Compensation should be paid both retroactively  
26 and for future projects.~~

27  
28        We believe state and national legislation should support exploration, development and  
29 production of sustainable energy sources, including the development of alternative fuels from our  
30 natural resources.

31  
32        We support antitrust actions to increase competition among private industries involved in  
33 energy production.

34  
35        We favor retaining oil and gas depletion allowances.

36  
37        Intangible drilling costs should be maintained as a deductible expense, as an encouragement  
38 to potential drillers.

39  
40        We favor responsible drilling and exploration for oil and gas in the United States and its  
41 territories.

42  
43        In the case of fuel shortages and transportation disruptions, fuel for agricultural purposes  
44 should be given national security priority.

44  
46        We oppose the creation of federal oil and gas corporations.

47  
48        We support legislation requiring all oil companies operating in Oklahoma to make available  
49 to the royalty owner and the Oklahoma Tax Commission an annual audit of production of gas or  
50 oil if requested from any well.

1 To relieve the ad valorem burden on landowners and to support and enhance schools and  
2 local and county governments, we support the measurement and appropriate taxation of all types  
3 of energy production that leave the State of Oklahoma.

5 Energy and energy related companies should be jointly and severally responsible for  
6 damages to property and for incidental expenses such as transactional costs of updating abstracts.

8 We encourage protection of mineral owners with rights to participate and be involved and  
9 included in class action suits to protect their income. We oppose mineral owners having to opt into  
10 a lawsuit, but rather support current law which considers the mineral owner automatically part of  
11 the class action lawsuit.

12 All energy and transmission lines should be clearly marked at frequent, visible locations  
13 showing current company contact information.

16 All energy easements should automatically revert to the surface owner of record. The  
17 easement rights should be restored no later than three years after the land ceases to be used for the  
18 original intent of the easement. The operator shall be responsible for returning the site to its pre-  
19 improvement state; the property owner should not be subject to any liability related to the purpose  
20 of the easement.

22 We support requiring energy producers ~~to~~ maintain the roads ~~where~~ they cross private  
23 property to get to their lease.

25 We support gas balancing (proper accounting of production). Gas balancing should be  
26 balanced in million cubic feet (MMcf).

28 We support the required use of electronic meters and unannounced inspection of such  
29 metering devices on gas wells by Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) employees to ensure  
30 more accurate measurement and proper payment for all production.

32 Verified reports and records of production maintained and indexed by the ~~Oklahoma~~  
33 ~~Corporation Commission~~OCC should be available for the general public and royalty owners or  
34 their attorneys' inspection.

36 We propose increasing fines for inaccurate measurement and improper payment of gas and  
37 oil wells and using the penalties to fund the monitoring program.

39 We oppose any effort or decision that would permit an oil company to charge the mineral  
40 owner a portion of production or transportation costs incurred in the production or sale of oil or  
41 gas.

43 We support the current Production Revenue Standards Act (PRSA) and the ability for  
44 mineral owners to receive interest on oil and gas well production after six months of production  
45 and for operators to provide detailed production revenue sheets of oil and natural gas production.

47 When mineral leases expire on land or when a well ceases production, the lessee should be  
48 required to clear the records.

50 ~~We encourage all mineral owners participate in mineral owners' association organizations.~~

1        We support new legislation to make forced pooling laws fair to both the mineral owner and  
2 producer. "Good faith negotiations" should be clearly defined through legislation.  
3

4        We favor the ~~Oklahoma Corporation Commission~~OCC requiring that spacing be based on  
5 characteristics of the producing zone. If acreage is forced-pooled and another formation is  
6 produced, permitting smaller spacing, that acreage pool in excess of the smaller spacing should be  
7 released from the pooling order.  
8  
9

10      We urge drilling companies who are issued a drilling permit be held accountable to the  
11 government agency or agencies for properly casing and cementing the hole to safe levels. Violators  
12 should have their right to operate within the State of Oklahoma terminated.  
13

14      We support an ~~Oklahoma Corporation Commission~~OCC rule change requiring the removal  
15 of drilling fluids from reserve pits at the landowner's request.  
16

17      We support the efforts of the National Energy Technology Laboratory and encourage the  
18 development of an additional lab in Oklahoma.  
19

20      We support the curtailment of unnecessary flaring by natural gas producers. We support  
21 research to develop useful outlets for flared product.  
22

23      Public funds should be used as a last resort to plug all abandoned oil and gas wells that have  
24 been improperly plugged, with the abandoning company having primary liability.  
25

26      We support efforts to get oil companies to use closed pit drilling systems.  
27

28      ~~We recommend that water discharge and other natural extractants, including mud and shale~~  
29 ~~resulting from oil and gas drilling, not be classified as hazardous or toxic waste.~~  
30

31      ~~We support the right of an individual to purchase a motor vehicle that uses whatever fuel~~  
32 ~~they choose.~~  
33

34      ~~We support a close review of the input cost of electricity, including the input costs for electric~~  
35 ~~cooperatives, as compared to the end cost of the utility. This is both for everyday costs and in an~~  
36 ~~effort to prepare for future catastrophic events.~~  
37

38      We support legislative action requiring federal land be sold with no more restrictions  
39 on the deeds than existed at time of foreclosure. Mineral rights on such foreclosed lands should be  
40 left intact and transferred to the new owner.  
41  
42

43      We encourage large-scale solar projects be placed on impermeable surfaces, without  
44 restricting the rights of landowners.  
45

## ENVIRONMENT

46      We oppose the consolidation of the Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and  
47 the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB).  
48  
49  
50

1        We support appropriate bonding requirements to ensure clean-up for all individuals and  
2 entities when working in Oklahoma.

4        We support testing of drilling mud used in soil farming prior to application and only applying  
5 at a rate not detrimental, in addition to other permitting required.

7        We oppose any ~~increases in strengthening of~~ emissions standards for farmers and ranchers.

9        We oppose government subsidies for electric vehicles. We oppose any future dealership  
10 quota requirements on electric vehicle sales. ~~We believe people should be allowed to purchase the~~  
11 ~~vehicle of their choice.~~

13       We oppose the sole use of foreign research in the determination of ~~livestock methane~~  
14 ~~emissions~~domestic environmental policy.

16       We support fact-based research on the possible causes and effects of climate change. We are  
17 interested in ongoing climate observations and discussions and we are ready and willing to  
18 participate in active solutions should they emerge, particularly when those solutions benefit  
19 Oklahomans and do not create undue burden on our state's farmers and ranchers.

21       We oppose the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposing and implementing  
22 climate control regulations as a back door method to achieving climate change goals in the absence  
23 of passage of federal legislation.

25       We oppose international indirect land use in calculation of carbon footprints.

27       We support citizens taking the lead in bringing about sound, reasonable and effective  
28 solutions to the problem of pollution and favor a cooperative and voluntary approach.

30       We support efforts to limit pollution, encourage recycling programs, and the use of  
31 biodegradable packaging. We encourage more recycling opportunities be made available in rural  
32 areas.

34       We oppose the classification of agricultural lands as "point sources" of pollution, unless  
35 scientifically proven.

37       We support agriculture producers in their efforts to establish soil and water conservation  
38 practices for producing food and fiber. However, we oppose regulatory rules by EPA or DEQ  
39 dealing with non-point water quality and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that unduly  
40 burdens agriculture and is not scientifically proven.

42       We support only scientifically based water quality standards in streams or water bodies listed  
43 on EPA's 303(d) list in determining the need for a TMDL. In addition, we favor sufficient funding  
44 for a 90 percent cost-share for best management practice implementation must be in place before  
45 any regulatory TMDL is implemented.

47       We believe a landowner who has been issued a resource conservation management plan by  
48 the environmental agency with jurisdiction over non-source pollution shall be considered in  
49 compliance with the law and not polluting.

1        We oppose rules by EPA dealing with air particulate matter regulation regarding production  
2 agriculture. We favor exemption for production agriculture.

4        We recommend that agriculture no longer be regulated by the EPA, but solely regulated by  
5 the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA).

7        We support an amendment to the EPA's authority requiring that scientific proof be provided  
8 that a situation detrimental to the public's health exists prior to exercising its administrative  
9 authority, unless deemed by local, state or national governing bodies as an emergency.

11      We support exemption of on-farm fuel tanks from EPA and state agency regulation.

13      We urge the Oklahoma Legislature to appropriate funds for a state solid waste disposal  
14 program administered by each county.

16      We support permits being issued for any dump or landfill only if located a reasonable  
17 distance from a public school or flood plain.

19      We strongly believe it is in the nation's best interest to have a partnership of federal and state  
20 governments vested with the authority to make and carry out regulations concerning the use of any  
21 agricultural pesticides and/or herbicides.

23      We support the Oklahoma beautification program for planting flowers, trees and shrubs and  
24 urge our members, local and county organizations to participate in the program.

26      We favor enforcing existing laws and penalties on littering and illegal dumping on the  
27 highway and county roads and private property.

29      We are in favor of continued environmental monitoring on industrial and municipal waste  
30 disposal sites.

32      We strongly encourage DEQ to regulate state waste transported into the state in the same  
33 way that intrastate waste is regulated.

35      We support a fee structure for imported waste that is at minimum equal to the exporting state.

37      We support Those wastewater treatment facilities located in Northwest Arkansas ~~shall~~  
38 ~~meeting~~ Oklahoma's phosphorous water quality standard established by the ~~Oklahoma Water~~  
39 ~~Resources Board~~(OWRB) for ~~s~~Scenic ~~r~~Rivers.

41      We support prohibiting any person, firm or corporation from polluting the land, ponds, lakes  
42 or streams and that those in violation restore the polluted area to original condition and be subject  
43 to punishment by appropriate fines.

45      We encourage additional research toward the development of solutions to dispose of human  
46 waste in the most environmentally sound and efficient way.

48      We support the implementation of currently available treatment options to reduce the volume  
49 of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) present in post-treatment waste products. We encourage  
50 methods that do not impose undo financial burden on residents of a municipality.

1        We support restoration of land to the original condition at the request of landowners  
2 following any oil, gas, mineral, aggregate or electricity production and/or transmission activity.  
3

4        We support funding for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to expand abandoned mine  
5 land reclamation activities to more types of mines and a broader geographic area of the state.  
6

7        We support matters of mineral litigation to be considered in the local court system rather  
8 than the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.  
9

10      ~~We propose that just compensation be given to those individuals whose homes have been  
11 damaged or made uninhabitable by commercial entities.~~  
12

13      We propose applicants for construction of future commercial waste disposal sites should  
14 notify every surface owner within one mile of the proposed disposal site and such permit  
15 application notice should be run three times in the newspaper located closest to such sites.  
16

17      When the location of an industrial waste disposal site is considered, the adverse financial  
18 impact on the surrounding property must be considered. We oppose waste disposal wells, including  
19 those for commercial salt water or toxic chemical disposal sites, being permitted on land which  
20 overlays a major source of fresh water.  
21

22      We favor a law that would make any person or company found guilty of dumping salt water  
23 on public and private lands subject to a minimum fine of \$2,500, with a right for citizens' damage  
24 suits, except in state roadbed construction when covered by asphalt or pavement.  
25

26      A family-owned and operated confined animal and/or poultry farm should be subjected to  
27 only those anti-pollution laws enforced by the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry  
28 (ODAFF). State law and ODAFF rules on confined animal and poultry operations should not be  
29 more restrictive than federal law, rules and regulations. We encourage reasonable, yet effective,  
30 standards for protection of underground and surface water from confined animal and poultry  
31 operations. We support ODAFF maintaining the delegated authority for the EPA National  
32 Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). We support state funding for this delegated  
33 authority.  
34

35      We favor protecting landowners who purchased their property after conducting an  
36 environmental audit which found no contamination from liability from contamination later  
37 discovered.  
38

39      ~~We encourage recycling programs and biodegradable packaging.~~  
40

41      ~~We support recycling efforts for plastic and aluminum in rural areas.~~  
42

43      We support adding agriculture tires to the state recycling program on a voluntary basis.  
44

45      We support cost-share programs that encourage transporting poultry litter away from  
46 nutrient-limited watersheds.  
47

48      We support transferring liability to the state for poultry operations in compliance with their  
49 approved environmental plans.  
50

1           We propose the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) be the lead agency in matters pertaining  
2 to wetlands.

5           **WATER**

7           We support the minimum flow of water should be allowed at all times from federal dams,  
8 with notice given to news media in the area affected when an excessive amount of water is to be  
9 released. The minimum flow should be based on the average flow of water in the streams before  
10 the dam was built.

12           We ask that Congress define “navigable water” to mean waters that can be reasonably  
13 navigated for the movement of goods, including agricultural products.

15           We oppose the deletion of the word “navigable” waters from the federal Clean Water Act  
16 (CWA).

18           We support government action be taken to increase access to water for agriculture and human  
19 use.

21           Currently a set gross production tax funding amount is dedicated to a water Rural Economic  
22 Assistance Program (REAP) and is divided equally between the Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
23 (OWRB), the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation  
24 Department for water related initiatives. We strongly support the continuation of this effort and  
25 lifting the cap on this fund and making it a permanent dedicated revenue source.

27           State water quality statutes affecting agricultural water use should be administered and  
28 enforced by the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF).

30           We support transparency and the application of the open meetings law with respect to  
31 negotiations by the Governor, his/her designee and/or OWRB with other states, tribes,  
32 municipalities, authorities and/or individuals for the sale or transfer of ownership of Oklahoma  
33 water from the originating basin of origin. Preferential consideration should be given to the local  
34 population where the water is held or flows before being transferred or sold to other areas.

36           We support the water rights of long-term water users being protected from having their water  
37 depleted or polluted.

39           We support developing and continuing local, regional comprehensive state water plans on a  
40 local, state and regional basis, and continuing regional representation on the ~~Oklahoma Water~~  
41 ~~Resources Board~~OWRB.

43           We support groundwater rights remaining with the surface rights unless otherwise specified  
44 and noted.

46           We support water metering for any irrigation or commercial wells pulling from critically  
47 depleting aquifers. We prefer this metering be managed on a regional basis.

49           To preserve our freshwater resources, we encourage research and development of filtration  
50 processes to utilize non-freshwater resources in energy exploration and development.

1        We urge drilling companies who are issued a drilling permit be held accountable to the  
2 government agency or agencies for properly casing and cementing the hole to safe levels to prevent  
3 any possibility of contamination of drinking water. If the drilling company is found in violation,  
4 the proper government agency shall be responsible for terminating their right to operate within ~~the~~  
5 ~~State of~~ Oklahoma or drilling wells in ~~the State of~~ Oklahoma.

6  
7        The people in the area of a reservoir should have first priority concerning the use of the water  
8 or revenue from that water.

9  
10      We believe that the regional watershed from which water may be utilized or transferred  
11 and/or sold should receive at least a reasonable portion of any economic benefit from the sale or  
12 transfer of water out of or within the borders of the watershed through a pre-established trust fund.

13      ~~“Excess water” should be clearly defined by the OWRB.~~

14      We support continued studies on underground aquifer water storage, recharge and recovery.

15  
16      We oppose the sale of Oklahoma water in reservoirs out of state without first meeting the  
17 needs of the state and local area and encourage federally recognized Indian tribes to do likewise.

18      ~~We believe any sale of water across the state boundaries should be voted on by the citizens  
19 within the counties in the watershed from which water will be taken.~~

20  
21      We support adequate time being allowed for public scrutiny on all compacts dealing with  
22 public interest, including, but not limited to, water issues.

23      ~~We believe any sale of water across the state boundaries should be voted on by the citizens  
24 within the counties in the watershed from which water will be taken.~~

25  
26      We encourage a fair and equitable assessment and not a flat fee assessment relative to annual  
27 renewals of water usage.

28      ~~We support only one permit being required to reach a necessary water volume on agriculture-  
29 use water wells. Only one permit fee should be assessed, regardless of how many wells are required  
30 to reach that necessary water volume. This fee should not apply to exempt wells.~~

31      We support agricultural use of water from Altus-Lugert Lake.

32  
33      If a comprehensive water plan passed by the Legislature includes monitoring of wells, we  
34 support public funding for the cost of such activity.

35      We support Congressional action mandating the implementation of conservation practices of  
36 municipal water consumption prior to draw-down from U.S. Army Corps of Engineer reservoirs.

37      We oppose any legislation that establishes a minimum instream flow that restricts  
38 landowners' agricultural and personal use.

39      All necessary action should be taken to:

- 1     1. Preserve the water rights of the individual citizen and prevent further usurpation of  
2     those rights,
- 3
- 4     2. To see that legislation is initiated and supported which recognizes the rights of  
5     individuals from which water has been taken, and
- 6
- 7     3. Reaffirm, renew and defend the concept that water rights are property rights, and these  
8     established rights to the use of water by an individual should not be taken away without  
9     due process of law and adequate compensation.

## 10    A. RURAL WATER

11    We support the Oklahoma Rural Water Association (ORWA) in their efforts to find balance  
12    with use of water in our state.

13    Construction ~~We support additional government funding be made available for the expansion~~  
14    of rural water and sewer systems. ~~should be expanded and more federal and state grant money~~  
15    ~~should be made available for the program, proportionate to that being used by cities and~~  
16    ~~municipalities. If loans are made to rural water systems,~~

17    Rural water systems should provide for future growth and the first years of repayment ~~schedule~~  
18    should be at a reduced rate.

19    We support programs to provide water for rural water districts, and municipal or industrial  
20    use in rural areas, provided the water rights of local landowners are protected.

21    We oppose any restriction or taxation on farmers and ranchers drilling their own domestic  
22    water wells.

23    We support the concept of “dry fire hydrants” in rural areas and the Insurance Services Office  
24    (ISO) to allow appropriate fire credits. We further support the periodic testing of dry fire hydrants  
25    that are permanently installed.

26    We support increased efforts to educate and recruit young people to certify and work in rural  
27    and municipal water utility districts. ~~Certification training could be included in plumbing classes~~  
28    ~~through CareerTech.~~

29    We support state grant funds for added fire protection through rural water districts.

30    We oppose any new rules from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that add to the  
31    list of contaminants and that decrease the acceptable levels of contaminants that municipalities and  
32    rural water districts must test for, unless backed by sound science.

33    We encourage county water districts and municipalities cooperation in servicing customers  
34    in annexed areas.

35    We support and encourage state, federal and tribal funding for improvements to the  
36    infrastructure of rural water systems across Oklahoma.

37    We support legislation to allow water associations and rural water districts to redeem loans  
38    before a sale to outside investors.

1  
2  
3       **FEED, SEED, FERTILIZER, FUEL**  
4

5       We support research on the use of crops for pharmaceutical and nutraceutical purposes.  
6

7       We support educating farmers and grain handlers on the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA).  
8

9       We support modification of the PVPA of 1994 with respect to royalty fees, taking in to  
10 consideration sound science, a reasonable period of time for specific commodities, and ~~on~~  
11 percentage of purity of seed.  
12

13       We support immunity from legal action for grain handlers from consequences of the PVPA  
14 when handling grain.  
15

16       We oppose small agricultural producers being included in the Environmental Protection  
17 Agency's (EPA) enforcement of the spill prevention containment and control system. Farming  
18 operations should be tiered based on volume storage size.  
19

20       Anhydrous ammonia should continue to be ~~exempt from classified as non-~~hazardous  
21 materials licensing- for the purpose of transporting nurse tanks on public roadways.  
22

23       We encourage privately owned anhydrous ammonia facilities and equipment to meet the  
24 same safety requirements and standards as that of licensed dealers. Furthermore, we encourage  
25 private owners to attend anhydrous ammonia safety training classes.  
26

27       We support funding for animal waste nutrients research.  
28

29       Notification should be visibly posted regarding the use of herbicides in fertilizer tanks and  
30 spreaders for businesses that utilize such tanks on multiple farms (i.e. farm cooperatives, spray  
31 businesses, etc.).  
32

33       We support continued anti-trust oversight regarding drastic increases in prices of agriculture  
34 fertilizer, chemicals and other agriculture inputs.  
35  
36  
37

38       **COMMODITIES**  
39

40       We support research and promotion programs financed by mandatorily paid and voluntarily  
41 refundable deductions from the proceeds of sales by producers of agricultural commodities with  
42 disbursement of funds controlled solely by boards of domestic producers elected by those domestic  
43 producers assessed. The producer boards also solely control the operations of the programs.  
44

45       We support producing biotech commodities for a continued efficient and abundant food and  
46 fiber supply as long as food safety is ensured, barriers are not created to interrupt trade between  
47 nations or that negatively affect export possibilities for any commodity.  
48

49       We support check-off programs for imported commodities being the same as domestic  
50 commodities.  
51

1        We support all weather disasters be treated equal with respect to indemnifying producers  
2 and citizens.

4        We support the retention of the basic agribusiness infrastructure critical to rural America  
5 which has been impacted by adverse weather conditions (i.e. grain elevators, livestock auctions  
6 and cotton gins).

7        In order to protect agriculture producers, we support the concept of indemnity funds and  
8 being actively engaged in making certain indemnity funds are sufficient and flexible to keep up  
9 with increasing market value.

11       We ~~believe support the~~ news media ~~should utilize using~~ scientific terminology when  
12 reporting issues relevant to the agriculture industry which has the potential to impact commodity  
13 market prices to agriculture producers. For example, instead of using “swine flu,” “H1N1” should  
14 be used, or “BSE” instead of “mad cow.”

16       ~~Be it resolved that~~We support all licensing entities for in-state and out-of-state custom  
17 harvesters, and for-hire transporters of agriculture commodities and products collaborat~~ing~~ing to  
18 establish a centralized permitting process.

20       We encourage congressional oversight of ownership of agricultural commodities in an effort  
21 to avoid monopolizing U.S. commodity markets.

24       We oppose any outside entities dictating agricultural practices in Oklahoma.

## 26       A. WHEAT

28       We encourage Congress to initiate legislation to control price-depressing sales of  
29 government-owned wheat and the flood of price-depressing wheat imports.

31       We support inspection and compensation for producers, custom harvesters and handlers to  
32 reduce losses caused by all diseases.

34       We oppose any ~~No~~ foreign materials ~~whatsoever should be~~ing allowed to be added into wheat  
35 or feed grains for export prior to or during the loading of ships for export.

37       ~~Since grain buyers levy a discount on grain below a certain quality standard, they should~~  
38 ~~also~~We support grain buyers ~~pay~~ing a premium for grain that is better than standard with both  
39 discounts and premiums posted.

41       We support a coordinated effort among wheat producing countries to develop a genetically  
42 enhanced variety with adequate research to ensure food safety and consumer acceptance.

44       We encourage the U.S. Wheat Associates to become more active in addressing domestic  
45 markets.

## 47       B. COTTON

49       We support ~~p~~rice support loans on cotton ~~should be~~ing based on a domestic profitability  
50 concept, rather than a foreign cotton exchange. As long as the present price support level is based  
51 on the A-Index, we ask that it be based on a six-month marketing period.

1        We support continuation of the boll weevil eradication program and maintaining boll weevil-  
2        free status.

3        We favor keeping ~~the~~ cotton gins under the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

4        We support relaxing the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's financial reporting  
5        requirements for cotton gins.

6        We support cotton gin trash research, including fuel pelleting and cattle feed.

7        **C. LIVESTOCK**

8        We support a modernized pre-determined arbitration process for resolving stray livestock  
9        complaints. We support strong financial penalties for owners of "repeat offender" trespassing  
10        livestock.

11        We support a review and possible update of the 1910 Oklahoma fencing law by the  
12        Oklahoma legislature.

13        We oppose the defining of animal manure, waste or nutrients as being considered hazardous  
14        and regulated under state law or federal "Superfund" law, the Comprehensive Environmental  
15        Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA).

16        We support reform and time reduction for record retention for all confined animal feeding  
17        operations (CAFOs).

18        We support clarification of the rules on the closure of lagoons of current operating facilities  
19        and for existing non-operating facilities.

20        We support incentive programs that encourage students to become educated in state meat  
21        inspection and/or meat processing and to work in rural areas upon completion of their training.

22        ~~We encourage nutrition education that promotes the inclusion of animal protein in a healthy  
23        diet.~~

24        We support continuing education requirements for CAFOs producers be on a basis of every  
25        third year.

26        We encourage the leadership of the various livestock species and general farm organizations  
27        to work together to create a USDA-~~z~~ approved established disaster plan to help protect the future  
28        of our farmers and ranchers.

29        We support funding of all disaster programs that compensate producers when drought, tariffs,  
30        imports or disease affect the reduction of price.

31        We support keeping livestock assistance programs in place and establishing a fund so the  
32        payment factor can be kept at 100~~%-percent~~ to ensure timely payments.

1        We recommend enrollment in the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary  
2        Medicine (OSU-CVM) ~~be expanded with an emphasis on large animal husbandry, with~~  
3        preference should be given to rural Oklahoma residents.

4  
5        We support an initiative to address the shortage of ~~state~~ large animal practice veterinarians  
6        in the state that focuses on financial assistance for vet school education. We additionally support  
7        a low interest loan or guaranteed loan for purchasing an existing practice or construction of a new  
8        large animal clinic in rural Oklahoma. In exchange for both considerations, the veterinarian will  
9        practice a specified number of years in a rural area.

10  
11       We oppose the requirement that veterinary drugs be sold by prescription only and FDA  
12       Guidance GFI 263 that restricts the use of commonly used livestock antibiotics that were  
13       previously available over-the-counter. We support full availability of veterinary drugs to  
14       agriculture producers in order to provide adequate animal health care.

15  
16       We support retaining the option of using antibiotics in medicines or feeds for animal health  
17       preventative measures or when treating livestock that are sick.

18  
19       We support livestock owners' personal property rights to treat their own animals and/or  
20       engage veterinarians or lay people to do the same.

21  
22       We support the responsible use of scientifically proven safe production practices in livestock  
23       and poultry.

24  
25       ~~We demand efforts be made to shift Oklahoma's government beef purchases to locally  
26       sourced product, to include specifically the state prison system and public schools.~~

27  
28       ~~We encourage efforts be made to change the EBT card system to allow installment payments  
29       toward the purchase of large quantities of beef (i.e. quarters, halves, wholes).~~

30  
31       We strongly support enforcement of antitrust laws currently on the books, and anti-trust laws  
32       must be strengthened and enforced to prevent the continued corporate dominance of agriculture  
33       markets, including but not limited to livestock feeding operations.

34  
35       We demand enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act, the Sherman Antitrust Act, and  
36       the Clayton Antitrust Acts, specifically in regard to the antitrust issues surrounding the packing  
37       segment of the beef industry in the United States.

38  
39       We support accurate and effective mandatory price reporting, reflective of actual prices of  
40       the major meat packers.

41  
42       We support programs to educate producers on animal identification methods in order to  
43       identify and assist in retrieving stolen livestock.

44  
45       We support and encourage a livestock owner's right to identify their livestock with hot iron  
46       branding, tattooing, tagging or other types of identification.

47  
48       ~~We support the concept of a premise identification program. Any future programs dealing  
49       with animal identification should be least burdensome to producers and maintain producer  
50       confidentiality.~~

1 We support a producer's voluntary application of technology, age verification and trace back  
2 methods ~~which can enhance producer profits~~. We support current non-electronic animal  
3 identification methods. We oppose any mandatory electronic animal identification requirements,  
4 whether mandated by state or federal authorities.

5  
6 We propose strengthening the cattle branding system by encouraging that the brand on  
7 branded livestock be reflected on the bill of sale in all sales transactions.

8  
9 ~~We support legislation to require a "PI" brand on all persistently infected cattle sold at~~  
10 ~~livestock markets.~~

11  
12 To deter livestock and rural theft, we support stronger penalties with forfeiture of assets  
13 going into a revolving fund within the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF)  
14 and support continued efforts by ODAFF to investigate livestock and rural thefts and the  
15 prosecution of offenders.

16  
17 We support an adequately funded beef check-off to continue the mission of market  
18 promotion, research, nutrition, product safety and education.

19  
20 We strongly oppose the federal government subsidizing the importation of foreign beef.

21  
22 ~~We oppose an automatic referendum on the Beef Check Off every five years.~~

23  
24 We support producer-led referendums on commodity check-off programs.

25  
26 We support pork and beef initiatives funded through check-off programs which educate  
27 youth and adults about these industries and products.

28  
29 We strongly oppose the re-introduction of predatory animals by any government agency.

30  
31 We strongly favor legislative or regulatory changes that will give the right to any owner to  
32 control any predatory animals when the owner and/or tenant, the owner's family or the owner's  
33 property is in danger.

34  
35 We demand that USDA reinstate its prohibition of ownership or control of custom feedlots  
36 by packers.

37  
38 We support packer slaughter of animals within 14 days of purchase for the transaction to be  
39 considered a "cash" sale.

40  
41 We support an increase in the amount of the negotiated cash trade percentage as it relates to  
42 the fed cattle market.

43  
44 We favor competition in the marketplace; therefore, be it resolved that the following be  
45 adopted and implemented through legislation:

46  
47 1. A ban on packer ownership more than 14 days prior to slaughter.  
48  
49 2. Establish provisions for transparency in the market relating to base and forward  
50 contracting, including a federal protection plan for whistleblowers and witnesses.

3. Clear delineation of spot markets and its functions.
4. Establish parameters for treble damages and recovery of attorney fees from consumers and producers.
5. Ensure grade transparency uniformity at state inspections.
6. Modernize, re-codify, and enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act to meet the standards and expectations of today's consumers and producers for their protection.
7. Establish and implement a country-of-origin labeling program.
8. Create a USDA "Office of Special Counsel for Competition" to aggressively investigate anti-competitive practices and market manipulation occurring in the agriculture sector and have the authority and subpoena power to collect concentration-related information.
9. Establish an effective cattle contract library to increase transparency in the alternative marketing agreement (AMA) marketplace and provide additional information on which to base future trade.

We support the appropriate harvesting of equine in USDA inspected facilities and oppose any legislation prohibiting transportation of equine for harvest.

We oppose a tax on methane gas released by livestock.

We oppose the use of federal tax dollars to sustain livestock not intended for human consumption (i.e. the federal Wild Horse & Burro Program). If the program continues, we encourage the sterilization of breeding-age animals in an effort to manage wild populations.

We encourage ODAFF to increase monitoring and testing for tuberculosis and PI in livestock and other species as required.

#### **D. DAIRY AND DAIRY PRODUCTS**

We support improving the level of income for dairy farmers to better meet their increased cost of production, in order to maintain a productive capacity to meet anticipated future needs.

We support a stabilized supply of milk and milk products, at levels which will adequately meet the needs of consumers.

We oppose labeling or advertising imitation products ~~should not be allowed to be labeled or advertised using with~~ dairy terms or names. We oppose redefining the products currently set up with the USDA.

We support continuing the ~~present pricing method should be continued~~ for fresh, reconstituted milk.

We support raising the minimum standards for fluid whole milk to 10 percent solids; non-fat and skim milk to 99 percent solids non-fat.

We oppose raising the import quota on dairy products.

1  
2        We encourage the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) to make efforts to return milk protein  
3 casein plants to foster domestic use in the United States.  
4

5        **E. PEANUTS**  
6

7        We support a more accurate price discovery in the marketplace for peanuts.  
8

9        We support an annual target price cost of production adjustment for peanuts.  
10

11        We believe storage and handling fees for peanuts in the government loan program should be  
12 paid by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA).  
13

14        **F. OTHERS**  
15

16        We urge and encourage all farmers to explore producing alternate cash crops where soil,  
17 water and climate permits, and urge research and extension services at land grant universities to  
18 supply valuable help in these areas.  
19

20        We support a ban on castor bean production in the State of Oklahoma.  
21

22        We oppose the growing, harvesting and processing of any crop which produces ricin, a toxic  
23 substance which can be lethal to humans and animals, can be market disrupting and considered a  
24 prime tool for use by terrorists to harm U.S. citizens.  
25

26        ~~We support the continued inclusion of all commercially grown crops in the federal insurance  
27 programs available through the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA).~~  
28

30        **FOOD PROCESSING**  
31

33        We support interstate or intrastate shipment of beverages and processed foods if the state  
34 inspections meet or exceed federal standards.  
35

36        We support increasing funding commensurate with the increased number of inspectors  
37 needed to adequately inspect intrastate, interstate and international food.  
38

39        We support Oklahoma State University's continued efforts to secure federal grants and  
40 encourage the Oklahoma Legislature to appropriate the necessary funding for operation of the  
41 Oklahoma State University (OSU) Food and Agricultural Products Research and Technology  
42 Center (FAPC).  
43

44        We oppose state and federal funding of any kind for organizations that promote the  
45 elimination of livestock and/or poultry as a source of edible protein.  
46

47        We strongly support food safety oversight for micro plastics in our food and water supplies.  
48

49

50

51

ANIMAL WELFARE

We support animal welfare, as opposed to animal rights.

We urge our members to continue to educate the public on the fact that animals do not possess the same “rights” as humans.

We oppose further laws or state questions, which would limit production agriculture by imposing restrictions on traditional methods of producing swine, poultry, equine and cattle.

We oppose any outside entities dictating how livestock are grown in Oklahoma.

We support scientifically sound methods of herdsmanship and the continued use of technological advancements in livestock production for American producers to efficiently supply protein to the world.

We encourage farmers and ranchers to practice good stewardship toward their animals.

# ~~FORECLOSED LAND AND WETLANDS~~

~~We oppose arrangements between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) which allow control of foreclosed lands in FSA inventory to be transferred without public hearings or impact studies.~~

~~We oppose acquisition of land for hiking trails and habitat for endangered species through the use of easements or other restrictions placed on deeds of foreclosed land.~~

~~We support legislative action requiring federal land be sold with no more restrictions on the deeds than existed at time of foreclosure. Mineral rights on such foreclosed lands should be left intact and transferred to the new owner.~~

~~We support development of a clear, common definition of wetlands to be used consistently by all state and federal agencies. The landowner must be notified prior to the classification or reclassification of his or her property. The owner of property taken as wetlands should be fairly and reasonably compensated for any loss of use. While we oppose the taking of ANY land by governmental agencies, no takings should occur without a sight inspection of the property and full opportunity for the owner to appeal agency decision.~~

~~We propose the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) be the lead agency in matters pertaining to wetlands.~~

## AG RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

We call for a minimum of one agricultural educator and one family and consumer science educator in each county for continuing adult education. We also encourage a strong 4-H club program in each county.

We support utilizing a ~~citizen~~ county, district and state citizen advisory system ~~as a means to~~ provide grassroots input to the leadership of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES) and ~~the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station (OAES) research service.~~

We support robust and consistent funding for Oklahoma State University, the OAES, and the OCES. We advocate for strengthening federal and state investment in key agriculture research facilities and programs, including but not limited to livestock grazing, erosion control, wheat pasture development, and soil health.

~~We support a concerted effort to obtain adequate funding for Oklahoma State University (OSU), the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station (OAES) and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES) in every county.~~

We support developing a national clearinghouse for compiling and making available an agriculture database, with all ~~agriculture~~ research being conducted by state land-grant universities.

~~We support the Grazing Lands Research Laboratory at Fort Reno and the Southern Plains Research Lab in Woodward. This research in livestock grazing and erosion control is vital to Southwest United States agriculture.~~

~~We support funding for the Expanded Wheat Pasture Research Unit at OSU.~~

We support **adequate** funding for Oklahoma Ag4Life/AgrAbility.

We encourage the Oklahoma Board of Higher Regents to fully allocate all funds appropriated by the Oklahoma Legislature to OSU and Cooperative Extension and Experiment Station.

~~We support expanded research on soil health practices by USDA NRCS, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Noble Research Institute and our various agricultural schools in Oklahoma.~~

~~We support continued funding for and re-establishment of USDA ARS facilities in the middle United States.~~

## COOPERATIVES AND ORGANIZATIONS

We support partnering with groups who embrace policies that are favorable to family agriculture and are considered pro-agriculture by the members we represent.

We support farm cooperatives and urge all farmers to support them to the fullest extent in their local communities.

We support continuation of the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922 that limits each member of a cooperative to one vote, regardless of the amount of stock or membership capital the members owns.

We reaffirm our support for rural electric cooperatives and urge Congress to provide ample insured and guaranteed loan funds to meet the needs of the rural electric cooperative system and its customers.

1           We strongly encourage the U.S. Congress to oppose electric deregulation.  
2  
3  
4           The U.S. Congress and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) are steadfastly  
5           moving toward restructuring the electric utility industry. We believe any restructuring of  
6           Oklahoma's electric industry should embrace the following criteria:

- 7           1. Make certain we have continued universal access to electric power.
- 8  
9           2. Make certain safeguards are in place to protect all Oklahomans from significantly  
10           increased rates and line costs from electric restructuring.
- 11  
12           3. All classes of customers should be treated fairly.
- 13  
14           4. Make certain rural Oklahomans gain the benefits of "competition," while prohibiting the  
15           discriminatory aspects of "competition" that left rural Oklahomans in the dark a few decades ago.
- 16  
17           5. Make sure revenues generated by the electric industry remain revenue neutral to all receiving  
18           entities as much as possible.
- 19  
20           6. Make certain the environment is protected and preserved.

21           We urge Congress, state legislators and ratemaking authorities to use their powers to  
22           protect the rights of rural cooperatives to generate their own power.

23           We urge Congress to continue to recognize the right of cooperatives to serve defense and  
24           other installations in their service areas.

25           We oppose any effort, congressional or administrative, to weaken or dispose of our rural  
26           electric cooperatives or government-owned power-generating facilities.

27           We support legislation to allow water associations and rural water districts to redeem loans  
28           before a sale to outside investors.

29           We continue our support for the Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

30           We support the concept of cooperative wind and solar energy projects that benefit member  
31           landowners. Such projects should remain as cooperative ventures once construction is completed  
32           without resale to other private entities.

33           We support a close review of the input cost of electricity, including the input costs for electric  
34           cooperatives, as compared to the end cost of the utility. This is both for everyday costs and in an  
35           effort to prepare for future catastrophic events.

36           We support rural utility cooperatives increasing access to high speed fiberoptic in an effort  
37           to improve internet connectivity for rural Oklahomans.

## CREDIT AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

We recognize and support the value of community banks and lending institutions to rural areas and realize that the broad-based economic stress of the nation has impacted these entities. We trust they will not be ignored for future assistance when they are negatively impacted.

~~We strongly oppose legislation which negatively impacts rural America banks and lending institutions.~~

We call upon Congress and/or state or federal regulatory agencies to investigate reverse mortgage lending practices and the impact the reverse mortgage industry has on consumers.

We oppose credit institutions implementing U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (USRSB) criteria, or any other sustainability or conservation program criteria, as a mandate to receive credit.

We support aAssistance to rural banks ~~can be provided~~ by allowing Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) tolerance/leniency in working with local bankers during times of farm crisis.

We oppose further relaxation of the branch banking laws.

We oppose the continuing increase of regulations on home mortgage lending and support relaxation of regulations relative to community lending for home mortgages.

We oppose further closure and/or consolidation of existing Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices, support adequate staffing commensurate with workload levels evaluated annually, and support updated technology for expediting delivery of programs.

We oppose recall of short-term FSA farm loans until termination date.

We support FSA ~~should be being~~ more adequately funded for emergency farm ownership and operating loans.

All FSA applications and credit for farming activities should be fairly and equitably considered and acted upon in a timely manner to maintain the integrity of the program.

We oppose the privatization of FSA loan programs.

We support continuation of the limited resource loan program through FSA and oppose loan time limits as the only disqualifying factor.

We support FSA ~~should~~ accomplishing its original mission with emphasis on agriculture loans and provide adequate funds for both guaranteed and direct loans return to the direct loan concept.

We support low interest rates and reduced collateral thresholds on agriculture loans from FSA and Farm Credit system, including but not limited to those for beginning, socially disadvantaged and military veteran farmers/ranchers.

We support FSA regulations, which would give delinquent FSA borrowers additional time to complete the loan servicing documents.

We support the amount of write downs on FSA loans to not be below current fair market value and to be determined by a minimum of three certified land appraisers using the comparative sales approach.

We strongly support jurisdiction of the Farm Credit System (FCS) remain under the authority of the U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

We support the FCS in providing long-term, low-interest-rate loans in a timely fashion to young people who want to start farming.

We support the continued cooperative ownership of the FCS and its status as a government-sponsored enterprise. We support maintaining the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) as the FCS's independent regulator and the agency's focus on FCS safety, soundness and mission fulfillment.

The Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer MAC) could be a new source of long-term, fixed-rate credit for family farmers if properly administered. We urge Congress to review the effects of Farmer MAC on the availability of credit to borrowers whose loans would not qualify to be pooled or who would choose not to have their loan pooled.

We urge continuance of the program authorizing matching grants to states with qualified mediation programs.

We favor continuing the Agricultural Link Deposit Program as administered by the Oklahoma State Treasurer. The program should be limited to family farmers, as defined herein, and on the ability to repay. The program should be expanded by providing additional funds for lending.

We encourage Oklahoma Bankers Association members to get involved with farm organizations on issues related to the farm bill.

HEALTHCARE

We support the continuation or development of any accredited Oklahoma teaching hospital and associated medical or osteopathic doctor training program which primarily returns physicians to rural Oklahoma.

We support providing a wide range of services to our veterans, including adequate health care in a timely manner, with close scrutiny and continued oversight of U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs by the federal government.

We believe that determining whether life-sustaining procedures should be withheld or withdrawn for illness, disease, injury or extreme mental deterioration (such that there is no reasonable expectation of recovering or regaining a meaningful quality of life) should be made by the attending physicians and immediate members of the family.

We encourage the use of an “advanced directive” by everyone.

~~We oppose the illegal use of human body parts.~~

We support veterans receiving healthcare at their local hospital if the care they need exists in that location.

We support health care reform that does not disproportionately burden small, family-owned farms and businesses with additional costs.

We support health care reform to cover all Americans with affordable and available basic health-care coverage.

We support affordable prescription drugs for senior citizens.

We encourage the federal government to simplify the information on and enrollment of Medicare Part D and provide more affordable coverage without gaps.

We oppose funding reductions to Medicare, but support a process for establishing a means test for program eligibility.

**We support the evaluation of current Medicare files for accuracy, eligibility and fraud.**

We support expanding qualifications to allow more people eligibility for the medical savings plan, including employees with no health plan benefits.

We encourage the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to continue their efforts to expand the education and training provided by regional hospitals to encompass the entire state and provide care at low cost to indigent patients as well as to train interns in rural areas.

We support providing equal pay for equal services claims reimbursement, whether in a city or rural health care facility.

We oppose changes in regulations which would impose unrealistic demands on rural hospitals, pharmacies and physicians, threatening survival of small hospitals and rural pharmacies, and discouraging physicians from establishing or maintaining rural practices.

We support incentive programs that encourage doctors and nurses to practice in rural areas upon completion of their training.

We support ~~t~~raining for emergency medical technicians ~~should~~ be fostered in regional areas utilizing local volunteer fire departments, hospitals, Oklahoma Career and Technology Education centers and other entities utilizing grant funds to accomplish the effort.

We support legislation to allow 100 percent federal and state income tax credits or tax deductions for those who self-finance their health insurance and are self-employed.

## SOCIAL SECURITY AND SENIORS

We support a strong Social Security system.

We oppose any negative net adjustments of the current Social Security system and support adequate continued federal funding of the Social Security program.

We support ~~t~~he spouse or family of a deceased person ~~should be able to~~ keep ~~ing~~ the month's social security check in the month the individual died.

We discourage any reduction in state payments for elder care either in nursing facilities or through hospice.

We believe only U.S. citizens should be eligible to receive Social Security benefits.

We urge Congress to raise the maximum earned income limit for retired individuals who have not yet reached “full retirement” age.

We oppose any cuts in Social Security benefits and furthermore urge an increase of the death benefit to the beneficiary.

We support the Older Americans Act. We commend the efforts of senior service programs that serve senior citizens in Oklahoma, and further, we urge funding these programs, including continuance and expansion into all counties in our state.

We support closer monitoring of benefits for Social Security Disability.

## TAXATION

We support Oklahoma land acquired by state or federal government, tribal entities, municipalities or non-profit organizations, including commercial real property and farm and ranch land owned by religious institutions, ~~should be~~being subject to ad valorem tax. Worship centers and parsonages should remain exempt.

We believe all fuel tax revenues should be directed to improving highways, roads and bridges.

We support all motor vehicle excise tax ~~should be~~ing earmarked for county roads, state highways and city streets, rather than going into the general revenue fund.

We recommend legislation allowing farmers to use funds from the sale of their family farm to create a retirement fund similar to a 401K or Keogh plan. Taxes would be paid on income as it is withdrawn, rather than on a lump sum as a capital gain tax.

We support maintaining the current capital gains tax at 15% or less.

~~We support harmonizing state laws on combine entry from one state to another.~~

We support harmonizing and reciprocating Oklahoma state law with other states' farm tax exemptions.

We oppose taxes being levied on stored grain.

1        We oppose the imposition of any additional and/or movement of the federal motor fuel tax  
2 to achieve budget deficit reduction.

3  
4        We support the collection of road use fuel taxes at the terminal point.

5  
6        We support cCapital gains (~~now taxable income~~) ~~must be~~ing eliminated for farmers and  
7 ranchers on “~~write down~~” portions of their loans ~~that are when they~~ restructure~~d~~ their loans  
8 through voluntary conveyances to stay in business.

9  
10      We support the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Chapter 12 bankruptcy reorganization for  
11 farmers; however, the IRC must be amended to create separate tax status for the Chapter 12 estate.

12  
13      We support state tax provisions favorable to producers forced to liquidate livestock and  
14 which will not conflict with federal tax provisions.

15  
16      We support the current federal tax provisions granted by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)  
17 for producers forced to liquidate livestock.

18  
19        ~~We support allowing a tax deduction for farmers for hay and grain donated to disaster areas.~~  
20 ~~This deduction should be extended to food commodities donated to hungry and needy people.~~

21  
22      We support tax incentives or tax credits for producers who purchase or have purchased  
23 equipment to convert from conventional till farming to no-till or minimum till for controlling soil  
24 erosion and water conservation.

25  
26        We support ~~providing tax credit incentives to retiring farmers who sell their agriculture~~  
27 ~~operations to a young farmer to further encourage new operators to enter production~~  
28 ~~agriculture.enacting federal and state tax incentives for landowners who sell or lease their land to~~  
29 ~~new or beginning farmers.~~

30  
31      We oppose the federal sales tax called “value added tax.”

32  
33        ~~Whenever land is purchased under the threat of eminent domain, We oppose~~ capital gains  
34 taxes ~~should not be required~~being levied .~~—whenever land is purchased through eminent domain.~~

35  
36      We oppose interest rates being imputed by the IRS to individuals who sell their property and  
37 provide financing at a rate lower than the rate being charged by financial institutions. The IRS  
38 should not be permitted to charge that individual the difference between the lower rate being  
39 charged and the going rate being charged by financial institutions.

40  
41        ~~We support a more strict definition of IRC Sec. 1031 land exchanges limiting non-taxable~~  
42 ~~events to the current use of both properties and the intended use for the next five years.~~

43  
44      We favor taxing the money earned in the United States by any citizen of another country.

45  
46      We favor increasing the state income tax exemption to match the federal amount.

47  
48      We support a constitutional amendment providing additional millage for county  
49 governments, subject to 60 percent approval by voters of individual counties.

50  
51      We oppose replacing state income tax with increased property taxes and/or taxes on services.

1        We oppose any change to state statute or the Oklahoma Constitution, which shifts the current  
2        sinking fund indebtedness of counties and schools from all property owners to only non-homestead  
3        landowners.

4        We oppose moving property tax provisions from the Oklahoma Constitution to state statute.

5        We support a catastrophic judgement relief fund administered by the state which could re-  
6        insure against potential judgements and diversify cost beyond those borne solely by property  
7        owners.

8        We ~~support no~~oppose further reduction to state tax rates, ~~as these reductions that put undue~~  
9        ~~strain on our rural public school systems and~~ increases the likelihood of additional ad valorem  
10      taxes.

11      For state revenue development, we support fair and equitable treatment of all resources.

12      We support taxing aggregate materials when they are removed from the county where they  
13      were mined. These tax dollars should go first to the county, then the state.

14      In the absence of total elimination of a federal estate tax, we recommend a federal estate tax  
15      exemption be set at \$12.06 million (2023) and indexed thereafter to inflation.

16      We support increasing the annual gift tax exemption level.

17      ~~We strongly encourage American Farmers & Ranchers Life to educate our membership~~  
18      ~~through estate planning seminars across the state.~~

19      We request that an additional person, with an agricultural background, be placed on any ad  
20      valorem task force. This person should be appointed by the County Assessors Association and  
21      confirmed by the Oklahoma Senate.

22      We support property taxes being based on agricultural use and fair market value.

23      We recommend use of current county soil conservation maps and surveys to tax agriculture  
24      land as to its use.

25      We support increased transparency and call for an accounting ~~to the people of Oklahoma by~~  
26      ~~the Oklahoma Tax Commission and/or State Auditor~~ of all ~~tax~~ revenue generated by liquor—by—  
27      the—drink, pari-mutuel betting, Indian compacts—and, lottery tickets, and any other taxation  
28      intended for the support of public education.

29      We ask the Oklahoma Legislature to continue the present practice of assessing agricultural  
30      land based on 75%~~percent~~ of rental income, 25%~~percent~~ of comparable sales, to arrive at a per  
31      point value.

32      We strongly support continuation of the sales tax exemption, tax credits and income tax  
33      deductions used in agriculture.

34      We do not support an increase in ad valorem taxes as a means to solve a state revenue  
35      shortfall.

We oppose all ad valorem tax increases that do not require a super-majority vote.

We support the Oklahoma Constitution of the State of Oklahoma should be ing adhered to in the use of ad valorem taxes, with oversight by the Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector Office.

We oppose any attempts by oil, gas, wind and solar power companies to exempt their production equipment from tax rolls.

We oppose the mandatory licensing of farm trailers for any purpose with the exception of commercial use.

We support ~~the~~ Oklahoma Tax Commission ~~should notify~~ notifying businesses ~~and to~~ clarify ~~with businesses concerning~~ farm items that are tax exempt.

We support putting all road user taxes in a trust fund for the construction and maintenance of roads. The road user funds now going to other uses should be replaced, dollar for dollar, from the general fund.

We support the return of investment tax credit on all American-made products.

Because the collection of taxes falls within the purview of the Oklahoma Tax Commission and the IRS, we believe a farmer's responsibility, with respect to assisting these state and federal agencies, should be limited to a single, annual reporting of wages paid to farm workers.

We oppose attempts to reduce the percentage of voters necessary to pass all bond issues from 60 percent to a majority vote.

We support special consideration be given to personnel involved in natural disaster response regarding income taxes.

We support equal taxation for all new and old, vertical and horizontal oil and gas wells and wind generation facilities in Oklahoma.

We support the Oklahoma Legislature attempting to more effectively collect sales tax on internet purchases.

We support a continuation of tax-exempt farm-use diesel.

## GOVERNMENT

The U.S. Congress should not pass any laws which apply to U.S. citizens for which they exempt themselves. All laws should apply equally to all, including the people who pass the laws.

Any local, county or state primary election where party filing is required shall allow all eligible voters to vote if only one party is represented. Alternatively, any local, county or state primary race where only one party is represented should be moved to the general election.

1        We support initiatives that encourage voters to turn out at local, county, state and federal  
2        elections.

4        We fully support the usage of “God” on government buildings, legal documents and legal  
5        tender and we oppose the removal of existing references.

7        We encourage all elected officials to vote the issues rather than voting strictly along party  
8        lines.

10       We ~~must have more support~~ meaningful, comprehensive campaign finance reform in ~~the~~  
11       ~~election of our~~ state and ~~national legislators~~federal elections, officials and president. We encourage  
12       further study of public campaign financing as a means of limiting the influence of large  
13       corporations, self-interest groups and the wealthiest individuals.

15       We believe that fees or taxes collected by government for a specific purpose should be used  
16       for that intended purpose.

18       ~~We support the education and enforcement of the military code for the proper care and use~~  
19       ~~of the flag of the United States. Any intentional defamation or destruction of the flag should be~~  
20       ~~considered a felony. We oppose protesters at all funerals.~~

22       We support government accepting the responsibility of commitments made to military  
23       veterans.

25       We support cities or towns of less than 25,000 population, and counties less than 60,000, be  
26       exempted from provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act. This act provides that prevailing wages be paid  
27       on any construction job where public money is involved.

29       We support ~~a the current agricultural exemption commonsense approach~~ to child labor  
30       regulations ~~and laws relative to agriculture.~~

32       We oppose the use of super PACs during the election process and find their intrusion to be  
33       detrimental.

35       We oppose any elected state or county position being changed to an appointed position.

## 38       A. IMMIGRATION

40       We demand a~~All~~ laws that apply to U.S. citizens~~shall~~ also apply to immigrants upon entry  
41       to the United States.

43       We favor immigration laws that continue to embody our creed of acceptance of immigrants,  
44       while not burdening our government's and citizens' social and other resources.

46       We support opportunities to immigrants to earn citizenship that are willing to make a positive  
47       social, economic and patriotic contribution as U.S. citizens.

49       We support a documented guest worker program for immigrant laborers that results in these  
50       individuals paying taxes, obeying local, state and federal laws and have the option of returning to  
51       their home country, with full access to the judicial system.

1  
2 We oppose illegal immigrant minors ~~children, while awaiting processing~~, being incarcerated  
3 with convicted ~~adult~~ felons while awaiting processing.  
4

5 We support immigration laws that provide a system of identification, classification and  
6 taxation.  
7

8 We support modernizing and simplifying the H-2A visa program. We support USDA  
9 employing staff to help farmers and ranchers navigate the application process.  
10

11 We support the development of new authorization documents that cannot be manipulated or  
12 duplicated and include biometric identifiers. Until such a system is developed, we oppose  
13 employers of guest workers to be responsible for the authenticity of guest worker documentation.  
14

15 We support penalties on non-citizens of the United States who take advantage of systems  
16 paid for by U.S. taxpayers, including but not limited to repayment of defaulted public student  
17 loans.  
18  
19

20 **B. POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES (PACs)**  
21

22 ~~We support an opportunity to be implemented through the AFR billing process for~~  
23 ~~members/policyholders to be able to make a voluntary contribution to the AFR/OFU Political~~  
24 ~~Action Committee (PAC) to support candidates that support our policies and issues.~~  
25

26 ~~We oppose the use of super PACs during the election process and find their intrusion to be~~  
27 ~~detrimental.~~  
28

29 **C. FEDERAL**  
30

31 We support the enforcement of the Constitution of the United States.  
32

33 We strongly urge Congress to properly fund U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USDA-NRCS  
34 and Bureau of Reclamation lakes and reservoirs.  
35

36 We support the continued partnership and collaboration between USDA-NRCS and USDA-  
37 FSA, but oppose the consolidation of their programs.  
38

39 We encourage support Congress' ~~to~~ work toward reducing the federal deficit, debt in hopes  
40 ~~of eventually being able to balance the federal budget.~~  
41

42 We support a discussion of term limits for federal representatives and senators.  
43

44 We oppose any efforts to convert U.S. land descriptions to the metric system.  
45

46 The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and other government agencies should be held liable to  
47 pay attorney fees of both parties when the government loses the case.  
48

49 ~~We oppose approval of any additional federal holidays.~~  
50

1        We favor legislation to require disclosure of foreign ownership and control of American real  
2        estate and business firms.  
3

4        We support federal policies and programs which encourage U.S. investors to invest in  
5        America. We oppose programs such as those administered by the U.S. Agency for International  
6        Development (USAID), which provides monetary incentives for U.S.-based businesses to relocate  
7        in foreign countries.  
8

9        We oppose the placing of U.S. troops under the command of the United Nations  
10      commanders.  
11

12      We encourage reimbursement by any foreign country to the United States for assistance  
13      given. Restitution could be monetary or in-kind product equivalency payments.  
14

15      We oppose the efforts of the state and federal government to take over any part or branch of  
16      county government.  
17

18      We ~~believe it should be illegal for~~oppose non-citizens, foreign companies and/or foreign  
19      countriesto provide money for candidates for offices in the United States.  
20

21      We oppose granting congressional representation to the District of Columbia.  
22

23      We support amending the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act so that reasonable tolerances  
24      can be established for food production; and that absolute proof must be established that food and  
25      additives will not adversely affect animal and human health by its use.  
26

27      We oppose the political appointments of “czars” in the White House which often have more  
28      political power than secretarial appointments which require more congressional scrutiny and  
29      confirmation. We believe such appointments should be sharply curtailed and require additional  
30      oversight by Congress.  
31

32      We support legislation that Congress cannot receive a salary raise to take effect during their  
33      current term of office or change their retirement status to take effect during their current term of  
34      office.  
35

36      We support retaining the present U.S. Electoral College method of electing the U.S. President  
37      and Vice-President.  
38

39      We support a re-assessment of all retirement programs for county, state and federal  
40      employees and elected officials to assure that they are fair to both the employee and the taxpayer.  
41

42      We recommend that government agencies’ rules and regulations be more accountable and  
43      balanced to the best interests of the people and reviewed regularlyto alleviate the negative  
44      effects on small businesses.  
45

46      We support continuation of the Oklahoma Agricultural Mediation Program (OAMP) and  
47      guaranteed timely funding from USDA for the continuation and expansion of services to provide  
48      stress relief counseling for producers impacted by weather and economic disasters.  
49

50      ~~We support practicing permanent Daylight Savings Time.~~  
51

1 Since America's agricultural infrastructure is a critical part of our national security, we  
2 support the secretary of Agriculture serving as a permanent member of the Committee on Foreign  
3 Investment in the United States (CFIUS), where their expertise could be used to screen transactions  
4 and educate fellow members of the committee.

5  
6 **D. STATE**  
7

8 We support four-year terms for state representatives ~~should be elected for terms of four~~  
9 ~~years.~~

10 We oppose any move that would encourage consolidation of power, more specifically into  
11 the office of the Governor.

12 We direct effort be made to help provide rural issues education, preferably including  
13 attendance of on-farm field days, for elected state legislators and executive-level state agency  
14 personnel.

15 We oppose the removal or transfer of inspection on any agriculture practices from the  
16 Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) to any other state agency.

17 We support adequate funding for ODAFF, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the  
18 Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station to meet staffing  
19 requirements of day-to-day needs and to utilize these personnel to address catastrophic  
20 occurrences. We oppose disproportionate cuts which would adversely impact all natural resource  
21 agencies.

22 We oppose the Oklahoma Attorney General's circumvention of the proper regulatory  
23 agencies relating to the investigation and litigation of potential environmental compliance.

24 Prior to filing any lawsuit, the Oklahoma Attorney General shall have the simple majority  
25 approval of both the Oklahoma House and Senate.

26 We support the Oklahoma Ethics Commission's efforts to affect standards of behavior which  
27 will result in more public confidence. However, to encourage public service on boards and  
28 commissions, we recommend that reporting requirements be not overly intrusive.

29 We support the removal of the straight party voting option on election ballots in the state of  
30 Oklahoma.

31 We oppose land use planning and zoning by counties in recognition of the need to preserve  
32 agriculture land.

33 We encourage ODAFF to serve as an intermediary for producers with export opportunities.

34 We oppose ~~T~~the Oklahoma Legislature ~~should be prohibited from~~ diverting funds from  
35 various state retirement systems to fund state government.~~;~~ The Legislature should honor  
36 existing obligations.

37 We support efficiencies in all state agencies. We object to the state legislature removing  
38 money from state agency revolving funds to balance the budget; particularly, from non-

1 appropriated state agencies whose funds are received from entities they regulate, not state tax  
2 revenue.

4 We oppose a state constitutional convention. Any amendments for the state constitution  
5 should be submitted to a vote of the people in the form of a single-issue state question.

7 ~~With respect to ballot initiatives, we support a constitutional amendment which would~~  
8 ~~provide fairness to both rural and urban constituencies and require all initiative petition signature~~  
9 ~~drives achieve the requisite percent as prescribed in the constitution in each of the congressional~~  
10 ~~districts as opposed to statewide to be deemed as having sufficient signatures to be placed on the~~  
11 ~~ballot for voter consideration.~~

12 We ~~will work to prevent and repeal~~oppose excessive rules, regulations and legislation which  
13 levy rigid requirements in the name of “the public interest,” ~~but that instead, penalize citizens or~~  
14 ~~deny them needed services by such excessive regulations.~~

17 We support the enforcement of state laws concerning the displaying and removal of  
18 campaign signs.

20 We support increasing the threshold for small claims court to \$25,000.

22 ~~We oppose the establishment of business courts as a new branch of our judicial system.~~

## 24 E. COUNTY

26 We support ~~c~~County governments ~~should~~ be given a greater role in initiating environmental  
27 safeguards and in developing economic opportunities within their counties.

29 We ~~oppose s~~State and federal funds allocated to support county and municipal governments  
30 ~~should not be~~ing diverted to other governmental entities or programs.

32 We support the elimination of partisan designations for county elected officials.

34 We support state funding for ~~When the Oklahoma Legislature mandates~~ additional services  
35 or expenditures by the counties, ~~the state must provide funding when mandated by the Oklahoma~~  
36 Legislature.

38 We oppose the re-evaluation of agricultural land for taxation purposes based on recent sales  
39 for non-agricultural purposes (i.e. hunting and recreation).

41 We ~~oppose p~~Property valuation ~~should not be~~ing automatically raised the maximum 5%  
42 without due consideration of the specific property and justification provided to landowners before  
43 reevaluation.

45 We support the present form of county government, with the current structure of eight elected  
46 officials per county.

48 We ~~oppose any elected state or county position being changed to an appointed position.~~

50 We support legislation requiring proposed salaries for county officers be publicized before  
51 being finalized.

1           We favor intra-county district cooperative ownership and use of county road equipment.  
2  
3

4           **F. TRIBAL**  
5

6           While we acknowledge tribal sovereignty, we encourage tribes and state and local  
7           government entities to cooperate on economic development and agriculture issues.  
8

9           We support intergovernmental collaboration between local, state, federal and tribal  
10          agencies to establish practical air and water quality standards.  
11

12          We support the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses by tribal governments from the  
13          Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to issue to tribal members.  
14

15          We support tribal governments investing in agricultural enterprises as a sustainable  
16          economic endeavor.  
17

18          We encourage tribal nations to contribute to utilities, infrastructure, government funds, ad  
19          valorem taxation, etc., at the percentage of tribal members per capita, to match the contributions  
20          of a non-tribal citizen.  
21

22          We support the sharing of information between tribal governments and Oklahoma Turnpike  
23          Authority (OTA). All plate holders should be required to pay tolls.  
24  
25

26           **COMMISSIONS**  
27

28           **A. COMMODITIES COMMISSION**  
29

30          We support the commodity commissions, provided that the funds collected by force of law  
31          are used for research, promotion, education and policy development, and that their use for political  
32          purposes be strictly prohibited.  
33

34          We oppose state government taking commodity check-off funds to balance budgets.  
35

36          We support check-off programs on all commodities and periodic reporting to those paying  
37          for the check-off. We support mandatorily paid and voluntarily refundable check-off programs.  
38

39          We require full transparency in any check-off program in regard to how funds are spent. We  
40          recommend annual audits of these programs with no redactions allowed.  
41

42          We support the collection of royalty fees on the sale of products developed by commodity  
43          check-off research dollars.  
44

45          We support the right of referendum by securing signatures of 10 percent of qualified  
46          producers of a commodity.  
47

48          All referenda should be conducted by mail or electronic media to ensure maximum  
49          participation by producers. Only eligible producers of a commodity shall have a vote on who is  
50          chosen for the promotion board that oversees collection and spending of funds. The eligible  
51          producer who receives the greatest number of producer votes must be seated.  
52

1  
2     We support the right of referendum for a district to recall the appointment of the  
3 commissioner from that district.

4  
5     We urge the commissions to direct greater effort toward removing restrictions ~~or obstructions~~  
6 that unduly ~~fobstruct~~ the flow of agriculture commodities into domestic and foreign markets (such  
7 as embargoes, sanctions, strikes, grading standards, unreasonable inspection rules, and banning  
8 farm chemicals without sufficient cause and inequitable quality standards on imports).

9  
10    We oppose the consolidation of commodity commissions and/or any commission being  
11 placed under the control of any state agency.

12  
13    We support the ability of commodity commissions to develop a trust in which to deposit and  
14 utilize commission funds.

15  
16    We support exempting all agricultural commodity commissions from the Office of  
17 Management and Enterprise Services state purchasing system.

19  
20    We favor at least 20 percent of commodity commissions' gross income being used for  
21 research in Oklahoma.

22    **B. SCHOOL LAND COMMISSION**

24    We support ~~l~~Leaseholders of school lands ~~should~~ be notified of a sale or re-lease.

26    We oppose the bifurcating of CLO land between hunting and agricultural leases. If the idea  
27 persists, any discussions regarding bifurcating should be pursued with extreme caution and  
28 significant consideration, to include extensive mediation discussions with the state's agricultural  
29 industry.

31    We support the sale of school land if no more than 5 percent of the school lands in any county  
32 are sold within a 12-month period and if all sales of school land are deposited within the trust fund,  
33 invested and not made available for use by the Oklahoma Legislature for appropriation purposes.  
34 All dividends should be returned to be used for the school children of Oklahoma. In the event more  
35 than 5% is sold, we direct the state to protect the funds held and to reserve them to be used for the  
36 Oklahoma public school system.

38    We support the adjusted division of rent procured from school land leases to offset the ad  
39 valorem tax revenue lost by the local school district because such land is not on the tax rolls.  
40 Lessees, who have made improvements on state school lands, should be reimbursed the fair market  
41 value for those improvements. Adjoining landowners also should be reimbursed for the portion  
42 that he or she paid for when the improvement was made, such as for building a fence.

44    **C. WILDLIFE COMMISSION**

46    We support hunter safety education courses ~~taking~~ place in a classroom setting with  
47 instruction by a qualified instructor.

49    We believe licenses or conservation passports be required for activities not related to  
50 hunting/fishing on Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) land.

1        We support legislation to require at least four farmers or ranchers, by occupation, to be  
2 members of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission.

3  
4        We oppose the listing of species as an endangered or threatened species without  
5 consideration to private property rights and without a study of the economic impact to the citizens  
6 of the state of Oklahoma. We additionally oppose the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service critical habitat  
7 rules for threatened species.

8  
9        We oppose acquisition of land for hiking trails and habitat for endangered species through  
10 the use of easements or other restrictions placed on deeds of foreclosed land.

11  
12        We support voluntary pro-active cooperative efforts by the private sector landowner to  
13 restore potential threatened species by working with groups like the ODWC rather than a federal  
14 regulatory approach which could be counterproductive.

15  
16        We oppose the ODWC purchasing more land in the State of Oklahoma. We support the  
17 ODWC in leasing private land for use as a wildlife public access area.

18        We oppose non-native wildlife species introduction in Oklahoma.

19  
20        We encourage game rangers to conduct their duties in a professional and courteous manner  
21 and to respect the landowner and their property rights.

22  
23        Hunting licenses for the State of Oklahoma should have the following requirement printed  
24 on the back of the form: "This license can be canceled if the holder violates the present law of  
25 hunting or fishing on private property without permission from the owner, landlord or operator. It  
26 is hereby understood that the owner of the property is not responsible for any accident or injury  
27 sustained by persons entering land with or without permission."

28  
29        We recommend that an unlimited number of deer, either sex, be taken in overpopulated areas  
30 via depredation permits. We further recommend better education to encourage the use of  
31 depredation tags in areas of overpopulation.

32  
33        We support the increase in cost of non-resident hunting tags and licenses to align with typical  
34 fees of adjoining states.

35  
36        We support control of wildlife species including geese, ducks, cattle egrets, feral hogs, and  
37 elk in order to protect farmers' crops, livestock and fences in all Oklahoma counties.

38  
39        We support the enforcement of legislation prohibiting the deliberate release of swine to  
40 become feral hogs.

41  
42        We encourage the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) to test and  
43 track deer and elk harvested for chronic wasting disease.

44  
45        We oppose the legalization of the use of dogs in the process of hunting deer.

## INVASIVE SPECIES AND DISEASE CONTROL

We urge the state of Now that Oklahoma haste declared feral hogs an invasive species, We further urge the state of Oklahoma to continue -research, implementation and funding for a feral hog eradication program.

We urge the state and federal government to take more aggressive steps to control feral hogs, including the enforcement and maintenance of feral hog free zones. We oppose the closure of open season on hogs in wildlife management areas (WMAs).

We support funding aggressive actions to prevent human, animal and plant diseases from entering the United States. We support effective strategies for dealing with diseases, should these enter the United States.

We urge immediate action to adequately fund a program to eradicate noxious plants including, but not limited to, all species of mesquite, thistle and cedars from Oklahoma. Such a program should include, but not be limited to, spraying of rights-of-way by federal, state and county agencies where needed.

We support the funding of eradication of Eastern Red Cedar on state highway and county road rights-of-way.

As a general farm organization representing producers with a variety of commodities, we recognize the diversity of views regarding application of certain chemicals. Therefore, we support continued education and responsible use regarding the use of all herbicides and pesticides.

We encourage record-keeping and on-label usage of all crop enhancement products (chemical applications) as a best management practice.

We support increased education on the proper use of dicamba and the continued review of regulations by ODAFF.

We support education efforts by the Oklahoma Cotton Council and Cooperative Extension Service on the proper use of dicamba.

We encourage cooperation among agriculture stakeholders to provide education and training for best management practices for pesticide storage, handling and application.

We encourage和支持 the Oklahoma Mesonet and/or the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture,

Food & Forestry (ODAFF) be provided with continued funding to provide create and make available to producers adequate climatic information for the application of herbicides, insecticides and burning.

We encourage landowners to use approved burn plans when doing prescribed burns. We further encourage landowners to work with ODAFF through their prescribed fire program.

We support legislation that limits the liability of individuals who have been educated and follow appropriate protocols when conducting a burn.

We support the state, federal and tribal governments working with landowners to utilize prescribed burning to reduce the threat of wildfire.

We support prescribed burning liability relief legislation to protect individuals that have been educated and follow the appropriate protocols when conducting a burn.

We support the state and federal government working with landowners to utilize prescribed burning to reduce the threat of wildfire.

Before an agricultural chemical can be removed from the market, we support factual evidence being must be obtained by the agency with jurisdiction that its use will adversely affect human and animal health or that it is hazardous to the environment and the economic impact be considered when no alternative exists.

We favor enforcement of the law requiring all harvesting equipment be thoroughly cleaned prior to interstate travel.

We support the continued use of phostoxin as pest control in grain storage facilities, until a suitable and affordable replacement is provided.

We urge continued support of the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine (OSU-CVM).

Now that Oklahoma is a Brucellosis-free state, efforts must continue to ensure that we remain Brucellosis-free. We encourage the state to encourage producers to continue to vaccinate and to cover the cost of that vaccination.

We support a joint effort between OSU and ODAFF in requesting additional state and federal funds for the control and eradication of ticks, fire ants, killer bees and parasitic mites in domestic bees in Oklahoma.

We encourage the continuation of efforts to monitor and mitigate the spread of new world screwworm (NWS). We further encourage the development of additional sterile fly facilities and continued support of existing facilities in the U.S., Mexico, and neighboring countries.

We support the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) area-wide research efforts in Oklahoma and across the nation to control imported fire ants, using a combination of treatment methods, including natural predators.

~~We urge the Oklahoma Legislature to continue to appropriate monies to provide for the control and/or eradication of crows, blackbirds, skunks, prairie dogs, beavers, coyotes, raccoons, feral hogs and other predatory animals in areas where they have become destructive or a menace to crops and livestock.~~

We urge the state and federal government to take more aggressive steps to control feral hogs, including the enforcement and maintenance of feral hog free zones. We oppose the closure of open season on hogs in wildlife management areas (WMAs).

We support the right of a landowner to use whatever means reasonable to protect any agricultural crop or species of livestock, and/or processed feed, seed or other materials used in the production of an agricultural commodity from depredation, damage or destruction by any nuisance animal species.

We urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to continue to support predator control and limit any restrictive rule that affects the ability of the field men to do their work in predator control.

We support ~~farmers and ranchers should be allowedability~~ to control predators or varmints on their land by the most effective, safe and economical means.

We recommend that any wildlife, or other exotic birds and animals transported to, within, or through the State of Oklahoma, be certified by ODAFF to be free of infectious, contagious and communicable diseases and/or parasites.

~~We support prescribed burning liability relief legislation to protect individuals that have been educated and follow the appropriate protocols when conducting a burn.~~

~~We support the state and federal government working with landowners to utilize prescribed burning to reduce the threat of wildfire.~~

We support designation of the black vulture as a nuisance species and measures be taken to eliminate this threat to American livestock. We urge Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers to report the use of their five depredation allotments.

We support the funding of eradication of Eastern Red Cedar on state highway and county road rights of way.

## TRANSPORTATION

We support the continued funding of the federal highway fund and oppose such funding being redirected to non-roads and non-bridges projects.

We recognize the current school bus driver shortage and hope that it can be addressed with funding without sacrificing the safety of our students.

We support traffic violations that occur in relation to or near implements of husbandry  
~~should~~ be based on a separate and higher fine schedule.

We support additional funding and staffing for driver's license testing facilities.

We support safe, well-maintained roads and bridges in rural Oklahoma. County roads and bridges should maintain a high funding priority by the Oklahoma Legislature. We support an increase in the cap on apportionment to the County Improvement for Road and Bridges (CIRB) fund.

We recommend a standard minimum height of at least 17 feet for new bridges and overpasses across existing highways in the state of Oklahoma.

We oppose the use of state funds and federal gas tax monies in promoting and assisting in the construction or maintenance of toll roads.

We support The Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) should pay ing for the repairing of county roads used for detours when building or repairing state highways.

1 Access roads around lakes that have been built by the state should be maintained by the state  
2 and not by the counties.  
3

4 We support new bridges being built on the original right-of-way and not off-set.  
5

6 We support ODOT being responsible for maintaining their fences along limited access  
7 highways.  
8

9 We encourage ODOT to work with property owners to find common-sense solutions when  
10 disputes arise over highway signage regulations.  
11

12 We favor a law requiring all road intersections and rights-of-way be cleared of weeds and  
13 brush to prevent accidents. We support the baling of rights-of-way with preference to adjacent  
14 operators.  
15

16 ~~We support the Oklahoma Legislature and Governor should do everything possible to~~  
17 maintain~~ing~~ railroad services and all existing transportation facilities in all of Oklahoma.  
18

19 We support legislation that would provide for adequate rail competition and oppose rate  
20 increases by railroads for agricultural products.  
21

22 We support full-contract rate disclosure for freight, including all pertinent contract  
23 provisions.  
24

25 We support the state assisting in railroad right-of-way purchases and maintenance for rail  
26 services and the enhancement, expansion and continuation of short lines for the continued viability  
27 of the state economy.  
28

29 We oppose state or federal regulation regarding the transportation of hazardous materials by  
30 farmers who do so in the course of their own farming operation.  
31

32 We support an agriculture exemption from federal and state regulations regarding displaying  
33 of Dept. of Transportation (DOT) numbers.  
34

35 We support the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) in their efforts to educate farmers and  
36 ranchers on current Federal Commercial Motor Carrier Safety Administration requirements.  
37

38 We support variances for natural disasters in “hours of service” regulations for drivers with  
39 CDLs with respect to restoring emergency services.  
40

41 We support maintaining hours-of-service exemptions for livestock transportation.  
42

43 ~~In order to continue receiving federal transportation funds, We support~~ permits for hauling  
44 loads of hay ~~should be~~ cost-free and easily obtainable, since the federal government requires the  
45 State of Oklahoma to issue such permits for use on federal roads.  
46

47 We oppose federal requirements to install lighting on farm equipment that was not originally  
48 equipped with such devices.  
49

50 ~~We encourage the voluntary effort of producers to put reflective tape and slow moving~~  
51

## ~~vehicles symbols on farm tractors and equipment.~~

We support reasonable reform of federal and state transportation laws regarding increasing weights and measures when transporting farm commodities and equipment.

We support counties receiving a portion of the revenue derived from fines levied at ODOT weigh stations located within that county.

We support the current CDL ag exemption (49 CFR Part 383.3).

We support continued improvements to the driver licensing system to encourage shorter delays and greater efficiency for CDL license renewals.

## SAFETY

We encourage additional funding allocations for volunteer fire departments to build adequate local firefighting capacity for training, recruitment and retention of volunteers. We oppose insurance companies/agents being the source point of collections for fire department dues.

We support county officials' authority to declare a burn ban during times of high fire risks and support the enforcement thereof.

We support public funding and installation of dry fire hydrants.

We support education and training efforts related to farm operations, grain storage, farm machinery and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety.

We support a statewide coordinated communications network system and an enhanced 9-1-1 system which would improve the efficiency of ambulance and emergency medical services in rural areas.

~~We urge the state not to over regulate rural fire departments.~~

We support special protection and precaution for firemen and first responders fighting fires at medical marijuana facilities.

## CRIME

We support victims' rights be strongly protected by law at the local, state or federal level.

We support the efforts of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN), both in the control of illegal drug transportation and use and the prevention of human trafficking. We support adequate funding for OBN and similar organizations.

We support adequate state funding of the criminal justice and incarceration system.

We favor expediting the appeal process of convicted criminals.

1  
2 We recommend severe penalties and strict enforcement of laws governing all drivers,  
3 including juveniles under the influence of alcohol and drugs. We also recommend mandatory  
4 incarceration of transporters of illegal drugs, pending trial.

5  
6 We support changes in the juvenile justice system to provide adequate juvenile detention  
7 facilities with adequate counseling and rehabilitation programs.

8  
9 We support peaceful communities and the right to peacefully assemble. Those that breach  
10 legal standards should be appropriately punished.

11  
12 We call for greater emphasis on controlling abuse of alcohol and illegal drugs.

13  
14 We support sSchool officials and law enforcement officers in schools ~~must~~ be given adequate  
15 latitude to address disciplinary problems in schools.

16  
17 We encourage random drug testing of anyone responsible for the safety of others and support  
18 the crack-down on any abusive use of drugs, illegal or prescription.

19  
20 We encourage adequate funds be appropriated for the treatment and~~or~~ incarceration of  
21 illegal drug users.

22  
23 We support the county's option to regulate the sale of liquor.

24  
25 We continue to support the Amber ~~and~~, Silver and Blue Alert system, as well as Endangered  
26 Missing Advisories.

27  
28 We support the establishment of a rural crime unit. We prefer that such a unit be under the  
29 jurisdiction of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) in cooperation with the  
30 Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) where applicable.

31  
32 We oppose attempts to consolidate civilian surveillance and intelligence, such as the OSBI  
33 and the FBI, under military control.

34  
35 We support the action of local, state and federal departments and agencies to combat  
36 terrorism, including any agrarian-related terrorism attack.

37  
38 Due to the threat posed by terrorists to the security and welfare of the United States, we  
39 support the actions taken through the Dept. of Homeland Security to require foreign students in  
40 the U.S. on student visas to show proof of enrollment and academic participation.

41  
42 We support increasing penalties for acts of agricultural terrorism.

43  
44 ~~We urge support for local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.~~

45  
46 We support additional efforts to protect our federal borders from the growing and/or import  
47 of illegal drugs and potential terrorist activity.

48  
49 We support the use of trained dogs for drug detection.

1        We recommend that support current laws be ~~rewritten and~~ strengthened concerning ~~child~~  
2 abuse, human trafficking, and sexual crimes ~~against children so that children will be better~~  
3 ~~protected~~.

4        We favor providing law enforcement agencies with the resources needed to apprehend,  
5 prosecute and monitor sex offenders. We continue to support the use of Megan's Law.

6        Parents and minors should be held legally and financially responsible for all costs and  
7 damages incurred by a minor's criminal activities.

8        ~~We support the funding of truancy officers in an effort to increase school attendance.~~

9        We urge our members to join and/or organize their communities into neighborhood watch-  
10 type programs and cooperate with local law enforcement agencies for identification of all personal  
11 property.

12        After an accident involving property damage to fences, buildings or equipment, we support  
13 ~~the~~ investigating law enforcement officer(s) ~~should~~ be required to notify landowners or tenants of  
14 such damage immediately after it occurs.

15        We support ~~t~~The DOC ~~should~~ paying the county jails of Oklahoma at a rate commensurate  
16 with state incarceration costs for state offenders after judicial sentences are imposed.

17        We recommend uniform and prompt sentencing for the same type of offenses and mandatory  
18 minimum sentences be provided by law for repeat offenders.

19        We support ~~h~~Hardened criminals ~~should~~ be segregated from first-time offenders and efforts  
20 should be made to rehabilitate first-time offenders.

21        We support legislation that would limit early release of prison inmates to those convicted of  
22 non-violent crimes only.

23        We favor work programs whereby inmate labor would be used to maintain and improve  
24 public facilities, such as roads, bridges, parks, buildings and other such public property.

25        We support ~~m~~More consideration ~~should~~ be given to restitution, rather than confinement,  
26 when the risk to the public is minimal.

27        We encourage use of electronic monitoring, rather than incarceration, for non-violent  
28 offenders.

29        We support ~~m~~More emphasis ~~should~~ be placed on the supervision of parolees.

30        We support ~~A~~ publicly funded jail incarceration facilities that meeting standards when built  
31 ~~should~~ not be ing in violation when new regulations or standards are issued, unless the total cost of  
32 updating is provided by the state or federal government.

33        To help alleviate the ever-increasing tax burden on rural residents, we support a concept of  
34 regional, centrally-located jails, funded by the state, to serve multiple cities, towns and counties,  
35 but only when these entities and the voters wish to participate jointly.

We support adequate funding for multiple-county rural crime task forces.

We support action to prevent or minimize frivolous lawsuits.

We oppose the unreasonable limitation of gun ownership and Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.

We support protecting oneself and family with necessary force, particularly when a perpetrator intrudes upon your property.

We favor a rehabilitation center for minor juvenile offenders and an alternative school environment for repeat offenders ~~who constantly disrupt the classroom and cause problems~~.

We support coordination of local, state and federal governments in prosecution of crimes committed with electronic media.

We support adequate funding for ODAFF for investigating theft of livestock and other agriculture commodities, products, and increased penalties for perpetrators.

We oppose the option of cashless bail prior to arraignments.

## MARIJUANA

We recognize the production of medical marijuana is an evolving industry in Oklahoma. We recommend continued attention be given to developing policies that protect Oklahoma's rural citizens, landowners and communities.

As the medical marijuana industry has become a new member of our rural Oklahoma communities, we suggest the following policies be enacted to reduce avoidable conflicts:

AFR has been successful in further regulating the marijuana industry through the passing of legislation. We support continued monitoring of legislation in this area. We also encourage strict enforcement of existing law by OMMA, OBN and all other regulators of the medical marijuana industry. (2024)

We oppose the medical marijuana industry's zero-tolerance chemical drift policy. We support legislation that prohibits criminal or civil liability caused by chemical spray plume drift upon marijuana plants unless the marijuana grow operation is: 1) indoors as defined by OMMA and 2) has installed an adequate ventilation system that protects against drift chemical damage.

We support a two-year waiting period on all new Oklahoma residents before they are eligible for a medical marijuana grower license, similar to in-state tuition, hunting licenses, etc. All members of any partnership, corporation or LLC would be subject to the requirement. We support prohibiting the issuing of a medical marijuana license for any person convicted of a felony, whether they are applying as an individual or as part of a partnership, corporation or LLC.

We encourage the establishment of an OERB-style remediation program for the medical marijuana industry.

1  
2       We oppose legalizing the recreational use of marijuana.  
3

4       We support the state's prepackaging mandate requiring products be prepackaged by the  
5       grower or processor before stocking in retail stores.

6  
7       In the event recreational marijuana is made legal within the state of Oklahoma, we  
8       support current regulations for growing and distributing medical marijuana apply to a  
9       recreational marijuana industry.

10  
11      In relation to medical marijuana operations, we support legislation restricting investment,  
12       ownership or leasing of land and natural resources by foreign individuals or entities that could  
13       jeopardize national security.

14  
15      We encourage the banning or regulation of products containing synthetically-altered CBD, (i.e.  
16       Delta 8).

17  
18  
19       **FAMILY LIFE AND SOCIAL ISSUES**  
20

21       We oppose any changes to our national anthem or Pledge of Allegiance.  
22

23       We urge active involvement in the effort to preserve the fundamental moral values of our  
24       society and uphold the Biblical principles upon which our nation was founded.

25  
26       We support the traditional family structure ~~and believe that marriage is comprised of one~~  
27       ~~man and one woman.~~

28  
29       We support the 1965 Civil Rights Act and the additional legislation that prohibits  
30       discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex/gender,  
31       age, disability or veteran status.

32  
33       ~~We encourage development of local and regional food systems within the state of Oklahoma,~~  
34       ~~including the formation of distribution cooperatives and tribal partnerships using USDA grant~~  
35       ~~dollars designated for local and regional food systems.~~

36  
37       We support programs promoting Christian life. We oppose programs or practices promoting  
38       Satanism or witchcraft, and the recognition of such as valid religions.

39  
40       We support the groups that are currently fighting to stop the spread of pornography and sales  
41       of pornographic materials in our state, along with stronger penalties for violators.

42  
43       We strongly oppose television programming, electronic games and Internet sites not suited  
44       for full-family viewing.

45  
46       We oppose Federal Communication Commission (FCC) rulings that liberalize the use of  
47       offensive, explicit or profane language and gestures on network television.

48  
49       We believe the gender assigned on your birth certificate by a medical professional at the time  
50       of birth should not be amendable. We believe only male or female shallmay be assigned.

We support the intent of Oklahoma's Save Women's Sports Act (S.B. 2) regarding athletic competition.

We support continuation of the Oklahoma Agricultural Mediation Program (OAMP) and guaranteed timely funding from USDA for the continuation and expansion of services to provide stress relief counseling for producers impacted by weather and economic disasters.

## DEFINITIONS

## A. HISTORICAL PARITY DEFINED:

Congress has, by law, defined "fair" as the economic relationship that existed between prices received by farmers and their production costs, including family living expenses, during the five-year period 1910-1914.

The prices received by farmers are said to be at “100 percent of parity” (or “fairness”) when they have the same relationship to production and living expenses as they did during that period. The parity formula is kept up-to-date continuously, by:

(1) revising the list of services and items purchased by farmers for production and family living to reflect today's technology; and

(2) by adjusting the parity prices for each farm commodity to take into account the 10-year moving average of changes that occur in the relationship to each other by the actual market prices received by farmers for the respective commodities.

## **B. FAMILY FARM DEFINED:**

Characteristically, a family farm is owned and operated by a farm family, with the family providing the base of the labor needed for the farming operation, assuming the economic risk, making most of the management decisions and depending on farming and/or ranching for a significant portion of their living.

## **RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS** **(Preceding Five Years)**

With respect to ballot initiatives, we support a constitutional amendment which would provide fairness to both rural and urban constituencies and require all initiative petition signature drives achieve the requisite percent as prescribed in the constitution—in each of the congressional districts as opposed to statewide—to be deemed as having sufficient signatures to be placed on the ballot for voter consideration. (2025)

We oppose the establishment of business courts as a new branch of our judicial system.  
(2025)

1        No public school should be funded at a lower per student rate than any charter school.  
2        (2025)

4        We support 4-H activities, approved by the county 4-H educator, to be counted as an  
5        excused absence for attendance purposes. The student should be given the opportunity to make  
6        up any missed work. (2024)

8        We support legislation allowing 14-16-year-olds to operate motor vehicles during activities  
9        related to farming and ranching, with all relevant safety precautions considered. (2024)

11        We support requiring marijuana grow operations visibly post at the point of entry of their  
12        grow site(s) the name of the owner or operator, contact telephone number, email and license  
13        number (similar to signage required on oil and gas sites). (2024)

15        We support requiring a pre-licensing inspection for medical marijuana grow operations.  
16        We also support increasing the frequency of post-licensing inspections to once per quarter. We  
17        support increasing the number of medical marijuana inspectors and investigators. (2024)

19        We support limiting the number of permits an individual, partnership, corporation or LLC  
20        can hold. (2024)

22        We support requiring proof of a commercial general liability insurance policy for all  
23        applications for a medical marijuana grow license. (2024)

25        We support increasing the medical marijuana license fee for both OMMA and OBN  
26        licensing to a competitive rate based upon the needs of the regulatory agency. We would support  
27        a tiered system dependent on the type and size of grow operation. (2024)

29        We encourage the continuation of a \$50,000 or higher bond required by medical marijuana  
30        grow facilities. (2024)

31        We support a review and possible update of the 1910 Oklahoma fencing law by the  
32        Oklahoma legislature. (2023)

33        We support a consistent and transparent per-pole attachment fee to promote adequate  
34        broadband service to rural Oklahoma. (2022)

36        We encourage Oklahoma adopting the 1991 Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
37        (FMCSA) ag-restricted CDL rule (Part 383.3) to ease labor issues related to time-sensitive and  
38        seasonal harvesting, and we support any other reduction in driving restrictions in the  
39        transportation of agricultural commodities. (2022)

41        We support a flat-rate tax on road-use electric vehicles in lieu of a fuel tax. This flat-rate tax  
42        should be used for the repair and improvement of roads and bridges. (2021)





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