

**American Farmers & Ranchers
Oklahoma Farmers Union**



Policy Statement

*Adopted by the delegates to the
117th AFR State Convention
February 11-13, 2022*

2022 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
2022 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 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.

50
51

1 **SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

2
3 **OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURE LIEN SYSTEM**

4 Agricultural producers are experiencing undue challenges related to significant delays in the
5 removal of discharged liens. We support modernizing the lien recording and removal system,
6 with an emphasis on a timely, electronic, automatic system housed in one entity. Following the
7 implementation of a new system, we support reducing the window for lien removal to 14
8 calendar days after loan pay-off and assessing a significant fine to ensure compliance. We
9 support using flat-rate tiered fines based on the amount of the loan pay off, for example \$1,000
10 for every \$50,000.

11
12 **OKLAHOMA FENCING LAWS**

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

15
16 We support a modernized pre-determined arbitration process for resolving estray livestock
17 complaints. We support strong financial penalties for owners of “repeat offender” trespassing
18 livestock.

19
20 **LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS**

21 We encourage development of local and regional food systems within the state of Oklahoma,
22 including the formation of distribution cooperatives and tribal partnerships using upcoming
23 USDA grant dollars designated for local and regional food systems.

24
25 **STATE INCOME TAX**

26 We support no further reduction to the state income tax rate as these reductions put undue strain
27 on our rural public school systems and increases the likelihood of additional ad valorem taxes.

28
29 **ELECTIONS**

30 Any election where party filing is required shall allow all eligible voters to vote if only one party
31 is represented.

32
33 **AG SALES TAX EXEMPTION**

34 We support the state agriculture sales tax exemption and oppose regulation that increase or cause
35 undue burden on agricultural producers during the ag tax exemption application process.

36
37 **EDUCATION**

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

40
41 We support all public education-designated revenue from ad valorem taxation and any other
42 common local, state, or federal government funding remaining in the public school system and
43 not being transferred by voucher or any other method.

44
45 **GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

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

48
49 We support the continued appropriation of matching funds by the state to the Oklahoma
50 Conservation Commission for flood control rehabilitation.

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

3 4 **HEALTHCARE**

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

8
9 We support state and federal legislation to reduce the cost of medical care and prescription drugs.

10 11 **IMMIGRATION**

12 We support comprehensive overhaul of the federal immigration system in order to safeguard the
13 American agriculture industry, which currently lacks a stable legal workforce.

14 15 **RIGHT TO REPAIR**

16 We support farmers and ranchers having the right to repair their own equipment and cause to be
17 repaired through third-party non-manufacturers. We further support access to service manuals,
18 product guides, on-board diagnostics and other information to identify and repair machinery,
19 parts and software.

20 21 **STATE LEGISLATURE**

22 We support increased efforts by AFR members all over the state to help provide rural issue
23 education for newly elected state legislators.

24 25 **TRADE**

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

28 29 **PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT**

30 We demand the enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act in regard to the anti-trust issues
31 surrounding the packing segment of the beef industry in the United States.

32 33 **TRUTH IN LABELING STANDARDS**

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

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

39 40 **MANAGING FARM STRESS**

41 The stress load on Oklahoma’s farmers and ranchers is incredible. We support National Farmers
42 Union’s financial and emotional stress and crisis management efforts at both the state and
43 national levels partnering with other farm organizations.

44 45 **REVERSE MORTGAGES**

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

48 49 **DPS LICENSING SYSTEM**

50 We support improvements to the Department of Public Safety’s driver licensing system to
51 encourage shorter delay times and greater efficiency in general with the implementation of

1 REAL ID, especially for CDL license renewals. We encourage the State of Oklahoma to allow
2 private, independent tag agencies to continue operating and discourage the reduction in the
3 number of independent tag agencies across the state.

4
5 **BROADBAND**

6 We support greater access to high-speed broadband internet in rural Oklahoma. We support a
7 consistent and transparent per-pole attachment fee to promote adequate broadband service to
8 rural Oklahoma.

9
10 **FED CATTLE MARKETING**

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

13
14 To address the issue of captive supply in the fed cattle industry, we recommend that no one of
15 the major four beef packing companies may purchase more than 25% of their weekly slaughter
16 needs from any one feeding entity.

17
18 We urge Congress to update and modernize the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act to create
19 fairness and transparency in the marketplace.

20
21 **MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

22 We recognize the production of medical marijuana is an evolving industry in Oklahoma. In light
23 of this growing influence, we recommend special attention be given to developing policies that
24 protect Oklahoma's rural citizens, landowners and communities, and that enforcement of said
25 policies be funded through increasing the amount of permit fees.

26
27 **FERTILIZER PRICES**

28 We support a federal anti-trust investigation regarding the drastic increase in the price of
29 agriculture fertilizer, chemicals and other agriculture inputs.

30
31 **TRANSPORTATION**

32 We encourage Oklahoma adopting the 1991 Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
33 (FMCSA) ag-restricted CDL rule (Part 383.3) to ease labor issues related to time-sensitive and
34 seasonal harvesting, and we support any other reduction in driving restrictions in the
35 transportation of agricultural commodities.

36
37 **LAND-USE RESTRICTIONS**

38 We are opposed to municipalities and counties imposing land-use restrictions outside city limits.
39

COMMENDATIONS

1
2
3
4 We honor former Oklahoma Farmers Union and National Farmers Union President George Stone
5 for his many years of service to Oklahoma agriculture and the Farmers Union organization and
6 mission.

7
8 We honor former Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture, USDA Farm Service Agency State
9 Director and AFR/OFU Board Member Terry Peach for his many years of service to Oklahoma
10 agriculture.

11
12 We commend the American people, especially first responders, frontline healthcare workers, and
13 medical researchers, who continue to play a part in combatting the first global pandemic in more
14 than 100 years.

15
16 We commend National Farmers Union for their leadership and active role in the concentration
17 and competition issues in agriculture, particularly in regard to the functionality of the fed cattle
18 market.

19
20 We commend our AFR Farm Stress Management team members who act as “farm stress first
21 responders” for fellow producers throughout Oklahoma. We commend National Farmers Union
22 on their continued efforts to draw attention to and address the opioid addiction and farm stress
23 crises in rural America.

24
25 We commend rural, often volunteer, firefighters who have tirelessly responded to untold
26 numbers of wildfires in western Oklahoma over the course of the last several years.

27
28 We commend the Oklahoma Conservation Commission for their continued success at removing
29 polluted streams from the EPA 303(d) list of impaired waters. We also commend the OCC for
30 their efforts toward reducing red cedar, musk thistle and feral hog infestations in Oklahoma.

31
32 We commend law enforcement officers and other emergency personnel including military
33 personnel and veterans for their service. We further condemn unprovoked violence against them
34 and support speedy adjudication and appropriate punishment for such acts.

35
36 We commend each member, officer, local and county organization who participated in the AFR
37 policy development process which led to the policy document developed and submitted to the
38 membership for consideration and adoption.

1 **COOPERATIVES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

2
3 We support partnering with groups who embrace policies that are favorable to family
4 agriculture and are considered pro-agriculture by the members we represent.
5

6 We support farm cooperatives and urge all farmers to support them in their local
7 communities to the fullest extent.
8

9 We encourage our members to participate in specialty commodity organizations, with
10 respect to the commodities they grow or produce.
11

12 We support continuation of the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922 that limits each member of a
13 cooperative to one vote, regardless of the amount of stock or membership capital the members
14 owns.
15

16 We reaffirm our support for rural electric cooperatives and urge Congress to provide ample
17 insured and guaranteed loan funds to meet the needs of the rural electric cooperative system and
18 its customers.
19

20 We strongly encourage the U.S. Congress to oppose electric deregulation.
21

22 The U.S. Congress and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) are steadfastly
23 moving toward restructuring the electric utility industry. We believe Oklahoma decisions are
24 best left to the state and that any restructuring of Oklahoma’s electric industry should embrace
25 the following criteria:
26

- 27 1. Make certain we have continued universal access to electric power.
- 28
- 29 2. Make certain safeguards are in place to protect all Oklahomans from significantly
30 increased rates and line costs from electric restructuring.
- 31
- 32 3. All classes of customers should be treated fairly.
- 33
- 34 4. Make certain rural Oklahomans gain the benefits of “competition,” while prohibiting
35 the discriminatory aspects of “competition” that left rural Oklahomans in the dark a
36 few decades ago.
- 37
- 38 5. Make sure revenues generated by the electric industry remain revenue-neutral to all
39 receiving entities as much as possible.
- 40
- 41 6. Equalize the cost of distributing electric energy statewide, and
- 42
- 43 7. Make certain the environment is protected and preserved.
- 44

45 We urge the preference clause be continued as a means of assuring the people will benefit
46 from the sale of electric power from the federal dams, not just a few stockholders.
47

48 We support the principle that recreation pays a share of the cost of hydropower projects.
49
50
51

1 We urge Congress, state legislators and ratemaking authorities to use their powers to
2 protect the rights of rural cooperatives to generate their own power where they consider it best to
3 do so.

4
5 We urge Congress to continue to recognize the right of cooperatives to serve defense and
6 other installations in their service areas.

7
8 We oppose any effort, congressional or administrative, to weaken or dispose of our rural
9 electric cooperatives or government-owned power-generating facilities.

10
11 We support legislation to allow water associations and rural water districts to redeem loans
12 before a sale to outside investors.

13
14 We continue our support for the Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

15
16 We support the concept of cooperative wind and solar energy projects that benefit member
17 landowners. Such projects should remain as cooperative ventures once construction is completed
18 without resale to other private entities.

19
20 We support a close review of the input cost of electricity, including the input costs for
21 electric cooperatives, as compared to the end cost of the utility. This is both for everyday costs
22 and in an effort to prepare for future catastrophic events.

23 24 25 **FAMILY LIFE AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

26
27 We oppose any changes to our national anthem or Pledge of Allegiance.

28
29 We urge active involvement in the effort to preserve the fundamental moral values of our
30 society and uphold the Biblical principles upon which our nation was founded.

31
32 We support the traditional family structure and believe that marriage is comprised of one
33 man and one woman.

34
35 We do not condone discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion,
36 national origin, sex/gender, age, disability or veteran status.

37
38 We support programs promoting Christian life.

39
40 We oppose programs or practices promoting Satanism or witchcraft, and the recognition of
41 such as valid religions.

42
43 We support the groups that are currently fighting to stop the spread of pornography and
44 sales of pornographic materials in our state, along with stronger penalties for violators.

45
46 We strongly oppose television programming, electronic games and Internet sites not suited
47 for full-family viewing.

48
49 We oppose Federal Communication Commission (FCC) rulings that liberalize the use of
50 offensive, explicit or profane language and gestures on network television.

1 We support the people’s right for quality, free television.
2

3 We believe that determining whether life-sustaining procedures should be withheld or
4 withdrawn for illness, disease, injury or extreme mental deterioration (such that there is no
5 reasonable expectation of recovering or regaining a meaningful quality of life) should be made
6 by the attending physicians and immediate members of the family.
7

8 We encourage the use of the “Advanced Directive” by everyone.
9

10 We oppose the illegal use of human body parts.
11

12 We recommend the changing of adoption laws to make it easier for U.S. citizens to adopt
13 babies born in the United States.
14

15 We support continuation of the Oklahoma Agricultural Mediation Program (OAMP) and
16 expansion of services to provide stress relief counseling for producers impacted by weather and
17 economic disasters.
18

19 We support guaranteed and timely funding from USDA for state agricultural mediation
20 programs.
21

22 **EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS** 23

24 We support public education. We support state funding of public education.
25

26 We strongly support leaving all agricultural education and FFA programs in
27 comprehensive high schools.
28

29 We strongly oppose the relocation of the Oklahoma Dept. of Career and Technology
30 Education headquarters from Stillwater.
31

32 We support all public education-designated revenue from ad valorem taxation and any
33 other common local, state, or federal government funding remaining in the public school system
34 and not being transferred by voucher or any other method.
35

36 We oppose private school students participating in public school extracurricular activities,
37 such as athletics, FFA, FCCLA, etc.
38

39 We support the continued use of non-plant-based meat and dairy in school lunch programs.
40

41 We support adequate school security funding assistance with the help of state or federal
42 funding.
43

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

47 We support the state fulfilling their obligations to teachers receiving certification as
48 national board-certified teachers.
49

50 We support drivers training being available for all public school students.
51

1
2 We oppose attracting new business and industry with tax incentives which adversely affect
3 funding for education, unless “in lieu of” provisions are available for the impacted area from the
4 business or industry receiving incentives.
5

6 We support one credit hour of general agriculture be included as a high school graduation
7 requirement and a similar requirement in the curriculum at any Oklahoma land grant institution.
8

9 We favor voluntary Bible reading and prayer in our public schools.
10

11 School children should begin each day with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, including
12 the wording “under God.”
13

14 We support education of all citizens on the proper care and protocol of the flag of the
15 United States of America.
16

17 Early childhood development should be a parental choice.
18

19 We urge our members to work to eliminate textbooks used in public schools that are anti-
20 American Constitution, anti-God and anti-family.
21

22 We support the study of creationism as a portion of the curriculum in public schools.
23

24 We encourage the use of more volunteer workers, such as senior citizens, parents and
25 retired business people, in the local schools.
26

27 We favor school boards and administrators having flexibility in rewarding teachers of
28 excellence and discharging teachers with poor performance records, including those considered
29 as certified staff.
30

31 We ask the Oklahoma Legislature to pass legislation allowing local school districts to vote
32 by super majority an incentive millage of up to five mills for the betterment of education within
33 the school district, and that these monies be non-chargeable against existing or further school aid
34 formulas.
35

36 When local schools are required to provide foreign language, we propose it be state or
37 federally funded.
38

39 We support exercising all influence possible to avoid the use of false or misleading
40 textbooks on animal rights and/or environmental issues.
41

42 We support broad-based representation on the state textbook committee by a diverse group
43 of stakeholders.
44

45 We recognize the need for a closer active relationship between AFR and early childhood
46 agricultural education in Oklahoma. We endorse the Ag in the Classroom project as a way to
47 reach those students. We support building a relationship with Ag in the Classroom and
48 promoting their services throughout our programming across the state.
49

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

1
2 We support educational instruction for children on nutritional values of food and balanced
3 meal selections and further encourage connecting children with where their food is grown.
4

5 The restrictions on daycare centers for preschoolers should not be so rigid that they prevent
6 neighbors and/or relatives cooperatively caring for children or the rights of parents to choose
7 daycare services.
8

9 We support Congress designating English as the official language of the United States and
10 the Oklahoma Legislature designating English as our state language.
11

12 We oppose distribution of contraceptives and abortion referrals in school health programs.
13

14 We believe the choice of AIDS education curriculum and materials should be controlled by
15 local school officials.
16

17 Any mandates for Oklahoma public schools will be fully funded by the Oklahoma
18 Legislature.
19

20 Rural areas of school districts should be adequately represented on all boards of education.
21

22 The State of Oklahoma must continue to expand its educational assistance to farmers who
23 are in financial difficulty and/or trying to establish a new career.
24

25 We support the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program (OALP) and annual line-item
26 funding by the Oklahoma Legislature which is combined with private sector funding.
27

28 We respectfully request that the Oklahoma Legislature move very cautiously in funding,
29 making sure that all funding is “fair” to rural, as well as urban school districts.
30

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

37 We oppose consolidation of schools solely based on student enrollment.
38

39 We oppose mandated consolidation of administration.
40

41 We support patrons’ right to vote to annex or consolidate with another school district
42 voluntarily.
43

44 We support cooperative initiatives by small schools to improve efficiencies.
45

46 Small rural schools should be provided telecommunication service and cooperative
47 programs developed to provide a curriculum that meets the requirements for high school
48 graduation and college entrance.
49

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

1
2 We support state-approved core curriculum in all private schools.
3

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

10 We oppose tax credits and/or vouchers for transfer between public and/or private schools.
11

12 We oppose state funding being sent to virtual charter schools.
13

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

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

20 We support additional recruitment efforts to maintain an available pool of agriculture
21 education instructors to meet the demand resulting from anticipated retirements in future years.
22

23 We support the work of, and adequate funding for, the 4-H, FFA, FCCLA and AFR youth
24 programs. We will, therefore, actively oppose any attempt to curtail the activities of these
25 deserving groups.
26

27 We encourage including, as an academic requirement, entrepreneurial training for high
28 school students, such as the skills training demonstrated in agriculture education/FFA, 4-H clubs
29 and career and technical education programs.
30

31 We support the adequate funding of higher education institutions.
32

33 We oppose discrimination against career and technical education toward meeting
34 requirements of high school graduation and college entrance.
35

36 We strongly encourage a minimum of two appointees made by the Governor to the
37 Oklahoma Career and Technology Education Board have an agricultural background and/or
38 career and technical education programs background.
39

40 We support the Oklahoma Legislature fully funding mandated increases in teachers'
41 salaries or other educational expenditures for the duration of the increase.
42

43 We support adequate funding for research and development through land grant colleges
44 and universities.
45

46 We support following the constitutional requirement and state statute that a majority of the
47 members appointed by the Governor to the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and
48 Mechanical Colleges shall be farmers who are actually engaged in farming and/or livestock
49 growing as their principal business or occupation in earning a livelihood.
50

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

3
4 We support a legislative review of the process and fees involved in public school bonds.
5

6 7 **CRIME** 8

9 We support victims' rights be strongly protected by law at the local, state or federal level.
10

11 We support the efforts of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN), both in the control of
12 illegal drug transportation and use and the prevention of human trafficking. We support adequate
13 funding for OBN and similar organizations.
14

15 We support adequate state funding of the criminal justice and incarceration system.

16 We favor expediting the appeal process of convicted criminals.
17

18 We recommend severe penalties and strict enforcement of laws governing all drivers,
19 including juveniles under the influence of alcohol and drugs. We also recommend mandatory
20 incarceration of transporters of illegal drugs, pending trial.
21

22 We support changes in the juvenile justice system to provide adequate juvenile detention
23 facilities with adequate counseling and rehabilitation programs.
24

25 We support peaceful communities and the right to peacefully assemble. Those that breach
26 legal standards should be appropriately punished.
27

28 We call for greater emphasis on controlling alcohol and drug use.
29

30 School officials and law enforcement officers in schools must be given adequate latitude to
31 address disciplinary problems in schools.
32

33 We encourage random drug testing of anyone responsible for the safety of others and
34 support the crack-down on any abusive use of drugs, illegal or prescription.
35

36 We encourage adequate funds be appropriated for the treatment and incarceration of drug
37 users.
38

39 We support the county's option to regulate the sale of liquor.
40

41 We support the Amber and Silver Alert system.
42

43 We support the establishment of a rural crime unit. We prefer that such a unit be under the
44 jurisdiction of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) in cooperation with the
45 Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) where applicable.
46

47 We oppose attempts to consolidate civilian surveillance and intelligence, such as the OSBI
48 and the FBI, under military control.
49

50 We support the action of local, state and federal departments and agencies to combat
51 terrorism, including any agrarian-related terrorism attack.

1
2 Due to the threat posed by terrorists to the security and welfare of the United States, we
3 support the actions taken through the Dept. of Homeland Security to require foreign students in
4 the U.S. on student visas to show proof of enrollment and academic participation.

5
6 We support increasing penalties for acts of agricultural terrorism.

7
8 We urge support for local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

9
10 We support additional efforts to protect our federal borders from the growing and/or import
11 of illegal drugs and potential terrorist activity.

12
13 We support the use of trained dogs for drug detection.

14
15 We recommend that current laws be rewritten and strengthened concerning child abuse and
16 sexual crimes against children so that children will be better protected. We favor providing law
17 enforcement agencies with the resources needed to apprehend, prosecute and monitor sex
18 offenders.

19
20 Parents and minors should be held legally and financially responsible for all costs and
21 damages incurred by a minor's criminal activities.

22
23 We urge our members to join and/or organize their communities into neighborhood watch-
24 type programs and cooperate with local law enforcement agencies for identification of all
25 personal property.

26
27 After an accident involving property damage to fences, buildings or equipment, the
28 investigating law enforcement officer(s) should be required to notify landowners or tenants of
29 such damage immediately after it occurs.

30
31 The DOC should pay the county jails of Oklahoma at a rate commensurate with state
32 incarceration costs for state offenders after judicial sentences are imposed.

33
34 We believe the state should bear some responsibility in assisting with the operation of
35 county jails.

36
37 We recommend uniform and prompt sentencing for the same type of offenses and
38 mandatory minimum sentences be provided by law for repeat offenders.

39
40 Hardened criminals should be segregated from first-time offenders and efforts should be
41 made to rehabilitate first-time offenders.

42
43 We support legislation that would limit early release of prison inmates to those convicted
44 of non-violent crimes only.

45
46 We favor work programs whereby inmate labor would be used to maintain and improve
47 public facilities, such as roads, bridges, parks, buildings and other such public property.

48
49 More consideration should be given to restitution, rather than confinement, when the risk to
50 the public is minimal.

1 We encourage use of electronic monitoring, rather than incarceration, for non-violent
2 offenders.

3
4 More emphasis should be placed on the supervision of parolees.

5
6 A jail meeting standards when built should not be in violation when new regulations or
7 standards are issued, unless the total cost of updating is provided by the state or federal
8 government.

9
10 To help alleviate the ever-increasing tax burden on rural residents, we support a concept of
11 regional, centrally-located jails, funded by the state, to serve multiple cities, towns and counties,
12 but only when these entities and the voters wish to participate jointly.

13
14 We support adequate funding for multiple-county rural crime task forces.

15
16 We support action to prevent or minimize frivolous lawsuits.

17
18 We oppose the unreasonable limitation of gun ownership and Second Amendment rights of
19 law-abiding citizens.

20
21 We support protecting one's self and family with necessary force, particularly when a
22 perpetrator intrudes upon your property.

23
24 We favor a rehabilitation center for minor juvenile offenders and an alternative school
25 environment for repeat offenders who constantly disrupt the classroom and cause problems.

26
27 We support coordination of local, state and federal governments in prosecution of crimes
28 committed with electronic media.

29
30 We support adequate funding for ODAFF for investigating theft of livestock and other
31 agriculture commodities, products, and increased penalties for perpetrators.

32
33 We oppose legalizing the recreational use of marijuana.

34
35
36 **SAFETY**

37
38 We encourage additional annual funding allocations for volunteer fire departments to build
39 adequate local firefighting capacity. We oppose insurance companies/agents being the source
40 point of collections for fire department assessments.

41
42 We support county officials' authority to declare a burn ban during times of high fire risks
43 and support the enforcement thereof.

44
45 We support public funding and installation of dry fire hydrants.

46
47 We support education and training efforts related to farm operations, grain storage, farm
48 machinery and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety.

1 We support a statewide coordinated communications network system and an enhanced 9-1-
2 1 system which would improve the efficiency of ambulance and emergency medical services in
3 rural areas.

4
5 We urge the state not to over-regulate rural fire departments.
6

7 We support special protection and precaution for firemen and first responders fighting fires
8 at medical marijuana facilities.
9

10 11 **SOCIAL SECURITY AND SENIORS** 12

13
14 We support a strong Social Security system.
15

16 We oppose any negative net adjustments of the current Social Security system and support
17 adequate continued federal funding of the Social Security program.
18

19 We support the federal government investing Social Security funds in U.S. Treasury bills.
20

21 The spouse or family of a deceased person should be able to keep the month's social
22 security check in the month the individual died.
23

24 We discourage any reduction in state payments for elder care either in nursing facilities or
25 through hospice.
26

27 We believe only U.S. citizens should be eligible to receive Social Security benefits, but
28 non-citizens lawfully working with a visa or work permit should be required to pay into the
29 Social Security system.
30

31 We oppose any cuts in Social Security benefits and furthermore urge an increase of the
32 death benefit to the beneficiary.
33

34 We support the Older Americans Act. We commend the efforts of senior service programs
35 that serve senior citizens in Oklahoma, and further, we urge funding these programs, including
36 continuance and expansion into all counties in our state.
37

38 We support closer monitoring of benefits for Social Security Disability.
39
40
41

42 **HEALTH CARE** 43

44 We support the continuation or development of any accredited Oklahoma teaching hospital
45 and associated medical or osteopathic doctor training program which primarily returns
46 physicians to rural Oklahoma.
47

48 We support providing a wide range of services to our veterans, including adequate health
49 care in a timely manner, with close scrutiny and continued oversight of U.S. Dept. of Veterans
50 Affairs (VA) programs by the federal government.
51

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

3
4 We support health care reform that does not disproportionately burden small, family-owned
5 farms and businesses with additional costs.

6
7 We support health care reform to cover all Americans with affordable and available basic
8 health-care coverage.

9
10 We support affordable prescription drugs for senior citizens.

11
12 We encourage the federal government to simplify the information on and enrollment of
13 Medicare Part D and provide more affordable coverage without gaps.

14
15 We support the right to enroll in Medicare Part D at any given time after the age of 65
16 without penalty.

17
18 We oppose funding reductions to Medicare, but support a process for establishing a means
19 test for program eligibility.

20
21 We support expanding qualifications to allow more people eligibility for the medical
22 savings plan, including employees with no health plan benefits.

23
24 We encourage the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to continue their efforts
25 to expand the education and training provided by regional hospitals to encompass the entire state
26 and provide care at low cost to indigent patients as well as to train interns in rural areas.

27
28 We support providing equal pay for equal services claims reimbursement, whether in a city
29 or rural health care facility.

30
31 We oppose changes in regulations which would impose unrealistic demands on rural
32 hospitals and rural physicians, threatening survival of small hospitals and discouraging
33 physicians from establishing or maintaining rural practices.

34
35 We support incentive programs that encourage doctors and nurses to practice in rural areas
36 upon completion of their training.

37
38 Training for emergency medical technicians should be fostered in regional areas utilizing
39 local volunteer fire departments, hospitals, Oklahoma Career and Technology Education centers
40 and other entities utilizing grant funds to accomplish the effort.

41
42 We support legislation to allow 100 percent federal and state income tax credits or tax
43 deductions for those who self-finance their health insurance and are self-employed.

44
45
46
47 **MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

48
49 As the medical marijuana industry has become a new member of our rural Oklahoma
50 communities, we suggest the following policies be enacted to reduce avoidable conflicts:

1 We support requiring marijuana grow operations visibly post at the point of entry of their
2 grow site(s) the name of the owner or operator, contact telephone number, email and license
3 number (similar to signage required on oil and gas sites).

4
5 We support requiring a pre-licensing inspection for medical marijuana grow operations.
6 We also support increasing the frequency of post-licensing inspections to once per quarter. We
7 support increasing the number of medical marijuana inspectors and investigators.

8
9 We support legislation that prohibits criminal or civil liability caused by chemical spray
10 drift upon marijuana plants unless the marijuana grow operation is: 1) indoors as defined by
11 OMMA and 2) has installed an adequate ventilation system that protects against drift chemical
12 damage.

13
14 We support a two-year waiting period on all new Oklahoma residents before they are
15 eligible for a medical marijuana grower license, similar to in-state tuition, hunting licenses, etc.
16 All members of any partnership, corporation or LLC would be subject to the requirement. We
17 support prohibiting the issuing of a medical marijuana license for any person convicted of a
18 felony, whether they are applying as an individual or as part of a partnership, corporation or
19 LLC.

20
21 We support limiting the number of permits an individual, partnership, corporation or LLC
22 can hold.

23
24 We support increasing the medical marijuana license fee for both OMMA and OBN
25 licensing to a competitive rate based upon the needs of the regulatory agency. We would support
26 a tiered system dependent on the type and size of grow operation.

27
28 We support requiring all individuals associated with medical marijuana grow operations
29 be legal U.S. citizens.

30 31 32 **TRANSPORTATION**

33
34 We favor the close monitoring of the proposed border-to-border superhighway projects.

35
36 We support the reauthorization of the federal highway fund and oppose such funding being
37 redirected to other non-roads and non-bridges projects.

38
39 County roads and bridges should maintain a high funding priority by the Oklahoma
40 Legislature.

41
42 We recommend a standard minimum height of at least 17 feet for new bridges and
43 overpasses across existing highways in the state of Oklahoma.

44
45 All motor vehicle excise tax should be earmarked for county roads, state highways and city
46 streets, rather than going into the general revenue fund.

47
48 We oppose the use of state funds and federal gas tax monies in promoting and assisting in
49 the construction or maintenance of toll roads.

1 The Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) should pay for repairing county roads used
2 for detours when building or repairing state highways.

3
4 Access roads around lakes that have been built by the state should be maintained by the
5 state and not by the counties.

6
7 We support new bridges being built on the original right-of-way and not off-set.

8
9 We support ODOT being responsible for maintaining their fences along limited access
10 highways.

11
12 We encourage ODOT to work with property owners to find common-sense solutions when
13 disputes arise over highway signage regulations.

14
15 We favor a law requiring all road intersections and right-of-ways be cleared of weeds and
16 brush to prevent accidents. We support the baling of right-of-ways with preference to adjacent
17 operators.

18
19 The Oklahoma Legislature and Governor should do everything possible to maintain
20 railroad services and all existing transportation facilities in all of Oklahoma.

21
22 We support legislation that would provide for adequate rail competition and oppose rate
23 increases by railroads for agricultural products.

24
25 We support full-contract rate disclosure, including all pertinent contract provisions.

26
27 We support the state assisting in railroad right-of-way purchases and maintenance for rail
28 services and the enhancement, expansion and continuation of short-lines for the continued
29 viability of the state economy.

30
31 We oppose state or federal regulation regarding the transportation of hazardous materials
32 by farmers who do so in the course of their own farming operation.

33
34 We support an agriculture exemption from federal and state regulations regarding
35 displaying of Dept. of Transportation (DOT) numbers.

36
37 We support the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) in their efforts to educate farmers and
38 ranchers on current Federal Commercial Motor Carrier Safety Administration requirements.

39
40 We support variances for natural disasters in “hours of service” regulations for drivers with
41 CDLs with respect to restoring emergency services.

42
43 We support maintaining hours-of-service exemptions for livestock transportation.

44
45 In order to continue receiving federal transportation funds, permits for hauling loads of hay
46 should be free and easily obtainable, since the federal government requires the State of
47 Oklahoma to issue such permits for use on federal roads.

48
49 We oppose federal requirements to install lighting on farm equipment that was not
50 originally equipped with such devices.

1 We encourage the voluntary effort of producers to put reflective tape and slow-moving
2 vehicles symbols on farm tractors and equipment.

3
4 We encourage designating one central agency for issuing permits and enforcement of truck
5 weights and measures.

6
7 We support reasonable reform of federal and state transportation laws regarding increasing
8 weights and measures when transporting farm commodities and equipment.

9
10 We support counties receiving a portion of the revenue derived from fines levied at ODOT
11 weigh stations located within that county.

12
13 We encourage Oklahoma adopting the 1991 Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
14 (FMCSA) ag-restricted CDL rule (Part 383.3) to ease labor issues related to time-sensitive and
15 seasonal harvesting, and we support any other reduction in driving restrictions in the
16 transportation of agricultural commodities.

17
18 We oppose additional fees or extensive class time related to CDL license procurement for
19 ag-restricted CDLs.

20
21 We support legislation allowing 14-16-year-olds to operate motor vehicles during
22 activities related to farming and ranching, with all relevant safety precautions considered.

23 24 25 26 **CREDIT AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

27
28 We recognize and support the value of community banks and lending institutions to rural
29 areas and realize that the broad-based economic stress of the nation has impacted these entities.
30 We trust that they will not be ignored for future assistance when they are negatively impacted.

31
32 We strongly oppose legislation which negatively impacts rural America banks and lending
33 institutions.

34
35 We oppose the Basel III proposal which fundamentally changes how all banks' holding
36 companies calculate their capital ratios which impacts loan volume.

37
38 We oppose credit institutions implementing U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef
39 (USRSB) criteria, or any other sustainability or conservation program criteria, as a mandate to
40 receive credit.

41
42 Assistance to rural banks can be provided by allowing Federal Deposit Insurance
43 Corporation (FDIC) tolerance in working with local bankers.

44
45 We oppose further relaxation of the branch banking laws.

46
47 We oppose the continuing increase of regulations on home mortgage lending and support
48 relaxation of regulations relative to community lending for home mortgages.

1 We oppose further closure and/or consolidation of existing Oklahoma Farm Service
2 Agency (FSA) county offices, support adequate staffing commensurate with work load levels
3 evaluated annually, and support updated technology for expediting delivery of programs.
4

5 We oppose recall of short-term FSA farm loans until termination date.
6

7 We support a two-year extension on the 15-year limit on FSA loans until the issue can be
8 reconsidered.
9

10 FSA should be more adequately funded for emergency farm ownership and operating
11 loans.
12

13 All FSA applications and credit for farming activities should be fairly and equitably
14 considered and acted upon in a timely manner to maintain the integrity of the program.
15

16 We oppose the privatization of FSA loan programs.
17

18 We support continuation of the limited resource loan program through FSA and oppose
19 loan time limits as the only disqualifying factor.
20

21 FSA should accomplish its original mission with emphasis on agriculture loans and provide
22 adequate funds for both guaranteed and direct loans return to the direct loan concept.
23

24 We support lower interest rates on agriculture loans from FSA, including but not limited to
25 those for socially disadvantaged and veteran programs.
26

27 We support FSA regulations, which would give delinquent FSA borrowers additional time
28 to complete the loan servicing documents.
29

30 We support the amount of write downs on FSA loans to not be below current fair market
31 value and to be determined by a minimum of three certified land appraisers using the
32 comparative sales approach.
33

34 We strongly support jurisdiction of the Farm Credit System (FCS) remain under the
35 authority of the U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committees.
36

37 We support legislation to close the exit provision of the FCS that would allow the sale,
38 acquisition or merger to any private entity that is not a cooperative.
39

40 We support the FCS in providing long-term, low-interest-rate loans in a timely fashion to
41 young people who want to start farming.
42

43 We support the continued cooperative ownership of the FCS and its status as a
44 government-sponsored enterprise. We support maintaining the Farm Credit Administration
45 (FCA) as the FCS's independent regulator and the agency's focus on FCS safety, soundness and
46 mission fulfillment.
47

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

1
2 We urge continuance of the program authorizing matching grants to states with qualified
3 mediation programs.

4
5 We favor continuing the Agricultural Link Deposit Program as administered by the
6 Oklahoma State Treasurer. The program should be limited to family farmers, as defined herein,
7 and on the ability to repay. The program should be expanded by providing additional funds for
8 lending.

9
10 We encourage Oklahoma Bankers Association members to get involved with farm
11 organizations on issues related to the farm bill.

12 13 14 15 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

16
17 We support state legislation that enhances economic development in rural Oklahoma. We
18 urge local and county AFR organizations to cooperatively work with city, county and state
19 agencies to take advantage of economic development opportunities.

20
21 We support the continuation of sub-state planning districts and continued funding of the
22 Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) program that provides the infusion of capital to assist small
23 towns, rural communities and rural water districts.

24
25 We support the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry's (ODAFF) Made in
26 Oklahoma (MIO) program.

27
28 We support efforts to expand, enhance or assist the "added value" industry in Oklahoma,
29 including tax incentives for investors in value-added agricultural incentives.

30
31 We encourage increased funding for the Oklahoma Agriculture Enhancement and
32 Diversification Program.

33
34 We encourage legislation that would establish a state program for investing in and/or
35 financing rural business growth within the state.

36
37 We support American Farmers & Ranchers continuing to pursue agricultural value-added
38 venture opportunities for our membership.

39
40 We support efforts to promote agritourism opportunities for rural Oklahomans as another
41 means of complimenting their existing agricultural enterprises.

42
43 We support the development of hemp processing infrastructure.

44 45 46 47 **FOOD PROCESSING**

48
49 We support interstate or intrastate shipment of beverages and processed foods if the state
50 inspections meet or exceed federal standards.

1
2 We support increasing funding commensurate with the increased number of inspectors
3 needed to adequately inspect intrastate, interstate and international food.
4

5 We support Oklahoma State University's continued efforts to secure federal grants and
6 encourage the Oklahoma Legislature to appropriate the necessary funding for operation of the
7 Oklahoma State University (OSU) Food and Agricultural Products Research and Technology
8 Center (FAPC).
9

10 We support irradiation as a means of purifying food products.
11

12 We support food safety oversight for micro plastics in our food and water supplies.
13
14

15 LABOR

16
17 We support cities or towns of less than 25,000 population, and counties less than 60,000, be
18 exempted from provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act. This act provides that prevailing wages be
19 paid on any construction job where public money is involved.
20

21 We support a common sense approach to child labor regulations and laws relative to
22 agriculture.
23
24

25 COMMUNICATIONS

26
27 We support a joint effort among all agriculture groups in Oklahoma to create an
28 environment of transparency between producers and consumers, rural and urban, to maintain
29 confidence in our products and practices.
30

31 We support agriculture advocacy initiatives and communication efforts to promote
32 agriculture to the non-agriculture audience and to educate consumers, utilizing all available
33 methods, including social media, podcasts and other emerging technologies.
34

35 We support federally-funded access to broadband (Internet) communication in rural areas.
36

37 We strongly support legislative efforts to secure access to programming at non-
38 discriminatory rates for home satellite owners in rural America. The Federal Communications
39 Commission (FCC) should give consideration to rural residents to obtain local channels by
40 satellite when the mailing address conflicts with regulations preventing them from receiving the
41 nearest local channel.
42

43 We support preservation of satellite-based augmentation system (SBAS) guidance
44 opportunities for agriculture and protection of investments made by producers in existing
45 technologies.
46

47 We support an agricultural exemption from FCC registration requirements.
48

49 We support increased enforcement of the telephone solicitor no-call list, for both land lines
50 and cell phones.
51

1
2 **INSURANCE**
3

4 **A. GENERAL**
5

6 Market conditions and competitive pricing will lead to innovation in developing solutions
7 to problems relating to multi-peril crop insurance and mitigation. Competitive pricing and risk-
8 based underwriting are essential to developing and maintaining a viable disaster insurance
9 market and should be originated and enforced at the state level.
10

11 Insurance legal liability minimum limits should be enforced and motor vehicle registration
12 and tags pulled if someone is not in compliance.
13

14 We support the removal of the drop-down liability clause on AFR auto policies.
15

16 We encourage all drivers to take a safe driving course in order to receive additional
17 insurance policy discounts.
18

19 We support delivery of insurance services by full-time, stand-alone professionals.
20

21 We oppose mandatory workers' compensation being extended to family-size production
22 agricultural operations and small businesses.
23

24 We favor farmers being exempt from personal liability when using contractors and contract
25 labor.
26

27 We oppose frivolous lawsuits. If the court finds in favor of an insured defendant, we
28 believe the plaintiff and/or their lawyer(s) should be made responsible for defendant's costs.
29

30 We support legislation to strengthen and amend the current tort reform law. Injured parties
31 should be compensated only for the actual loss incurred, plus expenses of recovery.
32

33 Reasonable limits of liability exposure should be placed on corporate boards of directors
34 for actions of the corporation made without their prior knowledge or consent.
35

36 Reasonable limits of liability exposure should be placed on state, county and municipal
37 government.
38

39 We favor justifiable evidence of merit being presented to the court before filing a product
40 or malpractice liability lawsuit.
41

42 We favor the establishment of certain statutes of limitations pertaining to liability lawsuits,
43 not to exceed five years.
44

45 We favor legislation limiting liability of any individual to the extent of their contributory
46 negligence.
47

48 The AFR Mutual Insurance Company was originally established as Oklahoma Farmers
49 Union to serve its rural membership. We urge that when decisions must be made regarding
50 reduction of insurance services preference be given to rural insureds over metropolitan insureds.
51

1 We do not discourage the use of the windmill by local/county organizations and AFR
2 insurance agents in promotional efforts.

3
4 We support limits on liability for permitted agritourism activities.

5
6 We support the National Fire Protection Association Firewise Communities Program and
7 associated educational initiatives to property owners. We encourage the participation of
8 AFRMIC agents in the program which will result in reduced risks for company insureds.

9
10 We believe only AFR agents be permitted to sell a product underwritten by AFR
11 Insurance or its subsidiaries.

12
13
14
15 **B. CROP INSURANCE/RISK MANAGEMENT**

16
17 We support development of federal crop insurance policies that provide a dollar-per-acre
18 multi-peril option similar to policies that exist for single-peril type coverage such as hail.

19
20 Multi-peril federal crop insurance programs should apply to all crops in all counties. The
21 program should include optional coverage plans, one of which would be at least the cost of
22 production.

23
24 Farmers should not be penalized on their crop insurance average yield as a result of natural
25 disasters.

26
27 We encourage increased premium assistance for producers who purchase higher levels of
28 coverage.

29
30 We support private vendors handling federal crop insurance.

31
32 We oppose mandatory federal crop insurance as a requirement for participating in price
33 support programs.

34
35 We oppose any new restrictions on crop insurance related to livestock grazing.

36
37 We oppose any new insurance restrictions on broadcast wheat.

38
39 We encourage risk management training.

40
41 We encourage a review of current risk management regulations to complement each farm
42 bill.

43
44 We support crop insurance premium payments being due after average harvest dates.

45
46 We support the continued availability of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
47 (NAP) for dual-purpose crop and grazing winter crops.

48
49 We support USDA expanding forage crop insurance in the Southern Plains region to
50 include pest damage, lack of rainfall, flooding, hail, wildfire and additional perils.

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PROPERTY RIGHTS

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).

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

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

We are opposed to the state and federal government owning, regulating or controlling billboards.

Land acquired by condemnation under eminent domain statutes should have a settlement value of not less than 100 percent of replacement costs for like property plus intangible damages. We support mediation in eminent domain proceedings.

All necessary action should be taken to:

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

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

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

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

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

1
2 We favor legislation that limits broad condemnation authority, in particular for private
3 business purposes.

4
5 We oppose the use of eminent domain for the acquisition of lands for parks and recreation,
6 and non-public utilities that are non-cooperatives.

7
8 We oppose federal legislation that would enable the federal government to acquire land
9 outside the normal congressional appropriations process for use as outdoor recreation and
10 historical preservation. Congress should maintain control and oversight of such programs in the
11 interest of all citizens.

12
13 We urge clarification of federal and state statutes that would allow all railroad rights-of-
14 way resulting from reversionary easements to revert back to the present property owner if
15 abandoned. If the rights-of-way were purchased and then abandoned, the first right to purchase
16 the property should be offered to the current owner of the tract of land from which it was
17 originally separated.

18
19 We support adequate funding for an agricultural land trust or foundation for the
20 preservation of agriculture land use.

21
22 We support further education of property owners in setting terms relative to compensation
23 of easements or leases of surface or subsurface property rights. We further support development
24 of model leases relative to the activity.

25
26 We encourage the development of model contractual instruments which allow landowners
27 to receive annual payments for compensation of damages and royalties relative to continued
28 generation and/or transmission of energy instead of or in addition to a one-time easement
29 payment.

30
31 We support the right of surface owners to influence what occurs on their property,
32 including the use of third-party mediation when necessary.

33
34 We support Oklahoma being a title insurance state without requiring abstracts.

35
36 When change in land use is proposed, the planning body should be required to notify, by
37 recognized notification procedures, the owners of adjacent land.

38
39 Trespass laws should be strengthened and enforced with more extensive fines and penalties
40 for repeat offenders and restitution for property damage should be pursued.

41
42 Farmers and members of their immediate families (whether residing at home or not) should
43 be permitted to fish in ponds on their own lands and to hunt on those lands during regularly
44 posted hunting seasons, without licenses subject to special requirements.

45
46 We oppose any act which mandatorily restricts grazing of livestock in pastures where
47 running streams are located. We oppose requiring mandatory fencing of rivers, streams and
48 ponds.

49
50 We support owners of private property not being responsible or liable for any accident or
51 injury sustained by persons entering property without permission.

1
2 We support just compensation to farmers and ranchers who suffer economic losses as a
3 result of any state or federal agency ruling.
4

5 We support a landowner's right to keep and maintain a private, non-commercial dumpsite
6 for disposal of non-toxic materials.
7

8 We support a landowner's right to store equipment and vehicles on property used for
9 agricultural purposes without restriction.
10

11 We support a landowner's right to burn refuse on their land when located in a rural area in
12 compliance with state and county regulations.
13

14 We support the development of reasonable regulations for the use of unmanned aerial
15 vehicles (drones), while respecting and protecting the property and privacy rights of landowners.
16

17 We support the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for research purposes.
18

19 We support reimbursement of legal costs incurred by an agricultural producer or
20 agribusiness as a defendant in litigation involving their agriculture or agribusiness operation, if
21 the litigation is found to be frivolous or a nuisance action.
22

23 We support the ability for family agriculture to voluntarily contract with integrators in
24 order to maintain their family farm operation.
25

26 **FORECLOSED LAND AND WETLANDS**

27

28
29 We oppose arrangements between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Farm
30 Service Agency (FSA) which allow control of foreclosed lands in FSA inventory to be
31 transferred without public hearings or impact studies.
32

33 We oppose acquisition of land for hiking trails and habitat for endangered species through
34 the use of easements or other restrictions placed on deeds of foreclosed land.
35

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

40 We support development of a clear, common definition of wetlands to be used consistently
41 by all state and federal agencies. The landowner must be notified prior to the classification or re-
42 classification of his or her property. The owner of property taken as wetlands should be fairly
43 and reasonably compensated for any loss of use. While we oppose the taking of ANY land by
44 governmental agencies, no takings should occur without a sight inspection of the property and
45 full opportunity for the owner to appeal agency decision.
46

47 We propose the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) be the lead agency in matters pertaining
48 to wetlands.
49
50
51

ENERGY

1
2
3 We encourage greater emphasis on research and development and increased government
4 support to reduce U.S. dependency on foreign oil.
5

6 We encourage universities and state and federal agencies to cooperate and investigate
7 alternative processes to produce more conservation-reliable alternatives, including biofuels,
8 ethanol, biomass, fuel cells, wind and solar power, heat transfer and other sustainable energy
9 sources.
10

11 We support the continuation of 640 acres or less unit spacing for an individual vertical or
12 horizontal oil or gas well in Oklahoma.
13

14 We support the continuation of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) as a means of extraction of
15 energy resources.
16

17 We urge further development in the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) and propane as
18 alternate motor fuels.
19

20 We support the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) as drafted by Congress with the continual
21 use of ethanol-blended gasoline and development of biodiesel. We oppose small refinery
22 exemptions that have weakened RFS through the EPA.
23

24 We support the use of nuclear power plants as an alternative energy source and the
25 continued research and development for encapsulation methods for spent fuel.
26

27 We support the use of wind and solar as alternative energy sources and the potential
28 landowner leasing opportunities.
29

30 We support local communities' ability to provide primary, supplemental or back-up power
31 utilizing all power resources available.
32

33 Oklahoma public utilities, municipalities, school districts, and/or state-owned vehicles
34 should be encouraged to use Oklahoma natural gas, ethanol blended gasoline, bio-diesel and
35 propane for fuel.
36

37 Coal produced in Oklahoma should be permitted to be used for the generation of electricity
38 within the state.
39

40 We support continuing research and construction of ethanol fuel plants and oilseed
41 extraction plants. Registration, permitting and licensing fees should be held to a minimum. We
42 encourage streamlining the permitting process for inland energy refineries, alternative energy
43 production and food-grade oils.
44

45 We support research for energy alternatives appropriate to the area and environment.
46

47 We believe state and national legislation should support exploration, development and
48 production of sustainable energy sources, including the development of alternative fuels from
49 our natural resources.
50

1 We support anti-trust actions to increase competition among private industries involved in
2 energy production.

3
4 We favor retaining oil and gas depletion allowances.

5
6 Intangible drilling costs should be maintained as a deductible expense, as an
7 encouragement to potential drillers.

8
9 We favor responsible drilling and exploration for oil and gas in the United States and its
10 territories.

11
12 In the case of fuel shortages, fuel for agriculture purposes should be given top priority after
13 domestic heating and cooling needs have been met.

14
15 We oppose the creation of federal oil and gas corporations.

16
17 We support an oil import fee on foreign produced oil.

18
19 We oppose the importation of refined petroleum products.

20
21 We support legislation requiring all oil companies operating in Oklahoma to make
22 available to the royalty owner and the Oklahoma Tax Commission an annual audit of production
23 of gas or oil if requested from any well.

24
25 To relieve the ad valorem burden on landowners and to support and enhance schools and
26 local and county governments, we support the measurement and appropriate taxation of all types
27 of energy production that leave the State of Oklahoma.

28
29 Energy and energy related companies should be jointly and severally responsible for
30 damages to property and for incidental expenses such as transactional costs of updating abstracts.

31
32 We encourage protection of mineral owners with rights to participate and be involved and
33 included in class action suits to protect their income. We oppose mineral owners having to opt
34 into a lawsuit, but rather support current law which considers the mineral owner automatically
35 part of the class action lawsuit.

36
37 All energy and transmission lines should be clearly marked at frequent, visible locations
38 showing current company contact information.

39
40 Legislation should be enacted which provides that all easements automatically revert to the
41 surface owner of record and be restored no later than three years after the land ceases to be used
42 for the original intent of the easement.

43
44 We support requiring energy producers to maintain the roads when they cross private
45 property to get to their lease.

46
47 We support gas balancing (proper accounting of production). Gas balancing should be
48 balanced in million cubic feet (MMcf).

49

1 We support the required use of electronic meters and unannounced inspection of such
2 metering devices on gas wells by Oklahoma Corporation Commission employees to ensure more
3 accurate measurement and proper payment for all production.
4

5 Verified reports and records of production maintained and indexed by the Oklahoma
6 Corporation Commission should be available for the general public and royalty owners or their
7 attorneys' inspection.
8

9 We propose increasing fines for inaccurate measurement and improper payment of gas and
10 oil wells and using the penalties to fund the monitoring program.
11

12 We oppose any effort or decision that would permit an oil company to charge the mineral
13 owner a portion of production or transportation costs incurred in the production or sale of oil or
14 gas.
15

16 We support a procedure to allow a current landowner to reclaim minute mineral interests.
17 Any monies held in escrow as unclaimed mineral proceeds should also revert back to the surface
18 owner.
19

20 When mineral leases expire on land or when a well ceases production, the lessee should be
21 required to clear the records.
22

23 We encourage all mineral owners participate in mineral owners' association organizations.
24

25 We support new legislation to make forced pooling laws fair to both the mineral owner and
26 producer. "Good faith negotiations" should be clearly defined through legislation.
27

28 We favor the Oklahoma Corporation Commission requiring that spacing be based on
29 characteristics of the producing zone. If acreage is forced-pooled and another formation is
30 produced, permitting smaller spacing, that acreage pool in excess of the smaller spacing should
31 be released from the pooling order.
32

33 We urge continued monitoring of all legislation and activity on natural gas deregulation.
34

35 We urge drilling companies who are issued a drilling permit be held accountable to the
36 government agency or agencies for properly casing and cementing the hole to safe levels.
37 Violators should have their right to operate within the State of Oklahoma terminated.
38

39 We support an Oklahoma Corporation Commission rule change requiring the removal of
40 drilling fluids from reserve pits at the landowner's request.
41

42 Public funds should be used as a last resort to plug all abandoned oil and gas wells that
43 have been improperly plugged, with the abandoning company having primary liability.
44

45 We support efforts to get oil companies to use closed pit drilling systems.
46

47 We recommend that water discharge and other natural extractants, including mud and shale
48 resulting from oil and gas drilling, not be classified as hazardous or toxic waste.
49
50

1 We support a close review of the input cost of electricity, including the input costs for
2 electric cooperatives, as compared to the end cost of the utility. This is both for everyday costs
3 and in an effort to prepare for future catastrophic events.
4

6 ENVIRONMENT

7
8 We oppose the consolidation of the Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and
9 the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB).
10

11 We support a cost-share program through DEQ, OWRB, OOWA, etc., to assist rural
12 Oklahomans in proper septic systems installation and updates to existing installations to address
13 water quality concerns.
14

15 We support research and testing of drilling mud used in soil farming prior to application, in
16 addition to other permitting required.
17

18 We oppose any increases in emissions standards for agriculture unless compliance can be
19 achieved at no net cost to the owner.
20

21 We support fact-based research on the possible causes and effects of climate change. We
22 are interested in ongoing climate observations and discussions and we are ready and willing to
23 participate in active solutions should they emerge, particularly when those solutions benefit
24 Oklahomans and do not create undue burden on our state's farmers and ranchers.
25

26 We oppose the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposing and implementing
27 climate control regulations as a back door method to achieving climate change goals in the
28 absence of passage of federal legislation.
29

30 We oppose international indirect land use in calculation of carbon footprints.
31

32 We support citizens taking the lead in bringing about sound, reasonable and effective
33 solutions to the problem of pollution and favor a cooperative and voluntary approach.
34

35 We support efforts to limit pollution and run-off in urban developments.
36

37 We oppose the classification of agricultural lands as "point sources" of pollution, unless
38 scientifically proven.
39

40 We support agriculture producers in their efforts to establish soil and water conservation
41 practices for producing food and fiber. However, we oppose regulatory rules by EPA or DEQ
42 dealing with non-point water quality and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that unduly
43 burdens agriculture and is not scientifically proven.
44

45 We support only scientifically based water quality standards in streams or water bodies
46 listed on EPA's 303(d) list in determining the need for a TMDL. In addition, we favor sufficient
47 funding for a 90 percent cost-share for best management practice implementation must be in
48 place before any regulatory TMDL is implemented.
49

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

4
5 We oppose rules by EPA dealing with air particulate matter regulation regarding
6 production agriculture. We favor exemption for production agriculture.

7
8 We oppose any EPA policy directive, which would mandate the testing and/or certification
9 of farmland, unless a federal fund is established to pay necessary costs of meeting certification
10 requirements.

11
12 We recommend that agriculture no longer be regulated by the EPA, but solely regulated by
13 the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA).

14
15 We support an amendment to the EPA's authority requiring that scientific proof be
16 provided that a situation detrimental to the public's health exists prior to exercising its
17 administrative authority, unless deemed by local, state or national governing bodies as an
18 emergency.

19
20 We support exemption of on-farm fuel tanks from EPA and state agency regulation.

21
22 Counties that adopt a "green box" program should ensure that the sites are maintained and
23 that they do not create a public nuisance to adjoining landowners.

24
25 We urge the Oklahoma Legislature to appropriate funds for a state solid waste disposal
26 program administered by each county.

27
28 We support permits being issued for any dump or landfill only if located a reasonable
29 distance from a public school or flood plain.

30
31 We strongly believe it is in the nation's best interest to have a partnership of federal and
32 state governments vested with the authority to make and carry out regulations concerning the use
33 of any agricultural pesticides and/or herbicides.

34
35 We support the Oklahoma beautification program for planting flowers, trees and shrubs and
36 urge our members, local and county organizations to participate in the program.

37
38 We favor enforcing existing laws and penalties on littering and illegal dumping on the
39 highway and county roads and private property.

40
41 We are in favor of continued environmental monitoring on industrial and municipal waste
42 disposal sites.

43
44 We strongly encourage DEQ to regulate state waste transported into the state in the same
45 way that intrastate waste is regulated.

46
47 We support a fee structure for imported waste that is at minimum equal to the exporting
48 state.

1 Those wastewater treatment facilities located in Northwest Arkansas shall meet
2 Oklahoma's phosphorous water quality standard established by the Oklahoma Water Resources
3 Board (OWRB) for Scenic Rivers.

4
5 We support prohibiting any person, firm or corporation from polluting the land, ponds,
6 lakes or streams and that those in violation restore the polluted area to original condition and be
7 subject to punishment by appropriate fines.

8
9 We strongly support the efforts of the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) to clean
10 up abandoned well sites, unused equipment and non-producing wells upon request of the
11 landowner.

12
13 We support restoration of land to the original condition at the request of landowners
14 following any oil, gas, mineral, aggregate or electricity production and/or transmission activity.

15
16 We support funding for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to expand abandoned
17 mine land reclamation activities to more types of mines and a broader geographic area of the
18 state.

19
20 We support matters of mineral litigation to be considered in the local court system rather
21 than the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

22
23 We propose that just compensation be given to those individuals whose homes have been
24 damaged or made unlivable by commercial entities.

25
26 We propose applicants for construction of future commercial waste disposal sites should
27 notify every surface owner within one mile of the proposed disposal site and such permit
28 application notice should be run three times in the newspaper located closest to such sites.

29
30 When the location of an industrial waste disposal site is considered, the adverse financial
31 impact on the surrounding property must be considered. We oppose waste disposal wells,
32 including those for commercial salt water or toxic chemical disposal sites, being permitted on
33 land which overlays a major source of fresh water.

34
35 We favor a law that would make any person or company found guilty of dumping salt
36 water on public and private lands subject to a minimum fine of \$2,500, with a right for citizens'
37 damage suits, except in state roadbed construction when covered by asphalt or pavement.

38
39 A family-owned and operated confined animal and/or poultry farm should be subjected to
40 only those anti-pollution laws enforced by the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry
41 (ODAFF). State law and ODAFF rules on confined animal and poultry operations should not be
42 more restrictive than federal law, rules and regulations. We encourage reasonable, yet effective,
43 standards for protection of underground and surface water from confined animal and poultry
44 operations. We support ODAFF maintaining the delegated authority for the EPA National
45 Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). We support state funding for this delegated
46 authority.

47
48 We support incidental grazing of conservation buffer strips.

1 We favor protecting landowners who purchased their property after conducting an
2 environmental audit which found no contamination from liability from contamination later
3 discovered.

4
5 We support a mandatory refundable deposit placed on any recyclable beverage container.

6
7 We encourage recycling programs and biodegradable packaging.

8
9 We support recycling efforts for plastic and aluminum in rural areas.

10
11 We support adding agriculture tires to the state recycling program on a voluntary basis.

12
13 We support cost-share programs that encourage transporting poultry litter away from
14 nutrient-limited watersheds.

15 16 17 **TRIBAL ISSUES**

18
19 While we acknowledge tribal sovereignty, we encourage tribes and state and local
20 government entities to cooperate on economic development and agriculture issues.

21
22 We support intergovernmental collaboration between local, state, federal and tribal
23 agencies to establish practical air and water quality standards.

24
25 We support the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses by tribal governments from the
26 Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to issue to tribal members.

27
28 We support tribal governments investing in agricultural enterprises as a sustainable
29 economic endeavor.

30 31 32 **WATER**

33
34 Water quality tests mandated by state or federal agencies should be paid for by the agency
35 requiring such test.

36
37 We support the minimum flow of water should be allowed at all times from federal dams,
38 with notice given to news media in the area affected when an excessive amount of water is to be
39 released. The minimum flow should be based on the average flow of water in the streams before
40 the dam was built.

41
42 We ask that Congress define “navigable water” to mean waters that can be reasonably
43 navigated for the movement of goods including agricultural products.

44
45 We oppose the deletion of the word “navigable” waters from the federal Clean Water Act
46 (CWA) which expands the taking of private property and provides additional intrusiveness.

47
48 Currently a set gross production tax funding amount is dedicated to a water Rural
49 Economic Assistance Program (REAP) and is divided equally between the Oklahoma Water
50 Resources Board (OWRB), the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the Oklahoma Tourism

1 and Recreation Dept. for water related initiatives. We strongly support the continuation of this
2 effort and lifting the cap on this fund and making it a permanent dedicated revenue source.
3

4 State water quality statutes affecting agricultural water use should be administered and
5 enforced by the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF).
6

7 We support transparency and the application of the open meetings law with respect to
8 negotiations by the Governor, his/her designee and/or OWRB with other states, tribes,
9 municipalities, authorities and/or individuals for the sale or transfer of ownership of Oklahoma
10 water from the originating basin of origin. Preferential consideration should be given to the local
11 population where the water is held or flows before being transferred or sold to other areas.
12

13 We support the water rights of long-term water users being protected from having their
14 water depleted or polluted.
15

16 We support developing and continuing local, regional comprehensive state water plans on a
17 local, state and regional basis, and continuing regional representation on the Oklahoma Water
18 Resources Board.
19

20 We support mineral and groundwater rights remaining with the surface rights unless
21 otherwise specified and noted.
22

23 We support a complete ban on fresh underground water being used or sold for use by the
24 permit holder of water rights for secondary oil recovery.
25

26 We support reclaiming water utilized in energy development for reuse instead of using
27 fresh water.
28

29 To preserve our fresh water resources, we encourage research and development of filtration
30 processes to utilize non-fresh water resources to be utilized in energy exploration and
31 development.
32

33 We urge drilling companies who are issued a drilling permit be held accountable to the
34 government agency or agencies for properly casing and cementing the hole to safe levels to
35 prevent any possibility of contamination of drinking water. If the drilling company is found in
36 violation, the proper government agency shall be responsible for terminating their right to
37 operate within the State of Oklahoma or drilling wells in the State of Oklahoma.
38

39 The people in the area of a reservoir should have first priority concerning the use of the
40 water or revenue from that water.
41

42 We believe that the regional watershed from which water may be utilized or transferred
43 and/or sold should receive at least a reasonable portion of any economic benefit from the sale or
44 transfer of water out of or within the borders of the watershed through a pre-established trust
45 fund.
46

47 "Excess water" should be clearly defined by the OWRB.
48

49 We support continued studies on underground aquifer water storage, recharge and
50 recovery.
51

1 We oppose the sale of Oklahoma water out-of-state without meeting the needs of the state
2 and local area and encourage federally recognized Indian tribes to do likewise.

3
4 We support adequate time being allowed for public scrutiny on all compacts dealing with
5 public interest, including, but not limited to, water issues.

6
7 We believe any sale of water across the state boundaries should be voted on by the citizens
8 within the counties in the watershed from which water will be taken.

9
10 We encourage a fair and equitable assessment and not a flat fee assessment relative to
11 annual renewals of water usage.

12
13 We support agricultural use of water from Altus-Lugert Lake.

14
15 If a comprehensive water plan passed by the Legislature includes monitoring of wells, we
16 support public funding for the cost of such activity.

17
18 We support Congressional action mandating the implementation of conservation practices
19 of municipal water consumption prior to draw-down from U.S. Army Corps of Engineer
20 reservoirs.

21
22 We oppose any legislation that establishes a minimum instream flow that restricts
23 landowners' agricultural and personal use.

24 25 **A. RURAL WATER**

26
27 We support the Oklahoma Rural Water Association (ORWA) in their efforts to find
28 balance with use of water in our state.

29
30 Construction of rural water and sewer systems should be expanded and more federal and
31 state grant money should be made available for the program, proportionate to that being used by
32 cities and municipalities.

33
34 Rural water systems should provide for future growth and the first years of repayment
35 schedule should be at a reduced rate.

36
37 We support programs to provide water for rural water districts, and municipal or industrial
38 use in rural areas, provided the water rights of local landowners are protected.

39
40 We oppose any restriction on farmers and ranchers drilling their own water wells.

41
42 We support the concept of "dry fire hydrants" in rural areas and the Insurance Services
43 Office (ISO) to allow appropriate fire credits.

44
45 We support state grant funds for added fire protection through rural water districts.

46
47 We oppose any new rules from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that add to the
48 list of contaminants and that decrease the acceptable levels of contaminants that municipalities
49 and rural water districts must test for, unless backed by sound science.

50

1 We encourage county water districts and municipalities cooperation in servicing customers
2 in annexed areas.

3
4 We support and encourage state, federal and tribal funding for improvements to the
5 infrastructure of rural water systems across Oklahoma.

6 7 8 **TAXATION** 9

10 Oklahoma lands acquired by the state or federal government, municipalities or by non-
11 profit organizations, including commercial real property and farm and ranch land owned by
12 religious institutions, should be subject to ad valorem tax, except worship centers and parsonages
13 should remain exempt.

14
15 We believe all fuel tax revenues should be directed to improving highways, roads and
16 bridges.

17
18 We recommend legislation allowing farmers to use funds from the sale of their family farm
19 to create a retirement fund similar to a 401K or Keogh plan. Taxes would be paid on income as it
20 is withdrawn, rather than on a lump sum as a capital gain tax.

21
22 We support maintaining the current capital gains tax at 15 percent or less.

23
24 We support harmonizing state laws on combine entry from one state to another.

25
26 We support harmonizing and reciprocating Oklahoma state law with other states' farm tax
27 exemptions.

28
29 We oppose taxes being levied on stored grain.

30
31 We oppose the imposition of any additional and/or movement of the federal motor fuel tax
32 to achieve budget deficit reduction.

33
34 We support the collection of road use fuel taxes at the terminal point.

35
36 Capital gains (now taxable income) must be eliminated for farmers and ranchers on "write-
37 down" portion of their loans when they restructure their loans through voluntary conveyances to
38 stay in business.

39
40 We support the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Chapter 12 bankruptcy reorganization for
41 farmers however the IRC must be amended to create separate tax status for the Chapter 12 estate.

42
43 We support state tax provisions favorable to producers forced to liquidate livestock and
44 which will not conflict with federal tax provisions.

45
46 We support the current federal tax provisions granted by the Internal Revenue Service
47 (IRS) for producers forced to liquidate livestock.

48
49 We support allowing a tax deduction for farmers for hay and grain donated to disaster
50 areas. This deduction should be extended to food commodities donated to hungry and needy
51 people.

1
2 We support tax incentives or tax credits for producers who purchase or have purchased
3 equipment to convert from conventional till farming to no-till or minimum till for controlling
4 wind erosion and water conservation.

5
6 We support providing tax credit incentives to retiring farmers who sell their agriculture
7 operations to a young farmer to further encourage new operators to enter production agriculture.

8
9 We oppose the federal sales tax called “value added tax.”

10
11 Whenever land is purchased under the threat of eminent domain, capital gains taxes should
12 not be required.

13
14 We oppose interest rates being imputed by the IRS to individuals who sell their property
15 and provide financing at a rate lower than the rate being charged by financial institutions. The
16 IRS should not be permitted to charge that individual the difference between the lower rate being
17 charged and the going rate being charged by financial institutions.

18
19 We support a more strict definition of IRC Sec. 1031 land exchanges limiting non-taxable
20 events to the current use of both properties and the intended use for the next five years.

21
22 We favor taxing the money earned in the United States by any citizen of another country.

23
24 We favor increasing the state income tax exemption to match the federal amount.

25
26 We support a constitutional amendment providing additional millage for county
27 governments, subject to 60 percent approval by voters of individual counties.

28
29 We oppose replacing state income tax with increased property taxes and/or taxes on
30 services.

31
32 We support no further reduction to the state income tax rate as these reductions put undue
33 strain on our rural public school systems and increases the likelihood of additional ad valorem
34 taxes.

35
36 For state revenue development we support fair and equitable treatment of all resources.

37
38 We support taxing aggregate materials when they are removed from the county where they
39 were mined.

40
41 We support the total elimination of a federal estate tax. In the absence of total elimination,
42 we recommend a federal estate tax exemption be set at \$11 million and indexed thereafter to
43 inflation.

44
45 We support increasing the annual gift tax exemption level.

46
47 We strongly encourage American Farmers & Ranchers Life to educate our membership
48 through estate planning seminars across the state.

1 We request that an additional person, with an agricultural background, be placed on any ad
2 valorem task force. This person is to be appointed by the County Assessors Association and
3 confirmed by the Oklahoma Senate.

4
5 We support property taxes being based on fair market value.

6
7 We recommend use of current county soil conservation maps and surveys to tax agriculture
8 land as to its use.

9
10 We call for an accounting to the people of Oklahoma by the Oklahoma Tax Commission
11 and/or State Auditor of all tax revenue generated by liquor by the drink, pari-mutuel betting,
12 Indian compacts and lottery tickets.

13
14 We ask the Oklahoma Legislature to continue the present practice of assessing agricultural
15 land based on 75 percent of rental income, 25 percent of comparable sales, to arrive at a per point
16 value.

17
18 We strongly support continuation of the sales tax exemption, tax credits and income tax
19 deductions used in agriculture.

20
21 We support a state-wide, sales tax-free weekend for consumers.

22
23 We do not support an increase in ad valorem taxes as a means to solve a state revenue
24 shortfall.

25
26 We oppose all ad valorem tax increases that do not require a super-majority vote.

27
28 The Constitution of the State of Oklahoma should be adhered to in the use of ad valorem
29 taxes, with oversight by the Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector Office.

30
31 We oppose any attempts by oil, gas and wind power companies to exempt their production
32 equipment from tax rolls.

33
34 We oppose the mandatory licensing of farm trailers for any purpose with the exception of
35 commercial use.

36
37 The Oklahoma Tax Commission should notify and clarify with businesses concerning farm
38 items that are tax exempt.

39
40 We support putting all road user taxes in a trust fund for the construction and maintenance
41 of roads. The road user funds now going to other uses should be replaced, dollar for dollar, from
42 the general fund.

43
44 We support the return of investment tax credit on all American-made products.

45
46 Because the collection of taxes falls within the purview of the Oklahoma Tax Commission
47 and the IRS, we believe a farmer's responsibility, with respect to assisting these state and federal
48 agencies, should be limited to a single, annual reporting of wages paid to farm workers.

49
50 We oppose attempts to reduce the percentage of voters necessary to pass school bond
51 issues from 60 percent to a majority vote.

1
2 We support special consideration be given to personnel involved in natural disaster
3 response regarding income taxes.

4
5 We support equal taxation for all new and old, vertical and horizontal oil and gas wells and
6 wind generation facilities in Oklahoma.

7
8 We support the Oklahoma Legislature attempting to more effectively collect sales tax on
9 internet purchases.

10
11 We support a flat-rate tax on road-use electric vehicles in lieu of a fuel tax. This flat-rate
12 tax should be used for the repair and improvement of roads and bridges.

13
14 We support a flat-rate tax on farm-use diesel vehicles in lieu of a fuel tax. This flat-rate tax
15 should be used for the repair and improvement of roads and bridges.

16
17 We support increasing the medical marijuana license fee for both OMMA and OBN
18 licensing to a competitive rate based upon the needs of the regulatory agency. We would support
19 a tiered system dependent on the type and size of grow operation.

20 21 22 **GOVERNMENT**

23
24
25 The U.S. Congress should not pass any laws which apply to U.S. citizens for which they
26 exempt themselves. All laws should apply equally to all, including the people who pass the laws.

27
28 We fully support the usage of “God” on government buildings, legal documents and legal tender
29 and we oppose the removal of existing references.

30
31 We unanimously encourage all elected officials to vote the issues rather than partisan
32 voting.

33
34 We believe that fees or taxes collected by government for a specific purpose should be used
35 for that intended purpose.

36
37 We support the education and enforcement of the military code for the proper care and use
38 of the flag of the United States. Any intentional defamation or destruction of the flag should be
39 considered a felony. We oppose protesters at all military and civilian funerals.

40
41 We support government accepting the responsibility of commitments made to military
42 veterans.

43 **A. IMMIGRATION**

44
45
46 All vaccination and testing laws that apply to U.S. citizens shall also apply to immigrants
47 upon entry to the United States.

48
49 We favor immigration laws that continue to embody our creed of acceptance of
50 immigrants, while not burdening our governments’ and citizens’ social and other resources.

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

3
4 We support a documented guest worker program for immigrant laborers that results in
5 these individuals paying taxes, obeying local, state and federal laws and have the option of
6 returning to their home country, with full access to the judicial system.

7
8 We oppose illegal immigrant minor children, while awaiting processing, being incarcerated
9 with convicted adult felons.

10
11 We support immigration laws that provide a system of identification, classification and
12 taxation.

13
14 We support modernizing the H-2A visa program.

15
16 We support the development of new authorization documents that cannot be manipulated
17 or duplicated and include biometric identifiers. Until such a system is developed we oppose
18 employers of guest workers to be responsible for the authenticity of guest worker documentation.

19
20 **B. POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES (PAC's)**

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 American Farmers &
24 Ranchers Association Political Action Committee (PAC) to support candidates that support our
25 policies and issues.

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

29
30 **C. FEDERAL**

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

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

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

39
40 We oppose any efforts to convert U.S. land descriptions to the metric system.

41
42 The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and other government agencies should be held liable to
43 pay attorney fees of both parties when the government loses the case.

44
45 We believe the United States should not loan money to any entity of government or a
46 foreign power for less than that it must pay to borrow the money.

47
48 We oppose approval of any additional federal holidays.

49
50 We favor legislation to require disclosure of foreign ownership and control of American
51 real estate and business firms.

1
2 We support federal policies and programs which encourage U.S. investors to invest in
3 America. We oppose programs such as those administered by the U.S. Agency for International
4 Development (USAID), which provides monetary incentives for U.S.-based businesses to
5 relocate in foreign countries.
6

7 We oppose the placing of U.S. troops under the command of the United Nations
8 commanders.
9

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

13 We support legislation that clearly defines “strikes” as any work action which disrupts
14 services performed by public employees, without regard to what it might be called, such as “slow
15 down,” “mass resignation,” “report-in-sick,” “blue flu,” “voluntary suspension,” etc. Penalties
16 provided by law should be mandatory and not negotiable by the government entity involved.
17

18 We believe the bonus compensation used by the federal government should be used as an
19 incentive and reward program for excellence instead of part of the salary package and the
20 expectations of employees. Bonus compensation should be separate and apart from the regular
21 salary.
22

23 We oppose the efforts of the state and federal government to take over any part or branch
24 of county government.
25

26 We must have more meaningful, comprehensive campaign finance reform in the election of
27 our state and national legislators, officials and president. We encourage further study of public
28 campaign financing as a means of limiting the influence of large corporations, self interest
29 groups and the wealthiest individuals.
30

31 We believe it should be illegal for non-citizens, foreign companies and/or foreign countries
32 to provide money for candidates for offices in the United States.
33

34 We oppose granting congressional representation to the District of Columbia.
35

36 We support amending the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act so that reasonable
37 tolerances can be established for food production; and that absolute proof must be established
38 that food and additives will not adversely affect animal and human health by its use.
39

40 We encourage the United States Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to utilize the
41 abundant and thorough evidence suggesting that Americans should consume a balanced diet rich
42 in nutrients which includes lean meats and dairy products and we encourage the increased usage
43 of Oklahoma produced agricultural commodities in all state and federal institutions.
44

45 We oppose the political appointments of “czars” in the White House which often have
46 more political power than secretarial appointments which require more congressional scrutiny
47 and confirmation. We believe such appointments should be sharply curtailed and require
48 additional oversight by Congress.
49

50 We support appointed federal judges being subject to congressional review and re-
51 confirmed periodically, every six years.

1
2 We support legislation that Congress cannot receive a salary raise to take effect during their
3 current term of office or change their retirement status to take effect during their current term of
4 office.

5
6 We support retaining the present U.S. Electoral College method of electing the U.S.
7 President and Vice-President. We oppose restricting our right to vote by limiting terms of our
8 national legislators.

9
10 We support a re-assessment of all retirement programs for county, state and federal
11 employees and elected officials to assure that they are fair to both the employee and the taxpayer.

12 13 **D. STATE**

14
15 If any person filing for political office is holding a current elected state office, that person,
16 upon receiving their party's nomination for the general election, should immediately resign their
17 currently-held state office.

18
19 We support repeal of current term restrictions on state legislators.

20
21 State representatives should be elected for terms of four years.

22
23 We oppose any move that would encourage consolidation of power, more specifically into
24 the office of the Governor.

25
26 We oppose the removal or transfer of inspection on any agriculture practices from the
27 Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) to any other state agency.

28
29 We support adequate funding for ODAFF, Conservation Commission, Cooperative
30 Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station to meet staffing requirements of day to
31 day needs and to utilize these personnel to address catastrophic occurrences. We oppose
32 disproportionate cuts which would adversely impact all natural resource agencies.

33
34 We support legislation to simplify the probate of estates including the excessive costs of
35 abstracting.

36
37 We oppose the Oklahoma Attorney General's circumvention of the proper regulatory
38 agencies relating to the investigation and litigation of potential environmental compliance.

39
40 Prior to filing any lawsuit, the Oklahoma Attorney General shall have the simple majority
41 approval of both the Oklahoma House and Senate.

42
43 We support the Oklahoma Ethics Commission's efforts to affect standards of behavior
44 which will result in more public confidence. However, to encourage public service on boards and
45 commissions we recommend that reporting requirements be not overly intrusive.

46
47 We support the removal of the straight party voting option on election ballots in the state of
48 Oklahoma.

49
50 Any election where party filing is required shall allow all eligible voters to vote if only one
51 party is represented.

1
2 We support a 60 percent favorable approval vote by citizens for the passage of all bond
3 issues.

4
5 We oppose land use planning and zoning by counties in recognition of the need to preserve
6 agriculture land.

7
8 We encourage ODAFF to serve as an intermediary for producers with export opportunities.

9
10 The Oklahoma Legislature should be prohibited from diverting funds from various state
11 retirement systems to fund state government, and honor existing obligations.

12
13 We support efficiencies in all state agencies. We object to the state legislature removing
14 money from state agency revolving funds to balance the budget; particularly, from non-
15 appropriated state agencies whose funds are received from entities they regulate, not state tax
16 revenue.

17
18 We oppose a state constitutional convention. Any amendments for the state constitution
19 should be submitted to a vote of the people in the form of a single-issue state question.

20
21 With respect to ballot initiatives, we support a constitutional amendment which would
22 provide fairness to both rural and urban constituencies and require all initiative petition signature
23 drives achieve the requisite percent as prescribed in the constitution—in each of the
24 congressional districts as opposed to statewide—to be deemed as having sufficient signatures to
25 be placed on the ballot for voter consideration.

26
27 We will work to prevent and repeal excessive rules, regulations and legislation which levy
28 rigid requirements in the name of “the public interest,” but that instead, penalize citizens or deny
29 them needed services by such excessive regulations.

30
31 We support the enforcement of state laws concerning the displaying and removal of
32 campaign signs.

33 34 **E. COUNTY**

35
36 County governments should be given a greater role in initiating environmental safeguards
37 and in developing economic opportunities within their counties.

38
39 State and federal funds allocated to support county and municipal governments should not
40 be diverted to other governmental entities or programs.

41
42 Any election where party filing is required shall allow all eligible voters to vote if only one
43 party is represented.

44
45 When the Oklahoma Legislature mandates additional services or expenditures by the
46 counties, the state must provide funding.

47
48 We oppose the re-evaluation of agricultural land for tax purposes.

49
50 Property valuation should not be automatically raised the maximum 5% without due
51 consideration of the specific property before reevaluation.

1
2 We support the present form of county government, with the current structure of eight
3 elected officials per county.

4
5 We oppose any elected state or county position being changed to an appointed position.

6
7 We support the elimination of partisan designations for county elected officials.

8
9 We support legislation requiring proposed salaries for county officers be publicized before
10 being finalized.

11
12 We favor intra-county district cooperative ownership and use of county road equipment.

13
14 We urge that travel expenses for official business of county officers and county
15 commissioners be verified claims rather than paid by a set travel/expense allowance.

16 17 **F. FEDERAL AGENCIES**

18
19 We recommend that government agencies' rules and regulations be more accountable and
20 balanced to the best interests of the people and reviewed regularly to alleviate the negative
21 effects on small businesses.

22
23 We support maintaining the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Animal and
24 Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) within the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA). We
25 oppose any attempts to move these or any part of these programs to any other federal agency
26 outside USDA.

27
28 We oppose efforts to fragment the USDA by shifting traditional agencies to other
29 departments.

30
31 We support the USDA National Appeals Division as being the final decision on producer
32 appeal cases.

33 34 35 **UTILITIES**

36
37 We recommend a standard minimum height of at least 17 feet for new utilities across
38 existing highways in the state of Oklahoma.

39
40 We support regulation that limits price gouging of the fuel source for utilities in times of
41 natural disasters and other relevant emergencies.

42
43 We favor a requirement that towers 50-200 feet tall be visibly identified.

44
45 We support the use of some form of identification, such as tracer wires, for underground
46 utilities that cannot otherwise be easily located.

47
48 When utility location services are required by law, there should be a finite response time.
49

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

4
5 We oppose unjustified rate increases.

6
7 We support legislation to direct the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to regulate
8 telephone rates for Oklahoma in such a way that intrastate rates will be no more than comparable
9 to interstate rates.

10
11 We oppose the sale of federally-owned hydroelectric plants that serve our cooperatives and
12 municipalities.

13
14 We support greater access to high-speed broadband internet in rural Oklahoma.

15
16 We support a consistent and transparent per-pole attachment fee to promote adequate
17 broadband service to rural Oklahoma.

18 19 20 **FARM POLICY**

21
22 To establish a foundation for achieving our long-term goal of returning profitability to the
23 family farm system of agriculture and economic stability to rural areas, we recommend that the
24 following principles be incorporated within U.S. farm policy:

25
26 We oppose the use of embargoes and sanctions of agricultural goods, unless agriculture
27 producers are properly compensated.

28
29 We encourage the development of a farm program that is simplified and economically
30 beneficial for producers.

31
32 Farm programs and regulations should be finalized prior to the sowing/planting seasons
33 of all crops.

34
35 Commodity program payments should be delivered to participating farmers in a timely
36 fashion.

37
38 State and county Farm Service Agency (FSA) / Natural Resources Conservation Service
39 (NRCS) committees should be granted greater authority in determining county and district
40 needs.

41
42 We support retention of the present historical formula (1910-1914 base) as a yardstick for
43 measuring farm costs and income compared to present day.

44
45 We support the administration of farm programs through elected community and county
46 farmer committees.

47
48 We support adequate federal participation in funding soil and water conservation
49 programs. Land diversion programs should not discourage long-term conservation and soil
50 building practices.

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

2
3 We support use and expansion of the Office of Food for Peace (PL 480) programs with
4 proper oversight of food commodities distributed.

5
6 We strongly believe that all food and fiber products imported into the United States must
7 comply with U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) quality, safety and health standards.

8
9 We support indexing of commodity target prices to reflect cost of production and a
10 reasonable return.

11
12 Low interest loans and financial assistance should be available to family farmers and
13 ranchers to help them establish viable farming and ranching operations.

14
15 We support the farmers' right to update their proven yields and receive reflective farm
16 program benefits based on proven yields in lieu of FSA program yields.

17
18 We oppose payment limitations merely based on the size of the operation.

19
20 We support future farm policy that recognizes our geographical differences and provides
21 flexibility regardless of the agriculture operation whether crops or livestock.

22
23 We support the continuing of farm program payments to producers who graze-out their
24 grain rather than mechanically harvest their grain.

25
26 We support continuation of federal disaster programs for livestock and crop production.

27
28 While we believe in traditional program payments, in lieu of these we support an
29 enhancement of revenue assurance and crop insurance programs which encourages participation
30 by producers.

31
32 We support restoration of the following items without budget baseline, and if possible to be
33 included as part of the permanent budget baseline: Small watershed rehabilitation; grasslands
34 reserve program; wetlands reserve program; supplemental agricultural disaster assistance;
35 livestock indemnity payments; livestock forage disaster program; emergency assistance for
36 livestock, honeybees and farm-raised catfish; funding of pending rural development loan and
37 grant applications; value-added agricultural market development program grants and rural micro-
38 entrepreneur assistance program.

39
40 We support permanent disaster authority assistance programs that provide quick and
41 adequate compensation.

42
43 We support enhancing, improving and strengthening crop insurance programs, without
44 further program cuts, as a risk management tool for producers.

45
46 We support continued funding of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the
47 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
48 (CREP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); and capping CRP at 40
49 million acres and restoring the crop base after contract expiration.

50

1 We support fully funding CSP, given the additional acres included with the elimination of
2 base acres from lands not planted in program crops being automatically enrolled.

3
4 We support establishment of a per acre payment on CRP which limits the payment to the
5 fair rental value.

6
7 Any cropland converted to grassland with a prior established crop base will have that base
8 protected until such time that the land is restored back to cropland use, and

9
10 In the interest of good conservation practices and not destroying residue which would
11 encourage erosion, we support allowing producers to qualify for prevented planting for crop
12 insurance/Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for acres in areas categorized as
13 severe drought.

14
15 We support Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) contracts be allowed to qualify for
16 livestock feed assistance in times of severe drought to reduce the grazing pressure on enrolled
17 lands which could cause erosion.

18
19 We support higher emphasis on NRCS technical and financial assistance for EQIP
20 conversion to no-till and water conservation assistance, including pond clean-out and new
21 construction, and support FSA additional resources through the Emergency Conservation
22 Program for hooking up pasture taps, drilling wells, etc.

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

26
27 We support restoration of funding for technical assistance at FSA and NRCS to help
28 effectively implement the farm bill.

29
30 We support programs which reward producers for how they farm, such as the CSP.

31
32 We support cost share programs to improve irrigation systems and other methods of water
33 conservation.

34
35 We support restoration of authority to allow producers to extend beyond 15-year direct or
36 guaranteed loan borrowing from FSA.

37
38 We support reducing the paperwork requirements for young farmers to comply with
39 beginning farmer and rancher development loans and grants programs.

40
41 We support the federal government using available technology to monitor crop production
42 around the world and report both quantity and quality to American producers in a timely manner.

43
44 We support continuation of the Farm Bill Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments
45 (SURE) program in subsequent farm bills.

46
47 We support efforts to maximize the amount of dollars appropriated in the farm bill for the
48 purpose of farm program payments to help farmers and ranchers.

49
50 We oppose concentration and vertical integration that is detrimental to the family farm and
51 ranch operation in agriculture, with the exception of producer-owned cooperatives.

1
2 In an effort to promote homeland security and food safety, we strongly support only
3 products “born, raised, slaughtered and processed” or “sprouted, grown, harvested and
4 processed” in this country to be eligible to receive a U.S. label including products sold at eating
5 establishments.

6
7 As “family farmer” is defined in this document, we support family farms and believe that
8 program benefits, such as FSA guaranteed and direct loans, should be directed to assist the
9 family operator.

10
11 Current county production information should be obtained from county agriculture
12 producers for use by farmer-elected county FSA committee members.

13
14 We support programs which educate the media on the function of agriculture.

15
16 We encourage the executive branch to make available to family farmers and ranchers any
17 funds appropriated for intended agricultural purposes by Congress.

18
19 We oppose the USDA selling government-held surplus commodity, which artificially
20 depresses the price received by producers.

21
22 We favor storage paid farmer-owned reserves not to exceed 25 percent of production.

23
24 Individuals holding warehouse receipts or scale tickets marked for storage will have
25 customer's priority in recovering their property when storage facilities file for bankruptcy.

26
27 Fixed land costs should be included as a cost of production in government calculations.

28
29 Land owned, leased or that receives funding from by foreign governments or persons not
30 citizens of the United States should not be eligible for any U.S. farm policy programs.

31
32 We encourage the continued oversight of the federal school nutrition program by Congress
33 to reduce obesity, consider the impact on local school budgets, caloric intake needs relative to
34 student needs and participation by students.

35 36 37 **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION**

38
39 We support the ecosystem services market program concepts promoted by the Noble
40 Research Institute as part of a national multisector stakeholder group charged with creating a
41 large-scale program to finance, generate and sell ecosystem service credits from working
42 agricultural lands through a voluntary farmer and rancher participation program.

43
44 We support utilization of cover crops in a no-till or minimum tillage system to promote soil
45 health benefits.

46
47 No decision shall be made by USDA-NRCS or Oklahoma Conservation Commission that
48 results in the taking of use of land or limitation of its use without first conducting an on-site
49 meeting with the operator and/or landowner.

1 All engineering work, on family farms or family owned corporation farms, mandated by
2 the Oklahoma Feed yard Act should be performed by Natural Resources Conservation Service
3 (NRCS) engineers within their respective districts.
4

5 Final authority over required conservation practices should be vested in the local soil
6 conservation districts and the county Farm Service Agency (FSA) committee.
7

8 We support the continuation of a state cost-share program for soil and water conservation
9 practices including increased funding for Eastern Red Cedar removal and invasive species
10 control.
11

12 We support increased education on how to obtain funds for Eastern Red Cedar removal and
13 invasive species control.
14

15 We support the established state fund for the purpose of matching federal funds and for
16 state maintenance funds to be administered by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to repair
17 and maintain those watershed structures constructed by the conservation districts for the purpose
18 of flood control within the boundaries of the state of Oklahoma. We support national efforts to
19 provide rehabilitation funds for watershed structures.
20

21 We urge continuation of soil conservation districts and FSA programs with full authority
22 residing in the farmer-elected county and community committees.
23

24 We support and encourage Congress to fund the small upstream flood control projects
25 administered by NRCS.
26

27 We oppose conservation program provisions which penalize producers for early adaption
28 of stewardship practices.
29

30 We ask that a conservation program be designed with sufficient incentive to retire marginal
31 cropland from production.
32

33 We support and encourage the continued voluntary installation of best management
34 practices under the Clean Water Act (CWA) as it pertains to agricultural non-point sources of
35 pollution. Reasonable conservation compliance standards should be established by the local FSA
36 county committee and the local conservation district board based on the unique characteristics of
37 the soils in that county.
38

39 We oppose any and all efforts to re-direct CWA Sec. 319 funds away from the Oklahoma
40 Conservation Commission.
41

42 We support any legislative efforts to solidify the position of the Oklahoma Conservation
43 Commission as the state agency that receives and administers CWA Sec. 319 funds.
44

45 We encourage the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation to pursue any and all action to hold
46 the water quality work of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, local conservation districts
47 and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) NRCS in Oklahoma as a potential model for all states
48 to follow to address nonpoint source pollution through locally-led, voluntary, cooperative
49 conservation instead of through regulations or lawsuits.
50

1 We support a short-term working lands soil conservation program intended to benefit
2 wildlife, soil health and water quality while also addressing the surplus of grain.
3
4

5 6 **COMPETITION AND FAIR MARKETS** 7

8 We oppose non-family corporations which negatively impact production agriculture.
9

10 We support appropriate bonding requirements to ensure clean up by out-of-state and
11 foreign limited liability companies, corporations or partnerships, when working in Oklahoma.
12

13 We support state nuisance laws which provide rural residents with immunity from nuisance
14 claims for agricultural activities including marketing.
15

16 Only the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) should be charged
17 with the enforcement and administration of all rules and regulations pertaining to production
18 agriculture.
19

20 We support legislation restricting investment and ownership or leasing of land and natural
21 resources by foreign nations and non-citizens.
22

23 We support poultry, swine and other contract growers in their efforts to enhance their
24 bargaining and negotiating positions so they may negotiate fair and equitable contracts with
25 corporate processors and integrators.
26

27 We discourage speculation in commodity markets.
28

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

34 We support competition among agriculture suppliers and retailers and discourage territorial
35 monopolies. Equipment manufacturers should not prevent competition.
36
37

38 **MARKETING OF AG COMMODITIES** 39

40 We favor increased farmer-operator representation on exchange boards, specifically on
41 those committees responsible for rule-making on agricultural commodity contracts.
42

43 We support keeping the oversight and authorization of the Commodity Futures Trade
44 Commission (CFTC) within the U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committees, and believe that
45 the CFTC should:
46

- 47 1. Guard against insider trading by individuals or firms which possess foreknowledge of
48 significant price changes due to large market transactions;
49
- 50 2. Ensure an adequate number of delivery points for hedging participants;
51

- 1 3. Work in cooperation with state securities enforcement agencies to crack down on
2 “boiler room” operations and other violations of the Commodities Exchange Act; and
3
4 4. Monitor, with special vigilance, any market movements which indicate the deliberate
5 accumulation of excessive speculative positions, and to exercise, when necessary,
6 those emergency powers granted by Congress.
7

8 Congress should investigate how the practice of short selling of commodities and futures
9 manipulation by major national or international grain and livestock companies adversely affects
10 the price farmers receive.

11
12 We oppose trading organizations accessing segregated funds.
13

14 We support investigation and potential regulations concerning fair trade practices in all
15 commodity marketing exchanges.
16

17 We support sufficient bonding, federal insurance or other types of protection for persons
18 commercially engaged in trading stocks, bonds, financial instruments, livestock or crops.
19

20 We support the continuation of agricultural weights and measures activities by the
21 Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF).
22

23 We support the establishment and implementation of a country-of-origin labeling program.
24
25
26

27 TRADE

28

29 Trade mitigation payments shall not be made to multi-national corporations or foreign
30 entities.
31

32 To facilitate the expedient delivery of commodities relative to trade opportunities we
33 support increased attention to maintenance of the waterways infrastructure of the United States.
34

35 We support bilateral and multi-lateral fair trade agreements, not free trade agreements, to
36 stabilize international grain marketing and to expand agricultural exports.
37

38 We support continuing efforts to normalize trade relations with Cuba.
39

40 We support maintaining balanced trade with foreign countries and imposing tariffs on
41 imports which disrupt domestic farm markets.
42

43 U.S. trade negotiators should consider human rights issues during negotiations on
44 international trade.
45

46 We recognize that food and agriculture have unique characteristics that differentiate
47 them from other sectors of the global economy. Because food is an integral part of human
48 life, every nation should be afforded the right to establish and maintain their own domestic
49 farm programs.
50

1 We favor appropriate action of equal value to counter lost markets caused by tariff and
2 non-tariff trade barriers.

3
4 We support U.S. funding of the World Bank to the extent that it is beneficial to the U.S.
5 economy.

6
7 We oppose the forgiveness of any foreign debt, whether military or economic.

8
9 We urge protection against the loss of American jobs.

10
11 We support a proposal that all foreign aid be in the form of credits to be used to buy
12 American goods and commodities.

13
14 We oppose export of fertilizer and other materials necessary for agricultural productions
15 when a definite need for these materials is evident in this country.

16
17 We support the initiation of tariffs to ensure a stable food supply.

18
19 We oppose importation of duty free renewable fuel.

20
21 We oppose any reduction of duties or tariffs on agricultural products imported to the
22 United States.

23
24 Food safety legislation must include a substantial increase in the inspection of imported
25 food and feed products. The cost of inspection should come from fees on imports. All imported
26 food and feed products should be inspected.

27
28 To protect U.S. food safety standards and the availability of domestically-produced
29 agricultural products, we oppose lowering any U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) standard to
30 accommodate any foreign country's food and fiber import products.

31
32 All beef imports should be counted under the beef import quota system and the current beef
33 import cap should be maintained.

34
35 We oppose the importation of products from countries that do not accept the importation of
36 U.S. agricultural products.

37
38 We favor increasing the per capita income limitation for countries eligible to receive aid
39 under the Food for Peace Program (PL 480).

40
41 When possible all U.S. military installations, government agencies and schools should be
42 required to use only food produced by American farmers and ranchers.

43
44 Contract sales for agriculture exports should be guaranteed.

45
46 We support exempting agriculture from trade sanctions. If embargoes or sanctions are
47 implemented, producers should be compensated for the loss of agricultural markets.

48
49 We oppose the establishment of the "department of trade" as a cabinet office.
50

1 We support the review of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and World
2 Trade Organization (WTO) agreements. However, we strongly oppose any efforts to restrict
3 agriculture trade export efforts.

4
5 We believe all participating countries of the NAFTA agreement should abide by U.S.
6 safety standards for trucking when operating on U.S. highways.

7
8 We support agriculture organization representatives be included early in the process when
9 considering future trade agreements, when agriculture products are involved.

10
11 We oppose the WTO and specific trade agreements having undue influence on U.S. farm
12 policy which conflicts with the sovereignty and laws of the citizens of the United States.

13
14 We support full congressional deliberation prior to the enactment of any trade agreement.

15 16 17 **COMMODITIES**

18
19 We support research and promotion programs financed by mandatorily paid and voluntarily
20 refundable deductions from the proceeds of sales by producers of agricultural commodities with
21 disbursement of funds controlled solely by boards of domestic producers elected by those
22 domestic producers assessed. The producer boards also solely control the operations of the
23 programs.

24
25 We support producing biotech commodities for a continued efficient and abundant food
26 and fiber supply as long as food safety is ensured, barriers are not created to interrupt trade
27 between nations or that negatively affect export possibilities for any commodity.

28
29 We support check-off programs for imported commodities being the same as domestic
30 commodities.

31
32 We support all weather disasters be treated equal with respect to indemnifying producers
33 and citizens.

34
35 We support the retention of the basic agribusiness infrastructure critical to rural America
36 which has been impacted by adverse weather conditions (i.e. grain elevators, livestock auctions
37 and cotton gins).

38
39 In order to protect agriculture producers we support the concept of indemnity funds and
40 being actively engaged in making certain indemnity funds are sufficient and flexible to keep up
41 with increasing market value.

42
43 We believe the news media should utilize scientific terminology when reporting issues
44 relevant to the agriculture industry which has the potential to impact commodity market prices to
45 agriculture producers. For example, instead of using "swine flu," "H1N1" should be used, or
46 "BSE" instead of "mad cow."

47
48 Be it resolved that all licensing entities for in-state and out-of-state custom harvesters, and
49 for-hire transporters of agriculture commodities and products collaborate to establish a
50 centralized permitting process.

1 We support research, development and commercialization of industrialized hemp for use as
2 fiber and other byproducts.

3
4 **A. WHEAT**

5
6 We encourage Congress to initiate legislation to control price-depressing sales of
7 government-owned wheat and the flood of price-depressing wheat imports.

8
9 We support inspection and compensation for producers, custom harvesters and handlers to
10 reduce losses caused by all diseases.

11
12 No foreign materials whatsoever should be allowed to be added into wheat or feed grains
13 for export prior to or during the loading of ships for export.

14
15 Since grain buyers levy a discount on grain below a certain quality standard, they should
16 also pay a premium for grain that is better than standard with both discounts and premiums
17 posted.

18
19 We support a coordinated effort among wheat producing countries to develop a genetically
20 enhanced variety with adequate research to ensure food safety and consumer acceptance.

21
22 We encourage the U.S. Wheat Associates to become more active in addressing domestic
23 concerns.

24
25 **B. COTTON**

26
27 Price support loan on cotton should be based on a domestic profitability concept, rather
28 than a foreign cotton exchange. As long as the present price support level is based on the A-
29 Index, we ask that it be based on a six-month marketing period.

30
31 We support continuation of the boll weevil eradication program and maintaining boll
32 weevil-free status.

33
34 We favor keeping the cotton gins under the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

35
36 We support relaxing the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's financial reporting
37 requirements for cotton gins.

38
39 We support cotton gin trash research, including fuel pelleting and cattle feed.

40
41 **C. LIVESTOCK**

42
43 We support a modernized pre-determined arbitration process for resolving estray livestock
44 complaints. We support strong financial penalties for owners of "repeat offender" trespassing
45 livestock.

46
47 We oppose the defining of animal manure, waste or nutrients as being considered
48 hazardous and regulated under state law or federal "Superfund" law, the Comprehensive
49 Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA).

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

3
4 We support clarification of the rules on the closure of lagoons of current operating facilities
5 and for existing non-operating facilities.

6
7 We support continuing education requirements for CAFOs producers be on a basis of every
8 third year.

9
10 We encourage the leadership of the various livestock species and general farm
11 organizations to work together to create a USDA approved established disaster plan to help
12 protect the future of our farmers and ranchers.

13
14 We support implementation of a livestock disaster program that compensates producers
15 when tariffs, imports or disease affect the reduction of price.

16
17 We support keeping Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) in place and establishing a fund
18 so the payment factor can be kept at 100 percent to insure timely payments.

19
20 We support funding a cost share program to build hay barns to increase our state hay
21 storage capacity for times of emergency such as drought and wildfires.

22
23 We recommend enrollment in the Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health
24 Sciences (OSU-CVHS) be expanded. Preference should be given to rural Oklahoma residents.

25
26 We support an initiative to address the shortage of state large animal practice veterinarians
27 that focuses on financial assistance for vet school education. We additionally support a low
28 interest loan or guaranteed loan for purchasing an existing practice or construction of a new large
29 animal clinic in rural Oklahoma. In exchange for both considerations the veterinarian will
30 practice a specified number of years in a rural area.

31
32 We oppose the requirement that veterinary drugs, be sold by prescription only. We support
33 full availability of veterinary drugs to agriculture producers in order to provide adequate animal
34 health care.

35
36 We support retaining the option of using antibiotics in medicines or feeds for animal health
37 preventative measures or when treating livestock that are sick, with a veterinarian's consultation.

38
39 We support the livestock owners' personal property right to treat their own animals and/or
40 engage veterinarians or lay people to do the same.

41
42 We support the responsible use of scientifically proven, safe production practices in
43 livestock and poultry.

44
45 We strongly support enforcement of anti-trust laws currently on the books, and anti-trust
46 laws must be strengthened and enforced to prevent the continued corporate dominance of
47 agriculture markets including but not limited to livestock feeding operations.

48
49 We urge more responsible enforcement of Sherman and Clayton Anti-Trust Acts.
50

1 We support accurate and effective mandatory price reporting, reflective of actual prices of
2 the major meat packers.

3
4 We support programs to educate producers on animal identification methods in order to
5 identify and assist in retrieving stolen livestock.

6
7 We support and encourage a livestock owner's right to identify their livestock with hot iron
8 branding, tattooing, tagging or other types of identification.

9
10 We support the concept of a premise identification program. Any future programs dealing
11 with animal identification should be least burdensome to producers and maintain producer
12 confidentiality.

13
14 We support a producer's voluntary application of technology, age verification and trace
15 back methods which can enhance producer profits. We support current non-electronic animal
16 identification methods. We oppose any mandatory electronic animal identification requirements,
17 whether mandated by state or federal authorities.

18
19 We propose strengthening the cattle branding system by encouraging that the brand on
20 branded livestock be reflected on the bill of sale in all sales transactions.

21
22 We support legislation to require a "PI" brand on all persistently infected cattle sold at
23 livestock markets.

24
25 To deter livestock and rural theft, we support stronger penalties with forfeiture of assets
26 going into a revolving fund within the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry
27 (ODAFF) and support continued efforts by ODAFF to investigate livestock and rural thefts and
28 the prosecution of offenders.

29
30 We support an adequately funded beef check-off to continue the mission of market
31 promotion, research, nutrition, product safety and education.

32
33 We oppose an automatic referendum on the beef-check every five years.

34
35 We support pork and beef initiatives funded through check-off programs which educate
36 youth and adults about these industries and products.

37
38 We strongly oppose the re-introduction of predatory animals by any government agency.

39
40 We strongly favor legislative or regulatory changes that will give the right to any owner to
41 control any predatory animals when the owner and/or tenant, the owner's family or the owner's
42 property is in danger.

43
44 We demand that USDA reinstate its prohibition of ownership or control of custom feedlots
45 by packers.

46
47 We favor competition in the marketplace; therefore, be it resolved that the following be
48 adopted and implemented through legislation:

- 49
50 1. A ban on packer ownership more than 14 days prior to slaughter.

51

- 1 2. Establish provisions for transparency in the market relating to base and forward
2 contracting, including a federal protection plan for whistleblowers and witnesses.
3
- 4 3. Clear delineation of spot markets and its functions.
5
- 6 4. Establish parameters for treble damages and recovery of attorney fees from consumers
7 and producers.
8
- 9 5. Ensure grade transparency uniformity at state inspections.
10
- 11 6. Modernize, re-codify, and enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act to meet the standards
12 and expectations of today’s consumers and producers for their protection.
13
- 14 7. Establish and implement a country-of-origin labeling program.
15
- 16 8. Create a USDA “Office of Special Counsel for Competition” to aggressively investigate
17 anti-competitive practices and market manipulation occurring in the agriculture sector
18 and have the authority and subpoena power to collect concentration-related information.
19

20 We support the appropriate harvesting of equine in USDA inspected facilities and oppose
21 any legislation prohibiting transportation of equine for harvest.
22

23 We oppose a tax on methane gas released by livestock.
24

25 We encourage ODAFF to increase monitoring and testing for tuberculosis and PI in
26 livestock and other species as required.
27

28 We support the development of reasonable setback distance requirements for new poultry
29 barns from neighboring residences by the state legislature. These setback requirements should be
30 enforced by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. Protections should be
31 afforded to existing poultry operations.
32

33 **D. DAIRY AND DAIRY PRODUCTS** 34

35 We support improving the level of income for dairy farmers to better meet their increased
36 cost of production, in order to maintain a productive capacity to meet anticipated future needs.
37

38 We support a stabilized supply of milk and milk products, at levels which will adequately
39 meet the needs of consumers.
40

41 Imitation products should not be allowed to be labeled or advertised using dairy terms or
42 names. We oppose redefining the products currently set up with the USDA.
43

44 The present pricing method should be continued for fresh, reconstituted milk.
45

46 We support raising the minimum standards for fluid whole milk to 10 percent solids; non-
47 fat and skim milk to 99 percent solids non-fat.
48

49 We oppose raising the import quota on dairy products and removing tariffs on imported
50 dairy products.
51

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

3
4 **E. PEANUTS**

5
6 We support a more accurate price discovery in the marketplace for peanuts.

7
8 We support an annual target price cost of production adjustment for peanuts.

9
10 We believe storage and handling fees for peanuts in the government loan program should
11 be paid by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA).

12
13 **F. OTHERS**

14
15 We urge and encourage all farmers to explore producing alternate cash crops where soil,
16 water and climate permits, and urge research and extension services at land grant universities to
17 supply valuable help in these areas.

18
19 We support a ban on castor bean production in the State of Oklahoma.

20
21 We oppose the growing, harvesting and processing of any crop which produces ricin, a
22 toxic substance which can be lethal to humans and animals, can be market disrupting and
23 considered a prime tool for use by terrorists to harm U.S. citizens.

24
25 Due to expanding canola production in Oklahoma, we support the creation of actuarial
26 rates that are put in place without prior written agreement requirements.

27
28
29 **FEED, SEED, FERTILIZER, FUEL**

30
31 We support research on the use of crops for pharmaceutical and nutraceutical purposes.

32
33 We support a program of adequate testing and sampling of commercial fertilizer and feed
34 and seed with penalties being assessed when analysis is below specifications.

35
36 We support educating farmers and grain handlers on the Plant Variety Protection Act
37 (PVPA).

38
39 We support modification of the PVPA of 1994 with respect to royalty fees taking in to
40 consideration sound science, a reasonable period of time for specific commodities and on
41 percentage of purity of seed.

42
43 We support immunity from legal action for grain handlers from consequences of the PVPA
44 when handling grain.

45
46 We oppose agricultural producers being included in the Environmental Protection Agency's
47 (EPA) enforcement of the spill prevention containment and control system.

48
49 We believe that no state or federal executive order affecting the use of farm equipment or
50 farm chemicals should be issued without prior notice and public hearings.

1 Anhydrous ammonia should continue to be classified as non-hazardous for the purpose of
2 transporting nurse tanks on public roadways.

3
4 We encourage privately owned anhydrous ammonia facilities and equipment to meet the
5 same safety requirements and standards as that of licensed dealers. Furthermore, we encourage
6 private owners to attend anhydrous ammonia safety training classes.

7
8 We support funding for animal waste nutrients research.

10 COMMISSIONS

11 A. COMMODITIES COMMISSION

12
13 We support the commodity commissions, provided that the funds collected by force of law
14 are used for research, promotion, education and policy development, and that their use for
15 political purposes be strictly prohibited.

16
17 We oppose state government taking commodity check-off funds to balance budgets.

18
19 We support check-off programs on all commodities and periodic reporting to those paying
20 for the check-off. We support mandatorily paid and voluntarily refundable check-off programs.

21
22 We require full transparency in any check-off program in regard to how funds are spent. We
23 recommend annual audits of these programs with no redactions allowed.

24
25 We support the collection of royalty fees on the sale of products developed by commodity
26 check-off research dollars.

27
28 We support the right of referendum by securing signatures of 10 percent of qualified
29 producers of a commodity.

30
31 All referenda should be conducted by mail or electronic media to ensure maximum
32 participation by producers. Only eligible producers of a commodity shall have a vote on who is
33 chosen for the promotion board that oversees collection and spending of funds. The eligible
34 producer who receives the greatest number of producer votes must be seated.

35
36 We support the right of referendum for a district to recall the appointment of the
37 commissioner from that district.

38
39 We urge the commissions to direct greater effort toward removing restrictions or
40 obstructions that unduly limit the flow of agriculture commodities into domestic and foreign
41 markets (such as embargoes, sanctions, strikes, grading standards, unreasonable inspection rules,
42 and banning farm chemicals without sufficient cause and inequitable quality standards on
43 imports).

44
45 We oppose the consolidation of commodity commissions and/or any commission being
46 placed under the control of any state agency.

47
48 We support the ability of commodity commissions to develop a trust in which to deposit
49 and utilize commission funds.

1
2 We support exempting all agricultural commodity commissions from the Office of
3 Management and Enterprise Services state purchasing system.

4
5 We favor at least 20 percent of commodity commissions' gross income being used for
6 research in Oklahoma.

7
8 **B. SCHOOL LAND COMMISSION**

9
10 Leaseholders of school lands should be notified of a sale or re-lease.

11
12 We support the sale of school land if no more than 5 percent of the school lands in any
13 county are sold within a 12-month period and if all sales of school land are deposited within the
14 trust fund, invested and not made available for use by the Oklahoma Legislature for
15 appropriation purposes. All dividends should be returned to be used for the school children of
16 Oklahoma.

17
18 Lessees, who have made improvements on state school lands, should be reimbursed the fair
19 market value for those improvements. Adjoining landowners also should be reimbursed for the
20 portion that he or she paid for when the improvement was made, such as for building a fence.

21
22 **C. WILDLIFE COMMISSION**

23
24 We support hunter safety education courses take place in a classroom setting with
25 instruction by a qualified instructor.

26
27 We believe licenses or conservation passports be required for activities not related to
28 hunting/fishing on Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) land.

29
30 We support legislation to require at least four farmers or ranchers, by occupation, to be
31 members of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission.

32
33 We oppose the listing of species as an endangered or threatened species without
34 consideration to private property rights and without a study of the economic impact to the
35 citizens of the state of Oklahoma. We additionally oppose the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
36 critical habitat rules for threatened species.

37
38 We support voluntary pro-active cooperative efforts by the private sector landowner to
39 restore potential threatened species by working with groups like the ODWC rather than a federal
40 regulatory approach which could be counterproductive.

41
42 We oppose the ODWC purchasing more land in the State of Oklahoma.

43
44 We support the ODWC in leasing private land for use as a wildlife public access area.

45
46 We oppose non-native wildlife species introduction in Oklahoma.

47
48 We encourage game rangers to conduct their duties in a professional and courteous manner
49 and to respect the landowner and their property rights.

50

1
2 We encourage record-keeping and on-label usage of all crop enhancement products
3 (chemical applications) as a best management practice.
4

5 We support increased education on the proper use of dicamba and the continued review of
6 regulations by ODAFF.
7

8 We support education efforts by the Oklahoma Cotton Council and Cooperative Extension
9 Service on the proper use of dicamba.
10

11 We encourage cooperation among agriculture stakeholders to provide education and
12 training for best management practices for pesticide storage, handling and application.
13

14 We encourage the Oklahoma Mesonet and/or the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food &
15 Forestry (ODAFF) be provided funding to create and make available to producers adequate
16 climatic information for the application of herbicides, insecticides and burning.
17

18 We encourage implementation of an approved burn plan when doing prescribed burns and
19 if followed precisely, landowners should be provided some degree of liability protection. We
20 encourage educational programs to inform landowners of the proper way to develop and
21 implement a prescribed burn plan.
22

23 We support funding of a prescribed burn indemnity fund to be administered at the ODAFF.
24

25 Before an agricultural chemical can be removed from the market, factual evidence must be
26 obtained by the agency with jurisdiction that its use will adversely affect human and animal
27 health or that it is hazardous to the environment and the economic impact be considered when no
28 alternative exists.
29

30 We favor enforcement of the law requiring all harvesting equipment be thoroughly cleaned
31 prior to interstate travel.
32

33 We support the continued use of phostoxin as pest control in grain storage facilities, until a
34 suitable and affordable replacement is provided.
35

36 We urge continued support of the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and
37 the Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences (OSU-CVHS).
38

39 Now that Oklahoma is a Brucellosis-free state, efforts must continue to ensure that we
40 remain Brucellosis-free.
41

42 We support a joint effort between OSU and ODAFF in requesting additional state and
43 federal funds for the control and eradication of ticks, fire ants, killer bees and parasitic mites in
44 domestic bees in Oklahoma.
45

46 We support the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS)
47 area-wide research efforts in Oklahoma and across the nation to control imported fire ants, using
48 a combination of treatment methods, including natural predators.
49

50 We urge the Oklahoma Legislature to continue to appropriate monies to provide for the
51 control and/or eradication of crows, blackbirds, skunks, prairie dogs, beavers, coyotes, raccoons,
52

1 feral hogs and other predatory animals in areas where they have become destructive or a menace
2 to crops and livestock.

3
4 We urge the state and federal government to take more aggressive steps to control feral
5 hogs, including the enforcement and maintenance of feral hog free zones.

6
7 We support the right of a landowner to use whatever means possible to protect any
8 agricultural crop or species of livestock, and/or processed feed, seed or other materials used in
9 the production of an agricultural commodity from depredation, damage or destruction by any
10 nuisance animal species.

11
12 We urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to continue to support predator control and
13 limit any restrictive rule that affects the ability of the field men to do their work in predator
14 control.

15
16 Farmers and ranchers should be allowed to control predators or varmints on their land by
17 the most effective, safe and economical means.

18
19 We recommend that any wildlife, or other exotic birds and animals transported to, within,
20 or through the State of Oklahoma, be certified by ODAFF to be free of infectious, contagious
21 and communicable diseases and/or parasites.

22
23 We support prescribed burning liability relief legislation to protect individuals that have
24 been educated and follow the appropriate protocols when conducting a burn.

25
26 We support the state and federal government working with landowners to utilize prescribed
27 burning to reduce the threat of wildfire.

28
29 We support designation of the black vulture as a nuisance species and measures be taken to
30 eliminate this threat to American livestock.

31
32
33
34 **AG RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

35
36 We call for a minimum of one agricultural educator and one family and consumer science
37 educator in each county for continuing adult education for farmers, ranchers and homemakers.
38 We also encourage a strong 4-H club program in each county.

39
40 We support utilizing a citizen county, district and state advisory system as a means to
41 provide grassroots input to the leadership of the cooperative extension and research service.

42
43 We support a concerted effort to obtain adequate funding for Oklahoma State University
44 (OSU), the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station (OAES) and the Oklahoma Cooperative
45 Extension Service (OCES) in every county.

46
47 We support developing a national clearinghouse for compiling and making available a
48 database with all agriculture research being conducted by state land-grant universities.

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

4
5 We support funding for the Expanded Wheat Pasture Research Unit at Oklahoma State
6 University.

7
8 We support funding to reestablish the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project.

9
10 We encourage the Board of Higher Regents to fully allocate all funds appropriated by the
11 Legislature to OSU and Cooperative Extension and Experiment Station.

12
13 We support expanded research on soil health practices by USDA-NRCS, Oklahoma
14 Agricultural Experiment Station, Noble Research Institute and our various agricultural schools in
15 Oklahoma.

16
17 We support continued funding for USDA-ARS facilities.

1 **DEFINITIONS**

2
3 **A. HISTORICAL PARITY DEFINED:**

4
5 Congress has, by law, defined “fair” as the economic relationship that existed between
6 prices received by farmers and their production costs, including family living expenses, during
7 the five-year period 1910-1914.

8
9 The prices received by farmers are said to be at “100 percent of parity” (or “fairness”)
10 when they have the same relationship to production and living expenses as they did during that
11 period. The parity formula is kept up-to-date continuously, by:

- 12
13 (1) revising the list of services and items purchased by farmers for production and family
14 living to reflect today’s technology; and
15 (2) by adjusting the parity prices for each farm commodity to take into account the 10-year
16 moving average of changes that occur in the relationship to each other by the actual market
17 prices received by farmers for the respective commodities.

18
19 **B. FAMILY FARM DEFINED:**

20
21 Characteristically, a family farm is owned and operated by a farm family, with the family
22 providing the base of the labor needed for the farming operation, assuming the economic risk,
23 making most of the management decisions and depending on farming and/or ranching for a
24 significant portion of their living.
25

