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**Missouri Farmers Union  
Policy Statement**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To represent, protect and enhance economic interests and way of life of Missouri family farmers and ranchers and to preserve their rural communities by supporting the sustainable production of food, fuel and fiber.

**VISION STATEMENT**

To grow membership so that MFU is heard throughout Missouri and influences state and federal policy while enhancing and stabilizing its financial position.

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Missouri Farmers Union (MFU), strive to achieve and implement the fundamental agricultural principles necessary for a domestically produced food supply system and an independently owned family farm structure.

The goals of MFU come from our experiences as family farmers, rural residents, and democratically informed citizens, our understanding of nature, as well as deep respect for our country, and for past, present, and future generations.

We believe cooperation comes from knowledge of, and respect for, other people and cultures. Our spirit of cooperation must continue to grow and not have limits. Our challenge is to take this knowledge and spirit and incorporate it into meaningful policy through legislation on local, state, and national levels.

We believe justice demands an independently owned, family farm system as the foundation for healthy rural communities and proper stewardship of all natural resources.

We believe strong and productive family farm agriculture is essential to our national security and food safety and should be a priority when formulating national security and effective food safety policy.

This document springs from the spirit of Missouri family farmers and ranchers, and all those that make up MFU.

**FOUNDATIONS OF A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE POLICY**

MFU recognizes that food is a universal human right and must be made available for all people. We support agricultural policy that is directed towards and beneficial to independently owned and operated family farms. We recognize the invaluable role of land and natural resources. We strive to promote policies and practices that enhance and preserve the intrinsic value and mitigate the misuse of all-natural resources.

**We support:**

- 45 - Access to the resources necessary for the continuation of sustainable family
- 46 farms, to include land, seed, livestock, nutrients, fair markets, clean air and water,
- 47 healthy soils, resilient local communities, and access to appropriate publicly
- 48 available research and technology
- 49 - An adequate and safe food supply system for all people
- 50 - Building links between family farm producers, and consumers
- 51 - Enhancing the potential for profitability through appropriate legislative and
- 52 regulatory mechanisms while maintaining the integrity of state and federal
- 53 constitutions
- 54 - Directing farm program benefits toward family farming operations
- 55 - Allowing planting flexibility for farmers and ranchers
- 56 - Promoting adequate land stewardship and conservation practices
- 57 - Enabling producers to derive farm income from the market place
- 58 - Providing an adequate economic safety net
- 59 - Promoting food and farm programs and policies that support producers of
- 60 livestock, pollinator and specialty crops
- 61 - Including livestock, pollinators and specialty crop in insurance, production and
- 62 revenue loss payments
- 63 - Promoting effective supply management programs
- 64 - Promoting secure and sustainable food systems that minimize waste and
- 65 maximize nutrition
- 66 - Promoting programs that stimulate the entrance of young and beginning farmers
- 67 into family farming
- 68 - Encouraging FSA county committees to appoint and/or elect a beginning or
- 69 underserved farmer as well as a military veteran to their local committees
- 70 - Protecting the traditional and historical right of farmers to save their own plant
- 71 and animal life for reproduction

72

### 73 **AGRICULTURAL LABOR**

74 The National Labor Relations Act should be extended to workers on corporate and other  
75 farms that are subject to the federal minimum wage provisions applicable to agricultural  
76 workers.

#### 77 **We support:**

- 78 - Strengthening worker protection standards regarding wage rates, health, safety
- 79 and housing conditions for migrant, seasonal, minority and other farm laborers
- 80 and for the education of their children

#### 81 **We oppose:**

- 82 - Revisions to rules regarding family members under age 16 and 18 performing
- 83 various on-farm jobs

84

### 85 **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

86 Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) create a series of ethical, environmental,  
87 food safety, legal, market, and structural issues that impact everyone in the food chain.

#### 88 **We support:**

- 89 - Restricting the release of new biotechnology-based products predicated on
- 90 sufficient, conclusive and certain scientific evaluations of concerns, and release

- 91 only those products that have proven beneficial effects for family farmers,  
92 consumers and the environment
- 93 - Increased monitoring and surveillance by government regulatory agencies over  
94 biotechnology
  - 95 - Maintaining genetic biodiversity and the integrity of the gene pool
  - 96 - Mandatory labeling that lists specific types of GMO's in a product
  - 97 - Legislation to exempt farmers from paying patent royalties on farm animals and  
98 technical fees on seeds which have been genetically modified
  - 99 - Legislation to prohibit the patenting of heritage seed, animal and biological  
100 genetics
  - 101 - Legislation to prohibit the further use of tax dollars in developing terminator  
102 technology
  - 103 - Legislation to prohibit the development and selling of seed that is sterile
  - 104 - Ensuring the right of farmers to save seed from all on-farm agricultural products
  - 105 - Requiring new products involving GMOs to be certified as safe by the FDA in  
106 testing done independently of the patent holder, and before being allowed on the  
107 market. Testing is to be done at the expense of the specific patent holders seeking  
108 to market such products
  - 109 - Legislation requiring that patent holders or owners of GMO technology be held  
110 strictly liable for damages caused by genetic trespass including safety, health,  
111 economic and environmental problems, and cross pollination
  - 112 - Requiring patent holders to maintain federal registration after the expiration of the  
113 patent and allow generic use
  - 114 - Requiring technology fees to be fully revealed
  - 115 - Guaranteeing the performance of any agricultural product with a technology fee
  - 116 - Congressional action to regulate the biotech industry's technology agreements
  - 117 - Settlement of technology grievances, by a jury of peers, in the home state of the  
118 farmer and not the state of the biotech corporation
  - 119 - Reimbursement of farmers for any damages caused by lower prices, lost markets  
120 or genetic contamination, including legal fees, by the company producing the  
121 genetically engineered organism
  - 122 - Legislation that protects family farmers from liability and awards them real and  
123 punitive damages resulting from biotechnology contamination due to industry  
124 negligence
  - 125 - Recall of all genetically engineered products that have not met sufficient,  
126 conclusive and certain scientific evaluations of concerns
  - 127 - Classification of CRISPR as genetic modification
  - 128 - Strong and effective regulation to avoid unapproved release of genetically  
129 modified germplasm

130 **We oppose:**

- 131 - The release of biotechnology that has not been FDA approved for human  
132 consumption or that is detrimental to the export market
  - 133 - The release of GMO plant varieties or hybrids before they are approved for  
134 distribution through all major U.S. export markets
  - 135 - Genetically modifying crops to withstand 2, 4-D
- 136

## 137 **CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION**

138 Anchored in science, data and analysis, MFU gives full recognition that global warming  
139 is taking place and that there are negative impacts from climate change on food,  
140 agriculture and the environment. These changes and impacts draw family farmers,  
141 ranchers and rural communities to recognize not only practical agricultural concerns, but  
142 to take the actions necessary to mitigate and/or stop negative impacts from further  
143 affecting food, agriculture and environment. It is imperative to draw on the moral and  
144 ethical values and principles that define our concern for neighbor and all of creation to  
145 aid us in the development of climate sensitive policies and practices, and to more clearly  
146 recognize the Earth as home to all people for all time and what must be done to preserve  
147 its soils, water, air, plants and creatures.

148  
149 Agriculture's role in soil and water conservation, air quality and the proper management  
150 and stewardship of all resources should be promoted and include clean air initiatives,  
151 conservation and natural resource management. Continued research and analysis are  
152 essential to better understand the current impacts, as well as, the long-range effects of  
153 ongoing climate change. Immediate implementation of policies, programs, practices, and  
154 strategies to effectively manage, mitigate and stop climate change must be enacted at all  
155 levels of government, by the private sector and within local communities. MFU supports  
156 farmers, ranchers and all producers doing their part to employ practices and support  
157 policies that will stem the tide of negative climate impacts and change.

### 158 **We support:**

- 159 - Farmer and rancher consultation at all levels of government and public policy, as  
160 the U.S. moves to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and create better  
161 conservation and farming practices
- 162 - Carbon sequestration by agricultural producers
- 163 - Enhancing research on effective methods for agricultural carbon sequestration
- 164 - Implementation of green payments to agricultural producers for carbon  
165 sequestration as an agricultural conservation practice that protects the  
166 environment and enhances income for farmers through carbon credits
- 167 - Research on agricultural practices to clearly identify those contributing to further  
168 global warming and those that would mitigate and reduce greenhouse gasses and  
169 climate change

170

## 171 **CONCENTRATION**

172 Consolidation of multi-national food/agribusinesses threatens the existence of family  
173 farmers and healthy rural communities as well as a safe food supply.

### 174 **We support:**

- 175 - A moratorium on approval of mega-agribusiness mergers
- 176 - Breaking-up the monopolies in seed, pesticide, meat, milk, and egg components  
177 of agricultural industries
- 178 - Fair markets for family farmers, ranchers and consumers through improved  
179 interpretation and enforcement of the Packers and Stockyard (P&S) Act of 1921
- 180 - Congress providing adequate funding for anti-trust and P&S enforcement
- 181 - Preventing any company or cooperative, including farmer-owned coops, from  
182 requiring farmers to accept bundled grain and livestock input sources;

- 183 - Legislation that establishes a threshold level of concentration that is used as proof
- 184 of antitrust violation
- 185 - Legislation to amend the Clayton Antitrust Act to make it clear that a person who
- 186 suffers direct or indirect harm can recover damages for any anti-competitive
- 187 practice
- 188 - Promotion and enforcement of anti-trust remedies that prevent concentration on
- 189 the global level for companies doing business in the U.S

190 **We oppose:**

- 191 - Joint ventures or mergers between cooperative lenders and multi-national
- 192 corporations

193

194 **WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY**

195 Family farmers are conscious of their responsibility to preserve and conserve water  
 196 resources for current and future use.

197 **We support:**

- 198 - Family farmers conserving and preserving our water in their farming practices
- 199 and in their rural communities
- 200 - Assisting family farmers in the mitigation of agricultural runoff in ways that
- 201 lower levels of nitrates and pesticides in farm land runoff and that reduces erosion
- 202 through the use of cover crops, no-till, site specific applications of farm
- 203 chemicals, and other conservation practices
- 204 - Assisting family farmers at the local, state and federal levels with policy and
- 205 regulatory tools in the mitigation of agricultural runoff
- 206 - Clean air and water regulations and rules, which are important to the protection of
- 207 human health, environmental quality and the quality and quantity of food
- 208 production
- 209 - Enforcement of regulations and rules in ways that both protect and benefit
- 210 Missouri's family farmers and all people
- 211 - Preserving the mission of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be set
- 212 by Congress and not at the discretion of the Administrator or any sitting president.

213 -

214

215 **CONSERVATION**

216 Our society, including family farmers, has a responsibility to maintain and improve the  
 217 quality of soil and water resources. MFU should work to achieve the mutually beneficial  
 218 objectives of proper stewardship and the maintenance of family farm agriculture.

219 **We support:**

- 220 - Participation by family farmers and family farm advocates on the State Technical
- 221 Committee
- 222 - Targeting of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) payments to
- 223 small and medium sized farms and ranches
- 224 - Making all farm and ranch programs readily and easily accessible by family
- 225 farmers and ranchers
- 226 - Use of CRP land for responsible haying and grazing
- 227 - Statewide programs that promote and assist sustainable agriculture

- 228 - Initiating a collaborative effort to develop an effective and balanced policy for the
- 229 Missouri and Mississippi Rivers
- 230 - Flood control as the number one priority of river management
- 231 - Enforcement of “tolerable soil loss” not to exceed 2T (T-value; as determined by
- 232 NRCS) in order to receive crop insurance
- 233 - A Conservation Reserve Program that strengthens family farms, ranches and rural
- 234 communities

235

### 236 **CONTRACTS**

237 Currently production and marketing contracts contribute to the captive supply of  
 238 agricultural products and threaten the existence of independent producers.

#### 239 **We support:**

- 240 - Policies that protect the rights of farmers who engage in contract agriculture
- 241 - Updating, clarifying, and enforcing Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards
- 242 Administration (GIPSA) rules
- 243 - Rights of contract-livestock farmers under GIPSA
- 244 - Policy that protects seed purchasers from contract liabilities
- 245 - USDA and the Dept. of Justice publicly post contracts for commodities and
- 246 livestock including poultry and private marketing agreements
- 247 - Establishing a legal defense fund to support independent family farmers and
- 248 producers engaged in contract agriculture and/or utilizing patented agricultural
- 249 inputs funded by a check-off on large-scale integrators and gene patent holders
- 250 - Agricultural fair practices through federal bargaining legislation
- 251 - Fair trials before a jury of peers rather than mandated arbitration
- 252 - Fair and adequate compensation when a company and/or contractor cancels a
- 253 contract through no fault of the producer

254

### 255 **COOPERATIVES**

256 The purpose of a cooperative (co-op) is to serve all its members. Family farmer owned  
 257 co-ops are effective tools through which family farmers reduce the costs of production,  
 258 maintain a reliable source of inputs and effectively market and process farm products.

#### 259 **We support:**

- 260 - Co-op owners/members to providing the education, leadership and management
- 261 necessary to effectively run local co-ops
- 262 - Organization and growth of community credit unions as an effective means of
- 263 rural reinvestment and re-vitalization
- 264 - Increased access to capital for community-based cooperatives and other farmer-
- 265 controlled entities that engage in value-added activity that sustains Missouri farm
- 266 families and rural communities
- 267 - Development of broadband communication cooperatives that would provide the
- 268 opportunity for access by all rural residents
- 269 - Formation of value-added cooperative efforts that are formed for the welfare of
- 270 the local community, that are producer owned, controlled through democratic
- 271 processes and leadership, and whose business affairs are responsive to and for the
- 272 benefit of all its members

273

#### **We oppose:**

- 274 - Involvement in production agriculture in ways that put co-ops in adverse  
275 competition with their family farmer/producer owners

276

## 277 **CROP INSURANCE**

278 Crop insurance is a major component of the Farm Bill and will be scrutinized in the  
279 development of the 2018 Farm Bill.

### 280 **We support:**

- 281 - Payment limitations that focus on regionally-based, family-sized farms

282

## 283 **DAIRY**

284 Dairy prices should sustain viable family farms.

### 285 **We support:**

- 286 - Regional milk marketing compacts  
287 - Developing a new basic formula for pricing (BFP) milk  
288 - Establishing a parity pricing system combined with supply management  
289 - Establishing, through BFP, a floor price that applies to all classes of milk  
290 - Mandatory dairy price reporting with independent verification  
291 - Measurement of dairy policy fairness by its ability to:  
292     o Produce reasonable profit for producers  
293     o Provide a high-quality, stable supply for consumers  
294     o Promote sustainable environmental practices  
295     o Enable producers to enter and exit farming  
296 - Elimination of exclusivity practices by contract buyers toward dairy producers  
297 - Farmer and retailer rights to label milk BST free, non-GMO fed, pasture  
298 fed/access and other product descriptors that enable the consumers' right to know  
299 be informed about the product

### 300 **We oppose:**

- 301 - State of Missouri providing tax incentives to out of state dairy conglomerates  
302 - Establishing large, industrialized dairies in Missouri that compete with local dairy  
303 farmers  
304 - Provisions for distant pooling and de-pooling of milk, which allow out-of-state  
305 production to distort local markets  
306 - Cooperatives paying members less than a federal minimum price

307

## 308 **ECONOMIC AND TAX POLICY**

### 309 **Credit**

#### 310 **We support:**

- 311 - Access to credit, technical expertise and markets as essential in securing  
312 opportunities for rural and agricultural enterprises  
313 - Appropriate utilization of the Community Reinvestment Act to support family  
314 farms and rural communities

315

#### 316 **Loans:**

- 317 - Reassess direct farm lending through loans and loan guarantees that protect  
318 against volatile predatory interest rates

- 319 - Increase Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan rates so that they are closer  
 320 to the cost of production as an alternative or supplement to commercial  
 321 borrowing, and pay farmers the same storage rate on long-term reserves as that  
 322 paid for commercial storage  
 323

324 **Markets:**

- 325 - Protect the agricultural sector from undue harm due to trade conflicts.  
 326

327 **Estate Tax**

- 328 - Support an estate tax structure that enables and promotes the transfer of family  
 329 farms to the next generation  
 330 - Oppose a repeal of estate tax  
 331

332 **Taxes**

333 **We support:**

- 334 - A more equitable, progressive, and sustainable federal and state tax structures that  
 335 allow the majority of people to pay less and those with the very highest incomes  
 336 to pay their fair share  
 337 - A tax system that fairly and adequately provides revenues for the programs and  
 338 services that are essential to good governance and the general welfare  
 339 - Full deductibility for individual payment of premiums for health care, long-term  
 340 care, and disability  
 341 - Provisions in the tax code that reduce concentrations of wealth and power, and  
 342 promote equality of economic opportunity  
 343 - A refundable federal and state earned income tax credit that allows the working  
 344 poor to keep more of their earned income  
 345 - Candidates for federal office releasing their federal tax information.  
 346

347 **1031 Exchanges**

348 **We support:**

- 349 - Reform of the tax code to eliminate or restructure 1031 Exchanges in such a way  
 350 that they do not work against the interests of family farmers, rural communities,  
 351 and the common good  
 352

353 **ENERGY**

354 Energy is the lifeblood of our mechanized society and intertwines with food security.  
 355 Dependence on foreign sources of fuel threatens not only our way of life but also the  
 356 ability of family farmers to raise the food, fuel and fiber on which our nation depends.

357 **We support:**

- 358 - Development of open-market, community-based, sustainable, alternative, and  
 359 renewable fuel and energy production systems  
 360 - Research and utilization of alternative sources of energy - to include wind, solar,  
 361 geothermal, biomass, bio-diesel, hybrid technology, innovative battery technology  
 362 and other alternative fuel sources  
 363 - Labeling of all fuel products containing ethanol



- 364 - Establish refueling stations for alternative fuels i.e. E85 stations, bio-diesel
- 365 capabilities at truck stops and card stations, and blender pumps
- 366 - Energy conservation
- 367 - Rural electrical cooperatives to provide utility service to new customers and local
- 368 communities in areas in which they currently are prohibited due to population
- 369 increase caps
- 370 - Net metering of utilities that target and benefit individual rate payers and family
- 371 farmers
- 372 - Government assistance for green energy programs to family farmers and
- 373 community-based local businesses
- 374 Education, research and development for production of cellulosic energy sources
- 375 - Regulation of utility companies
- 376 - Access to dependable, consistent, affordable, sustainable utilities for all rural
- 377 areas
- 378 - Renewable Fuels Standard, (e.g., 20% sustainable and renewable by the year
- 379 2020)
- 380 - Open market net metering other incentives that focus on the production of
- 381 community-based, locally owned, renewable energy such as cellulosic, wind,
- 382 solar, geothermal and biomass
- 383 - Farm stored Strategic Renewable Energy Reserve, dedicated to the storage and
- 384 production of community-based energy feedstocks to ensure a dependable long-
- 385 term, uninterrupted supply of these raw materials
- 386 - Uniform state-wide taxation of renewable energy systems, established by the
- 387 State Tax Commission, and based on project cost
- 388 - Wind and solar energy for their conservation, economic, and environmental
- 389 protection on farms as well as for the alternative revenue streams and energy cost
- 390 savings they offer for family farms.

391

392 **We oppose:**

- 393 - Family farm renewable energy systems taxed as corporate and/or public utilities
- 394 - Fracking in the state of Missouri

395

396 **FOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY**

397 Food security is anchored in local agriculture, family farming and ranching, use of  
 398 sustainable food and farming practices, economic viability, ready access, affordability  
 399 and availability for consumers.

400 **We support:**

- 401 - Elimination of poverty and hunger
- 402 - Providing consumers with an adequate, high quality, safe food supply
- 403 - Decentralization of the food production, distribution and supply
- 404 - Food sovereignty for individual countries
- 405 - Missouri-local food, fiber and energy production

406 **We oppose:**

- 407 - Missouri tax revenue and/or public institutions from supporting or subsidizing any
- 408 industrialized food, fiber or energy exports from any non-Missouri corporation
- 409 using Missouri land and resources

410

411 **IMMIGRATION POLICY**

412 Immigration is a national issue and should be addressed at the federal level. The federal  
 413 immigration system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses while  
 414 protecting the interests of workers and keeping families together.

415 **We support:**

- 416 - A visa system responsive to geographic, economic and cultural factors and that  
 417 recognizes the beneficial contributions of immigrant workers
- 418 - Enforcement of immigration policies that provides public safety and addresses the  
 419 concerns of businesses, workers and consumers
- 420 - A sensible path for immigrants to become participating members of our society  
 421 and oppose the indentured servitude of a captive work force
- 422 - Moving forward with a worker visa program for immigrants who are working on  
 423 farms and ranches, including both seasonal and full-time workers
- 424 - Implementation of the DREAM act.

425

426 **INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND AGREEMENTS**

427 We believe all international trade agreements should be based on principles of fair trade.  
 428 Future trade agreements should not be encouraged until issues of past agreements that  
 429 have resulted in adverse impacts for Missouri family farmers are resolved. It is crucial to  
 430 fair trade negotiations that imported products adhere to standards found in the U.S. with  
 431 respect to production, product quality, worker safety, environmental protection, consumer  
 432 safety and public liability.

433 **We support:**

- 434 - Fair trade agreements that address appropriate health, labor, environmental and  
 435 safety standards
- 436 - Trade policy that benefits the domestic producer as a priority issue
- 437 - Utilize agricultural exports to enhance family farmer and rancher price and  
 438 income
- 439 - The application of Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) standards to  
 440 all imported products in the same manner they are applied to U.S. products
- 441 - Hallmarks of US trade policy and agreements are transparency, inclusion of farm  
 442 workers and consumers in the planning and decision-making processes, inclusion  
 443 of safeguards related to the quality, sanitation and purity of products, as well as,  
 444 strong and enforceable protections for the environment, American jobs, workers  
 445 and consumers around the world.

446 **We oppose:**

- 447 - World trade agreements that are not beneficial to small and family farms

448

449 **QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL MISSOURI**450 **Health Care**

451 We strongly affirm the right of all Americans to have readily accessible, comprehensive,  
 452 affordable, quality health care. Access to health care services is sorely deficient in rural  
 453 areas of the state. Obtaining health care services is especially difficult for the rural elderly  
 454 who can no longer drive and live in those areas where public and affordable  
 455 transportation services do not exist. Family farmers notably are lacking in health care

456 coverage. Being in an occupation considered more dangerous makes the need for health  
457 care imperative.

458

459 Comprehensive health care should include:

- 460 - Access to universal single-payer health care
- 461 - More accessible emergency services for rural residents
- 462 - Publicly provided health care for all children 0 to 18 years of age
- 463 - Elimination of control by insurance companies over prescription drugs
- 464 - Removal of the so called, “donut hole”
- 465 - Full coverage for all prescription drugs
- 466 - Expansion of Medicaid in Missouri as allowed in the ACA
- 467 - Subscription drug prices based on Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
468 approved rates.

469

#### 470 **High Speed Internet Service in Rural Missouri**

471 Access to internet services is crucial to the success of family farming in Missouri.

472 Federal and state government should:

- 473 - Ensure development of hard wired and wireless internet access throughout rural  
474 Missouri through tax incentives and grants from federal and state government  
475 initiatives

476

#### 477 **Freedom and Liberties**

478 Equality of rights should be provided for all farm operations and their owners, regardless  
479 of size of operation, race, gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, or religion.

#### 480 **We support:**

- 481 - Freedom of speech
- 482 - Every citizen has a right to know where their food came from, how and under  
483 what conditions it was produced
- 484 - Adequate transparency, whistleblowers, to include photographs, writing, and  
485 investigative reporting
- 486 - The right of individual privacy balanced by the public’s right to know
- 487 - Laws, policies and regulations that equally protect the rights of all family farms
- 488 - Use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for agricultural purposes only after  
489 landowner approval
- 490 - Opening up the National Airspace System to allow drones for agricultural  
491 purposes
- 492 - Missouri citizens opposition to Right-to-Work legislation, and further, the  
493 Missouri General Assembly should not negate the will of the people.

494

#### 494 **We oppose:**

- 495 - Contract growers being subject to mandatory arbitration and non-disclosure of  
496 disputes.
- 497 - The use of drones for covert surveillance of agricultural operations not in the  
498 public interest

499

#### 500 **Information Collection and Protection**

501 We support the collection and use of detailed field data in a manner that:

- 502 - Protects the privacy of Personally Identifiable Information
- 503 - Avoids consolidation of market power
- 504 - Maintains competition
- 505 - Prevents market manipulation
- 506 - Protects ownership of data

507

**508 LABELING****509 Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL)**

510 We believe consumers should have the information necessary to make informed  
511 decisions about the origins of their food.

**512 We support:**

- 513 - Mandatory country of origin labeling for all food products
- 514 - A voluntary label that preserves the identification of a product of the U.S.A.
- 515 - Allowing consumers to make informed food choices through adequate product  
516 labeling
- 517 - Label “Product of the U.S.” only those products 100% produced, born, raised and  
518 processed inside the U.S.
- 519 - Ensure products coming into the U.S. are not being minimally processed and/or  
520 blended and/or relabeled inside the U.S., thus making them eligible to obtain a  
521 “USDA Inspected” label and to be marketed as a U.S. product.

522

**523 Attribution**

- 524 - Oppose and protest co-optation of the terms sustainable agriculture, family farm,  
525 organic, natural and green by corporations for marketing purposes.

526

**527 LIVESTOCK****528 We support:**

- 529 - Strengthening the Packers and Stockyards Act and Anti-trust laws
- 530 - The Secretary of Agriculture enforcing the Packers & Stockyards laws
- 531 - A ban on packer ownership of livestock feeding operations, including corporate  
532 ownership or corporate financing of non-farmer owned operations
- 533 - Congress supplying adequate funding for family farm based agricultural programs
- 534 - The development of local and regional livestock processing facilities that enhance  
535 the profitability of independent producers through open and competitive bidding
- 536 - A meat inspection, grading, and labeling system that protects food safety and  
537 quality, and the integrity of the family farm food system
- 538 - The right of processors to access domestic and international markets that demand  
539 source-verified or BSE-tested livestock
- 540 - Anti-trust legislation to limit the market-share percentage of captive supplies
- 541 - Fair and thorough inspection and regulation of pet breeders throughout the nation
- 542 - Preceding any rule change in the USDA Animal Welfare Act with an appropriate  
543 comment period and only then record it in the Federal Register
- 544 - Teaching animal welfare through educational programs and agricultural  
545 organizations
- 546 - Humane treatment of all animals

- 547 - Providing all domesticated animals with proper food, shelter and water for
- 548 survival
- 549 - USDA inspected humane harvesting of livestock including horses for meat
- 550 markets, and
- 551 - Stringent federal and state oversight and regulation of “animal disease research
- 552 laboratories,” and that subject small and local communities to environmental and
- 553 public health consequences of dangerous pathogens. Of particular concern are
- 554 areas of significant livestock production and small and local communities, which
- 555 could be devastated by a breach of quarantine and security
- 556 - Current effective state-by-state systems that are in place to identify animal disease
- 557 and provide traceability
- 558 - U.S. Border Safeguards to Domestic Livestock Health and Safety
- 559 - Allowing only beef from animals under 30 months of age to enter from any nation
- 560 where a case of BSE has been confirmed;
- 561 - Promoting USDA policies and procedures that protect US borders from
- 562 penetration by foreign and contagious diseases maintaining the health and
- 563 integrity of the US livestock industry
- 564 - USDA advocating for US livestock producers and not the international
- 565 marketplace
- 566 - USDA issuing directives that protect the integrity of the US livestock industry and
- 567 the sovereignty of the United States border

568 **We Oppose:**

- 569 - Vertical integration by processors into production agriculture
- 570 - Any system of mandatory animal, or premise identification
- 571 - Privatization of pet breeder inspections
- 572 - *Ag Gag* laws that enable treatment detrimental to both farm animals and family
- 573 farmers and thus threaten a wholesome and secure food supply

574

575 **LOCAL CONTROL**

576 In a democratic system of government, elected public officials make many decisions that

577 have a profound impact on the lives and wellbeing of its citizens. We believe that people

578 have a right to participate in decisions that affect them and that the best decisions of

579 government, business or civil organizations are made when those affected participate in

580 the decision-making process.

581 **We Support:**

- 582 - County governments ability to maintain their democratic rights to enact health
- 583 ordinances that protect the health of their citizens
- 584 - Legislation that enables local government (i.e. municipal, township, county) to
- 585 enact ordinances, planning, and zoning that serve the best interests of the local
- 586 community and that are democratically enacted
- 587 - Missourians having the *right to know* the extent of foreign interest in and/or
- 588 ownership of Missouri farmland and their commercial privileges
- 589 - Restriction of foreign entities acquiring Missouri agricultural lands, holding
- 590 federal grazing allotments or commercial privileges
- 591 - Prohibition of ownership by foreign corporations and non-permanent foreign
- 592 residents of Missouri agricultural land

- 593 - Federal government strengthening the Agricultural Foreign Investment  
 594 Disclosure Act of 1978 by requiring mandatory reporting and penalties for  
 595 failure to report.

596 **We Oppose:**

- 597 - Allocation of state tax incentives based solely on Agri-Ready compliance  
 598 - State and federal government, or any international and/or quasi-governmental or  
 599 private structure, from enacting laws, regulations or rules that give them the  
 600 ability to put in place sanctions, or to otherwise impede or negate the right of local  
 601 communities to enact labor, environmental, health, or safety laws, regulations,  
 602 ordinances, planning, or zoning  
 603 - State and federal tax dollars going to foreign entities that operate agricultural  
 604 businesses that compete with Missouri farmers  
 605

606 **NEXT GENERATION FARMERS**

607 The future of agriculture is in creating interest in agriculture, inspiring farming as a  
 608 profession, supporting new farmers, and integrating them into the decisions made  
 609 effecting agriculture.

610 **We Support:**

- 611 - New and young farmers serving on agricultural advisory boards and thereby  
 612 provide input on, and guidance for reviewing, existing and future county, state  
 613 and federal agricultural programs  
 614 - Incorporating new and young farmers into all types of farming systems,  
 615 geographic locations, and farm products  
 616

617 **PATENTING**

618 **We support:**

- 619 - Promotion of research in and commercialization of high quality, conventionally  
 620 bred, and non-genetically modified seed

621 **We oppose:**

- 622 - Allowing any person to sell, distribute, or use a non-germinating, genetically  
 623 engineered seed rendered incapable of naturally producing second-generation  
 624 seed (including terminator and/ or suicide seeds)  
 625 - Any new commercial patenting of life forms  
 626

627 **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

628 **Public Schools**

629 **We support:**

- 630 - Publicly funded, community-based schools with reasonable child-to-teacher ratios  
 631 - Adequate and equitable funding of rural schools  
 632 - Adequate and equitable funding of public pre-K-12 and higher education  
 633 - Free and affordable public education from pre-K through bachelor's or technical  
 634 degree  
 635 - Local level decision making regarding consolidation of school districts  
 636 - Contract schools, and school voucher programs  
 637 - Farm-to-cafeteria and other local food programs  
 638 - Serving only wholesome, nutritious food in public schools and other institutions

- 639 - Legislation that funds and requires all Missouri public schools to provide free  
 640 breakfast, lunch and after school meals to low income children, with meals  
 641 prepared solely from food produced in the United States.

642 **We oppose:**

- 643 - Unfunded federal mandates to state and local school authorities  
 644 - Forcing school district consolidation by the Missouri General Assembly  
 645 - Giving control of public schools to private enterprises such as charter  
 646

647 **State Assisted**

648 We support funds and/or loan guarantees that are administered by the Missouri  
 649 Department of Agriculture, as well as all other state-assisted programs that may benefit  
 650 agriculture and be directed to the needs of independent family farmers/producers.  
 651

652 **Social Security**

653 **We support:**

- 654 - Active participation in developing a plan to help insure the solvency for Social  
 655 Security for future years  
 656 - Prohibition of using social security funds for anything other than its intended use  
 657 - Preserving a major portion of any budget surplus for Social Security  
 658 Social Security tax being applicable to all earnings by removal of the income cap  
 659 - Social Security being a mandatory, universal system to assure benefits in the  
 660 future  
 661 - Strengthening and protecting of the Social Security program  
 662 - Continuation of efforts made to correct an inequity in Social Security benefits for  
 663 recipients born during “notch” years, which results in reduced entitlements for  
 664 basically the same level of contributions  
 665 - Congress changing laws so that a husband and wife who are equal business  
 666 partners in a farming operation are able to collect equally on the Social Security  
 667 tax that was paid in as a result of that business  
 668 - Congress changing the eligibility requirements for individuals who haven’t  
 669 worked off the farm long enough to qualify for benefits

670 **We oppose:**

- 671 - A freeze on the Social Security cost-of-living allowance  
 672 - Any part of Social Security being invested in non-government-insured  
 673 investments  
 674 - Proposals that would privatize the system  
 675

676 **RESEARCH AND EDUCATION**

677 All societies need to retain a connection to food, the land, and agriculture. Research and  
 678 education involving farm and food issues should be carried out in the public interest and  
 679 for the common good.

680 **We support:**

- 681 - Increasing funding for research, education and development of unbiased  
 682 information that under girds family farming, organic and sustainable agricultural  
 683 methods  
 684 - Increasing research that protects a family farm/sustainable system of agriculture;

- 685 - Intellectual property rights, paid for by taxpayer monies, remaining in the public
- 686 domain
- 687 - Strengthening consumer education regarding nutrition, food security, and issues
- 688 impacting independent family farmers and ranchers and its relevance to consumer
- 689 health and safety
- 690 - Public participation in the development of university research goals
- 691 - Development of agriculture curricula at all educational levels that build and
- 692 support family farming and sustainable agriculture methods
- 693 - Nutrition education that focuses on sustainability and community development;
- 694 - Practices and policies that reduce and eliminate pesticides found on pollen used
- 695 by honeybees
- 696 - Research into those issues challenging bee populations such as colony collapse
- 697 syndrome
- 698 - Reformation of public education systems, including university extension, to serve
- 699 the needs of local people and their communities

#### 700 **Dicamba**

701 Organochloride benzoic acid derivative known as dicamba (3,6-dichloro-2-  
 702 methoxybenzoic acid) is a broad-spectrum herbicide. The release of dicamba resistant  
 703 genetically modified plants has resulted in an increase in the use of dicamba that has  
 704 been associated with extensive non-target plant damage in Missouri despite its  
 705 reformulation to ostensibly reduce volatility.

#### 706 **We support:**

- 707 - Discontinuing further use of dicamba until non-target damage is avoidable

#### 708 **Industrial Hemp**

709 Industrial Hemp is indigenous to Missouri with soil well suited to its production. There  
 710 is a market for the fiber and other hemp product.

#### 711 **We support:**

- 712 - The Mo. Dept. of Agriculture maximizing opportunities for hemp research and
- 713 production
- 714 - The Mo. Dept. of Agriculture providing Hemp program integrity through
- 715 leadership, policy, regulation and funding distribution in establishment and
- 716 operation
- 717 - Provisions for product trials and variety selection in the 2018 Farm Bill
- 718 - We support accelerated research into the use of hemp and other plant materials to
- 719 make environmentally friendly products

720

#### 721 **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### 722 **We support:**

- 723 - A comprehensive rural development policy
- 724 - Educational institutions providing courses that promote entrepreneurship, rural
- 725 communities and retention of young adults in rural areas
- 726 - Strong relationships between local producers and consumers
- 727 - State and local government enactment of bond financed agricultural loans for
- 728 Young and Beginning Farmers as allowed under federal law
- 729 - A “Farm Link” program to join beginning farmers with established farmers



- 730 - Development of social and political infrastructures that will allow the targeting of
- 731 agriculture policies, programs, and benefits necessary to encourage the entrance
- 732 of young people into family farming
- 733 - Efforts to assist and encourage rural entrepreneurship by youth
- 734 - A state farm-to-cafeteria program that includes opportunity and funding for
- 735 Missouri schools, hospitals, institutions and small businesses to purchase from
- 736 community-based Missouri producers
- 737 - Law enforcement and prevention agencies in halting illegal drug production and
- 738 trafficking in rural Missouri
- 739 - Legalization of medical marijuana
- 740 - Providing state and federal assistance and resources to Missouri family farmers
- 741 and rural communities to compensate for damages incurred by drug trafficking
- 742 and/or the law enforcement activity designed to counter it, and to implement
- 743 prevention, treatment, and educational programs
- 744 - Requiring legal search warrants and official law enforcement representation
- 745 before any corporate investigation of farm fields and/or animal facilities
- 746 - Nonpartisan redistricting processes and the establishment of redistricting
- 747 commissions by states
- 748 - Legislative districts based on standardized population and common geographic
- 749 location
- 750 - Federal transportation policy that fosters a well-maintained competitive national
- 751 transportation network comprised of an integrated system of railways, waterways,
- 752 and roads, and that act to avoid transportation shortage for transporting grain,
- 753 livestock and other perishable commodities

754 **We oppose:**

- 755 - Taking private property by eminent domain for, or by, private entities or private
- 756 development
- 757 - Sitting legislators drawing district lines and gerrymandering of voting districts

758

759 **VOTING PROTOCOL**

760 Decisions made by delegates at national conventions are to represent the preferences of

761 the membership in their respective states.

762 **We support:**

- 763 - A voting process that is executed in a manner which insures high levels of support
- 764 and fairness by small-state as well as large-state membership
- 765 - Allow point of order challenges to decisions made at national conventions
- 766 - Reserving the use of a weighted vote for only the most important issues
- 767 - A weighted vote to require a minimum of support by 5 states before use

768

769 **NEW SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

770

771 **FARM STRESS**

772 Whereas the severity of challenges facing family farmers has reached an overwhelming

773 level, and in order to promote the welfare of the citizens of Missouri, we encourage

774 permanent federal funding, with Missouri assistance as needed, of National Violent

775 Death Reporting System.

776

777 **GLOSSARY**

778

779 **2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D)** - is an organic compound with the chemical  
780 formula  $C_8H_6Cl_2O_3$ . It is a systemic herbicide which selectively kills most broadleaf  
781 weeds by causing uncontrolled growth in them, but leaves most grasses such as cereals,  
782 lawn turf, and grassland relatively unaffected.

783

784 **1031 exchange** – also known as a Starker exchange or a tax-deferred exchange; permits  
785 investment property owners to sell a property and defer tax payments by reinvesting the  
786 proceeds into a “like-kind” investment property or properties. A 1031 exchange is  
787 enabled by Section 1031 in the Internal Revenue Code.

788

789 **Affordable Care Act (ACA)** – the comprehensive health care reform law enacted in  
790 March 2010.

791

792 **BSE** – bovine spongiform encephalopathy; a progressive neurological disorder of cattle  
793 that results from infection by an unusual transmissible agent called a prion

794

795 **CRP** – USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program, administered by the FSA; the long-term  
796 goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality,  
797 prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

798

799 **Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM Act)** - an American  
800 legislative proposal for a multi-phase process for undocumented immigrants in the United  
801 States that would first grant conditional residency and upon meeting further  
802 qualifications, permanent residency.

803

804 **E85** – gasoline blend consisting of 85 percent ethanol, approved for use in newer  
805 vehicles.

806

807 **EPA** - Environmental Protection Agency

808

809 **U S Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** – a federal agency of the United States  
810 Department of Health and Human Services

811 **Genetically engineered organism (GEO)** - See genetically modified organism (GMO).

812 **Genetic modification (GM)** - The technique (or process) of removing, modifying or  
813 adding genes to a living organism via genetic engineering or other more traditional  
814 methods. Also referred to as gene splicing, recombinant DNA (rDNA) technology or  
815 genetic engineering.

816 **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)** – A genetically modified organism (GMO) is  
817 any organism the genetics of which have been altered through the use of modern  
818 biotechnology to create a novel combination of genetic material. GMOs may be the

819 source of genetically modified food ingredients and are also widely used in scientific  
820 research and to produce goods other than food.

821 **NRCS** – Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture;  
822 provides America’s farmers and ranchers with financial and technical assistance to  
823 voluntarily make conservation improvements.

824

825 **Waters of the United States (WOTUS)** - rule is largely a technical document, defining  
826 which rivers, streams, lakes and marshes fall under the jurisdiction of the Environmental  
827 Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers.

828

829