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

73

74 **AGRICULTURAL LABOR**

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

78 **We support:**

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

82 **We oppose:**

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

85

86 **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

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

89 **We support:**

- 90 - Restricting the release of new biotechnology-based products predicated on the
- 91 "precautionary principle" and release only those products that have proven
- 92 beneficial effects for family farmers, 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 the "precautionary
- 126 principal"
- 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. Family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities are
 141 feeling the effects of climate extremes. These changes, and subsequent impacts, draw
 142 family farmers, ranchers and rural communities to recognize not only practical
 143 agricultural concerns, but to take the actions necessary to mitigate and/or stop negative
 144 impacts from further affecting food, agriculture and environment. It is imperative to
 145 draw on the moral and ethical values and principles that define our concern for neighbor
 146 and all of creation to aid us in the development of climate sensitive policies and practices,
 147 and to more clearly recognize the Earth as home to all people for all time and what must
 148 be done to preserve its soils, water, air, plants and creatures.

149

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

159 **We support:**

- 160 - Farmer and rancher consultation at all levels of government and public policy, as
 161 the U.S. moves to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and create better
 162 conservation and farming practices
- 163 - Compensating farmers that have previously implemented climate friendly
 164 practices
- 165 - Increase funding for USDA voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs,
 166 and other federal and state efforts to encourage climate friendly agricultural
 167 practices
- 168 - Carbon sequestration by agricultural producers
- 169 - Creating USDA guidelines for environmental credit markets
- 170 - Enhancing research on effective methods for agricultural carbon sequestration
- 171 - Implementation of green payments to agricultural producers for carbon
 172 sequestration as an agricultural conservation practice that protects the
 173 environment and enhances income for farmers through carbon credits
- 174 - Research on agricultural practices to clearly identify those contributing to further
 175 global warming and those that would mitigate and reduce greenhouse gasses and
 176 climate change

177

178 **CONCENTRATION**

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

181 **We support:**

- 182 - A moratorium on approval of mega-agribusiness mergers
- 183 - Breaking-up the monopolies in seed, pesticide, meat, milk, and egg components
- 184 of agricultural industries
- 185 - Fair markets and a competitive marketplace for family farmers, ranchers and
- 186 consumers through improved interpretation and enforcement of the Packers and
- 187 Stockyard (P&S) Act of 1921
- 188 - Congress providing adequate funding for anti-trust and P&S enforcement
- 189 - Preventing any company or cooperative, including farmer-owned coops, from
- 190 requiring farmers to accept bundled grain and livestock input sources;
- 191 - Legislation that establishes a threshold level of concentration that is used as proof
- 192 of antitrust violation
- 193 - Legislation to amend the Clayton Antitrust Act to make it clear that a person who
- 194 suffers direct or indirect harm can recover damages for any anti-competitive
- 195 practice
- 196 - Promotion and enforcement of anti-trust remedies that prevent concentration on
- 197 the global level for companies doing business in the U.S
- 198 - Price transparency and mandatory price reporting

199 **We oppose:**

- 200 - Joint ventures or mergers between cooperative lenders and multi-national
- 201 corporations

202

203 **WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY**

204 Family farmers are conscious of their responsibility to preserve and conserve water

205 resources for current and future use.

206 **We support:**

- 207 - Family farmers conserving and preserving our water in their farming practices
- 208 and in their rural communities
- 209 - Assisting family farmers in the mitigation of agricultural runoff in ways that
- 210 lower levels of nitrates and pesticides in farm land runoff and that reduces erosion
- 211 through the use of cover crops, no-till, site specific applications of farm
- 212 chemicals, and other conservation practices
- 213 - Assisting family farmers at the local, state and federal levels with policy and
- 214 regulatory tools in the mitigation of agricultural runoff
- 215 - Clean air and water regulations and rules, which are important to the protection of
- 216 human health, environmental quality and the quality and quantity of food
- 217 production
- 218 - Enforcement of regulations and rules in ways that both protect and benefit
- 219 Missouri's family farmers and all people

220

221 **CONSERVATION**

222 Our society, including family farmers, has a responsibility to maintain and improve the

223 quality of soil and water resources. MFU should work to achieve the mutually beneficial

224 objectives of proper stewardship and the maintenance of family farm agriculture.

225 **We support:**

- 226 - Participation by family farmers and family farm advocates on the State Technical
- 227 Committee

- 228 - Targeting of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) payments to
- 229 small and medium sized farms and ranches
- 230 - Making all farm and ranch programs readily and easily accessible by family
- 231 farmers and ranchers
- 232 - Use of CRP land for responsible haying and grazing
- 233 - Statewide programs that promote and assist sustainable agriculture
- 234 - Initiating a collaborative effort to develop an effective and balanced policy for the
- 235 Missouri and Mississippi Rivers
- 236 - Flood control as the number one priority of river management
- 237 - Enforcement of “tolerable soil loss” not to exceed 2T (T-value; as determined by
- 238 NRCS) in order to receive crop insurance
- 239 - A Conservation Reserve Program that strengthens family farms, ranches and rural
- 240 communities

241

242 **CONTRACTS**

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

245 **We support:**

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

260

261 **COOPERATIVES**

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

265 **We support:**

- 266 - Co-op owners/members to providing the education, leadership and management
- 267 necessary to effectively run local co-ops
- 268 - Organization and growth of community credit unions as an effective means of
- 269 rural reinvestment and re-vitalization
- 270 - Increased access to capital for community-based cooperatives and other farmer-
- 271 controlled entities that engage in value-added activity that sustains Missouri farm
- 272 families and rural communities

- 273 - Development of broadband communication cooperatives that would provide the
 274 opportunity for access by all rural residents
 275 - Formation of value-added cooperative efforts that are formed for the welfare of
 276 the local community, that are producer owned, controlled through democratic
 277 processes and leadership, and whose business affairs are responsive to and for the
 278 benefit of all its members

279 **We oppose:**

- 280 - Involvement in production agriculture in ways that put co-ops in adverse
 281 competition with their family farmer/producer owners
 282

283 **CROP INSURANCE**

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

286 **We support:**

- 287 - Payment limitations that focus on regionally-based, family-sized farms
 288

289 **DAIRY**

290 Dairy prices should sustain viable family farms.

291 **We support:**

- 292 - Regional milk marketing compacts
 293 - Developing a new basic formula for pricing (BFP) milk
 294 - Establishing a parity pricing system combined with supply management
 295 - Establishing, through BFP, a floor price that applies to all classes of milk
 296 - Mandatory dairy price reporting with independent verification
 297 - Measurement of dairy policy fairness by its ability to:
 298 o Produce reasonable profit for producers
 299 o Provide a high-quality, stable supply for consumers
 300 o Promote sustainable environmental practices
 301 o Enable producers to enter and exit farming
 302 - Elimination of exclusivity practices by contract buyers toward dairy producers
 303 - Farmer and retailer rights to label milk BST free, non-GMO fed, pasture
 304 fed/access and other product descriptors that enable the consumers' right to know
 305

305 **We oppose:**

- 306 - State of Missouri providing tax incentives to out of state dairy conglomerates
 307 - Establishing large, industrialized dairies in Missouri that compete with local dairy
 308 farmers
 309 - Provisions for distant pooling and de-pooling of milk, which allow out-of-state
 310 production to distort local markets
 311 - Cooperatives paying members less than a federal minimum price
 312

313 **ECONOMIC AND TAX POLICY**

314 **Credit**

315 **We support:**

- 316 - Access to credit, technical expertise and markets as essential in securing
 317 opportunities for rural and agricultural enterprises

- 318 - Appropriate utilization of the Community Reinvestment Act to support family
319 farms and rural communities
320

321 **Loans:**

- 322 - Reassess direct farm lending through loans and loan guarantees that protect
323 against volatile predatory interest rates
324 - Increase Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan rates so that they are closer
325 to the cost of production as an alternative or supplement to commercial
326 borrowing, and pay farmers the same storage rate on long-term reserves as that
327 paid for commercial storage
328

329 **Markets:**

- 330 - Protect the agricultural sector from undue harm due to trade conflicts.
331

332 **Estate Tax**

- 333 - Support an estate tax structure that enables and promotes the transfer of family
334 farms to the next generation
335 - Oppose a repeal of estate tax
336

337 **Taxes**

338 **We support:**

- 339 - A more equitable, progressive, and sustainable federal and state tax structures that
340 allow the majority of people to pay less and those with the very highest incomes
341 to pay their fair share
342 - A tax system that fairly and adequately provides revenues for the programs and
343 services that are essential to good governance and the general welfare
344 - Full deductibility for individual payment of premiums for health care, long-term
345 care, and disability
346 - Provisions in the tax code that reduce concentrations of wealth and power, and
347 promote equality of economic opportunity
348 - A refundable federal and state earned income tax credit that allows the working
349 poor to keep more of their earned income
350 - Candidates for federal office releasing their federal tax information.
351

352 **1031 Exchanges**

353 **We support:**

- 354 - Reform of the tax code to eliminate or restructure 1031 Exchanges in such a way
355 that they do not work against the interests of family farmers, rural communities,
356 and the common good
357

358 **ENERGY**

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

362 **We support:**

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

399

400 **We oppose:**

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

403

404 **FOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY**

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

408 **We support:**

- 409 - Elimination of poverty and hunger
- 410 - Providing consumers with an adequate, high quality, safe food supply
- 411 - Decentralization of the food production, distribution and supply
- 412 - Food sovereignty for individual countries
- 413 - Missouri-local food, fiber and energy production

414 **We oppose:**

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

418

419 **IMMIGRATION POLICY**

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

423 **We support:**

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

433

434 **INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND AGREEMENTS**

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

441 **We support:**

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

454 **We oppose:**

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

456

457 **QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL MISSOURI**

458 **Health Care**

459 We strongly affirm the right of all Americans to have readily accessible, comprehensive,
 460 affordable, quality health care. Access to health care services is sorely deficient in rural
 461 areas of the state. Obtaining health care services is especially difficult for the rural elderly
 462 who can no longer drive and live in those areas where public and affordable
 463 transportation services do not exist. Family farmers notably are lacking in health care
 464 coverage. Being in an occupation considered more dangerous makes the need for health
 465 care imperative.

466

467 Comprehensive health care should include:

- 468 - Access to universal single-payer health care
- 469 - More accessible emergency services for rural residents
- 470 - Publicly provided health care for all children 0 to 18 years of age
- 471 - Elimination of control by insurance companies over prescription drugs
- 472 - Removal of the so called, “donut hole”
- 473 - Full coverage for all prescription drugs
- 474 - Expansion of Medicaid in Missouri as allowed in the ACA
- 475 - Subscription drug prices based on Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
 476 approved rates.

477

478 **High Speed Internet Service in Rural Missouri**

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

480 Federal and state government should:

- 481 - Ensure development of hard wired and wireless internet access throughout rural
 482 Missouri through tax incentives and grants from federal and state government
 483 initiatives

484

485 **Control of Farm Equipment**

486 Manufacturers of modern equipment prevent farmers that own their equipment from
 487 repairing or modifying the equipment, and controlling the data collected by the
 488 equipment. This results in costly repairs and extended down-time. Federal and state
 489 government should:

- 490 - Crack down on restrictions that prevent farmers and independent mechanics from
 491 making repairs and modifications to their own equipment
- 492 - Manufacturers should be required to disclose how they use and share data
 493 collected by equipment they sell.

494

495

496 **Freedom and Liberties**

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

499 **We support:**

- 500 - Freedom of speech

- 501 - Every citizen has a right to know where their food came from, how and under
- 502 what conditions it was produced
- 503 - Adequate transparency, whistleblowers, to include photographs, writing, and
- 504 investigative reporting
- 505 - The right of individual privacy balanced by the public’s right to know
- 506 - Laws, policies and regulations that equally protect the rights of all family farms
- 507 - Use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for agricultural purposes only after
- 508 landowner approval
- 509 - Opening up the National Airspace System to allow drones for agricultural
- 510 purposes
- 511 - Missouri citizens opposition to Right-to-Work legislation, and further, the
- 512 Missouri General Assembly should not negate the will of the people.

513 **We oppose:**

- 514 - Contract growers being subject to mandatory arbitration and non-disclosure of
- 515 disputes.
- 516 - The use of drones for covert surveillance of agricultural operations not in the
- 517 public interest

518

519 **Information Collection and Protection**

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

- 521 - Protects the privacy of Personally Identifiable Information
- 522 - Avoids consolidation of market power
- 523 - Maintains competition
- 524 - Prevents market manipulation
- 525 - Protects ownership of data

526

527 **LABELING**

528 **Country-of-Origin**

529 We believe consumers should have the information necessary to make informed
 530 decisions about the origins of their food, and that laws should support farmers and
 531 consumers in achieving that goal. While truthful and accurate voluntary labels are
 532 important to producers and helpful for consumers, they are not a replacement or
 533 substitute for mandatory regulated labeling.

534 **We support:**

- 535 - Mandatory country of origin labeling for all food products
- 536 - A voluntary label that preserves the identification of a product of the U.S.A.
- 537 - Allowing consumers to make informed food choices through adequate product
- 538 labeling
- 539 - Label “Product of the U.S.” only those products 100% produced, born, raised and
- 540 processed inside the U.S.
- 541 - Ensure products coming into the U.S. are not being minimally processed and/or
- 542 blended inside the U.S., thus making them eligible to obtain a “USDA Inspected”
- 543 label and to be marketed as a U.S. product.

544

545 **Attribution**

- 546 - Oppose and protest co-optation of the terms sustainable agriculture, family farm,
 547 organic, natural and green by corporations for marketing purposes.
 548

549 **LIVESTOCK**

550 **We support:**

- 551 - Strengthening the Packers and Stockyards Act and Anti-trust laws
 552 - The Secretary of Agriculture enforcing the Packers & Stockyards laws
 553 - A ban on packer ownership of livestock feeding operations, including corporate
 554 ownership or corporate financing of non-farmer owned operations
 555 - Congress supplying adequate funding for family farm based agricultural programs
 556 - The development of local and regional livestock processing facilities that enhance
 557 the profitability of independent producers through open and competitive bidding
 558 - A meat inspection, grading, and labeling system that protects food safety and
 559 quality, and the integrity of the family farm food system
 560 - The right of processors to access domestic and international markets that demand
 561 source-verified or BSE-tested livestock
 562 - Anti-trust legislation to limit the market-share percentage of captive supplies
 563 - Fair and thorough inspection and regulation of pet breeders throughout the nation
 564 - Preceding any rule change in the USDA Animal Welfare Act with an appropriate
 565 comment period and only then record it in the Federal Register
 566 - Teaching animal welfare through educational programs and agricultural
 567 organizations
 568 - Humane treatment of all animals
 569 - Providing all domesticated animals with proper food, shelter and water for
 570 survival
 571 - USDA inspected humane harvesting of livestock including horses for meat
 572 markets, and
 573 - Stringent federal and state oversight and regulation of “animal disease research
 574 laboratories,” and that subject small and local communities to environmental and
 575 public health consequences of dangerous pathogens. Of particular concern are
 576 areas of significant livestock production and small and local communities, which
 577 could be devastated by a breach of quarantine and security
 578 - Current effective state-by-state systems that are in place to identify animal disease
 579 and provide traceability
 580 - U.S. Border Safeguards to Domestic Livestock Health and Safety
 581 - Allowing only beef from animals under 30 months of age to enter from any nation
 582 where a case of BSE has been confirmed;
 583 - Promoting USDA policies and procedures that protect US borders from
 584 penetration by foreign and contagious diseases maintaining the health and
 585 integrity of the US livestock industry
 586 - USDA advocating for US livestock producers and not the international
 587 marketplace
 588 - USDA issuing directives that protect the integrity of the US livestock industry and
 589 the sovereignty of the United States border

590 **We Oppose:**

- 591 - Vertical integration by processors into production agriculture

- 592 - Any system of mandatory animal, or premise identification
- 593 - Privatization of pet breeder inspections
- 594 - *Ag Gag* laws that enable treatment detrimental to both farm animals and family
- 595 farmers and thus threaten a wholesome and secure food supply

596

597 **LOCAL CONTROL**

598 In a democratic system of government, elected public officials make many decisions that
 599 have a profound impact on the lives and wellbeing of its citizens. We believe that people
 600 have a right to participate in decisions that affect them and that the best decisions of
 601 government, business or civil organizations are made when those affected participate in
 602 the decision-making process.

603 **We Support:**

- 604 - County governments ability to maintain their democratic rights to enact health
- 605 ordinances that protect the health of their citizens
- 606 - Legislation that enables local government (i.e. municipal, township, county) to
- 607 enact ordinances, planning, and zoning that serve the best interests of the local
- 608 community and that are democratically enacted
- 609 - Missourians having the *right to know* the extent of foreign interest in and/or
- 610 ownership of Missouri farmland and their commercial privileges
- 611 - Restriction of foreign entities acquiring Missouri agricultural lands, holding
- 612 federal grazing allotments or commercial privileges
- 613 - Prohibition of foreign ownership of Missouri agricultural land
- 614 - Federal government strengthening the Agricultural Foreign Investment
- 615 Disclosure Act of 1978 by requiring mandatory reporting and penalties for
- 616 failure to report.

617 **We Oppose:**

- 618 - Allocation of state tax incentives based solely on Agri-Ready compliance.
- 619 - State and federal government, or any international and/or quasi-governmental or
- 620 private structure, from enacting laws, regulations or rules that give them the
- 621 ability to put in place sanctions, or to otherwise impede or negate the right of local
- 622 communities to enact labor, environmental, health, or safety laws, regulations,
- 623 ordinances, planning, or zoning
- 624 - State and federal tax dollars going to foreign entities that operate agricultural
- 625 businesses that compete with Missouri farmers

626

627 **NEXT GENERATION FARMERS**

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

631 **We Support:**

- 632 - New and young farmers serving on agricultural advisory boards and thereby
- 633 provide input on, and guidance for reviewing, existing and future county, state
- 634 and federal agricultural programs
- 635 - Incorporating new and young farmers into all types of farming systems,
- 636 geographic locations, and farm products

637

638 **PATENTING**639 **We support:**

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

642 **We oppose:**

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

647

648 **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**649 **Public Schools**650 **We support:**

- 651 - Publicly funded, community-based schools with reasonable child-to-teacher ratios
- 652 - Adequate and equitable funding of rural schools
- 653 - Adequate and equitable funding of public pre-K-12 and higher education
- 654 - Free and affordable public education from pre-K through bachelor's or technical
- 655 degree
- 656 - Local level decision making regarding consolidation of school districts
- 657 - Contract schools, and school voucher programs
- 658 - Farm-to-cafeteria and other local food programs
- 659 - Serving only wholesome, nutritious food in public schools and other institutions
- 660 - Legislation that funds and requires all Missouri public schools to provide free
- 661 breakfast, lunch and after school meals to low income children, with meals
- 662 prepared solely from food produced in the United States.

663 **We oppose:**

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

667

668 **State Assisted**

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

672

673 **Social Security**674 **We support:**

- 675 - Active participation in developing a plan to help insure the solvency for Social
- 676 Security for future years
- 677 - Prohibition of using social security funds for anything other than its intended use
- 678 - Preserving a major portion of any budget surplus for Social Security
- 679 Social Security tax being applicable to all earnings by removal of the income cap
- 680 - Social Security being a mandatory, universal system to assure benefits in the
- 681 future
- 682 - Strengthening and protecting of the Social Security program

- 683 - Continuation of efforts made to correct an inequity in Social Security benefits for
 684 recipients born during “notch” years, which results in reduced entitlements for
 685 basically the same level of contributions
 686 - Congress changing laws so that a husband and wife who are equal business
 687 partners in a farming operation are able to collect equally on the Social Security
 688 tax that was paid in as a result of that business
 689 - Congress changing the eligibility requirements for individuals who haven’t
 690 worked off the farm long enough to qualify for benefits

691 **We oppose:**

- 692 - A freeze on the Social Security cost-of-living allowance
 693 - Any part of Social Security being invested in non-government-insured
 694 investments
 695 - Proposals that would privatize the system
 696

697 **RESEARCH AND EDUCATION**

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

701 **We support:**

- 702 - Increasing funding for research, education and development of unbiased
 703 information that under girds family farming, organic and sustainable agricultural
 704 methods
 705 - Increasing research that protects a family farm/sustainable system of agriculture;
 706 - Intellectual property rights, paid for by taxpayer monies, remaining in the public
 707 domain
 708 - Strengthening consumer education regarding nutrition, food security, and issues
 709 impacting independent family farmers and ranchers and its relevance to consumer
 710 health and safety
 711 - Public participation in the development of university research goals
 712 - Development of agriculture curricula at all educational levels that build and
 713 support family farming and sustainable agriculture methods
 714 - Nutrition education that focuses on sustainability and community development;
 715 - Practices and policies that reduce and eliminate pesticides found on pollen used
 716 by honeybees
 717 - Research into those issues challenging bee populations such as colony collapse
 718 syndrome
 719 - Reformation of public education systems, including university extension, to serve
 720 the needs of local people and their communities

721 **Dicamba**

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

727 **We support:**

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

729 **Industrial Hemp**

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

732 **We support:**

- 733 - The Mo. Dept. of Agriculture maximizing opportunities for hemp research and
 734 production
- 735 - The Mo. Dept. of Agriculture providing Hemp program integrity through
 736 leadership, policy, regulation and funding distribution in establishment and
 737 operation
- 738 - Provisions for product trials and variety selection in the 2018 Farm Bill

739

740 **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**741 **We support:**

- 742 - A comprehensive rural development policy
- 743 - Educational institutions providing courses that promote entrepreneurship, rural
 744 communities and retention of young adults in rural areas
- 745 - Strong relationships between local producers and consumers
- 746 - State and local government enactment of bond financed agricultural loans for
 747 Young and Beginning Farmers as allowed under federal law
- 748 - A “Farm Link” program to join beginning farmers with established farmers
- 749 - Development of social and political infrastructures that will allow the targeting of
 750 agriculture policies, programs, and benefits necessary to encourage the entrance
 751 of young people into family farming
- 752 - Efforts to assist and encourage rural entrepreneurship by youth
- 753 - A state farm-to-cafeteria program that includes opportunity and funding for
 754 Missouri schools, hospitals, institutions and small businesses to purchase from
 755 community-based Missouri producers
- 756 - Law enforcement and prevention agencies in halting illegal drug production and
 757 trafficking in rural Missouri
- 758 - Legalization of medical marijuana
- 759 - Providing state and federal assistance and resources to Missouri family farmers
 760 and rural communities to compensate for damages incurred by drug trafficking
 761 and/or the law enforcement activity designed to counter it, and to implement
 762 prevention, treatment, and educational programs
- 763 - Requiring legal search warrants and official law enforcement representation
 764 before any corporate investigation of farm fields and/or animal facilities
- 765 - Nonpartisan redistricting processes and the establishment of redistricting
 766 commissions by states
- 767 - Legislative districts based on standardized population and common geographic
 768 location
- 769 - Federal transportation policy that fosters a well-maintained competitive national
 770 transportation network comprised of an integrated system of railways, waterways,
 771 and roads, and that act to avoid transportation shortage for transporting grain,
 772 livestock and other perishable commodities

773

We oppose:

- 774 - Taking private property by eminent domain for, or by, private entities or private
775 development
776 - Sitting legislators drawing district lines and gerrymandering of voting districts
777

778 **VOTING PROTOCOL**

779 Decisions made by delegates at national conventions are to represent the preferences of
780 the membership in their respective states.

781 **We support:**

- 782 - A voting process that is executed in a manner which insures high levels of support
783 and fairness by small-state as well as large-state membership
784 - Allow point of order challenges to decisions made at national conventions
785 - Reserving the use of a weighted vote for only the most important issues
786 - A weighted vote to require a minimum of support by 5 states before use
787

788 **NEW SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

789

790 **WATERS OF THE US**

791 Whereas clean water and air are essential to all people wherever they are, and whereas
792 geography and climate vary among states, and whereas climate and soil diversity may
793 create very different situations among farms in different states, and whereas clean water
794 and air is essential to all people wherever they are, and whereas Waters of the US
795 (WOTUS) rules create hardship to greater or lesser degrees in different states, and
796 whereas litigation of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules and actions has
797 become common among special interest groups, and whereas effective regulation should
798 never be politicized at the expense of the greater good, and whereas farmers and ranchers
799 share the goal of protecting resources entrusted to their care, therefore be it resolved that
800 the mission of EPA is not at the discretion of the Administrator or any sitting president
801 but is based upon the will of Congress. Further, when applying the mission to the
802 waterways of the U.S., EPA should be clear in defining affected waterways.
803

804 **FAIRNESS FOR FARMERS**

805 Whereas only four multinational meatpackers control 54% of U.S. poultry process, 66%
806 of U.S. pork process and 85% of beef packing, and whereas farmers must sell their corn
807 and soybean crops to the same four companies that control 82 % of soybean crushing and
808 84% of wet corn milling in the U.S., and whereas just four firms account for
809 approximately 84% of the global herbicide and pesticide markets, and whereas only four
810 firms control 85% of corn seeds and 76% of soybean seeds, and whereas 95% of large
811 farm tractors are made by just three companies and two companies manufacture nearly
812 half of U.S. farm machinery, and whereas for one out of three common grocery items
813 four corporations account for at least 75% of sales, therefore, be it resolved that USDA
814 should issue strong rules to enforce competition laws and to invest in a more resilient
815 food supply chain that will benefit farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. Further, be
816 it resolved that USDA support bills that would bring more price transparency, discovery,
817 and reporting.
818

818

819 **USE OF STIMULUS AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS**

820 Whereas during the past two years family farmers and ranchers faced new challenges
821 with COVID-19, extreme weather events, and collapse of markets, and consumers
822 learned the nation's food system is broken, therefore, be it resolved that federal and state
823 governments use stimulus and infrastructure funds to support family farmers and their
824 communities, and build a more resilient and equitable food supply chain.
825

826 **GLOSSARY**

827

828 **2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D)** - is an organic compound with the chemical
829 formula $C_8H_6Cl_2O_3$. It is a systemic herbicide which selectively kills most broadleaf
830 weeds by causing uncontrolled growth in them, but leaves most grasses such as cereals,
831 lawn turf, and grassland relatively unaffected.

832

833 **1031 exchange** – also known as a Starker exchange or a tax-deferred exchange; permits
834 investment property owners to sell a property and defer tax payments by reinvesting the
835 proceeds into a “like-kind” investment property or properties. A 1031 exchange is
836 enabled by Section 1031 in the Internal Revenue Code.

837

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

840

841 **BFP** - basic formula for pricing; the concept applied to pricing of milk. BFP has been
842 utilized to set the price of milk used for manufacturing and as a mover of the higher-Class
843 prices. As such, it is a key determinant of changes in producer prices.

844

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

847

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

851

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

856

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

859

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

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

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

867 **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)** – A genetically modified organism (GMO) is
868 any organism the genetics of which have been altered through the use of modern

869 biotechnology to create a novel combination of genetic material. GMOs may be the
870 source of genetically modified food ingredients and are also widely used in scientific
871 research and to produce goods other than food.

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

875

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