

Kansas Farm Bureau

2011 Resolutions

Status of Previous Resolutions

GEN-1

1 All Kansas Farm Bureau policies are subject to review at any meeting
2 of the voting delegates. It is our policy to keep our resolutions as current as
3 possible without specifically restating all details of continuing policies every
4 year.

5 The resolutions adopted at the four previous Annual Meetings are
6 reaffirmed, except as they have been modified or supplemented by later
7 resolutions, including those adopted at the 92nd annual Meeting. All other
8 resolutions shall be deemed to have lapsed except the Board of Directors
9 may specifically find that a prior resolution provides the only basis for action
10 on a current issue. In any instance where the Board finds it necessary to
11 reinstate a lapsed resolution, it shall bring this fact to the attention of the
12 Resolutions Committee and the voting delegates for appropriate action at
13 the next Annual Meeting.

AGRICULTURE

A Voice for Agriculture

AG-1

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3 The resolutions and policy guidelines of our organization are
4 determined by farmers and ranchers. Farm Bureau will speak out for
5 farmers and ranchers at every appropriate opportunity, giving voice to the
6 concerns of agricultural producers. We will seek to cooperate with other
7 organizations to tell the agriculture story of providing safe, plentiful and
8 economical food and fiber for the nation and the world.

9 We will work diligently to implement our adopted policy positions in a
10 manner that furthers good public policy for agriculture and the state.

Agricultural Bankruptcy

AG-2

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3 We support legislation that provides unpaid cash agricultural product
4 sellers a super priority claim above all other liens, except current statutory
5 agricultural liens, when a handler files for bankruptcy.

6 Farmers should not be required to deliver commodities under contract
7 to bankrupt purchasers, unless they have been paid in full at or before
8 delivery.

9 Farmers should not be required to repay money already received for
10 delivered commodities.

11 We support the recognition of scale tickets or warehouse receipts as
12 valid certificates of title that prevent such commodities from being listed as
13 an asset in federal bankruptcy hearings. We support legislation ensuring
14 farmers be allowed to remove commodities in which they have retained
15 ownership at any time during bankruptcy proceedings.

16 The proceeds of agricultural product sales should be held in trust, out
17 of bankruptcy and away from creditors, to assure payment to the seller of
18 those agricultural products.

19 We support holding proceeds from pre-paid contracts for agricultural
20 supplies and inputs out of bankruptcy to help assure delivery of product or
21 reimbursement to the buyer.

1 **Agricultural Chemicals and Fertilizer**

AG-3

2
3 We support complete and detailed labeling of all agricultural
4 chemicals. Persons who use agricultural chemicals in accordance with
5 product label instructions should not be held liable for environmental
6 damage. We oppose the intentional misuse of agricultural chemicals.

7 We support the ability of producers to manage production in a
8 manner that lends to timely nutrient and plant protection application.

9 We encourage regulatory agencies to recognize modern agricultural
10 practices and to promulgate regulations that allow producers and dealers to
11 be responsive to agronomic, weather, environmental and production
12 management needs.

13 We oppose regulations in the storage, handling, application and
14 transportation of agricultural inputs that create additional expense to
15 agricultural dealers and producers without positive cost-benefit analysis.

16 We support a uniform, safe, effective and scientifically based system
17 of regulating agricultural chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides, which is
18 consistent with state and federal law and administered by appropriate state
19 and federal authorities.

20 We strongly support the continued exemption in Kansas law, which
21 allows for the bartering or trading of services applying fertilizer or restricted
22 use pesticides and other agricultural practices.

23 No governmental agency should have the authority to ban, or
24 continue the ban on, the manufacture or use of any agricultural chemical
25 unless there is conclusive, reliable scientific proof that such use is
26 detrimental to society.

27 We support procedures that allow chemicals currently prohibited from
28 regular use to be utilized by certified applicators in an emergency to control
29 agricultural pest infestations.

30 We support the availability of state funding to provide cost-share
31 monies to producers building facilities for the storage and handling of
32 fertilizers and farm chemicals.

33 We encourage educational efforts to increase the knowledge
34 applicators and producers have regarding chemical impacts on sensitive
35 crops.

36 We support research and development of methods to control weeds
37 that are becoming resistant to chemical control measures.

38

1 **Agricultural Commodity Storage** **AG-4**

2

3 We support the continuation of an effective and adequately funded
4 state grain warehouse program requiring licensing and bonding of all
5 commercial elevators and grain warehouses in Kansas.

6 We recommend and support legislation to require grain dealers and
7 grain brokerage firms to be bonded or otherwise provide proof of financial
8 responsibility.

9 We recommend licensing and bonding regulations be strengthened to
10 protect farmers in the storage of agricultural commodities in private or
11 public storage facilities.

12 We support the creation of a Kansas grain indemnity fund.

13

1 **Agricultural Contracting** **AG-5**

2

3 We strongly support the ability of producers, both as individuals and
4 collectively, to enter into production and/or marketing enterprises, including
5 contractual and cooperative enterprises in an environment free from unfair
6 trade practices.

7 Producers must have the ability to seek professional legal, financial
8 and agricultural production advice on contract terms, obligations and
9 responsibilities. Producers should be allowed to discuss and compare
10 contracts with other producers. Disclosure of contract terms must not

11 require revelation of trade secrets or require a producer to divulge personal
12 financial information or production practices.

13 Contracts should include a readable, understandable summary of
14 material risks.

15 We support a priority lien for a producer for amounts due under a
16 production or marketing contract. We encourage private organizations,
17 governmental agencies and educational institutions to develop and
18 promote educational programs and materials that provide technical and
19 practical information about contract production, marketing contracts and
20 cooperative businesses.

21 Contractors should be prohibited from prematurely terminating a
22 contract with a producer who has complied with the provisions of the
23 contract.

24

1 **Agricultural Credit** **AG-6**

2

3 Farmers and ranchers need a variety of credit facilities to finance
4 operating and ownership expenses. Special programs should be designed
5 at federal and state levels to specifically deal with credit and financing
6 issues of young farmers and ranchers who are entering or expanding
7 agricultural operations.

8 We support the low-interest agriculture production loan program and
9 request adequate allocations to assist financially stressed agricultural
10 producers during times of low commodity prices, weather related losses or
11 sanctions on export markets.

12 Any changes to lending procedures, statutes, rules or regulations
13 should not disadvantage agricultural producers. Specific agricultural liens
14 exist under current law. We oppose any measures that would eliminate or
15 pre-empt this statutory prioritization of lien holders.

1 **Agricultural Product Utilization** **AG-7**

2

3 We support increased efforts to develop, promote and utilize products
4 derived from the crops and livestock produced by our nation's farmers and
5 ranchers.

6 We support consumer education, promotion efforts and incentives,
7 including retailers' incentives, to expand the production and use of
8 agricultural-based alternative and renewable fuels.

9 We support elimination of the mandatory labeling requirement for
10 ethanol. Suppliers should be encouraged to identify or voluntarily label
11 pumps as a promotional tool.

12 We support reduced state fuel tax rates on biodiesel and ethanol
13 blends of E20 and greater. As additional blends of ethanol become
14 available, they should be taxed at a rate similar to E85. Biodiesel should
15 be taxed at a lower rate than 100% fossil-based diesel.

16 We encourage the state to develop and implement an aggressive
17 plan for increasing bio-fuel usage in state vehicles and machinery. We
18 recommend all state fuel purchases be bio-fuels by 2010.

19 "Bio-diesel blend" fuels should contain at least 2% methyl esters.

20 We support additional research and development to find non-
21 traditional farm products that have the potential to become viable
22 enterprises for agricultural producers.

23 The state should authorize incentives encouraging farmers and
24 ranchers to invest in producer-owned cooperatives and value-added
25 businesses.

26

1 **Agritourism** **AG-8**

2

3 We support the provisions of the Agritourism Promotion Act including
4 limits on the liability of landowners who invite the public onto their land to
5 experience by observation and participation, rural agricultural culture and
6 natural attractions.

7 Tax credits should continue to offset the high cost of liability
8 insurance premiums and encourage others who may desire to augment
9 their farm income through agritourism activities.

10

1 **Animal Care** **AG-9**

2

3 We support the Kansas Animal Health Department as an
4 independent agency, which is best suited to protect and preserve the
5 animal health and safety of the state's livestock industry.

6 We support the current voluntary herd testing and certification
7 program for Johne's disease, and encourage continued federal assistance
8 of testing costs.

9 We support state and federal efforts to eradicate feral swine in
10 Kansas as part of their disease mitigation efforts.

11 We support research on animal stress and livestock production
12 practices, along with practical ways to implement proven research findings

13 on farms and ranches. Research utilizing animals is necessary to ensure
14 more effective human and veterinary medical practices.

15 We support aggressive educational programs by Farm Bureau and
16 other interested organizations, which will present the facts of animal and
17 poultry production to legislative bodies, governmental regulators, the
18 general public and school children. We also encourage programs to inform
19 and assist livestock producers on methods of dealing with animal rights
20 activists who may threaten, harass or commit acts of vandalism.

21 We oppose legislation or regulations that limit a producer's right to
22 breed livestock or domestic animals on the farm. We also oppose any
23 mandatory requirement that producers establish psychological profiles or
24 daily psychological monitoring of individual animals.

25 We support efforts to implement animal disease traceability. We
26 encourage all livestock owners to participate by registering their farms and
27 ranches with the Kansas Animal Health Department.

28 We support the development of a PI Quick Test for use in chute side
29 production practices and encourage voluntary testing for PI cattle,
30 especially for cattle prior to sale.

31 We encourage law enforcement and animal control officers to notify
32 owners of domesticated livestock running at large.

33

1 **Aquaculture** **AG-10**

2

3 Aquaculture and commercial fisheries should be treated as
4 agricultural enterprises. State activities affecting aquaculture and
5 commercial fisheries should be under the Kansas Department of
6 Agriculture.

7 Appropriations for aquaculture and commercial fisheries should be
8 directed toward research, market development and consumer education.

9 We favor the use of government-produced fingerlings for private uses
10 only when privately produced sources are not available.

11

1 **Biotechnology** **AG-11**

2

3 We support:

- 4 1. The peer review process for validating biotechnology research.
- 5 2. Increased efforts to educate the public worldwide regarding the
6 safety and benefits of products developed through biotechnology.

- 7 3. Protections being afforded to producers who plant non-GMO crops
8 from cross-pollination or contamination from another producer's GMO
9 crop.
- 10 4. Maintaining U.S. export markets by securing foreign regulatory
11 acceptance of biotech products.
- 12 5. Protections from liability for producers who plant GMO crops from
13 cross-pollination or contamination to another producer's non-GMO
14 crop.

15 Manufacturers of GMO seed planted according to the label should be
16 liable for any damages from cross-pollination to another producers crops.

17 Adequate and accurate information on acceptable markets, and
18 market and planting restrictions must be provided in writing to producers
19 prior to the time they purchase the original input product. Manufacturers
20 should be primarily responsible for encouraging acceptance of GMO
21 products.

22 We oppose:

- 23 1. Foreign countries imposing any import restrictions, labeling or
24 segregation requirements on any agricultural product enhanced
25 through biotechnology, once such commodity has been certified by
26 the scientific community as safe and not significantly different from
27 other varieties of that commodity.
- 28 2. The insertion of genetic seed sterilization technology, "terminator
29 technology," as a means of protecting intellectual property.
- 30 3. Recovery of technology fees from a producer who planted non-GMO
31 seed that later exhibits GMO traits.

1 **Commodity Promotion Programs**

AG-12

2
3 We support the commodity commissions that place producers in
4 charge of the commission activities and the farmer check-off dollars. We
5 strongly urge all producers to actively participate in and continue their
6 support of commodity check-off programs for research, utilization, public
7 education and/or market development of their commodities and products.
8

1 **Controlled Burning**

AG-13

2
3 We recognize the practice of controlled burning as an important and
4 necessary agricultural practice. The practice may include, but is not limited
5 to, clearing debris from building sites, and the burning of crop residue and
6 rangeland.

7 We recognize that the practice of controlled burning must be done in
8 a reasonable and prudent manner so as to protect property and lives.
9 Therefore, we support stronger involvement of local fire and law
10 enforcement officials in the administration of the regulations. While we
11 support reasonable restrictions on the ability to burn, as those restrictions
12 may apply to excessive wind speed, proximity to structures, airports, and
13 roadways, the opportunity to use a controlled burn as an agricultural
14 practice must be retained. We encourage landowners to use innovative
15 burning practices. We encourage our Universities and Extension Service to
16 maintain nationally recognized programs in rangeland management,
17 including research on alternative burning practices, to support the livestock
18 industry in Kansas.

19 There should be clarifications made either in the governing statutes
20 or regulations which set out specifically which governmental entity the
21 landowners or tenants must notify, and under what circumstances those
22 who wish to use controlled burning must notify the appropriate
23 governmental entity.

24

1 **Corporate Farm Law** **AG-14**

2

3 We support the opportunity for agricultural producers to operate
4 under any business structure authorized by Kansas law. Economic or tax
5 incentives should be equally available to any farming operation, whether a
6 sole proprietorship, partnership, family trust, limited liability company or
7 corporation.

8 We support the provision in Kansas law which allows county
9 residents to determine whether non-family farm corporations may own
10 agricultural land to operate pork or dairy production facilities. We support
11 the addition of poultry to this law. We support environmental standards that
12 are based on practical research and sound science for agricultural
13 production entities that are authorized, constructed and operated in
14 Kansas. Protecting water quality and controlling odors are high priorities.

15

1 **Fence Laws** **AG-15**

2

3 We support legislation which will prevent any increased liability for
4 owners of land or livestock. The responsibility of the majority of county
5 commissioners in each county to serve as “fence viewers” for settling

6 disputes regarding fences must be maintained. All affected parties should
7 be notified in any fence viewing dispute.

8 We oppose any legislation or regulation affecting normal pasturing
9 operations, which would require fencing livestock from streams, rivers or
10 other bodies of water.

11 We support Kansas' partition fence law allocating the costs of
12 constructing and maintaining fencing equally between adjoining
13 landowners. We recommend the common practice be enacted into law
14 which divides the responsibility for installation and maintenance of partition
15 fences to each landowner's right of a fixed point or midpoint as each views
16 the fence from his land, unless there are other oral agreements or written
17 contracts. Adjoining landowners, including governmental entities and
18 private trusts, which use a fence to restrain livestock should share in the
19 construction and/or maintenance of partition fences.

1 **Food Product Labeling**

AG-16

2
3 We support consumer friendly, science-based labeling of agricultural
4 products that provide consumers with useful information concerning the
5 ingredients and nutritional value.

6 We support Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) programs that are
7 feasible and reasonable to agricultural producers.

8 We encourage all levels of government to vigorously enforce laws
9 regarding the fraudulent and misleading labeling of any agricultural
10 products.

11 We oppose the use of names of natural farm products on substitutes
12 for such natural foods.

13 **Food Safety and Security**

AG-17

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2
3 Kansas Farm Bureau encourages federal, state and local units of
4 government, research institutions and the agricultural industry to make
5 every reasonable effort to protect livestock and crop production in Kansas
6 from acts of bioterrorism and from accidental infestations of animal and
7 plant pests or diseases. Agencies and producers should develop voluntary
8 science-based biosecurity protocols to address their specific operations.
9 Any on-farm inspection should be pre-arranged.

10 We support the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA) in examining
11 Kansas' strengths in the bioscience industry, establishing priorities and
12 determining strategic goals.

13 We strongly support the greatest penalty provisions provided by law
14 be applied to those individuals convicted of bioterrorist or ecoterrorist
15 activities.

16

1 **Kansas Brand Laws** **AG-18**

2

3 We encourage all cattle owners to obtain and use registered brands,
4 to keep a regular count of their livestock and report all losses to local law
5 enforcement officials.

6 For the protection of individual cattle owners, we favor a statewide
7 brand inspection system that makes it mandatory that cattle be inspected
8 for brands at licensed public sales, feedlots and packing plants.

9

1 **Karnal Bunt** **AG-19**

2

3 We believe Karnal bunt (Kb) poses a significant economic threat to
4 the Kansas wheat industry. We support addressing Karnal bunt as a trade
5 issue and the multilateral, worldwide deregulation of Karnal bunt as a
6 quarantine pest. Funding for the development of Karnal bunt resistant
7 varieties should be increased.

8 We strongly recommend inspection and certification, by trained
9 personnel, of custom harvesting equipment entering the state of Kansas.

10

1 **Noxious Weeds** **AG-20**

2

3 We support the current shared responsibility for compliance and
4 implementation of the noxious weed law between landowners, counties and
5 the state. Landowners need added flexibility to use a variety of chemical
6 and non-chemical control practices. Counties should be authorized to
7 adopt control practices best suited to the local area. The state should
8 provide technical assistance and provide increased oversight authority.

9 When considering placement of a weed on the statewide noxious
10 weed list, sound science, a risk analysis and timely action should be
11 included in the process. This process should be administered by the
12 Kansas Department of Agriculture and provide opportunity for input by
13 producers, agronomists and weed scientists.

14 A system of classifying noxious weeds should be developed to focus
15 the limited resources on weeds posing the most serious challenges and on
16 implementing the most realistic control measures. The process should
17 allow counties to monitor and develop control measures for weeds not yet
18 known to exist in the county, but moving toward it.

19 The Kansas Department of Agriculture, which administers the
20 noxious weed law, should prohibit the sale of any seed containing noxious
21 weed seed and require vigorous enforcement of noxious weed laws by
22 County Weed Directors on both privately and publicly held lands. All
23 private landowners, including absentee landowners, governmental entities,
24 railroads, rail trail sponsors and utilities holding or managing land should
25 control and work toward eradicating noxious weeds.

26 Control procedures and cost-share should include the use of
27 herbicides, cultural practices and biological methods. Landowner and
28 tenant cost-share incentives for herbicides should be available through
29 County Weed Departments and private agricultural chemical dealers.

30 We recommend hay and forage producers implement practices to
31 reduce the levels of noxious weed seeds in hay and forages. When hay is
32 inspected for weed free certification, no additional fees should be charged
33 when recertifying following a killing freeze.

34 To assist landowners in controlling all noxious weeds, including
35 sericea lespedeza, we support additional state, federal and industry funding
36 that is required to increase research needed to develop more effective
37 products, procedures and practices. We encourage the partnering of
38 governmental entities, private landowners, agricultural chemical companies
39 and others to implement effective control programs.

40

1 **Organic Food Production** **AG-21**

2

3 We support uniform national standards for organic food production
4 that are rigid and strictly enforced. The cost of residue testing should be
5 borne by the organic farmer.

6 Advertisements containing undocumented claims that organically
7 grown food is more nutritious or healthful than traditionally grown food
8 should be prohibited.

9

1 **Prompt Payment** **AG-22**

2

3 We support legislation to provide prompt payment at all levels of the
4 agricultural marketing chain.

5
1 **Rural Revitalization and Renewal** **AG-23**

2
3 The revitalization of rural communities must be a high priority for
4 private citizens, as well as local, state and national governments. We
5 support initiatives that will:

- 6 1. Encourage the development of a program to link retiring farmers with
7 persons wanting to enter or expand agricultural operations, and
8 encourage participation in such a program. The Legislature should
9 consider tax incentives for property owners who sell land to buyers
10 who will keep the land in production agriculture.
- 11 2. Build a skilled and increasingly inclusive leadership group with
12 capacity to improve and sustain our rural communities in Kansas.
- 13 3. Retain and attract youth and young families that are involved in their
14 rural communities.
- 15 4. Create community charitable foundations in order to retain a portion
16 of the wealth that will transfer between generations.
- 17 5. Provide a key role for rural revitalization which rests with energizing
18 rural entrepreneurs and rural entrepreneurship.
- 19 6. Improve the general potential of rural communities to attract and
20 retain business and industry; and
- 21 7. Include all types of farming operations in economic development and
22 incentive programs.

23 Efforts should be made to ensure equity in funding between rural and
24 urban areas.

25
1 **Seed Law** **AG-24**

2
3 The Kansas Seed Law protects both the buyer and seller of seed.
4 The Kansas Seed Law should continue to allow private treaty sales
5 between farmers of varieties not covered by the federal Plant Variety
6 Protection Act.

7 The prohibition on the sale of seed containing any noxious weed
8 seed or restricted weed seed exceeding statutory tolerances should be
9 strictly enforced.

10 Because of our concern about the possible spread of Karnal bunt
11 (Kb), TCK or any other grain fungus or disease; we support the program

12 within the Kansas Department of Agriculture relating to seed cleaners,
13 custom harvesting and grain transportation equipment. We support action
14 by the Secretary of Agriculture to help protect the state from Karnal bunt
15 infestation by regulating wheat, durum wheat, triticale seed and portable
16 seed conditioning equipment.

17 Tannin sorghum seed should be conspicuously labeled and the crop
18 identity preserved. We urge prohibition of undisclosed sales of tannin
19 sorghum. Blending of tannin sorghum for sale should be prohibited. We
20 support the continued availability of bird resistant seed for use in areas
21 where significant bird damage occurs.

22

1 **State Department of Agriculture** **AG-25**

2

3 The Kansas Department of Agriculture should be a strong and
4 vigorous advocate for production agriculture. Agriculture must have
5 cabinet-level importance in any administrative structure. We recommend
6 the department continue to be named the Kansas Department of
7 Agriculture.

8 We support the existence of the State Advisory Board of Agriculture
9 and its role in providing advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and the
10 Governor. The duties and responsibilities of the Board should include
11 oversight to ensure the agency's regulations are effective in protecting
12 public safety, are reasonable, scientifically-based and promote a strong
13 agricultural industry.

14 The responsibilities of appropriating water and promulgating rules
15 and regulations should be functions of the Chief Engineer, Division of
16 Water Resources at the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The Chief
17 Engineer should remain a classified position within that agency.

18 We strongly support the state Meat and Poultry Inspection Program
19 administered by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Meat is inspected
20 for the protection of all consumers thus, the program should be supported
21 primarily by State General Fund appropriations.

22 Regulatory functions provided primarily for the protection of the
23 general population, including milk and waste management inspections,
24 should receive significant funding from State General Fund monies.
25 Programs that have a more limited scope or benefit may be candidates for
26 a funding mix that includes reasonable user fees. We support modest
27 (minimal) fee increases where it is in the best interest of Kansas producers
28 to protect their investments. Fee funds should remain with the program

29 generating that revenue. State General Funds for the Department of
30 Agriculture should be maintained at current levels or increased. The
31 Department of Agriculture should be fully funded.

32 We support legislation requiring the Kansas Department of
33 Agriculture to establish rules, regulations, specifications and standards for
34 inspection of grain analyzers used in commerce in the State of Kansas.

35 Product integrity is a priority for food, fiber and fuel producers. As
36 such, the Kansas Department of Agriculture should have regulatory
37 oversight of state food inspection programs.

38

1 **Wildlife Damage and Predator Control** **AG-26**

2

3 Agricultural producers should have the option of using all reasonable
4 and lawful means of controlling damaging wildlife and predatory animals on
5 privately owned land.

6 The coyote is a predatory animal and we oppose efforts to designate
7 this predator as a fur-bearing animal. Hunting, trapping or otherwise taking
8 coyotes should be allowed at all times.

9 We strongly oppose the release of predatory animals to control
10 overpopulated species.

11 Persons found harboring or seeking to profit from maintaining or
12 increasing feral swine populations should be held legally liable for property
13 damages.

ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

1 **Death Taxes** **AT-1**

2

3 We support the elimination of all forms of “death taxes.” Changes to
4 an existing inheritance, succession, or estate tax system must not increase
5 the overall impact that the death tax places on agricultural producers.

6

1 **Property Classification and Use Value Appraisal** **AT-2**

2

3 The Kansas Constitution and proper implementing legislation provide
4 for appraisal of agricultural land on the basis of its income producing
5 capability. We support equitable procedures for determination of net
6 income. Kansas law should continue to provide a mechanism for
7 calculating the capitalization rate of net income and the ability for the

8 Director of Property Valuation to add to the capitalization rate. We
9 encourage the application of the cap rate for its legislatively intended
10 purpose.

11 We support the legislature's clear statutory statement that appraisal
12 judgment and appraisal standards be incorporated throughout the data
13 collection, analysis and establishment of agriculture land valuations. Local
14 appraisers shall be allowed to adjust valuations in cases where factors
15 have an unusual impact on net income. We support adjustments in real
16 property valuations for dairy producers, because of their unique condition.
17 The appraisal standards should take into consideration the obsolescence
18 that occurs for smaller dairy farms.

19 We support adjustments in real property valuations for agricultural
20 producers, because of their unique condition. The appraisal standards
21 should take into consideration the obsolescence that occurs for farms.
22 Such standards should conform to generally accepted appraisal
23 procedures which are adaptable to mass appraisal and consistent with the
24 definition of fair market value. Furthermore, farm program payments,
25 easement payments, and conservation payments, such as CRP, EQIP or
26 CREP should not be considered when determining use value appraisal.

27 The Division of Property Valuation, Kansas Department of Revenue,
28 must ensure that data, formulas and resulting calculations for determining
29 the use value of agricultural land are valid.

30 Use value appraisal, and its core components, including
31 determination of net income, the capitalization rate and appraisal judgment
32 must continue to be an integral part of the Kansas property tax system.
33 The Department of Revenue is encouraged to properly utilize the system in
34 order to assure equity and stability in valuation of agricultural land. We
35 further support agricultural classification solely on the basis of use,
36 regardless of ownership, supplemental uses, or potential future value.

37 We oppose the use of rents and/or stocking rates as the sole basis
38 for determining agricultural income from pasture and rangeland. Soil
39 classifications are an appropriate component for determining agricultural
40 use value of these lands.

41 We support the continuation of the Secretary of Revenue's Advisory
42 Committee on Use Value Appraisal, as well as Kansas Farm Bureau's
43 active participation on the Committee.

44 We support the general intent of the limited classification amendment
45 which is part of the Kansas Constitution.

46 We support the continuation of on-farm grain and hay facilities
47 designated as "farm equipment" for tax purposes.

48 The type of financing arrangement should not impact whether
49 property is exempt from taxation.

50

1 **State and Local Governmental** **AT-3**
2 **Budgeting, Spending and Taxation**

3

4 We support a tax mix that would decrease the dependency on
5 property tax and focus more on sales and income taxes for the support of
6 state/local governmental units. It is important to the citizens of Kansas that
7 the state tax mix not place Kansas at a competitive disadvantage with
8 neighboring states.

9 All retirement pay should be subject to the income tax at a rate or
10 rates uniformly applicable to all retirees.

11 The sales tax should not be imposed on services. The sales tax
12 should be applied at the retail level. We oppose taxing inputs or raw
13 agricultural products, whether by removal of sales tax exemptions or by the
14 imposition of an excise tax, a value-added tax or a transaction tax.

15 Kansas should require out-of-state mail order companies to collect
16 and remit applicable sales or use taxes.

17 We firmly believe government spending should not rise faster than
18 the increase in personal income for Kansas citizens and taxpayers.

19 Zero-based budgeting is essential to fiscal planning and should be
20 required for all state agencies as well as all local units of government.
21 When preparing budgets, projected expenditures should not exceed
22 anticipated revenues. We support balanced budgets.

23 Fees generated by government agencies should not be transferred to
24 the state general fund.

25 Kansas should have appropriate statutory and constitutional
26 provisions to assure:

- 27 1. Limitations on State General Fund appropriations;
28 2. Establishment of a state reserve fund for emergencies;
29 3. Taxation and expenditure limitations on local units of government,
30 including Unified School Districts; and
31 4. A prohibition on the imposition of unfunded state mandates on
32 local units of government.

33 We support spending limitations on state and local governmental
34 units.

35 We support elimination of the Kansas Franchise Fee (tax).

36

Tax Exemptions and Credits **AT-4**

Kansas has appropriately created justifiable tax exemptions for agriculture, business, industry and many not-for-profit groups. This has been done to assist economic development and provide for competitiveness with our neighboring states. Existing exemptions should remain in place. Goats should be classified as an agricultural livestock species and afforded the same tax exempt status as other major livestock species in the state.

The ingredient or component part exemption should be maintained for the sound practice of economic development and for the assistance of manufacturing, business, industry and agriculture in this state.

All citizens are consumers of food and are uniformly taxed on the food they purchase. We oppose legislation to totally exempt food from the state sales tax.

Taxation **AT-5**

We support the creation of an equitable and simpler tax system that is revenue neutral and not detrimental to production agriculture.

Taxation of Foreign Investments in Agricultural Resources **AT-6**

Federal and state tax laws, and provisions of treaties, to which the United States is a party, should assure uniform tax treatment of those owning agricultural land. We are opposed to preferential tax treatment for non-U.S. citizens who lease, rent or have in any manner invested in our agricultural resources.

Water Severance Tax **AT-7**

We oppose the creation of any water severance tax other than assessments on water usage by a Groundwater Management District (GMD). Taxing the extensive water requirements for irrigation and livestock would burden agriculture with providing most of these new tax revenues.

Regulatory programs concerning water pollution benefit all Kansans and should be funded from taxes collected statewide.

CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE

10

Environmental Standards

CNR-1

1

2
3 Any legislation that is enacted or any environmental regulations,
4 which are proposed for promulgation, must be based on: factual
5 information, scientific knowledge and economic impact studies.

6 Rules and regulations promulgated by any local unit of government or
7 state agency should not put Kansas producers or businesses at a
8 competitive disadvantage with any other state.

9 Federal and state agencies currently impose extensive environmental
10 regulations on business, industry and agriculture. We favor implementation
11 of environmental regulations by statewide authorities, rather than
12 authorizing the development of regulations by each unit of local
13 government, to ensure a consistent approach to environmental protection
14 throughout the state. We support the current authority of the Kansas
15 Department of Health and Environment to consider site-specific conditions
16 when issuing permits and implementing programs.

17

Groundwater Management Districts

CNR-2

1

2
3 We support the Kansas Groundwater Management District (GMD)
4 Act which gives local water users a voice in determining the use of
5 groundwater. Provisions of the act relating to governance, powers and
6 authorities, and statutory parameters for the Board of Directors composition
7 should continue to apply to all GMDs uniformly. Any changes regarding
8 assessment mechanisms should not be a disadvantage to agricultural
9 producers.

10 We support efforts to ensure that policies or guidelines of a
11 groundwater management district are only applicable once they have been
12 finally adopted as a regulation through the rule making process.

13

Hazardous Waste

CNR-3

1

2
3 Only qualified, technically competent persons, corporations or entities
4 should be granted authority to develop a site or sites for disposal or storage
5 of radioactive or other hazardous wastes. Such entities must be fully liable
6 for safe operation of the site or sites.

7 Citizens should be granted amnesty when turning in hazardous
8 wastes or substances for disposal. Kansas Farm Bureau will support,
9 foster and cooperate with industry and governmental agencies to
10 implement programs for proper disposal of unusable chemicals and
11 containers.

12 The safety of our citizens and the protection of our natural resources
13 are best served by preservation of the five-state Central Interstate Low-
14 Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission. Kansas should remain a
15 member of the Compact. The Compact Commission should implement its
16 plan to construct the first waste facility in Nebraska. While temporary, on-
17 site storage by producers of low-level radioactive waste is prudent, long-
18 term storage should be at well-constructed and professionally managed
19 regional facilities.

20

1 **Hunting and Fishing Regulations**

CNR-4

2

3 Those who hunt and fish should possess written permission, signed
4 by the landowner or operator, stating the days hunting or fishing is
5 permitted and giving a description and the location of land on which
6 permission is granted. We support the “purple paint law” which authorizes
7 the posting of property through the use of a specific paint color.

8 Kansas big game hunting permits and regulations should be
9 structured to adequately control deer, turkey, antelope, and elk populations
10 to minimize crop and property damage. A sufficient number of permits
11 should be made available to resident and non-resident hunters to ensure
12 Kansas landowners can provide hunting opportunities to all hunters.
13 Regulations for deer hunting should be structured to encourage deer
14 hunting as an agritourism industry, and should not limit the ability of
15 landowners to actively participate in the management of the deer herd and
16 enhancement of the hunting industry.

17 Each farmer, whether landowner or tenant, who requests big game
18 permits for hunting on his own land or land on which he is tenant or
19 operator, should be guaranteed permits at no cost for all big game
20 seasons. We support the transfer of landowner permits to family members
21 without the imposition of a transfer fee. Owners of Kansas land who live in
22 another state should be able to receive a permit to hunt all big game on
23 their Kansas land. Landowners who provide guided or self-guided hunting
24 opportunities on land owned or leased for agriculture should not be
25 required to obtain or pay fees for an outfitting license.

26 We encourage agriculture producers to use wildlife depredation
27 permits provided by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks where
28 wildlife creates property and crop damage. In management districts where
29 permits are available and not requested by Kansas residents, those permits
30 should be made available to non-residents. Producers and landowners
31 experiencing significant crop and/or livestock loss as a result of wildlife
32 damage in Kansas should be compensated by KDWP equal to the amount
33 of the loss.

34 We support a voluntary program allowing individual landowners to
35 create a deer herd management plan, in consultation with a wildlife
36 biologist, allowing the landowners to be issued transferable deer tags for a
37 given hunting season. The plan should set harvest levels so the herd is
38 sustained, yet still yields several trophy deer annually.

39

1 **Kansas Water Authority** **CNR-5**

2

3 We support the statutory authority granted to the Kansas Water
4 Authority to make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature to
5 manage the waters of Kansas. The Authority should be responsible for
6 coordination and approval of all changes proposed for the Kansas Water
7 Plan. We encourage all farmers and ranchers to actively participate in the
8 review process and recommendations modifying or expanding the Kansas
9 Water Plan.

10 We support the grassroots efforts of the 12 River Basin Advisory
11 Committees (BACs) to develop and review all proposals in the Kansas
12 Water Plan. The Kansas Water Plan should be driven by the grassroots
13 efforts of the Basin Advisory Committees; the Kansas Water Authority
14 should encourage participation in the BACs and follow the
15 recommendations of the BACs.

16 We support the initiatives and appreciate the leadership by the State
17 of Kansas in protecting the interests of individual Kansas Water right
18 holders through negotiations and administration of the Blue River,
19 Republican River and Arkansas River Compacts. We encourage
20 negotiations with the State of Missouri for a Kansas City Metropolitan
21 Stormwater Management Compact and the Tri-State Water Resources
22 Coalition.

23 The Kansas Water Authority and the Kansas Legislature should re-
24 examine the weather modification program. The benefits of any cloud
25 seeding for rainfall enhancement or from hail suppression should be

26 determined. The review should include the funding mechanism and the
27 views of citizens in the area affected by the program.

28

1 **Kansas Water Plan** **CNR-6**

2

3 The Kansas Water Plan is a blueprint for planning, managing,
4 conserving and utilizing the waters of the state. The Kansas Water Plan,
5 developing and evolving under the direction of the Kansas Water Authority
6 and the Kansas Water Office, is for the benefit of all Kansans and should
7 be funded by all Kansans through the State General Fund. We do not
8 support increasing taxes or fees to fund the Kansas Water Plan.

9 We support the Kansas Water Plan Fund for cost sharing of land
10 treatment for highly erodible lands and riparian areas, construction of
11 livestock waste management facilities, grazing land management, plugging
12 abandoned wells and upgrading rural septic systems.

13 The Kansas Water Plan should contain farsighted, well-conceived
14 and carefully controlled use of international, interstate, and intrastate
15 transfers of water to benefit agricultural producers and all other Kansans.

16 The Kansas Water Plan should promote conservation of water by all
17 users. We urge the Kansas Water Authority to incorporate into the Kansas
18 Water Plan a strong conservation ethic and methods to extend the life of
19 this limited resource.

20 We encourage the Kansas Water Authority to carefully examine all
21 options for addressing concerns regarding management of the High Plains-
22 Ogallala Aquifer. Any management proposal should be submitted for
23 public comment and ensure the protection of individual water right holders.
24 Any proposals should not place Kansas water users at a disadvantage in
25 relation to water users in other states.

26 We support monetary compensation awarded in interstate water
27 compact settlement agreements be used first to pay litigation expenses and
28 secondly for projects in the impacted areas.

29

1 **Mined Land Reclamation** **CNR-7**

2

3 We support the reclamation of mined lands. We encourage the
4 Governor and legislature to urge the U.S. Congress to move in a timely
5 manner to appropriate mining fees that have been collected for the purpose
6 of reclamation.

7

1 **Natural Gas and Oil** **CNR-8**

2
3 We support national and state legislative or regulatory commission
4 action to prolong the life of existing gas fields, insure access to and provide
5 a dependable, timely, uninterrupted supply of affordable and adequate
6 quality natural gas for irrigation, other agricultural purposes and rural
7 residences.

8 The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) and the Kansas
9 Legislature should examine "spot market" sales and protect against any
10 adverse economic impact on irrigation farmers.

11 Kansas law should enforce transparency in production and price
12 reporting so that lease owners have accurate and reasonable information.

13 The Kansas Corporation Commission should develop regulations for
14 metering that ensure not only that each well is metered, but also that the
15 meter installed is functioning properly, accurately calibrated, and has
16 received regular maintenance by trained personnel.

17 We support legislation that defines both pipelines and gathering
18 systems.

19
1 **Natural Resources Policy** **CNR-9**

2
3 We support the division of authority among various agencies in
4 managing the natural resources of the state. All Kansas citizens are best
5 served by continuing a multi-agency system of administering water laws,
6 regulations, and other natural resource programs. We cannot support a
7 single natural resource agency with authority over all natural resources
8 administration. It is vital that separation remain in administering laws and
9 programs for water quantity and quality. The Kansas Department of
10 Agriculture should remain autonomous from other state natural resource
11 agencies and should retain authority for administering water rights laws.

12 We support the State Conservation Commission as an independent
13 agency.

14
1 **Natural Resource Protection** **CNR-10**

2
3 We encourage additional efforts, by appropriate authorities, to
4 prevent contamination of groundwater and surface water in Kansas.

5 Success in protecting natural resources is dependent upon partnering
6 and cooperation with affected organizations and entities by government
7 agencies at all levels.

8 An increased focus and allocation of resources should be directed at
9 developing crop and livestock management practices, which protect natural
10 resources, the agricultural economy and the opportunity for continued use
11 of crop and livestock protection products. Researchers, agencies and
12 agricultural producers must all be involved in developing management
13 practices, which are effective and widely utilized.

14 Since the protection of natural resources is vital to all Kansans and
15 important for future generations of Kansans, we support creating a
16 dedicated source of funding, expanding cost-share programs, creating tax
17 incentives and establishing a state-revolving-loan fund for resource
18 protection. The fund should be used in part for sound agriculture
19 conservation practices and protection of valuable farm and ranch land
20 through federal and state conservation easements programs.

21 A program that would provide additional support to protect and
22 enhance natural resources must ensure farmers, ranchers and rural
23 residents are treated fairly and that property rights are protected.

24 There must be adequate funding to assist landowners with projects
25 such as implementing the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
26 requirements, installing stream buffers, constructing livestock waste
27 management facilities, developing crop and livestock best management
28 practices, treating highly erodible lands, plugging abandoned wells and
29 upgrading rural septic systems.

30 The natural resource funding plans must prohibit any governmental
31 entity from using the new revenues to purchase private farm and ranch
32 lands or increase the number of total acres under an agency's
33 management.

34

1 **Rural Water Districts** **CNR-11**

2

3 We recognize the benefits of Rural Water Districts and support the
4 legislation and regulations that protect water rights under the Kansas Water
5 Appropriation Act.

6 We support funding at both the national and state level for
7 construction and repair of Rural Water District facilities and watershed
8 structures.

9

1 **Soil and Water Conservation** **CNR-12**

2

3 Federal and state cost sharing is appropriate for conservation
4 compliance and as an incentive for developing and maintaining soil and
5 water conservation

6 We support the development of a voluntary Conservation Reserve
7 Enhancement Program (CREP) in Kansas for retirement of water rights.

8 We support voluntary, incentive-based programs that encourage
9 groundwater conservation through conservation incentives offered to
10 landowners that convert to dryland farming, defer irrigation pumping, or
11 remove Tamarisk (salt cedars) from their property. We encourage
12 voluntary, incentive-based programs to assist in salt cedar removal,
13 including programs where landowners can receive a portion of the water
14 saved when the cedars are removed.

15 We support reauthorization and full funding of existing federal and
16 state conservation programs. State and federal conservation programs
17 should strive to provide greater flexibility for local and site-specific
18 conditions. Land and/or water rights enrolled in conservation programs
19 should provide the greatest benefit for soil and water conservation.

1 **Solid Waste Disposal**

CNR-13

2
3 Storage, identification, packaging, transportation and disposal of
4 waste materials must be adequately researched and developed to ensure
5 safety for Kansas citizens and the natural resources of this state.

6 Kansas and its counties may accept, but should not be forced to
7 accept, waste materials coming from other states or nations. Kansas
8 should have sufficient authority over transportation, inspection, storage and
9 monitoring of out-of-state waste shipments in order to protect water quality
10 and the environment. Additionally, a fee structure must be established that
11 protects Kansas citizens against costs associated with out-of-state waste.

12 The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, when
13 developing regulations to implement new federal and state landfill laws,
14 should consider the different conditions which exist in the various regions of
15 the state including rainfall, depth to water table and geology to minimize
16 operating and monitoring costs at each landfill site.

17 Operators of solid waste disposal sites shall be adequately bonded or
18 insured to compensate landowners and/or tenants affected by the escape
19 or dispersion of such waste. Any owner or operator of a new or existing
20 municipal solid waste landfill should be granted an exemption from
21 excessive design and groundwater monitoring requirements if:

- 22 1. The landfill receives and disposes of less than twenty (20) tons of
23 municipal solid waste daily, based on annual averages;
- 24 2. There is no evidence of groundwater contamination from the
25 landfill;
- 26 3. The landfill is in an area that annually receives not more than
27 twenty-five (25) inches of precipitation; and
- 28 4. The community has no practicable waste management alternative.

1 **State Water Appropriation**

2 **CNR-14**

3 Kansas farmers and ranchers recognize the importance of securing a
4 Kansas water right as provided by law. We will continue to protect vested
5 and appropriation water rights.

6 State laws must provide for the protection, development and
7 administration of water rights to protect individual ground and surface water
8 right holders consistent with their priority.

9 When water shortages occur in any area of the state, water rights
10 should be administered in strict adherence to their priority as set forth in the
11 Kansas Water Appropriation Act. In over-appropriated areas where
12 voluntary, incentive-based programs and regulatory enforcement are not
13 practical or effective, then stakeholder driven management plans should be
14 developed that can meet groundwater use goals without negatively
15 impacting local economies or disadvantaging senior water right holders. If
16 management plan goals diminish investment backed expectations, then
17 due compensation should be given to those water rights holders.

18 In areas considered over-appropriated, we recommend industries and
19 municipalities procure water appropriation rights from willing sellers. We
20 oppose municipalities using eminent domain actions to acquire
21 appropriation rights.

22 We support the implementation of Intensive Groundwater Use Control
23 Areas (IGUCA) as an alternative, if strict administration of water rights
24 would result in a significant negative impact to the local economy or be
25 ineffective in protecting senior water rights. State agencies may be called
26 upon to provide factual information but should not be party in any IGUCA
27 proceedings. An unbiased individual, with equivalent expertise to that of the
28 Chief Engineer, should serve as hearing officer during the IGUCA
29 proceedings; if no equivalent individual exists, then the Chief Engineer may
30 serve as hearing officer.

31 All existing and future IGUCAs should be reviewed periodically. The
32 review should examine all aspects of the IGUCA including its effectiveness
33 and the need for continuation or discontinuation of any corrective controls.

34 We will strongly oppose any attempts to diminish the use of
35 agricultural soil and water conservation practices and structures, such as
36 terraces and grassed waterways, in order to make more water flow in our
37 streams and rivers.

38 We support continued focus by the Division of Water Resources to
39 expedite processing, approval and certification of water appropriation
40 permit.

41 Water rights should not be jeopardized even if the water allocation
42 authorized is not fully exercised.

43 The funding of the Division of Water Resources should be primarily
44 through a general fund obligation rather than increasing permit fees.

45

1 **State Water Banking and Marketing Programs** **CNR-15**

2

3 Any programs that purchase water rights or create water banks
4 should be voluntary, provide financial incentives to landowners, contain a
5 strong conservation component, protect the economic infrastructure of
6 communities and preserve the property tax base for schools and local units
7 of government.

8 Water placed in a water bank should stay within the boundaries of
9 that specific water bank as defined at the time of deposit.

10 Kansas Law should allow agricultural water rights holders to
11 voluntarily participate in any state/federal controlled water storage,
12 assurance or similar programs.

13 Prior to the Kansas Water Office entering into any agreement with the
14 federal government proposing to deviate from the standard release
15 schedule set forth in any lake operations manual, the resulting economic
16 impacts upon agriculture and the surrounding communities must be fully
17 studied and publicized.

18

1 **Threatened and Endangered Species** **CNR-16**

2

3 As an alternative to placing species on threatened or endangered
4 lists, we support developing conservation management plans that will
5 increase or maintain the population and make listing unnecessary.

6 Conservation management plans should be the result of a cooperative
7 effort by landowners, agricultural producers, wildlife managers,

8 conservation technicians and the appropriate state and federal agencies.
9 Any conservation management plans should be voluntary and provide
10 incentives to private landowners for protecting or enhancing habitat for
11 species needing protection.

12 Listing a species as threatened, endangered or in need of
13 conservation should require documentation that the species proposed to be
14 protected is actually present in a clearly defined geographic area, and is
15 dependent for survival on habitat in that location. Scientific data supporting
16 the inclusion of a species shall receive wide dissemination to landowners
17 and private organizations representing the rights of these landowners.

18 Any agency, organization or person requesting a listing for a species
19 in need of conservation, threatened or endangered or requesting critical
20 habitat designation, should be required to provide and fund an
21 environmental impact report with emphasis on the economic impact of the
22 action.

23 Before any species is placed on the state or federal threatened and
24 endangered species list, the following criteria must be met:

- 25 1. Hold public hearings;
- 26 2. Approval by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks;
- 27 3. Compliance with state and federal review process and statutory
28 requirements; and
- 29 4. Evaluation of any agency program or project that would be
30 impacted by such designation and extent of the impacts.

31 A public hearing should be required in the area affected and an
32 economic impact statement developed before any animal, plant or marine
33 species is permitted to be introduced or re-introduced by any governmental
34 agency or non-governmental organization.

35 Mitigation or acreage replacement measures should take into account
36 cost/benefit ratios, and the economic impact of any proposal for mitigation
37 or acreage replacement. Mitigation or replacement of habitat should be
38 required only in areas where conversion of the habitat is significant in
39 relationship to the total amount of habitat available in the area.

40 We encourage appropriate authorities to allow landowners to remove
41 gravel from gravel bars where such activity does not pose a significant
42 threat to a threatened or endangered species or their habitat.

43 We oppose the addition of prairie dogs to the endangered or
44 protected species list.

45

2
3 Farmers and ranchers realize proper handling of waste materials is
4 essential in protecting water quality and the environment. Regulation of
5 wastes produced in confined livestock facilities should be economically
6 viable and technologically equivalent for all species of livestock based on
7 specific livestock waste poundage. Any construction requirements must be
8 reasonable. The issuance of permits should be timely, and permits should
9 be valid for not less than five years. Livestock facility plans should be
10 developed based on minimum design standards and approved by the state
11 based on merit. Operators should maintain existing discretion to employ
12 assistance from a consulting Professional Engineer. When any permitted
13 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) becomes non-
14 operational, the owner should be required to follow approved closure
15 procedures that protect natural resources and are funded without cost to
16 taxpayers.

17 When remodeling, changing the management of, or replacing an
18 existing permitted facility, producers should not be required to “re-permit,” if
19 they are remaining within the existing permitted animal units.

20 Safe, convenient and affordable programs to recycle or dispose of
21 used pesticide containers, out-dated or waste agricultural chemicals,
22 expended batteries, used oil and old tires, must be developed with
23 emphasis on strengthening county collection programs. Farmers and
24 ranchers should be authorized to retain, in quantities sufficient for farming
25 operations, materials normally considered waste, i.e., used tires and used
26 oil.

27 For safe disposal of dead wildlife, domestic livestock and pets,
28 operators of solid waste disposal sites should be encouraged to develop
29 and maintain animal disposal facilities at the county level.

30 Construction of secondary lead smelters should be discontinued until
31 the EPA can develop guidelines to protect human health and the
32 environment.

33 A balanced funding plan to conduct effective waste management and
34 disposal programs should include government, industry and consumers.
35 We support the landfill tipping fee that awards competitive grants to public
36 or private entities to establish or enhance voluntary local projects related to
37 waste reduction, recycling, composting and public education.

3 We support state authority to regulate water quality under the federal
4 Clean Water Act. We also support the current state exemption of certain
5 private waters from water quality standards.

6 We support the reexamination of stream classifications and use
7 designations as required by state law. We also support a complete listing
8 of waters whose quality is better than the state standards.

9 The process of developing water quality standards should encourage
10 more stakeholder participation and input from the entities being regulated.
11 We support the establishment of a water quality science advisory board
12 comprised of qualified scientists and stakeholders to advise the Governor
13 on water quality issues. The board would act in an advisory capacity only
14 and have no authority to revise statutes or regulations.

15 We support the Governor's Water Quality Initiative and the ongoing
16 research and data collection necessary to protect and enhance water
17 quality in Kansas. The legislature should increase funding for Kansas State
18 University for its science-based research projects in Best Management
19 Practices (BMPs), which will assist in water quality protection.

20 We urge the Kansas Legislature to require that surface pipes of all
21 producing and disposal wells shall be set to a depth sufficient to protect all
22 fresh water formations from contamination.

23 We urge the Kansas Legislature to provide adequate funding to
24 assure that existing statutes and regulations relating to salt water disposal
25 and proper plugging of dry holes are being enforced.

26 The Kansas Corporation Commission and the Department of Health
27 and Environment should determine that the method of disposal of salt
28 brines will not contaminate fresh water. No well drilled on leased property
29 should be used for disposal of salt water from wells on other property
30 without consent from and compensation to the landowner. The power of
31 eminent domain should NOT be granted for the purpose of salt brine
32 disposal.

1 **Watershed Programs**

CNR-19

2
3 We request that funding for approved watershed structures, furnished
4 by the state and supervised by the State Conservation Commission, be
5 increased from existing State Water Plan revenues to facilitate and
6 encourage this needed statewide flood-control and water quality program.

7 In order to expedite planning and construction of watersheds, we
8 urge the Kansas Legislature to consider permissive legislation authorizing
9 the levy of one mill on the valuation of potential watershed areas to create

10 a watershed trust fund. The levy should be authorized for a period of time
11 not to exceed two years. A watershed trust fund, and the annual interest
12 earned from such trust fund, should be used for expenses involved in
13 planning new watershed projects.

14 Buildings that existed as well as development within the inundation
15 zone of a watershed dam prior to the construction of a dam should not
16 cause the up grading of the dam from its original classification.

17 Those developing land within the inundation zone of a pre-existing
18 watershed dam must be responsible for any additional costs to the
19 watershed district for required upgrading of a dam.

20 We support Watershed dam breach inundation zone mapping.
21 Landowners with property located within mapped inundation zones should
22 receive notice of the breach zone boundaries. This notice should attach to
23 the property deed and be recorded at the Register of Deeds office. Risk of
24 casualty and/or property damage subsequent to this notice should be borne
25 by the landowner who is building. The Legislature should adopt policy
26 eliminating damage liability for the Watershed District and state agencies in
27 instances where development occurs below an existing Watershed dam
28 after appropriate notice has been given.

29 We do not support development of statewide zoning to address the
30 issue of dam classification.

31

1 **Water Testing** **CNR-20**

2

3 A state plan to test private water wells must provide confidentiality
4 and protect homeowners and farmers from liability. Any plan to enter the
5 test results of any private water wells into a state water quality database
6 should be voluntary. Development of a "cost-sharing" plan could increase
7 participation.

8

1 **Wetlands** **CNR-21**

2

3 Wetland conservation has an important role. At the same time, any
4 wetlands proposal or plan should recognize that wetlands are not all equal
5 in value or function.

6 The term "wetlands" should be defined in statute, not in rules and
7 regulations. The proper definition of a "wetland" is a naturally occurring
8 area of not less than two acres of predominantly hydric soils, which
9 presently support hydrophytic vegetation and-which, in its natural state, is
10 saturated or flooded during 80 percent of normal growing seasons. A

11 “normal growing season” shall mean a growing season with average
12 weather conditions.

13 The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) should be
14 authorized to make final decisions on wetland designations and regulations
15 for all agricultural land, both cropland and rangeland, based on advice and
16 recommendations from the State Conservation Commission and the 105
17 Conservation Districts.

18 Landowners should be permitted to restore existing drainage
19 structures where floodwaters have deposited silt, which prevents adequate
20 drainage of cropland currently under production.

21 Wetland protection programs should emphasize economic incentives
22 to farmers and ranchers rather than acquisition and perpetual easements.

23 Normal farming operations should be allowed to continue on prior
24 converted and farmed wetlands. Such prior converted farmland should be
25 permanently removed from jurisdiction of agencies administering
26 regulations based on Sec. 404 of the Clean Water Act.

27 We oppose the designation or mandatory conversion of productive
28 farmland to expand or develop wetland projects.

29

1 **Wildlife and Parks Department (KDWP)**

CNR-22

2

3 We encourage the Wildlife and Parks Department to fully explore the
4 option of leasing land rather than purchasing any land.

5 We oppose the use of tax and fee revenues for the acquisition of any
6 private land. An economic impact study, a public hearing within the county
7 where acquisition is proposed, and approval by the Kansas Legislature
8 should be required before the Wildlife and Parks Department is allowed to
9 assume ownership of any land. Any acquired property should remain on
10 the property tax rolls. We are opposed to the Wildlife and Parks
11 Department having the authority to use the power of eminent domain.

12 The Wildlife and Parks Department should pay, or continue to pay
13 property taxes, or an in-lieu-of tax payment, at rates comparable to
14 neighboring properties, to the county and school districts in which Wildlife
15 and Parks property is located.

16 The Wildlife and Parks Department, with appropriate oversight by the
17 legislature, should continue programs designed to significantly reduce deer
18 and turkey populations and conduct more effective big game population
19 control measures.

20 We urge the Wildlife and Parks Department to continue the toll-free
21 telephone number to be used by citizens to report wildlife damage to crops
22 and other property.

23 We encourage KDWP to develop aggressive plans that will control
24 and prevent the spread of diseases, particularly Chronic Wasting Disease
25 (CWD) and the potential for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), in the Kansas
26 deer, elk and antelope herds. A CWD plan should include more rigorous
27 and frequent testing, including tests on live animals.

EDUCATION

Agricultural Education ED-1

3 We continue to give our strong support to agricultural education and
4 leadership training programs, which prepare youth for careers in agriculture
5 and agri-business. We urge increased emphasis in marketing, agri-
6 business, agri-science and utilization of advanced technologies.

7 Preparing persons for careers in agriculture and wildlife should
8 include course work in both production agriculture and natural resource
9 management techniques.

10 We support "Ag in the Classroom," and the Kansas Foundation for
11 Agriculture in the Classroom. We encourage continuation of the
12 state/private partnership for funding "Ag in the Classroom."

13 We support agriculture education on the farm, especially that of
14 school classes on the farm for a day to observe the actual farming topics
15 taught in the classroom.

16 We encourage all Kansans and Kansas industries to support the
17 Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) Program to develop a
18 broad base of Kansas agricultural and rural leaders, increase knowledge,
19 broaden perspectives, and strengthen the ability to communicate rural
20 needs to the general population.

Kansas Education (K-12) ED-2

3 Kansas schools should have a strong organizational structure,
4 efficient staffing patterns, use of technology, budgeting and operation of
5 schools should provide educational opportunities in an efficient and
6 economically feasible manner.

7 All schools should include:

- 8 1. Quality education;
- 9 2. Agriculture objectives as part of the curriculum standards;
- 10 3. Agriculture-business-labor education partnerships for our schools;
- 11 4. Career and technical education courses;
- 12 5. Sufficient administrative personnel;
- 13 6. Quality teacher certification requirements;
- 14 7. Efficient use of classroom hours; and
- 15 8. Meaningful home and private school accreditation procedures.
- 16 9. Agriculture science and technology should be included as part of the
- 17 school curriculum and required between grades 6 - 12.

18 Textbooks and other educational materials should be based on sound
19 science and should be regularly reviewed by local boards of education.

20 Educational programs that provide training in citizenship, traditional
21 family values, social behavior and interpersonal relations should receive
22 increased emphasis.

23 We continue support for utilization of USD facilities for the purpose of
24 offering adult education classes. Adult students should pay for these
25 programs.

26 We support methods by which qualified Kansans who are not certified
27 teachers may obtain a provisional license allowing them to be immediately
28 employed in their area of expertise while pursuing a valid Kansas teaching
29 license. Teacher applicants should be permitted to take online classes only
30 from accredited educational programs as one alternative to traditional
31 methods of licensure. Applicants should be allowed to use their classroom
32 work under the provisional license to qualify for the student teaching
33 component for certification. We support methods not requiring classroom
34 work to allow recertification of retired teachers with many hours of
35 classroom work and years of experience to help with the teacher shortage.

36 We support reciprocity between Kansas and other states to facilitate
37 licensure for certified teachers transferring to Kansas from out of state.

38

1 **Kansas State University**

ED-3

2

3 As the major industry in Kansas, agriculture must have the highest
4 priority at Kansas State University. We urge a strong commitment by the
5 Kansas Legislature, Regents and University Administration to the land
6 grant tradition of teaching, research and extension.

7 We ask the legislature to assist in the focus on agriculture at Kansas
8 State University by conducting a comprehensive study of the desirability of
9 establishing an Institute of Agriculture at KSU.

10 We support the Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI) at Kansas State
11 University. Fundamentally, such a facility should study the pathogens that
12 threaten humans, livestock and crops, and develop intervention strategies
13 to minimize impacts on the nation’s food supply and economy. Funding for
14 the center and its programs should be in addition to and not jeopardize
15 other programs and research projects beneficial to production agriculture.

16 We support the proposed National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility
17 (NBAF) that will provide the nation with a safe, secure, and state-of-the-art
18 federal laboratory to develop integrated research and response capabilities
19 to protect the public and the nation’s agriculture industry from naturally
20 occurring and intentionally introduced disease threats. We further support
21 the location of this facility in Manhattan, Kansas. We support adequate
22 safeguards to protect human health and agricultural production from
23 compromises to the NBAF due to natural disasters.

24 We support adequate funding for the Kansas State University
25 Research and Extension Service and programs that provide technical
26 specialists, agents, facilities and equipment to deliver research information
27 and provide instruction to the people of the county or extension district. We
28 support continuation of county control of programs, personnel and payroll
29 for County Extension services.

30 As a means to increase support and broaden the utilization of County
31 Extension programs, we support the option of electing the members of
32 County Extension Councils at existing county-wide elections by the
33 qualified electors of the various counties.

34 We support the continued expansion of the Grain Science and
35 Industry Complex including the International Grains Program, the
36 Bioprocessing and Industrial Value-Added Program, and the Bakery
37 Science and Management Program. We ask the legislature to make an
38 appropriation to provide the public support, and we encourage the milling
39 and baking industry to assist with private financing for future expansion.

40 We Support:

- 41 1. Priority status for staff and facilities to support all aspects of animal
42 and plant science research and teaching.
- 43 2. Expansion of the KSU Sheep and Goat Program, including updated
44 facilities to accommodate teaching, research and extension
45 programs.
- 46 3. Science-based research to improve efforts to protect water quality.
- 47 4. Science-based research on reduction of objectionable odors
48 produced by Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).

- 49 5. Continued research and development of pesticides that degrade
50 more rapidly, are less environmentally persistent and are compatible
51 with accepted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices.
- 52 6. Increased funding and staff resources committed to the development
53 of new wheat varieties.
- 54 7. Efforts that supplement private research for development of improved
55 varieties of feedgrains and oilseeds.

56

1 **Organization of Kansas Schools (K-12)** **ED-4**

2

3 We support the current organizational structure of Kansas School
4 Districts. The state should not mandate consolidation of districts but should
5 develop incentives for districts which choose to consolidate with adjoining
6 districts. Any consolidation effort should be the result of discussions
7 between the Boards of Education of the affected school districts. Those
8 discussions should include opportunities for public comment and input. No
9 consolidation should occur without the agreement of the majority of each of
10 the affected Boards of Education.

11 Where efficiencies can be achieved, we encourage districts to
12 develop partnerships with neighboring districts.

13 We support a minimum of one district in each county.

14

1 **Post-Secondary Education** **ED-5**

2

3 We support mergers, within reasonable geographic regions, of
4 existing area vocational-technical schools and community junior colleges,
5 in an effort to coordinate vocational, occupational, academic and college-
6 preparatory programs. Such consolidation is in the best interest of
7 students and the taxpaying public. The resulting institutions should be
8 considered an integral part of our system of higher education.

9 Students at colleges and universities have a right to instruction from
10 professors and teachers who are fluent and certified as proficient in the
11 English language.

12

1 **Public School Finance (K-12)** **ED-6**

2

3 We support adequate funding for a quality K-12 education program
4 for all students in Kansas. The Kansas Legislature should develop school
5 finance legislation which provides for minimal reliance on the property tax
6 for support of public elementary and secondary schools. If new revenues

7 are required, they should come from sales and/or income tax increases.
8 The Legislature should not endorse local property tax increases through
9 the Local Option Budget.

10 The low enrollment, correlation, transportation, and vocational
11 education weightings provisions of the school finance formula should
12 continue at current funding levels under any revenue mix. Local Option
13 Budget dollars should continue to be equalized to ensure equity among
14 districts. Any new formula or funding mechanism should include these
15 provisions or an equitable alternative.

16 We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of
17 the school finance law. Revenue sources including sales and income taxes,
18 and gaming should be considered in an effort to reduce reliance on Local
19 Option Budgets and the statewide mill levy.

20 Property tax revenues should remain in control of the USD where
21 collected in order to provide interest income and to give local banks an
22 opportunity to bid on and use deposits to assist with local community
23 development.

24 School district finances, curriculum choices and building construction
25 or remodeling decisions should remain under local authority.

26 Federally and state-mandated programs should be fully funded by the
27 entity imposing the mandate. Under no circumstances should the amount
28 of funding for public schools be determined by the courts.

29
1 **School Board-Teacher/Employee Relations** **ED-7**

2
3 The authority of locally elected boards of education should be
4 recognized, supported and maintained. Decisions concerning facility and
5 staff utilization should be made locally. We oppose legislation that requires
6 a school board to yield its authority to a mediator, an arbitrator or
7 disinterested third party.

8 The teacher tenure law should be amended to allow a school board
9 to evaluate and re-tenure or terminate teachers every five years.

10
State Board of Education **ED-8**

We support the existence of a State Board of Education. The Board should be comprised of an uneven number of elected members representing approximately the same number of Unified School Districts.

GOVERNMENT

Annexation

GOV-1

We oppose any extension of the power of cities to zone or annex beyond their borders. Annexation should only occur after consent or a vote of the people in the area proposed. When annexation does occur, cities should be required to submit a formal plan and timeline for the extension of services. If that timeline is not followed, residents should be allowed to petition for de-annexation. Affected residents should be allowed review of the reasonableness of annexation decisions by the District Court.

We encourage a change in the Retail Electric Suppliers Act so that a retail electric supplier cannot be forced to terminate service if a city proposes to annex land located within its certified territory unless agreed to by the residents involved. The legislature should reform inconsistencies in the taxation of electric infrastructure to address the competitive advantage municipal utilities can gain over rural electric cooperatives because cities pay no property tax on poles and other infrastructure.

Apportionment and Representation

GOV-2

We support the time-tested system of allocating seats in the U.S. House of Representatives on a population basis and seats in the U.S. Senate such that each state has equal representation. State Senate districts should be drawn to equalize the square miles or the number of counties in all districts.

Consolidating Units of Government

GOV-3

Local units of government should be encouraged to fully utilize interlocal agreements to ensure more efficient use of taxpayer dollars before structural consolidation is contemplated.

We support consolidation of units of government that results in reduction in the tax burden with consideration of the following factors:

1. Study commissions should contain significant rural representation.
2. Meetings should be open to the public with adequate notice.
3. Funding should sunset at the conclusion of the commission.
4. A public vote should be required to abolish any elected position.
5. Tax and bonding limits should remain in effect following consolidation.

- 14 6. Incorporated areas should have the ability to opt-out by majority vote
15 or resolution.
- 16 7. Any plan for consolidation should be approved by:
- 17 a. A dual majority consisting of voters residing in each municipality in
18 question, and a majority of voters residing in the combined
19 unincorporated areas, unless
- 20 b. Authorizing legislation ensures the following:
- 21 i. Continuation of existing levels of services for rural residents;
- 22 ii. Existing municipal boundaries remain unchanged;
- 23 iii. Existing debt obligations of governments remain with the
24 residents of the city or county prior to consolidation;
- 25 iv. A requirement that the government of the largest incorporated
26 population base in the county cease to exist upon
27 consolidation; and
- 28 v. The development of separate budgets and tax statements for
29 county residents and city residents.
- 30

1 **Department of Health and Environment** **GOV-4**

2
3 We support the current organizational structure of the Kansas
4 Department of Health and Environment.

5 Coordination of environmental and health programs should be a
6 priority and can be achieved under the current administrative structure.

7

1 **Drug Abuse and the Drinking Driver** **GOV-5**

2
3 We strongly support education, enforcement and rehabilitation
4 programs that will reduce the problems of drug and alcohol abuse in
5 Kansas and across the nation.

6 We support programs to inform all citizens of the effects of alcohol
7 and drug use in regard to the privilege of operating a motor vehicle.
8 Kansas DUI statutes should be vigorously enforced.

9 Drug education for children should commence in Kindergarten and be
10 continued through the twelfth grade. Funding for alcohol and drug abuse
11 education should be provided by state and federal government, with
12 funding from taxes on alcohol and related industries. We support the
13 DARE Program in Kansas.

14
15

1 **Drug Enforcement** **GOV-6**

2
3 All levels of law enforcement should have the necessary resources to
4 investigate and prosecute drug offenses in a timely manner. We support
5 uniformity of laws with bordering states.

6 Methamphetamine production poses significant risks to the public.
7 We support:

- 8 1. Aggressive prosecution for individuals accused of drug crimes and
9 the manufacturing of methamphetamines;
- 10 2. Stringent penalties for individuals convicted of drug crimes and
11 crimes committed to obtain ingredients for manufacturing
12 methamphetamines;
- 13 3. Efforts to reduce the ability of criminals to access ingredients such as
14 anhydrous ammonia, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine;
- 15 4. The development and voluntary use of products to identify the
16 unlawful use of ingredients for manufacturing methamphetamines;
17 and
- 18 5. Technical and financial assistance for innocent property owners to
19 clean up methamphetamine production sites.

1 **Eminent Domain**

GOV-7

2
3 Eminent domain procedures should be used only for legitimate public
4 purposes. The use of eminent domain for economic development should
5 be restricted. We oppose the practice of condemning the property of one
6 landowner and subsequently transferring that property to another private
7 owner. Agricultural land or open space should be excluded from lands that
8 can be designated as blighted by local governments.

9 Owners of real estate proposed to be taken in a condemnation
10 proceeding should be allowed to choose one appraiser in the appraisal
11 process. All appraisals should be made public. The Legislature should
12 consider and adopt appropriate mechanisms to evaluate and provide
13 equitable payment to owners of property condemned by eminent domain,
14 especially in instances where there is significant increase in value as a
15 result of the development. Petitioners in a condemnation action should be
16 required to complete an impact analysis and feasibility study to estimate
17 potential increases in value of the property to be taken.

18 Takings, partial takings, or any other governmental control or
19 jurisdiction over private property should not be permitted without just
20 compensation for loss of production, development or sale potential, as
21 provided in the 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

22 A severance allowance should be paid to those who lose income
23 because leased or rented real estate has been taken in an eminent domain
24 or condemnation proceeding. A person whose property is taken by
25 eminent domain or condemnation should have one year following payment
26 to relocate, with the relocation costs being borne by the person or entity
27 "taking" the property.

28 Producers should be compensated if it is necessary to alter
29 agricultural practices when regulations or legislation take effect which
30 classify species as "threatened," "endangered" or "in need of conservation."
31

1 **Fort Riley**

GOV-8

2
3 We support the continuation of Fort Riley as a significant military
4 installation in the state and nation. We oppose expansion of the base by
5 the use of eminent domain powers. We support the effort to study land use
6 in the area and to develop plans to allow surrounding communities to
7 maximize benefits received from the Fort. Those plans should recognize
8 the importance of production agriculture and the compatibility it shares with
9 operations on the post.

10

1 **Government Acquisition of Property**

GOV-9

2
3 We oppose the practice of organizations and foundations purchasing
4 private land with the clear intent that such land will be resold or donated to
5 some governmental entity. Such practices frequently diminish the tax base
6 of local units of government and ultimately increase governmental costs,
7 agency staffing and appropriations.

8 Legislation should be enacted to provide for right-of-first-refusal for
9 the immediate prior landowner when government-owned land is to be
10 leased for farming. Should the original landowner not desire to lease the
11 government-owned property, a uniform procedure should prevail for bidding
12 on the land available for lease.

13 We oppose the use of federal or state funds or state fee funds to
14 acquire, own, operate or enlarge any federal or state preserve, park or
15 monument on privately owned land.

16 We oppose the net expansion in the number of acres of land that the
17 local, state or federal government owns in Kansas.

18 We oppose the expansion of tribal authority through the use of
19 eminent domain.
20

1 **Initiative and Referendum**

GOV-10

2
3 We oppose the use of the initiative and referendum procedure
4 because it will undermine our representative form of government, impair
5 legislative responsibility, lengthen the ballot and result in poorly drafted
6 legislation.

1 **Judicial Branch**

GOV-11

2
3 We support an independent judiciary and impartial administration of
4 law. The judicial function should be performed by the judicial branch and
5 not by executive agencies.

6 While we prefer judicial administration through the court system, we
7 recognize administrative actions are part of the regulatory process. We
8 recommend impartial hearing officers be used in reviewing administrative
9 actions and any determination should be made by an unbiased party with
10 adequate technical expertise. Administrative procedures must allow for
11 appeal to a court of law.

12 We strongly support the statutory requirement that there be at least
13 one judge in each county.

14 We further support the authority of a county to determine whether it
15 shall have a county attorney or a district attorney by vote of the qualified
16 electorate.

17 The United States Supreme Court, and each court in the land, should
18 strictly interpret U.S. and state Constitutions. We support judges and
19 justices interpreting laws based on legislative intent. We oppose legislating
20 from the bench. We further support the Legislature’s clear and distinct
21 authority to appropriate funds as provided in the Kansas Constitution.
22 Under no circumstances should the judicial branch be able to demand
23 funds be appropriated.

24 In cases where a jury has entered a guilty verdict, sentencing is
25 rendered and the defendant has appealed, we encourage the judge to
26 place heavy emphasis on the impact of a crime on the victim/victim’s
27 family, particularly when the injury has resulted in a death, when
28 determining what, if any, bond is appropriate.

1 **Monopoly**

GOV-12

2
3 Government should prevent mergers that violate antitrust laws and
4 threaten our competitive enterprise system. Subject to the foregoing,

5 government should not halt development nor limit the size of any business
6 no matter if it is agricultural, manufacturing, processing or retailing.

1

2 **Planning and Zoning** **GOV-13**

3 Those who own or operate land should have the major responsibility
4 for land use and development.

5 We urge Farm Bureau members, farmers and ranchers in every
6 county, to become involved in planning and development of zoning
7 ordinances to prevent undesirable land use patterns. There should be
8 farmer and rancher representation on planning and zoning commissions.

9 Planning and zoning activities are best addressed at the local level.
10 No matter what level of government pursues planning and zoning activities,
11 agricultural producers must be represented.

12 We support the statutory provisions in Kansas law to protect
13 agricultural activities consistent with good agricultural practices from
14 nuisance actions.

1 **Private Property Rights** **GOV-14**

2

3 We vigorously support landowners' rights. We support legislation
4 which will prevent any increased liability for owners of land or livestock.

5 We oppose the imposition of a moratorium on the development of any
6 agricultural crop or livestock production facility or operation in Kansas.
7 Legislative or regulatory efforts should not prevent agricultural producers
8 from voluntarily participating in coordinated, value or supply chain based
9 marketing mechanisms.

10

1 **Public Access to Private Land** **GOV-15**

2

3 We strongly oppose giving the public free access to private property
4 adjacent to rivers and streams. We support the following procedures for
5 sportsmen and others who seek access to private property:

- 6 1. Ask the landowner/operator for written permission to be on or to cross
7 the land;
- 8 2. Obtain a clear understanding and description of lands which are open
9 to the uses for which access is sought; and
- 10 3. Be respectful of land, water, fences and all other property.

11 Access to or across private property for watercraft use on streams
12 and rivers, if granted by the landowner/operator, should be limited to fishing

13 boats and canoes. We strongly oppose the addition of any rivers or
14 streams into the category of "navigable" streams.

15 We oppose giving any person or governmental agency authority for
16 access to private property for inspection or investigation without permission
17 from the property owner or operator.

18

1 **Regulatory Reform**

GOV-16

2

3 We urge the legislative branch of government, at the state and
4 national levels, to legislate clearly by statute, rather than relying on
5 administrative rules, regulations, policies or guidelines. We oppose
6 circumventing the legislative process by agencies enacting, through
7 regulation, what the legislature rejected or did not act upon.

8 Any legislation that is enacted or any regulations which are proposed
9 for promulgation must be based on: factual information, scientific
10 knowledge, and economic impact studies.

11 Rules and regulations promulgated by any local unit of government or
12 state agency should not put Kansas producers or businesses at a
13 competitive disadvantage with any other state.

14 We support transparency in the rule and regulation making process
15 and discourage the use of administrative policy and guidelines when
16 implementing legislation and conducting agency activities.

17 We strongly support provisions within Kansas law which require
18 agencies to prepare economic impact statements and statements of
19 environmental benefit when proposing rules and regulations. Economic
20 impact statements and fiscal notes should accurately reflect how the
21 regulated community will be affected. We further support the periodic
22 review and repeal of irrelevant, outdated, or obsolete statutes and
23 regulations.

24 The legislature has an important role in overseeing regulatory agency
25 activity and we encourage the legislature to actively fulfill that duty.

26 Policies or guidelines of agencies, governmental bodies or quasi-
27 governmental entities should be subjected to a public input process. We
28 prefer lawmaking by statute, but recognize public participation afforded
29 under the current rulemaking process is preferable to imposing policies or
30 guidelines as law.

31 Community owned and operated carnivals provide quality of life in
32 rural communities, they should be exempt from overly burdensome
33 requirements for licensing and training.

34

1 **Rural Fire Protection**

GOV-17

2
3 We support voluntary development of countywide fire protection plans
4 to reduce the damage from rural fires, protect life and property and reduce
5 insurance rates.

1 **Tort Liability Reform**

GOV-18

2
3 We support tort reform measures, including:

- 4 1. Limiting the use of contingency fee arrangements;
- 5 2. Providing a cap on the amount of damages that can be awarded for
- 6 non-economic loss;
- 7 3. Prohibiting the filing of liability claims in jurisdictions other than those
- 8 encompassing the location of the event from which the liability claim
- 9 arises or the plaintiff's home address; and
- 10 4. Prohibiting claims based on weight gain, obesity, or related conditions
- 11 caused by consumption of food.

12 We support awarding attorney fees and court costs to successful
13 defendants.

14 We support denying a plaintiff the right to sue for injuries suffered
15 while committing a crime or while trespassing.

16 We support efforts to curtail lawsuits against manufacturers when
17 injury results from intentional misuse or alteration of their products.

1 **Trespass, Arson and Vandalism**

GOV-19

2
3 We recommend strengthening the statutes concerning trespass,
4 arson and vandalism and the increase of penalties for these offenses. We
5 support legislation to establish a mandatory fine and full restitution for
6 property damaged by individuals found guilty of these crimes. We support
7 legislation to remove from the landowner all liability for injury and damages
8 to trespassers, arsonists and vandals.

1 **Utility Easements**

GOV-20

2
3 All utility and commercial lines, cables and pipelines should be
4 properly installed by the service provider. Such installations should be
5 adequately marked, registered and identified with Dig Safe. A landowner
6 or tenant should not be held liable for any accidental or inadvertent

7 breakage or disruption of service on any lines, cables or pipelines where
8 the service provider improperly installed, maintained or located.

9 Oil, gas and/or wind exploration and development, pipeline,
10 telecommunications companies, and electric and water utilities, should be
11 required to give prior notice, replace topsoil, repair terraces, repair roads
12 and reseed grass, that is disturbed during construction of any facilities.
13 Furthermore, they should mow and spray weeds, eradicate noxious weeds
14 and trees along their easements and facilities and fence out farm animals
15 from structures and/or harmful substances. They should adequately
16 compensate for damage to growing crops and for damage to the land
17 which will hinder production in future years.

18 Approved soil conservation practices should be utilized by all utility,
19 oil, gas, telecommunications, and wind exploration and development
20 companies. These companies should bear the cost of deepening the burial
21 of pipelines or cables, lowering pump jacks, moving oil or gas tank batteries
22 to corners, and moving utility poles or other structures when permanent soil
23 and/or water conservation measures are constructed or improved by the
24 landowner.

25 All agreements, including location of access roads and compensation
26 for land and crop damages, should be signed and recorded if needed
27 before oil, gas and/or wind exploration and development begins on the
28 land.

29 Safeguards should be developed for landowners to protect against
30 costs involved in bringing an abstract up-to-date when these costs are the
31 result of transactions generated by highway construction, or by an gas, oil,
32 railroad or utility company.

33

LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Right-to-Work

LI-1

1
2
3 We reaffirm our strong support for the "right-to-work" concept. We
4 oppose the repeal of legislation implementing the "right-to-work" in Kansas,
5 and we vigorously oppose the repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley
6 Act.

Unemployment Compensation

LI-2

3 We favor an update and increase in the threshold exemption for
4 agriculture in the Unemployment Compensation Act.

5 Additionally, we support a periodic update of the agricultural
6 exemption to reflect the inflation that has occurred over recent years.

7
1 **Workers' Compensation** **LI-3**

2
3 We continue to support exemption for agriculture from the industrially-
4 oriented Workers' Compensation Act.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

1 **Nutrition Education** **PHW-1**

2
3 Nutrition training and courses should be required in medical and
4 health-related education curricula.

5 We support and encourage nutrition education and food
6 handling/preparation training programs in Kansas schools. School food
7 personnel should also receive nutrition education and food handling and
8 preparation education.

9 We strongly urge monitoring the use of federal funds for nutrition
10 education in order to assure that students and food service personnel
11 receive the benefits of such nutrition training programs.

12
1 **Rural Health Care** **PHW-2**

2
3 Access to high quality and affordable health care is essential to all
4 Kansans. Access and affordability will not be achieved by mandating
5 employers to pay health insurance costs for employees, nor by enacting a
6 single-payer, government-based health care plan.

7 Health care is primarily the responsibility of the individual. Health
8 care policy should embody the following principles:

- 9 1. Promotion of personal wellness, fitness and preventative care;
- 10 2. Minimal government intervention in decisions between providers
11 and receivers of health care; and
- 12 3. Tax policies that encourage individuals to prepare for future health
13 care needs.

14 We support the following measures that will assist in preserving
15 health care delivery to rural Kansans:

- 16 1. Encouraging students to enter health care professions and
17 developing programs which encourage and incentivize practice in
18 rural areas
- 19 2. Promoting the specialty of Family Medicine and practice in rural
20 areas
- 21 3. State scholarship programs for health care professionals, where
22 recipients agree to provide services in underserved areas in
23 Kansas, and creation of a strong disincentive for any scholarship
24 recipient to "buyout" of service in an underserved area
- 25 4. Visas for foreign doctors, nurses and other healthcare
26 professionals who are qualified, willing to work in rural areas and
27 sponsored by a rural hospital or clinic
- 28 5. Establishing innovative managed care programs through
29 incentives for government, providers and private insurers where
30 medical services are offered through a network of physicians and
31 hospitals at discounted costs.

32 In order to provide affordable health insurance coverage to all
33 Kansans, we encourage consideration of the concept of "community-based
34 health insurance rates." If the insurance industry continues to use a review
35 of health care utilization as a method of establishing rate increases in
36 Kansas it should use a running average to establish rates. Limitation on
37 insurance riders should provide ample protection to the insurance industry
38 while providing the insured with an acceptable health care coverage plan.

39 The increasing number of non-paying patients is threatening the
40 financial stability of some hospitals. We support efforts to help assure
41 financial stability of hospitals in Kansas.

42 Health care programs for senior citizens in Kansas should maximize
43 the independence of the elderly for as long as possible. Local Home
44 Health Care would assist both affordability and availability of health care.
45 The Kansas Legislature should provide more flexibility in the allocation of
46 per diem rates for nursing staff.

47 We support free market efforts to make insurance coverage more
48 available to all Kansans without expanding government programs or
49 increasing expenses. Farmers, ranchers, and other small business owners
50 should be allowed to participate in Association Health Plans and voluntary
51 regional insurance purchasing cooperatives to permit individuals and small
52 companies to receive the same price advantages that
53 corporations/businesses receive.

54

1 **Safety**

PHW-3

2
3 We support:

- 4 1. A farm safety program focused on educating children and families
5 about safe and age-appropriate tasks on the farm;
- 6 2. The concept that safety begins with each individual employer and
7 that employees have a responsibility to observe safe working rules
8 and conditions;
- 9 3. Continued efforts for uniform state vehicle codes, traffic guides
10 and the furtherance of safety practices on highways and farms;
- 11 4. The proper and lawful use of the slow moving vehicle (SMV) sign;
- 12 5. The strict enforcement of drinking and driving and habitual
13 offender laws;
- 14 6. The use of additional automobile safety devices;
- 15 7. Establishment of uniform release mechanisms on all seat belts on
16 newly manufactured vehicles;
- 17 8. Vehicle and child safety seat manufacturers working together to
18 develop universal child safety seats that are compatible with all
19 vehicles;
- 20 9. Clarification of statistical categories used by the National Safety
21 Council and federal governmental agencies in determining rate of
22 accidents, hazardous exposures and fatalities in production
23 agricultural occupations;
- 24 10. Efforts to reduce farm accidents, injuries and fatalities on the farm
25 with an emphasis on education and voluntary programs;
- 26 11. Regular inspection of all railroad crossings and signals; especially
27 multitrack crossings;
- 28 12. Marking the sides of railroad cars to increase night visibility; and
29 13. Adequate advanced warning for road and bridge construction
30 projects.

31 We encourage the Farm Bureau Safety and Health Network and
32 others in their efforts to promote agricultural safety programs and
33 encourage farmers and ranchers to install and maintain safety equipment.
34 Primary seatbelt legislation should exclude vehicles not originally equipped
35 with seatbelts.

36
1 **Toxic Fume Dispersal**

PHW-4

2
3 Toxic fumes from gas and oil wells should be regulated to prevent
4 risk to human health, crops and livestock production. The standards

5 should be enforced by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment
6 (KDHE) and the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).

7

1 **Welfare Payments** **PHW-5**

2

3 We recommend development/enhancement of a database of welfare
4 recipients so the state and counties will have the ability to clearly identify
5 and prevent duplication of payments.

TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

1 **Agricultural Transportation** **TU-1**

2

3 Regulations regarding the transporting of agricultural equipment,
4 vehicles and implements of husbandry must be practical. Consideration
5 should be given to the type of use, practice and design of the equipment,
6 vehicle or implement.

7 Regulations should also recognize the unique characteristics of
8 agricultural transportation, distance to markets, seasonal needs, and the
9 need to maximize efficiencies in transport.

10 We encourage the use of roadside reflective flexible markers to
11 reduce damage to farm equipment.

12 ATV's and micro-utility trucks used in farming and ranching should be
13 statutorily defined as implements of husbandry.

14 We encourage flexibility in axle and bridging limits for trucks
15 transporting commodities at harvest from field to the first market or point of
16 storage.

17 Our purpose is not to carry larger gross weights, but to carry loads
18 which are more compatible with the vehicle design.

19 We are supportive of the inland water transportation industry.
20 However, releases of water from Kansas reservoirs for navigation should
21 provide greater benefit to Kansas than retaining that water in storage or
22 putting it to other beneficial use.

23

1 **Bicycle Rider and Pedestrian Protection** **TU-2**

2

3 We support development and utilization of devices or materials to
4 make pedestrians, bicycles and riders more readily visible in order to
5 prevent collisions with motor vehicles. We encourage bicycle riders to

6 utilize proper protective devices and clothing. For additional safety, we
7 support legislation requiring bicyclists to ride single file when operating a
8 bicycle on Kansas roadways.

9
1 **Comprehensive Transportation Program** **TU-3**

2
3 The mobility of Kansans, the public health and safety of our citizens,
4 and the growth and development of all segments of the state's economy
5 require coordination in construction and maintenance of a comprehensive
6 transportation system. We support a well-designed, adequately funded
7 transportation system for the state of Kansas. The Kansas Department of
8 Transportation (KDOT) should strengthen the Aviation, Rail and Public
9 Transportation sections of the department.

10
1 **County Highway Fund Distribution** **TU-4**

2
3 Funding sent to counties from state and federal governments for
4 assistance on maintaining roads and bridges should be increased.

5 When funds are distributed to local units of government, major
6 consideration should be given to the number and size of bridges a county
7 must maintain in addition to county road miles, vehicle registrations and
8 vehicle miles driven.

9
1 **Driver's Licenses** **TU-5**

2
3 The Kansas Department of Revenue should provide a driver's license
4 examiner in every county seat at least once a month. We support
5 legislation to require written notification by certified mail to be given to
6 persons whenever their driver's licenses are suspended or reinstated.

7 We support a graduated licensing system in Kansas that includes the
8 following:

- 9 1. A learners permit requiring up to one year of real world practice under
10 safe conditions with a licensed adult. Students should be eligible to
11 begin driving with a learners permit at age 14.
12 2. An intermediate permit which allows students to drive with reasonable
13 restrictions on the number of passengers they may carry and on their
14 ability to drive at night. Students should be required to complete a
15 state endorsed driver's education course before a full license can be
16 issued.

- 17 3. An unrestricted or full license which can be achieved by shortly after
18 the student's 16th birthday.
- 19 4. The ability for fourteen-year-olds to qualify for a farm permit which
20 allows them to drive in connection with production agriculture
21 activities provided the youth actually lives or works on a farm or
22 ranch.

23 We support a strong Driver's Education program in the schools, to
24 include a significant increase in behind-the-wheel driving time for the
25 student.

26 We oppose issuing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants or
27 undocumented workers.

28

1 **Energy** **TU-6**

2

3 We support the Kansas Corporation Commission's (KCC) and the
4 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) roles in monitoring
5 service quality and equitable rate treatment for all segments of the energy
6 industry falling within their respective jurisdictions through statute,
7 regulation or utility industry restructuring. During any transition period from
8 a regulated to a deregulated market, regulatory structures and oversight
9 should facilitate the move to a competitive market where service providers
10 compete on a level playing field. The KCC, when asked to approve a rate
11 increase, should not recommend a rate higher than the rate requested by
12 the power supplier.

13 Rules and regulations promulgated as a result of legislation, including
14 utility industry restructuring, should assure Kansas is not at a competitive
15 disadvantage with any other state.

16 We support:

- 17 1. Development of a statewide energy plan that promotes the use of
18 renewable energy and the use of tax credits and other incentives to
19 achieve this plan
- 20 2. The legislature should consider incentives to encourage local
21 majority ownership and opportunities for new generation
22 cooperatives in the production of renewable energies.
- 23 3. Revenues generated from any taxes on renewable energy
24 remaining in the taxing area where the energy is produced.
- 25 4. Expansion and development of transmission capacity to create
26 opportunities for the development of alternative energy resources
27 across the state.

- 28 5. Current law which allows excess power generated by individually
29 owned and operated wind turbines to be sold to utility companies at
30 150% of the avoided cost of production. We encourage the practice
31 of Net Billing as a mechanism to measure production and
32 appropriately compensate individual producers. Net metering, if
33 considered, should not result in negative economic impacts to
34 neighboring consumers.
- 35 6. Community and/or cooperative based wind energy development.
36 Schools should be encouraged to consider wind development as an
37 educational opportunity and a potential cost reducer.
- 38 7. The 25 x '25 vision of Agriculture's Role in Ensuring U.S. Energy
39 Security which supports 25 percent of the total energy consumed in
40 the United States by 2025 be produced from renewable sources.
- 41 8. Increased use of nuclear and solar power generation.
- 42 9. Existing law which provides agricultural producers the opportunity to
43 create non-profit utilities.

44 Property rights of all landowners in areas developed for wind power
45 generation should be protected. Decisions regarding siting guidelines and
46 other potential zoning or restrictions are best made by state government
47 after public input and comment. Regulations should provide area
48 landowners adequate protection of setbacks, decommissioning issues and
49 environmental issues, but should not put Kansas at a disadvantage in
50 developing wind energy.

51 Land owners should be annually compensated at comparable rates
52 as similar structures for property condemned by utilities for new
53 transmission lines or any other below-ground utility equipment.
54 Transmission lines and other utilities should be situated on section lines or
55 property lines when practical. Further, landowners and/or tenants should
56 not be liable for unintentional or inadvertent damage to utility structures.

57 We oppose:

- 58 1. The legitimization of "wind rights."
59 2. The imposition of a moratorium on the production of wind energy in
60 Kansas. Legislative or regulatory efforts should not prevent agricultural
61 producers from voluntarily participating in this industry.

62

1 **Highway and Bridge Construction** **TU-7**

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3

4

5

 The Kansas Department of Transportation should ensure that
investments in highway construction result in roadways that are high
quality, long lasting and require minimal maintenance. The engineering,

6 design and construction standards should withstand the type of traffic
7 utilizing the road.

8 There should be county, state and federal government cost-sharing
9 and financing so that road and bridge construction and replacement may
10 proceed without further delay. Specifications and standards for roads and
11 bridges, including safety and warning devices, should be determined
12 cooperatively by state and local engineers to meet local needs and prevent
13 overbuilding. We recommend the use of only certified weed-free forage as
14 mulch along highways and in other reclamation projects within the state.
15 We discourage the construction of roundabouts. When roundabouts are
16 constructed they should be built to promote safety and accommodate ag
17 equipment and large vehicles.

18

1 **Highway Deicing** **TU-8**

2

3 In order to reduce damage to roadways and bridges, protect from salt
4 pollution, and because of other environmental concerns, we support the
5 replacement of salt as a deicer on roads, bridges and highways with
6 alternative products including calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) and other
7 agriculturally-based products.

8

1 **Highway Development and Funding** **TU-9**

2

3 We support the concept of highway users paying a significant share
4 of construction and maintenance costs of highways, roads and bridges
5 through a fiscally responsible mix of user fees. User fees should include
6 but not be limited to gallonage taxes, vehicle registration fees and sales
7 taxes on motor vehicles. Where such fees are imposed revenues
8 generated through collections should be channeled into transportation
9 programs. We oppose any downgrading of existing U.S. highway
10 designations in Kansas or the shift of any funds now designated for
11 highways.

12 Toll road and turnpike construction in Kansas should not be
13 contemplated unless a feasibility study on any such project shows the toll
14 road or turnpike will pay its own way. We are opposed to the use of State
15 General Fund revenue to guarantee toll road or turnpike bonds. Highway
16 design and planning should avoid, where feasible, diagonal routing.
17 Diagonal cuts are most disruptive to agricultural operations.

18 We support maintaining five strand barb wire fencing on Interstate
Highways where it exists. Highway design, development, construction and

20 signage should assist rather than deter economic development in Kansas
21 communities.

22 When existing billboards along federal and state highways are taken
23 due to expansion of right-of-way, historical sites, tourist attractions,
24 businesses and organizations should be allowed to relocate such signs as
25 close to their previous position as possible.

26 Safety of drivers and vehicle passengers will be enhanced by
27 maintaining present weight and length limits on tractor-trailers and motor
28 carriers.

29

1 **Littering and Trash Dumping** **TU-10**

2

3 We urge vigorous enforcement of litter and dumping laws and
4 regulations. Penalties for violating these provisions should be increased.
5 We support recycling, incentives for recycling and the use of reusable and
6 biodegradable containers.

7

1 **Railroads** **TU-11**

2

3 Rail car service needs to be provided on a timely basis. Shippers
4 should be notified at least one week in advance of expected car arrival.
5 Arrival time frames should be narrowed from the general 15-day contract
6 period currently being used. We encourage appropriate state agencies
7 and/or legislative bodies to examine "tipping fee" practices.

8

9 The abandonment of rail lines is a matter of intense concern to
10 agricultural producers. We support the concept that carriers should not be
11 permitted to easily abandon existing lines. We support necessary
12 legislation that could facilitate the sale of rail lines which otherwise might be
13 abandoned, provided it does not violate the property rights of the
14 underlying landowners. Kansas should also challenge the federal
15 government to remove federal incentives and regulations that encourage
16 railroad abandonment or rail banking at the expense of local transportation
17 needs.

17

18 Increased public and private initiatives to assist Short Line Railroads
19 and Class III carriers to obtain rail lines that may otherwise be abandoned
20 should be encouraged. All Short Line Railroads should have the ability to
21 access lines of major rail carriers.

21

22 We support the establishment of new commuter rail lines on existing
short line tracks in Kansas.

23 Kansas should provide tax incentives and other appropriate
24 assistance to railroad companies that agree to upgrade rail lines and
25 provide long-term service to shippers.

26 Railroad rights-of-way and the railroad's portion of access roads and
27 crossings should be maintained so long as the railroad continues to retain
28 the rights-of-way, even if rail service is discontinued along the corridor.

29 We encourage railroads to rail bank only those corridors that have a
30 reasonable probability of being utilized for rail service in the future.

31

1 **Right-of-way Abandonment** **TU-12**

2

3 Right-of-way which is abandoned or where service is discontinued
4 should promptly revert to the adjacent landowners. This should apply to
5 railroad right-of-way and to highway and utility right-of-way.

6 We support repeal of the National Trails System Act authorizing rail
7 banking and the conversion of rail beds for trail development. We oppose
8 the use of federal or state tax revenues for development, enhancement or
9 maintenance of rail banked rights-of-way or trail amenities.

10 Returning corridor no longer used for rail service to the underlying
11 landowner is a top priority. In situations where a rail trail is proposed, any
12 agency or entity seeking to develop a trail on a railroad right-of-way in
13 Kansas should be required to have the approval of both city and county
14 governing bodies in which or through which the trail may pass.

15 We support state law, which places conditions on rail trail
16 development and operation in Kansas. We encourage the Kansas
17 Legislature to strengthen enforcement of this legislation.

18 We support compensating landowners for their land when it is
19 converted to public recreational purposes.

20

1 **Rural Communications** **TU-13**

2

3 We support every home and business in Kansas having access to a
4 high-speed communication infrastructure at a reasonable cost.

5 Communication service providers should have access to funds (such as,
6 but not limited to, the Universal Service Fund, Rural Electric and USDA
7 Rural Development funds) to maintain affordable service for customers in
8 rural communities.

9 We support efforts to provide consistent and efficient cellular
10 telephone service across the state. Providers should take steps to ensure
11 coverage during times of severe weather or natural disasters.

MISCELLANEOUS

1 **National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame** **MS-1**
2 **Bonner Springs, Kansas**
3

4 The National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame at Bonner Springs,
5 Kansas, should be recognized as a shrine that honors those who have
6 contributed to our great agricultural industry and history and continue to do
7 so today. We encourage every farmer and rancher in Kansas to visit and
8 make a financial contribution to The National Agricultural Center and Hall of
9 Fame.