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DAIRY

3 **Antibiotics** - All bulk tank milk samples should be preserved until any and all problems arising from
4 preliminary screening and testing have been completely resolved. We urge that dairy plants use a standardized
5 test, with realistic levels, for antibiotic testing.

7 **Dairy 2020** - We support Dairy 2020, which has the mission of trying to strengthen Wisconsin's dairy
8 industry. We support allowing herds of all sizes to participate in the milk volume program.

10 **Fees** - We oppose automatic increases in dairy fees and support a reduction in the proposed increase in fees.

12 **Inspections** - We believe that state inspections are an important part of a quality dairy industry. However, the
13 frequency and extent of individual farm inspections should be in direct relation to the quality of milk being
14 produced on each farm. An existing well, which is producing safe water, should not, because of its location,
15 force a producer off the Grade A market.

17 **Labeling** - We urge that only cheese manufactured in the state be allowed to be labeled as Wisconsin cheese.

19 **Promotion** - We support the efforts of the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and its funding for dairy
20 promotion and product development purposes.

22 **Vending Machines** - We encourage all schools in the state to have milk vending machines in order to make
23 milk available throughout the school day. We believe the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board should provide
24 financial incentives for the placement of these machines in schools.

EDUCATION

28 **Ag Education** - We support having agricultural courses in the local school curriculum. We encourage school
29 districts to revise their agricultural curriculum to a level where credits in agriculture courses can be utilized as
30 a science credit. We urge revision in the teacher certification requirements to allow for dual certification in
31 agriculture and science for education majors graduating in Wisconsin.

33 **Ag in the Classroom** - We support more education on modern agriculture and food production at the
34 elementary and secondary levels.

36 **Ag Research** - We support increased funding of agricultural research. We favor biotechnology research that
37 is properly monitored with reasonable safety, social and economic standards being followed prior to and
38 during implementation of the research.

40 We recommend that the University place more emphasis on applied research for the benefit of production
41 agriculture. We support continued public and private research for "new uses" of farm commodities and
42 alternative crops. Agricultural research should take nutritional value into consideration when developing new
43 crop varieties, not just yield and appearance.

45 **Elementary & Secondary** - Elementary and secondary education is essential to the development of the
46 individual. Local school boards are being forced to comply with additional state and federal standards to
47 qualify for aids. We believe these regulations erode the rights of local citizens and divert attention from the
48 basic educational needs of our youth. We support legislation that will return control of education to the local
49 boards of education and the citizens they represent.

51 We believe that school boards should not approve higher spending for school operation and maintenance than
52 was approved at the annual meeting. We suggest that a special meeting be called by the school board if they
53 significantly exceed the budget adopted at the annual meeting.

1 We oppose state mandated pre-school programs. We recommend that the school calendar and school day
2 remain a local decision.

3
4 We oppose the creation of school districts through forced consolidation of outlying districts into metro
5 districts. As many refugees have special educational needs that place an additional burden on the property tax,
6 we urge that funding of their special education be the responsibility of the federal government.

7
8 **School Aids** - We believe that the net income of taxpayers in a school district should be a factor in the state
9 school aid formula. We support maintaining state funding to school districts with declining enrollment.

10
11 **Technical College System** - Technical College System tuition should more closely reflect the costs associated
12 with the program being offered. Since the technical college system is financed by a tax levy, we support
13 having technical college boards elected.

14
15 The technical college system should continue to serve the needs of the farm community. We favor the
16 development of closer coordination between post high school vocational and academic education programs to
17 better utilize our educational facilities.

18
19 **UW System** - We support programs to enhance the capability of our Colleges of Agriculture to respond to the
20 educational and research needs of farmers, which ultimately benefits all of society. We believe that all credits
21 should be transferable within our state university system.

22
23 We urge the continuation of a strong UW-Extension agricultural program in Wisconsin. We also urge county
24 boards to appoint an UW Extension user group advisory board. Members should be appointed by UWEX user
25 groups and be voting members of the committee.

26 27 ENERGY

28
29 **General** - We support a state and national energy policy which includes energy conservation, increased
30 domestic production and marketing of renewable fuels and energy, including but not limited to ethanol, bio-
31 diesel, crop-based fuels, methane, water, wind, and solar.

32
33 We support the construction of new generation coal-fired power plants in areas of the state experiencing
34 expanding electrical demands in order to eliminate the need for long distance transmission lines and to ensure
35 adequate electricity at an affordable price.

36
37 We support lifting the moratorium on the building of nuclear power plants and the increased use and
38 development of nuclear energy.

39
40 We support the rebuilding and maintenance of existing dams for hydroelectric power and flood control
41 purposes.

42
43 **Alternative Sources** - We support research and incentives to encourage alternate sources of energy, including
44 ways of converting farm wastes and other farm products to energy. We support agriculture based renewable
45 energy. We support additional emphasis and research regarding the use of refuse for energy production in
46 order to more efficiently use waste materials.

47
48 To help encourage a new industry start-up in Wisconsin, we support legislation providing direct tax credits to
49 manufacturing plants here in the state producing ethanol and other alternative fuels. We support funding for
50 the expansion of biobased products for energy like ethanol and bio-diesel and other clean energy sources.

51
52 We encourage gas stations with multiple fuel pumps to have at least one pump with a percentage of renewable
53 fuel such as ethanol and bio-diesel. We support requiring all gasoline to contain 10% ethanol. We support
54 exempting gasoline containing 85% ethanol from the state gas tax with a sunset provision after seven years.

1 We support legislation to mandate the use of ethanol, E-85, or bio-diesel in all school buses, and all other
2 taxpayer supported vehicles.

3
4 We support adopting state standards for the siting of wind turbines. We support requiring wind farms to make
5 payments to cover municipal services.

6
7 **Electrical Transmission & Distribution System** - We support the modernization and maintenance of lines,
8 equipment and facilities for all utilities in order to meet current and future demands and alleviate electrical
9 quality problems. We support requiring utilities to comply with Wisconsin State Electrical Codes.

10
11 Further, we support requiring the Public Service Commission to establish a timeline when the earth can no
12 longer be used as a primary neutral return path. During that time, we support expanded research and
13 development of alternative distribution systems to replace the current multi-grounded neutral system.

14
15 We oppose proposed high voltage power lines running through private property when avoidable in all of
16 Wisconsin. We support having all new lines run along roads and highways when possible.

17
18 We support requiring the Public Service Commission to increase the rate of return from renewable energy
19 sources.

20
21 **Electrical Quality** - We support continued efforts to address stray voltage, electromagnetic fields, electric
22 fields, ground currents and other electrical quality problems. We urge expanded educational programs for
23 farmers, veterinarians, electricians, equipment dealers, utility ag representatives and others regarding electrical
24 quality concerns. We believe all utilities should be held accountable for electrical quality problems caused by
25 their lines and equipment.

26
27 We support establishing a state standard for determining stray voltage on a farm provided that the testing
28 method is done without resistors at cow contact at peak to peak voltage at all frequencies.

29
30 We oppose stray voltage legislation that results in allowing utilities automatic immunity, stray voltage cases
31 having a shorter statute of limitations than other civil cases, limiting testing of electrical current or voltage
32 levels to utilities only and limiting legal remedy by use of PSC definitions.

33
34 **Electrical Wiring on Farms** - We encourage livestock farmers to have isolators installed. We also encourage
35 farmers to update the wiring on their farms to have a four wire system with a separate neutral and separate
36 ground return. We support requiring the certified the inspection of new on-farm wiring.

37
38 **Rural Electric Cooperatives** - We reaffirm the unrestricted right and responsibility of all rural electric
39 systems to serve those areas in which they initiate service and continue to serve. We strongly oppose the
40 imposition of conditions or restrictions, which disadvantage the cooperatives in extending or continuing
41 service in these areas.

42
43 **Telecommunications** - All telecommunication facilities shall also be designed and constructed so that they
44 comply with PSC rules.

45 46 **FARM FINANCE**

47
48 **Beginning Farmers** - We support incentive programs (i.e. loans, tax incentives, and grants), through existing
49 lending institutions and government agencies, that assist in the transfer or start up of a farm. We support
50 allowing loan guarantees being extended to individuals providing land contracts similar to what is currently
51 provided to lending institutions.

52
53 **WHEDA** - We support continuation of WHEDA loan programs to agriculture and agri-business.
54

1 **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

2
3 **Accountability** - In the interest of maintaining accountability in our democratic form of government, we
4 encourage our representatives in government to keep the laws and regulations of the land brief as possible and
5 understandable to the common person. We support legislation denying all pensions, benefits, and retirement
6 funds to any government official that is convicted of a felony crime while in office. We support more
7 privatization of government services.
8

9 **Cabinet Government** - We support having the Governor appoint the Secretary of the Department of
10 Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources.
11

12 **County Boards** - We support repeal of the law allowing county boards to change their size between each
13 census.
14

15 **County Fairs** - We support restoring county fair premium funding by the state to at least \$850,000. We
16 support having a county fair coordinator at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.
17

18 **Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection** - We oppose transferring Department of
19 Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's consumer protection functions to the Department of Justice. We
20 support establishing a one-stop shop for all permits needed for farms and agri-businesses.
21

22 **Department of Natural Resources** - We support requiring at least one Department of Natural Resources
23 Board seat be occupied by a farmer.
24

25 We believe that the names of individuals filing a complaint with the DNR against a landowner should be
26 disclosed to that landowner.
27

28 We support a local approval process to hold the DNR responsible for their decisions at the township and
29 county level.
30

31 **Elections** - We support the election of county constitutional officers at the non-partisan spring elections.
32

33 We believe that school, county and other local referendums should be offered only on regularly scheduled
34 election days. Referendums should be written in simple and concise language to not confuse the voter.
35

36 We support uniform poll hours of 7 am to 8 pm throughout Wisconsin. All voters should be required to have a
37 photo ID.
38

39 We favor township elections where the supervisors are elected by staggered terms. We support raising the
40 minimum percentage for a recall election of town officials to 50 percent of the voters in the last presidential
41 election from 25 percent.
42

43 We support giving the state Supreme Court the responsibility of redistricting.
44

45 **Fences** - We support the current state fence law. We oppose any general requirement that all streams or lakes
46 must be fenced. We urge the DNR to comply with the state fence law.
47

48 **Lawsuits** - We support legislation that protects the food industry from frivolous lawsuits by making
49 consumers responsible for their eating habits.
50

51 We oppose the use of tax money by any unit of government for litigation against farmers who have not been
52 cited by a government agency for violating any laws or regulations.
53

54 We support limits on the amount of compensation a person can receive for pain and suffering.
55

1 **Legal Notices** - We support allowing legal notices to be published in non-subscription newspapers.

2
3 **Mandated Programs** - We believe that the costs of government mandated programs should be picked up by
4 the unit of government which mandates the program.

5
6 **Minimum Markup** - We support limiting the minimum markup law to prohibit the selling of products below
7 cost except in merchandise clearing instances. E-85 blended fuels should not be subject to the minimum
8 markup law.

9
10 **Veto Authority** - We support limiting the Governor's line item veto to prohibit the transfer of funds from one
11 project to another.

12
13 **Volunteer Fire Departments & EMS** - Due to lack of economic resources in rural fire protection districts, we
14 oppose efforts that force the disbandment of volunteer fire departments and EMS units and mandate the hiring
15 of full-time employees.

16 **HEALTH & SAFETY**

17
18
19 **Health Care** - We support continued efforts to develop a comprehensive solution for affordable, high quality,
20 accessible health care and health insurance that covers all residents. We support allowing farmers and their
21 employees to enroll in the state health insurance program.

22
23 We support the continuation of the Farmer's Health Cooperative.

24
25 We support a requirement that all medical providers send an itemized billing to every recipient of medical
26 services. We urge that insurance companies be prohibited from allowing health insurance groups mature
27 without adding new business.

28
29 We support tax deductible health savings accounts. We support changing BadgerCare and HIRSP eligibility
30 criteria to exclude depreciation from net taxable income. We support 100% deductibility from income taxes
31 for long-term health care premiums.

32
33 **Safety** - We support educational programs on the safe use of farm equipment, handling of livestock and
34 removal of hazards on the farm.

35 **HUNTING & WILDLIFE**

36
37
38 **Bag Limits** - Due to over population, we urge that daily bag limits be increased and more permits be issued to
39 reduce deer, bear, geese and turkey populations. When deer management units are above their over-winter
40 goal, we support instituting an earn-a-buck season or any other program with incentives to reduce the deer
41 herd. We support an earn-a-gobbler season for turkeys.

42
43 **Baiting and Feeding** - We support banning deer feeding and baiting in order to prevent the spread of disease.
44 We support requiring the Department of Natural Resources to plant crops on the land it owns to reduce crop
45 damage on private land.

46
47 **Hunting Regulations** - We support the right to hunt, fish, trap, and to take game subject to reasonable rules
48 and regulations. We support allowing crossbow hunting during the muzzleloader season. We support over the
49 counter sales for turkey licenses. Operating farmers should be issued a free deer, bear and turkey license and
50 that the license be an open season license upon request to be used on the landowner's property.

51
52 We support the right to protect domestic livestock or pets from predators.

53
54 We support eliminating coyote protection from the Department of Natural Resources' deer hunting
55 regulations.

1
2 We support the carrying of a gun with the shells in the magazine (not the chamber) while entering and exiting
3 the woods before and after posted hunting hours.
4

5 **Hunting Seasons** - We support a season on Sandhill cranes and seagulls. We urge that the state eliminate the
6 closed season on raccoon until the population is under control.
7

8 **License Revocation** - We support a three year revocation of all sporting licenses for the following infractions;
9 illegal shining, trespass, and causing injury to livestock.
10

11 **Roadkill** - We recommend that the Department of Natural Resources be responsible for the removal of large
12 undomesticated “roadkill” carcasses from highway right-of-ways. All wildlife hit by vehicles should become
13 property of the driver if he or she chooses, without charge to that person.
14

15 A property owner should be able to dispose of a dead deer that is on their property without applying for a
16 permit to move the carcass.
17

18 **Shining** - We support banning the shining of wildlife from public roads between September 1 & December 31.
19

20 **Wildlife Damage Program** - In certain areas of the state, excessive wildlife population is causing a severe
21 loss of crops and income for farm families. We recommend the following action be taken in these areas.
22

- 23 • General – Landowners enrolled in the program should be permitted to charge a fee for recreational use
24 purposes. Tree farmers should be eligible to receive crop damage payments. Farmers and aquaculturists
25 should be able to harvest animals causing crop and livestock damage. We support eliminating the
26 September 15 deadline for wildlife damage permit performance standards.
27
- 28 • Funding – We support increased hunting license fees and/or general purpose revenues when necessary to
29 fund damage claims at 100%, since state residents as a whole favor a large state wildlife population.
30 Wildlife Damage Program funds should be used only for payment to farmers for crop damage and
31 abatement.
32
- 33 • Hot Spot Shooting and Nuisance Permits – We support continuing the “hot spot” shooting permit program
34 to allow the additional harvest of deer on farms suffering chronic damage and establishing a “hotspot”
35 shooting permit program for farmers to harvest Sandhill cranes. Nuisance permits should be issued for
36 bear when crop or livestock damage exceeds \$500.
37
- 38 • Non-game and protected species – We support extension of Wildlife Damage Program coverage to
39 protected non-game species. Further, we support the removal of seagulls and Sandhill cranes from the
40 protected list.
41
- 42 • Payments – Property that receives crop damage payments should be open to the public for hunting of that
43 particular species, with hunter access controlled by the landowner. Further, we support Wildlife Damage
44 Program participant farmers receiving a payment of \$50 to \$100 per deer registered with animal damage
45 tags. Farmers should be able to collect 100% of assessed crop damage on rented land where the
46 landowner will not allow hunting to fulfill abatement program shooting requirements. Farmers should be
47 compensated for their time and labor needed to participate in the program. Producers should be
48 reimbursed for crops that are damaged by government personnel to gain access to trapped bear and other
49 wildlife. We support increasing the limit a farmer is eligible for under the Department of Natural
50 Resources’ Crop Damage program.
51

52 **Wildlife Introduction** - We support a requirement that the DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conduct
53 an agricultural impact statement before any species of wildlife is introduced into a new area and distribute the
54 results to local landowners. If the species is introduced, DNR should be required to pay for any crop and
55 livestock damage resulting from such action.

1 We support a financial penalty to any person found introducing a non-typical games species into the wild.
2 Further, we support the eradication of non-typical game species outside the confines of a licensed game farm.

3
4 We oppose the introduction of elk to the central forest area. However, if introduced, we support allowing
5 animals causing damage to be harvested.

6
7 **Wildlife Population** - We support reducing the deer herd to at least DNR goals. The DNR should not have an
8 “over winter” goal of more than 25 deer per square mile in any deer management area. Further, we support
9 increasing the yearly goose harvest in proportion to flock growth to reduce the over winter population.

10
11 We support requiring DNR to accurately reflect wildlife populations and the damage being done in Wisconsin.
12 We support appropriate actions to reduce populations.

13
14 **Wolf Management** - We support keeping the wolf population at or below 350 in Wisconsin. We support
15 requiring DNR to include farmer participation in wolf management planning.

16
17 We support full reimbursement to farmers for all direct and indirect damage caused to their farms by wolves.
18 This includes reimbursement for missing livestock where there is evidence of wolves or a history of
19 wolf/livestock conflicts on that farm.

20
21 We support hunting and/or trapping seasons for wolves in areas where wolf/livestock conflicts exist, once the
22 wolf is de-listed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for the Endangered Species list.

23 24 **LABOR**

25
26 **Christmas Tree Farmers** - We request that the Department of Workforce Development include Christmas
27 tree farmers in the definition of agriculture under our labor laws.

28
29 **Mediation/Arbitration** - We believe contract negotiations with teachers and other local government
30 employees should be a local responsibility. We urge the repeal of final and binding arbitration. Until this is
31 accomplished, we support reform of the existing law to provide greater balance between labor and
32 management in this process.

33
34 **Minimum Wage** - We oppose increasing the state minimum wage or any other labor requirements beyond
35 those required federally.

36
37 **Workers Compensation** - We support maintaining the minimum number of employees under workers
38 compensation at six and increasing the minimum days required from 21 to 60.

39 40 **LAND USE**

41
42 **Annexation** - We support state legislation that will allow only the annexation of land owned by the petitioners.
43 We support greater township control over the annexation of property and urge more boundary agreements
44 among municipalities.

45
46 We support requiring a municipality that annexes land from a neighboring township to pay off the township
47 debt allocated to that land as part of the annexation.

48
49 **Eminent Domain** - Eminent domain laws should not be used to confiscate private property for private uses or
50 private gain.

51
52 Eminent domain proceedings should be used only when there is a preponderance of evidence indicating that
53 the project is necessary for public service. Under current statutes, in the event of forced farm sales involving
54 the right of eminent domain, the farmer must take the proceeds in one lump sum incurring higher income and
55 capital gains taxes. Therefore, we urge that the law be changed at both the state and national levels to allow

1 payment to be deferred at the option of the seller. Property taken should be priced at current market value plus
2 relocation costs.

3
4 We support changing the wording of Wisconsin's eminent domain law from "for the public good" to "for the
5 public necessity." Further, we support a definition of "public necessity" as "that without which the public
6 health and safety would be endangered."

7
8 We support using state eminent domain laws rather than federal condemnation procedures in siting gas
9 pipelines. We believe that eminent domain projects should be required to utilize public land as much as
10 possible.

11
12 We support requiring land owners affected by eminent domain projects to be notified and given the
13 opportunity to participate in any negotiated agricultural mitigation agreements. Any agricultural mitigation
14 agreement should contain an enforcement clause with a sufficient non-compliance penalty.

15
16 **Farmland Preservation Program** - We support changing the FPP to create agricultural enterprise zones in
17 which all types of production agriculture is allowed. Local units of government and landowners would receive
18 financial incentives in return for a 15 to 20 year commitment. We believe that any FPP changes should allow
19 those farmers with agreements to continue to receive credit.

20
21 **Local Planning & Zoning** - We are concerned about the loss of productive agricultural lands. Haphazard
22 growth of the urban community results in high costs of public services, conflicts between urban and rural
23 landowners, and the destruction of precious resources. We urge farmers to become informed about and
24 involved in local plan development and zoning ordinances that will help avert these problems and preserve the
25 agricultural base of the community. We need to educate state agencies on the importance of preserving
26 productive ag land for the production of food, fiber, and fuel.

27
28 We support the goals of the Smart Growth program provided the planning process continues to be locally
29 controlled and the state provides adequate funding for the development of these plans in rural areas. We
30 oppose state and federal regulation of land use.

31
32 We encourage counties to adopt housing density zoning for cluster development to help save productive
33 farmland.

34
35 We encourage municipalities to devise land use plans that minimize the loss of productive agricultural land
36 and that achieve a balance between local goals and individual landowners financial needs. We recommend
37 that these ordinances create exclusive agricultural zones in which farming is designated as the priority use and
38 other users remain in these zones without recourse to abate the practices which are common to farming. We
39 urge property owners be put on notice if their property is located in an area zoned for agriculture or if farms
40 are located nearby.

41
42 We urge the publication of proposed changes in zoning rules and ordinances with a reasonable time to allow
43 the public to take action to correct any injustices. When government bodies are taking action on individual
44 zoning changes, special assessments or other matters affecting the value of private property, the owner of the
45 property and adjoining landowners should be notified in writing prior to meetings or hearings on the actions.

46
47 We oppose extra-territorial zoning. We also support increasing the population threshold to 50,000 in order for
48 cities to exercise extra-territorial zoning within a three-mile radius.

49
50 We support legislation to create charter towns.

51
52 Zoning and land use plans should apply to government bodies as well as private individuals.

53
54 We support allowing farmers to sell products, grown on their farm, at a location on their farm without having
55 to be rezoned. We support legislation allowing farmers to erect and maintain a professionally painted sign on

1 their property to advertise their farm produce. This would take precedence over town or county ordinances
2 prohibiting such signage on farmer owned property.

3
4 We recommend local units of government not be permitted to regulate USDA licensed and inspected kennels.
5 We recommend that if a farm is zoned agricultural and has a USDA or state licensed and inspected
6 kennel/breeding operation that this activity be fully viewed as a part of the agribusiness on the farm.

7
8 **Property Rights** - We reaffirm our belief in the rights of private property ownership, and in the ability of
9 landowners to make wise land use decisions. We support legislation requiring any governmental entity to
10 compensate property owners when its actions reduce property values.

11
12 We support legislation to facilitate the recovery of financial loss for nuisance lawsuits for time, attorney fees,
13 and lost income for not being able to develop ethanol plants, wind farms, water plants, generating plants and
14 livestock facilities.

15
16 **Public Land** - We support a public policy which would require all public agencies to use lands which are less
17 valuable for agricultural use for public projects. We believe that land should only be acquired by the
18 government for truly public purposes, and any government owned lands which are not used for public
19 purposes should be returned to the former or adjacent property owner. We support requiring state agencies
20 that buy land to notify all local units of government affected by the land purchase at least 60 days in advance.
21 State and federal agencies purchasing land should have to justify the price paid when they outbid private
22 landowners.

23
24 When the Department of Natural Resources purchases agricultural land, the payment in lieu of property taxes
25 should be calculated at the purchase price.

26
27 We oppose allowing non-profit tax-exempt groups to buy property and then sell it to a governmental entity for
28 a profit in the name of preservation. We support requiring the DNR to sell two acres of land for every acre it
29 purchases.

30
31 We support a reduction in the stewardship program, prohibiting stewardship purchases of tillable land and
32 targeting program purchases to non-agricultural land. We recommend that agricultural land currently owned
33 by the DNR be leased back to farmers at local rates and under local customs. The DNR should not be allowed
34 to bond for land purchases.

35
36 We support prohibiting the DNR from purchasing land under the stewardship program until a county and its
37 townships have completed a comprehensive plan. Stewardship purchases of land must be consistent with the
38 adopted plan.

39
40 We support limiting the amount of land owned or controlled by all units of government to no more than 20
41 percent of the land in a township. Units of government should be held accountable for all services that are
42 required for the land.

43
44 **Purchase of Development Rights** - We support efforts to target stewardship funds for the purchase of
45 development rights of productive agricultural land.

46
47 **Right-to-Farm** - We support continued efforts which will protect agricultural operations from nuisance suits
48 resulting from odor, dust, noise, etc. when the farming enterprise is operated in accordance with current
49 agricultural practices. We also urge consideration of the role zoning, education, research and other activities
50 may play in helping to prevent or alleviate these conflicts between differing land uses.

51
52 We support amending the Right-to Farm Law to prohibit plaintiffs from applying public human health and
53 safety standards to the environment. Further, we support strengthening the law by increasing the penalty for
54 filing nuisance lawsuits found to have no merit. The punitive penalty should be equal to 50 percent of the
55 producer's legal costs to defend himself/herself.

1 We support having public agencies (town, county and state) that file nuisance lawsuits suits be held liable for
2 defense costs in litigation where the case is found to have no merit.

3
4 We support legislation to prohibit local units of government from regulating or banning the use or growing of
5 biotech or genetically engineered crops or products.

6
7 We support statewide uniform standards, provided they do not put us at a competitive disadvantage with other
8 states, for farming operations rather than a patchwork of local and county ordinances. We believe that farmers
9 should be able to operate and expand their farms as they choose as long as they comply with state and federal
10 environmental regulations.

11
12 **Surveying** - We recommend that all parties, but especially utility companies, use material other than metal to
13 mark reference points on farm property.

14
15 **Trespass & Liability** - We support action to recognize and enforce ownership rights to prohibit unwanted
16 activities on private property, including those of government agencies. We support requiring DNR wardens to
17 enforce trespass laws.

18
19 Landowners should not be held liable for those injured when using land, with or without permission. State law
20 currently provides protection from liability for landowners that allow the recreational use of their land.
21 However, we urge that the maximum amount of compensation allowed for recreational use under this statute
22 be substantially increased.

23 24 **LIVESTOCK**

25
26 **Animal Identification System** - We support collaborative efforts of industry and governmental animal health
27 officials to develop a national identification system for livestock. An animal ID system should be confidential,
28 not create an additional paperwork burden and recognize that the original owner has no control over the animal
29 once it leaves the farm.

30
31 We oppose fees on producers to pay for livestock premise identification and support suspending the program if
32 there is no federal or state funding for the program.

33
34 **Animal Welfare** - We support the right of farmers to raise animals humanely and in accordance with
35 commonly accepted agricultural practices since no segment of society has more concern for the well-being of
36 poultry and livestock than the producer. We also support animal-based medical research which benefits both
37 humans and animals.

38
39 We support enactment of stricter laws regarding the criminal release of animals used in agricultural production
40 or for research purposes. Such crimes shall be punishable under organized crime laws.

41
42 **Disease** - We support the continuation of interstate testing for brucellosis of livestock from states that are not
43 "class-free". We recommend stronger action be taken against those who violate brucellosis laws and
44 regulations.

45
46 We support increased funding for research to develop a better vaccine and test for Johne's disease. We
47 support the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Johne's testing and classification
48 system. We support increased state funding for Johne's testing in livestock. We support allowing milk
49 samples to be used as an official Johne's test.

50
51 All animal health regulations, both domestic and wild, should be under the Department of Agriculture, Trade
52 and Consumer Protection's authority.

53
54 We support holding government agencies with oversight over wildlife to the same animal health reporting
55 requirements as the private sector.

1 **Inspections** - We recommend that state regulations mirror U.S. Department of Agriculture for the inspection
2 and licensing of kennels.

3
4 **Livestock Markets** - We urge that livestock market reports reflect the number of cattle sold at the quoted
5 prices. Animals sold for slaughter should have to be slaughtered.

6
7 **Nonambulatory Livestock** - We support two classifications of nonambulatory livestock, 1) those due to an
8 injury or accident, and, 2) those which are diseased. Nonambulatory livestock “due to an injury or accident”
9 should be allowed to be slaughtered and processed for personal use.

10
11 **Veterinarians** - We support an incentive program to encourage large animal study and practice in the state.
12 We support legislation requiring veterinarians to make portable written prescriptions available to their clients.

13 14 **MARKETING**

15
16 **Disparagement** - Since false claims about food products can have a devastating impact on the livelihood of
17 farm families, we support enactment of state disparagement legislation.

18
19 **Producer Security** - We support a state's indemnity fund law that will enhance a producer’s ability to recover
20 losses due to the financial failure of a handler or processor; however we believe the following changes need to
21 be made to the program.

- 22
- 23 • Eliminate the requirement for contingent financial backing
 - 24 • Cap the level of the fund and keep dairy, grain, and vegetable accounts separate. This keeps industry
 - 25 from subsidizing a failure in another.
 - 26 • Limit the purpose of APS fund to defaults due to business failure.
 - 27 • Allow all contractors who meet or exceed certain financial criteria to be exempt from the indemnity
 - 28 fund assessments.
 - 29 • Allow processors to post private security instead of participating in the program.
 - 30 • Cap assessment rates for each milk contractor at a rate determined by a simple average of the
 - 31 assessment rates over a three year moving average of program participation. This would stop milk
 - 32 buyers from being “punished” for revolving equity or expanding their business.
 - 33 • Require financial statements ordinarily used by the processor. Eliminate DATCP staff review of
 - 34 financial statements to save staff expenses.
 - 35 • Exempt producers that retain title to their commodities throughout the processing and sale of the
 - 36 finished products.
 - 37 • Interest from funds should go toward program costs to reduce fees.
 - 38 • Require DATCP to substantially reduce administrative costs.

39
40 We believe that fresh produce should be paid for within 30 days of delivery.

41
42 **Promotion** - We support the continued promotion of Wisconsin agricultural products through the use of
43 labeling and special advertising.

44
45 We support efforts to increase local direct marketing opportunities, including directing the state to give priority
46 to Wisconsin products in their purchasing practices.

47 48 **NATURAL RESOURCES & THE ENVIRONMENT**

49
50 **Ag Chemicals** - We oppose a complete ban on the use of any agricultural chemical or drug unless it can be
51 demonstrated positively by prolonged and responsible research that use of a product represents a clear and
52 present danger to health or that its use would seriously jeopardize our environment. Serious consideration
53 should also be given to the technical and economic feasibility of any bans or limitations on the use of
54 agricultural chemicals.

1 We support expanded programs to inform and educate the public on the need for agricultural chemicals. We
2 support programs to require urban and suburban residents to properly use fertilizers and pesticides.
3 We believe that compliance with federally approved label instructions when applying ag chemicals should
4 make farmers immune from liability.
5

6 We support the original intent of the Agrichemical Management Fund and the Agricultural Chemical Cleanup
7 Program. However, when necessary we support utilizing a portion of the fees collected for agriculture
8 research and agriculture education.
9

10 We oppose requiring secondary containment for bulk fertilizer and pesticides stored on the farm.

11 We support a continuation of the state's agriculture clean sweep program.

12 We support public and private funded research that will result in less reliance on agricultural chemicals for
13 weed and pest control. We support the cost-effective method of land spreading soils contaminated with low
14 risk residues, such as petroleum distillates.
15
16

17
18 **Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)** - We oppose lowering the 1,000 animal unit threshold
19 requirement for concentrated animal facility operations (CAFO) to get a WPDES permit. We support
20 requiring DNR and DATCP to use the federal animal unit calculation method in their rules and regulations.
21

22 **Cost Sharing** - We favor tax incentives and increased cost sharing of pollution abatement practices to
23 encourage their use and to diminish potentially devastating costs.
24

25 **Drainage & Water Law** - We support legislation to revise our laws pertaining to navigable waters to provide
26 less regulation and insure that the riparian rights of landowners are better recognized. We support legislation
27 creating a statutory definition for navigability. Navigability should be defined as a majority of the year and
28 not one day. We believe that farmers should be able to maintain and upgrade farm drainage systems and
29 ditches to protect the productivity of farmland.
30

31 We support allowing drainage districts to maintain ditches in municipalities and on public lands and assess
32 costs accordingly.
33

34 We support requiring any entity allowing or causing the deterioration of water drainage systems that adversely
35 affect other agriculture land to be held liable for the correction of that drainage system.
36

37 We urge changes that would require municipalities to control storm water runoff to reduce the serious flooding
38 and financial losses this water can cause downstream. We urge that municipal drainage holding ponds be
39 fenced and other appropriate precautions be taken to prevent children from being attracted to them.
40

41 We oppose DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services interference with water control and construction of dams,
42 including those on cranberry operations. We urge that aquaculture and cranberries be classified as water
43 dependant by the DNR. We support legislation defining aquaculture as an agricultural activity.
44

45 **Environmental Regulations** - State regulations, unless scientifically proven, should not be stricter than
46 federal regulations. We support the use of consistent standards between all government agencies with respect
47 to environmental issues. Any regulations should consider practical methods of maintaining environmental
48 quality consistent with efficient and economical farming operations.
49

50 Environmental incidents occurring when farmers have complied with accepted guidelines and regulations
51 should be remedied at public expense.
52

53 We support land conservation efforts but oppose using the property tax system as a punitive way to
54 accomplish land conservation. We oppose counties setting per acre fees to fund land conservation
55 departments.

1 **Forestry** - We support efforts to promote the proper utilization and management of our forest resources. We
2 urge greater effort by the DNR to enforce compliance with the management contracts entered into under the
3 Managed Forest Law.
4

5 **Forest Cropland** - We support a fee payable to townships to offset the costs of providing fire protection and
6 other services. We support having the managed forest program only offer contracts to land currently listed by
7 the USDA Farm Service Agency as forestland. Cropland planted to trees should not be eligible for tax relief
8 under the Managed Forest Law.
9

10 **Groundwater** - There is a need for increased monitoring, research and education relating to groundwater
11 problems. We believe that the present law regarding the installation of high capacity wells serving
12 municipalities should be amended to require that there be no adverse impact on the quality and supply of other
13 local wells.
14

15 **Invasive Species** - We urge the state to work closely with other states in the Midwest and the Great Lakes
16 Basin to stop the spread of invasive species into Wisconsin.
17

18 **Liability** - We believe that the unknowing buyer of property should not be held liable for pollution caused by
19 prior owners. When materials were legally disposed of in earlier years and are now found to be hazardous the
20 previous owners should not be held liable.
21

22 **Livestock Siting** - We support statewide uniform standards for livestock operations rather than individual
23 county ordinances. Livestock siting regulations should not be more restrictive than the state's nonpoint
24 standards. We support the use of scientifically proven best management practices to mitigate odor and address
25 air emissions from livestock operations. We support reverse setbacks as a part of the state's livestock siting
26 standards.
27

28 **Non-point** - Non-point pollution control efforts should be practical, scientifically-based best management
29 practices, rather than the lowest cost practices, and have adequate cost sharing in order for farmers to
30 economically implement any required practices, including compensation for lost opportunity costs.
31

32 We support conservation credit as part of the non-point program. We oppose any regulation that requires
33 landowners to give an easement for public access in order to participate. We support allowing temporary
34 manure stacking when weather conditions prevent spreading on eligible land.
35

36 Any new nonpoint source pollution regulations should provide 70% funding for the cost incurred by farmers to
37 implement these new regulations. Cost sharing should be provided if feed leachate runoff containment is
38 required. We also support adequate funding to local units of government to implement the nonpoint program,
39 provided that local regulations do not exceed state standards.
40

41 We support allowing regional Department of Natural Resources offices to have short form authority to quickly
42 permit Land Conservation Department and Natural Resource Conservation Service cost-share projects.
43

44 We oppose the dumping of raw sewage by municipalities into lakes and waterways. We support requiring
45 urban and suburban lands to meet similar nonpoint standards as agricultural lands.
46

47 We support requiring municipal and industrial sludge applications to be at the nutrient needs of the crop
48 rotation. (i.e. The same as standards for livestock manure applications.)
49

50 Snow containing road salt should be disposed of at least 300 feet from streams and 1,000 feet from lakes.
51

52 **Nonpoint & Air Quality Research** - We support the Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative, the
53 Discovery Farms Program, and the UW-Platteville Pioneer Farm which were created to develop practical and
54 affordable methods and techniques for complying with environmental standards.
55

1 **Noxious Weeds** - We support mandatory enforcement of noxious weed laws, on Conservation Reserve
2 Program (CRP) lands, and land owned by lending institutions, absentee landowners and the government. We
3 support the inclusion of multi-flora roses, purple loosestrife, and European buckthorn on the state's noxious
4 weed list. Further, we support the creation of programs that would pay farmers to eradicate it.

5
6 **Nutrient Management Plans** - We support allowing farmers to write their own nutrient management plans.
7 We support an increase in funding to assist producers in writing the nutrient management plan.

8
9 We support increased phosphate and potash levels for nutrient management planning due to higher yields and
10 the ability of hybrids to better utilize these nutrients.

11
12 **Nutrient Management Regulations** - We support reasonable state laws and regulations governing manure
13 handling and runoff problems. We oppose a ban on the winter spreading of manure. Winter manure
14 applications should be based on a farmer's nutrient management plan.

15
16 **Recycling** - We strongly support more recycling. We urge that landowners be allowed to burn non-recyclable
17 resources on their property.

18
19 We support stricter enforcement of our current litter laws to reduce the losses incurred by farmers due to
20 damaged equipment and injury to livestock.

21
22 **Septic Systems** - We urge that new ideas for rural septic and water supply systems be tested and approved for
23 use to expand the choices available for new installations. Residential septic inspection should be required
24 every six years instead of every three years.

25
26 **Wetlands** - We recognize the importance of preserving valuable wetlands and are concerned about the loss of
27 these wetlands. We urge that the stringent regulations applied to farmers regarding wetlands be extended and
28 enforced on all landowners, developers, municipalities, state and federal agencies on an equal and fair basis.

29
30 We believe that a consistent set of definitions and guidelines need to be adopted for all wetlands. Further,
31 wetlands that have been farmed should be allowed to remain in agricultural production.

32
33 We believe that farmers' rights should be recognized in any wetlands legislation or regulations, including the
34 right to maintain farm drainage systems and ditches. Any such legislation or regulations should compensate
35 farmers for restrictions placed on any lands classified as wetlands.

36
37 We urge that county regulations covering wetlands, flood plains and navigable streams be consistent with state
38 regulations.

39 40 **TAXATION**

41
42 **Assessment** - We support use value assessment of agricultural land. We recommend that land dedicated to
43 conservation practices (i.e. wind breaks, buffer strips, etc.) or programs be assessed as farmland under use
44 value. We support the 50% prorated assessment of undeveloped land and agricultural forestland.

45
46 **Capital Gains** - We support elimination of the state capital gains tax on the sale of a farm. We support
47 allowing a taxpayer to defer taxes from the sale of agricultural property and machinery by investing the
48 proceeds into a retirement account with taxes due at withdrawal.

49
50 **Death Tax** - We oppose reinstatement of the state death tax.

51
52 **Depreciation** - We support adopting federal depreciation laws as part of state tax laws.

53
54 **Fuel Tax** - We support the continuation of the state fuel tax exemption for agricultural purposes. We support
55 requiring the Legislature to vote on any increase in the state fuel tax.

1 **Investment Tax Credit** - We support expanding the state dairy and livestock investment tax credit to all
2 agricultural facilities and equipment. We support removing the cap on the dairy processing investment tax
3 credit program for proprietary processors. We support creating an investment incentive for agricultural
4 processing cooperatives.

5
6 **Lapses** - We believe that when a fee or state tax is collected for a specific purpose that fund should not be
7 transferred or raided for other uses.

8
9 **Local Fees** - We oppose counties implementing a general tax or fee on farmers or farmland to pay for county
10 land conservation department programs or other county programs.

11
12 **Lottery Tax Credits** - We support continuation and expansion (i.e. including improvements) of the Farmland
13 Tax Relief Credit, which is funded from lottery profits.

14
15 **Property Taxes** - We support continuation of two-thirds state funding for local school costs. We support the
16 present system of semi-annual or annual payment of property taxes. We urge that all machinery and
17 equipment (i.e. silos) on farms be exempt from taxation.

18
19 **Sales Tax Exemption** - We support sales tax exemptions on items used directly in farming operations.

20
21 **Shared Revenues** - We support having shared revenues distributed as equally as possible between towns,
22 villages and cities.

23
24 **Special Assessments** - We support extending current sewer and water assessment protection provisions for
25 farmland located within towns to farmland located within cities and villages. We also support expanding this
26 protection to include unwanted road improvements.

27
28 **Spending Caps** - We support legislation or a constitutional amendment limiting the amount of taxes or fees
29 that can be levied and/or establishing spending caps for all units of government.

30
31 We support limiting the amount of property taxes that can be levied by all units of government. We support
32 maintaining the current caps on school spending. We recommend that school-spending limits should not be
33 decreased if a school does not spend up to its limits in any year. We oppose exceeding levy limits, except by
34 referendum.

35
36 **Tax Exempt Real Estate** - We urge that all tax-exempt real estate at least be required to make a payment for
37 municipal services (i.e. police, fire, etc.). Further, we recommend that property owned by the state and federal
38 government, non-profit organizations, federal trust lands and other revenue producing property pay their full
39 share of the local property tax.

40
41 **Technical College System** - We urge eliminating, or substantially reducing, the property tax levied for the
42 Wisconsin Technical College System and substituting state collected revenues.

43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 TRANSPORTATION

Highways - We urge that highway user taxes and sales taxes collected on over-the-road vehicles be used only
for highway construction and maintenance purposes. We support an increase in local road funding.

We oppose an increase in vehicle registration and driver's license fees.

We support adequate funding for rural bridge improvements and urge that more reasonable construction
standards be established for off-system bridges to minimize costs. We support requiring a gravel shoulder at
least 3 feet in width on all new county road construction.

We support allowing wider driveways for easier access to farmers' yards from state highways.

1 We urge that greater emphasis be placed on improvement and maintenance of present highways rather than on
2 new highway construction, using existing right-of-ways wherever possible.

3
4 We urge the Department of Transportation to treat agricultural land equal to wetlands when obtaining land for
5 the building of roads. The same degree of effort should be used in preserving agriculture land as is used in
6 preserving wetlands.

7
8 **Implements of Husbandry** - We oppose the registration of implements of husbandry or the licensing of their
9 operators. We encourage the use of turn signals on farm implements.

10
11 When overwidth farm equipment is traveling on public roads with an escort vehicle, the operator should be
12 exempt from liability if an accident occurs due to someone else's negligence.

13
14 We support updating state laws and Department of Transportation regulations to remove conflicting lighting
15 requirements for agricultural vehicles. We support uniform manufacturing requirements for lighting and
16 visibility markings on certain agricultural vehicles and implements of husbandry.

17
18 **Licenses & Registration** - We support legislation which would require proof of statutory non-cancelable
19 minimum automobile insurance coverage prior to registering a vehicle. The Department of Motor Vehicles
20 must reduce scheduling problems for driver testing.

21
22 **Railroads** - We support a viable rail system in Wisconsin for the shipment of agricultural products. We
23 encourage the trucking and railroad industry to work together to improve the efficiency of product movement.

24
25 We oppose granting a government agency the right of first refusal to buy abandoned right-of-way or any other
26 land. Their abandoned right-of-ways should revert back to the present landowners. When railroads are
27 abandoned, the party taking them over should have to live up to the same responsibilities as the railroad, such
28 as weed control and fence maintenance. We oppose closing down town roads and private access roads for the
29 railroad's benefit.

30
31 We urge that user fees and not public money primarily fund alternative forms of public transportation, such as
32 light rail.

33
34 **Safety** - We support using higher quality reflective paint in highway markings to improve visibility. We
35 support the installation of a backup warning device system on all commercial milk, cattle, feed and other
36 trucks making farm pickups or deliveries.

37
38 We urge that highway departments regularly maintain highway right-of-ways to reduce weed and brush
39 problems and improve highway safety.

40
41 We support increased education for law enforcement agents, as well as the general public, in regard to slow
42 moving vehicles and the standard Slow Moving Vehicle signs that are required by law. We support stronger
43 enforcement of this law.

44
45 We support expanding the section, which addresses agricultural issues, to the driver's education training
46 manual published by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

47
48 We support a requirement that a highly visible flag be displayed on ATVs that are operated on public roads
49 when the road is being used for an ATV trail route.

50
51 We support a requirement that bicyclists be more visible when traveling on public highways.

52
53 We support requiring any bicycle rally or event with 15 or more bicycles be forced to get a permit to help pay
54 for law enforcement.

1 **Vehicle Length** - All state constructed or funded highways should be open to all trucks meeting state length
2 and weight limitations.

3
4 **Vehicle Regulations** - We oppose allowing non-licensed farm trucks to haul products for sale. We support
5 excluding farm pickup trucks and trailers from the Department of Transportation's commercial vehicle
6 regulations.

7
8 We support having the DOT educate its enforcement agents of the rules and regulations governing farm trucks
9 and that the same information is made available to farm truck owners.

10
11 ATVs, or snowmobiles and lightweight utility vehicles that are used exclusively for agricultural purposes
12 should be exempt from registration and license fees.

13
14 We encourage better enforcement of current regulations governing mud flaps and covered loads on
15 commercial vehicles to reduce incidents of gravel or other debris from these vehicles damaging following
16 vehicles.

17
18 All state owned vehicles should be subject to the same DOT requirements as privately owned vehicles.

19
20 We support requiring a sign on the back of school buses indicating that they stop at railroad crossings.

21
22 **Vehicle Weight** - We support increasing truck weight limits from 80,000 pounds to 90,000 pounds.