

2  
3 **DAIRY**

4  
5 **Antibiotics** - We recommend that dairy plants use a standardized test for antibiotic testing.

6  
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.

9  
10 **Inspections** - We believe that state inspections are an important part of a quality dairy industry. However, the  
11 frequency and extent of individual farm inspections should be in direct relation to the quality of milk being  
12 produced on each farm. An existing well, which is producing safe water, should not, because of its location,  
13 force a producer off the Grade A market.

14  
15 **Labeling** - We urge that only cheese manufactured in the state be allowed to be labeled as Wisconsin cheese.

16  
17 **Promotion** - We support the efforts of the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and its funding for dairy  
18 promotion and product development purposes.

19  
20 **Raw Milk Sales** - We support current law which prohibits the direct sale of raw milk to consumers.

21  
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.

25  
26 **EDUCATION**

27  
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.

32  
33 **Ag in the Classroom** - We support more education on modern agriculture and food production at the  
34 elementary and secondary levels.

35  
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.

39  
40 We support public and private funded research on best management practices that will result in less reliance on  
41 agricultural chemicals for weed and pest control.

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

47  
48 We support the Discovery Farms Program and the UW-Platteville Pioneer Farm which were created to  
49 develop practical and affordable methods and techniques for complying with environmental standards.

50  
51 **Elementary & Secondary** - Elementary and secondary education is essential to the development of the  
52 individual. Local school boards are being forced to comply with additional state and federal standards to  
53 qualify for aids. We believe these regulations erode the rights of local citizens and divert attention from the  
54 basic educational needs of our youth. We support legislation that will return control of education to the local  
55 boards of education and the citizens they represent.

1  
2 We believe that school boards should not approve higher spending for school operation and maintenance than  
3 was approved at the annual meeting. We suggest that a special meeting be called by the school board if they  
4 significantly exceed the budget adopted at the annual meeting.  
5

6 We oppose state mandated pre-school programs. We recommend that the school calendar and school day  
7 remain a local decision.  
8

9 We oppose the creation of school districts through forced consolidation of outlying districts into metro  
10 districts.  
11

12 Since many immigrants have special educational needs that place an additional burden on the property tax, we  
13 urge that funding of their special education be the responsibility of state government.  
14

15 **School Aids** - We believe that the net income of taxpayers in a school district should be a factor in the state  
16 school aid formula. We support maintaining state funding to school districts with declining enrollment.  
17

18 We support reinstatement of the Qualified Economic Offer.  
19

20 **Technical College System** - Technical College System tuition should more closely reflect the costs associated  
21 with the program being offered. Since the technical college system is financed by a tax levy, we support  
22 having technical college boards elected.  
23

24 The technical college system should continue to serve the needs of the farm community. We favor the  
25 development of closer coordination between post high school vocational and academic education programs to  
26 better utilize our educational facilities.  
27

28 We encourage technical colleges to offer a course on operating farm equipment and implements of husbandry  
29 on public roads.  
30

31 **UW System** - We support programs to enhance the capability of our Colleges of Agriculture to respond to the  
32 educational and research needs of farmers, which ultimately benefits all of society. We believe that all credits  
33 should be transferable within our state university system.  
34

35 We urge the continuation of a strong UW Extension agricultural program in Wisconsin. We also urge county  
36 boards to appoint an UW Extension user group advisory board. Members should be appointed by UW  
37 Extension user groups and be voting members of the committee.  
38

39 We encourage the UW System to incorporate literature into its curriculum that reflects a balanced perspective  
40 based on sound science and technology when discussing food production systems.  
41

## 42 ENERGY

43  
44 **General** - We support a state and national energy policy which includes energy conservation, increased  
45 domestic production and marketing of renewable fuels and energy, including but not limited to ethanol, bio-  
46 diesel, crop-based fuels, methane, water, wind and solar.  
47

48 We support the construction of new generation coal-fired power plants in areas of the state experiencing  
49 expanding electrical demands in order to eliminate the need for long distance transmission lines and to ensure  
50 adequate electricity at an affordable price.  
51

52 We support lifting the moratorium on the building of nuclear power plants and the increased use and  
53 development of nuclear energy. We support the rebuilding and maintenance of existing dams for hydroelectric  
54 power and flood control purposes.  
55

1 **Alternative Sources** - We support research and incentives to encourage alternate sources of energy, including  
2 ways of converting farm wastes and other farm products to energy. We support agriculture based renewable  
3 energy. We support additional emphasis and research regarding the use of refuse for energy production in  
4 order to more efficiently use waste materials.  
5

6 To help encourage new industry start-ups in Wisconsin, we support legislation providing direct tax credits to  
7 manufacturing plants here in the state producing ethanol and other alternative fuels. We support funding for  
8 the expansion of bio-based products for energy like ethanol and bio-diesel and other clean energy sources.  
9

10 We support the purchase of green energy by utilities to be at least 10 percent within the State of Wisconsin.  
11

12 We encourage gas stations with multiple fuel pumps to have at least one pump with a percentage of renewable  
13 fuel such as ethanol and bio-diesel. We support requiring all gasoline to contain 10% ethanol. We support  
14 exempting gasoline containing 85% ethanol from the state gas tax with a sunset provision after seven years.  
15 We support legislation to mandate the use of ethanol, E-85, or bio-diesel in all school buses, and all other  
16 taxpayer supported vehicles.  
17

18 We support adopting state standards for the siting of wind turbines. We support requiring wind farms to make  
19 payments to cover municipal services.  
20

21 **Electrical Transmission & Distribution System** - We support the modernization and maintenance of lines,  
22 equipment and facilities for all utilities in order to meet current and future demands and alleviate electrical  
23 quality problems. We support requiring utilities to comply with Wisconsin State Electrical Codes.  
24

25 Further, we support requiring the Public Service Commission to establish a timeline when the earth can no  
26 longer be used as a primary neutral return path. During that time, we support expanded research and  
27 development of alternative distribution systems to replace the current multi-grounded neutral system.  
28

29 We oppose proposed high voltage power lines running through private property when avoidable in all of  
30 Wisconsin. We support having all new lines run along roads and highways when possible.  
31

32 We support requiring the Public Service Commission to increase the rate of return from renewable energy  
33 sources.  
34

35 **Electrical Quality** - We support continued efforts to address stray voltage, electromagnetic fields, electric  
36 fields, ground currents and other electrical quality problems. We urge expanded educational programs for  
37 farmers, veterinarians, electricians, equipment dealers, utility ag representatives and others regarding electrical  
38 quality concerns. We believe all utilities should be held accountable for electrical quality problems caused by  
39 their lines and equipment.  
40

41 We support establishing a state standard for determining stray voltage on a farm provided that the testing  
42 method is done without resistors at cow contact at peak to peak voltage at all frequencies.  
43

44 We oppose stray voltage legislation that results in allowing utilities automatic immunity, stray voltage cases  
45 having a shorter statute of limitations than other civil cases, limiting testing of electrical current or voltage  
46 levels to utilities only and limiting legal remedy by use of Public Service Commission definitions.  
47

48 **Electrical Wiring on Farms** - We encourage livestock farmers to have isolators installed. We also encourage  
49 farmers to update the wiring on their farms to have a four-wire system with a separate neutral and separate  
50 ground return. We support requiring the certified inspection of new on-farm wiring.  
51

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

1  
2 **Telecommunications** - All telecommunication facilities shall also be designed and constructed so that they  
3 comply with Public Service Commission rules.  
4

## 5 **FARM FINANCE**

6  
7 **Beginning Farmers** - We support incentive programs (i.e. loans, tax incentives and grants), through existing  
8 lending institutions and government agencies, that assist in the transfer or start up of a farm. We support  
9 allowing loan guarantees to be extended to individuals providing land contracts similar to what is currently  
10 provided to lending institutions.  
11

12 **Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development Authority** - We support continuation of Wisconsin Housing  
13 and Economic Development Authority loan programs to agriculture and agribusiness.  
14

## 15 **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

16  
17 **Accountability** - In the interest of maintaining accountability in our democratic form of government, we  
18 encourage our representatives in government to keep the laws and regulations of the land brief as possible and  
19 understandable to the common person. We support legislation denying all pensions, benefits, and retirement  
20 funds to any government official that is convicted of a felony crime while in office. We support more  
21 privatization of government services.  
22

23 **Cabinet Government** - We support having the Governor appoint the Secretary of the Department of  
24 Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources.  
25

26 **County Boards** - We support repeal of the law allowing county boards to change their size between each  
27 census.  
28

29 **County Fairs** - We support increasing state funding for county fair premiums. We support having a county  
30 fair coordinator at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.  
31

32 **Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection** - We oppose transferring Department of  
33 Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's consumer protection functions to the Department of Justice. We  
34 support establishing a one-stop shop for all permits needed for farms and agribusinesses.  
35

36 **Department of Natural Resources** - We support requiring at least one Department of Natural Resources  
37 Board seat be occupied by a farmer.  
38

39 We believe that the names of individuals filing a complaint with the Department of Natural Resources against  
40 a landowner should be disclosed to that landowner.  
41

42 We support a local approval process to hold the Department of Natural Resources responsible for their  
43 decisions at the township and county level.  
44

45 **Elections** - We support the election of county constitutional officers at the non-partisan spring elections.  
46

47 We believe that school, county and other local referendums should be offered only on regularly scheduled  
48 election days. Referendums should be written in simple and concise language to not confuse the voter.  
49

50 We support uniform poll hours of 7 am to 8 pm throughout Wisconsin. All voters should be required to have  
51 photo identification.  
52

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

1  
2 We support giving the state Supreme Court the responsibility of redistricting.  
3

4 We support requiring accumulated campaign funds of any state elected official not seeking re-election to be  
5 transferred to the state's general fund.  
6

7 **Fences** - We support the current state fence law. We oppose any general requirement that all streams or lakes  
8 must be fenced. We urge the Department of Natural Resources to comply with the state fence law.  
9

10 **Lawsuits** - We support legislation that protects the food industry from frivolous lawsuits by making  
11 consumers responsible for their eating habits.  
12

13 We oppose the use of tax money by any unit of government for litigation against farmers who have not been  
14 cited by a government agency for violating any laws or regulations.  
15

16 We support limits on the amount of compensation a person can receive for pain and suffering.  
17

18 **Legal Notices** - We support allowing legal notices to be published in non-subscription newspapers.  
19

20 **Mandated Programs** - We believe that the costs of government mandated programs should be picked up by  
21 the unit of government which mandates the program.  
22

23 **Minimum Markup** - We support limiting the minimum markup law to prohibit the selling of products below  
24 cost except in merchandise clearing instances. E-85 blended fuels should not be subject to the minimum  
25 markup law.  
26

27 **Veto Authority** - We support limiting the Governor's line item veto to prohibit the transfer of funds from one  
28 project to another.  
29

30 **Volunteer Fire Departments & EMS** - Due to lack of economic resources in rural fire protection districts, we  
31 oppose efforts that force the disbandment of volunteer fire departments and EMS units and mandate the hiring  
32 of full-time employees.  
33

## 34 **HEALTH & SAFETY**

35

36 **Health Care** - We support continued efforts to develop a comprehensive solution for private, affordable, high  
37 quality, accessible health care and health insurance. We support allowing farmers and their employees to  
38 enroll in the state health insurance program.  
39

40 We support the continuation of the Farmer's Health Cooperative.  
41

42 We support a requirement that all medical providers send an itemized billing to every recipient of medical  
43 services. We urge that insurance companies be prohibited from allowing health insurance groups to mature  
44 without adding new business.  
45

46 We support tax deductible health savings accounts. We support changing BadgerCare and HIRSP eligibility  
47 criteria to exclude depreciation from net taxable income. We support 100% deductibility from income taxes  
48 for long-term health care premiums.  
49

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

## HUNTING & WILDLIFE

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

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

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

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

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

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

We support exempting all active duty military personnel from paying non-resident hunting and fishing license fees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- General – Landowners enrolled in the program should be permitted to charge a fee for recreational use purposes. Tree farmers should be eligible to receive crop damage payments. Farmers and aquaculturists should be able to harvest animals causing crop and livestock damage. We support eliminating the September 15 deadline for wildlife damage permit performance standards.
- Funding – We support increased hunting license fees and/or general purpose revenues when necessary to fund damage claims at 100 percent since state residents as a whole favor a large state wildlife population. Wildlife Damage Program funds should be used only for payment to farmers for crop damage and abatement.

- 1  
2 • Non-game and protected species – We support extension of Wildlife Damage Program coverage to  
3 protected non-game species. Further, we support the removal of seagulls and Sandhill Cranes from the  
4 protected list.  
5  
6 • Payments – Property that receives crop damage payments should be open to the public for hunting of that  
7 particular species, with hunter access controlled by the landowner. Further, we support Wildlife Damage  
8 Program participant farmers receiving a payment of \$50 to \$100 per deer registered with animal damage  
9 tags. Farmers should be able to collect 100 percent of assessed crop damage on rented land where the  
10 landowner will not allow hunting to fulfill abatement program shooting requirements. Farmers should be  
11 compensated for their time and labor needed to participate in the program. Producers should be  
12 reimbursed for crops that are damaged by government personnel to gain access to trapped bear and other  
13 wildlife. We support lowering the deductible and increasing the claims limit for farmers participating in  
14 the Department of Natural Resources’ crop damage program.  
15  
16 • Shooting and Nuisance Permits – We support continuing the shooting permit program to allow the  
17 additional harvest of deer and bear on farms suffering chronic damage. Further we support expanding the  
18 shooting permit program to include Sandhill Cranes. Nuisance permits should be issued for bear when  
19 crop or livestock damage exceeds \$500.  
20

21 **Wildlife Introduction** - We support a requirement that the Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish  
22 and Wildlife Service conduct an agricultural impact statement before any species of wildlife is introduced into  
23 a new area and distribute the results to local landowners. If the species is introduced, Department of Natural  
24 Resources should be required to pay for any crop and livestock damage resulting from such action.  
25

26 We support a financial penalty to any person found introducing a non-typical games species into the wild.  
27 Further, we support the eradication of non-typical game species outside the confines of a licensed game farm.  
28

29 We oppose the introduction of elk to the central forest area. However, if introduced, we support allowing  
30 animals causing damage to be harvested.  
31

32 **Wildlife Population** - We support reducing the deer herd to at least Department of Natural Resources’ goals.  
33 The Department of Natural Resources should not have an “over winter” goal of more than 25 deer per square  
34 mile in any deer management area. Further, we support increasing the yearly goose harvest in proportion to  
35 flock growth to reduce the over winter population.  
36

37 We support requiring Department of Natural Resources to accurately reflect wildlife populations and the  
38 damage being done in Wisconsin. We support appropriate actions to reduce populations.  
39

40 **Wolf Management** - We support keeping the wolf population at or below 350 in Wisconsin. We support  
41 requiring Department of Natural Resources to include farmer participation in wolf management planning.  
42

43 We support full reimbursement to farmers for all direct and indirect damage caused to their farms by wolves.  
44 This includes reimbursement for missing livestock where there is evidence of wolves or a history of  
45 wolf/livestock conflicts on that farm.  
46

47 We support hunting and/or trapping seasons for wolves in areas where wolf/livestock conflicts exist, once the  
48 wolf is delisted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for the Endangered Species list.  
49

## 50 LABOR

51  
52 **Mediation/Arbitration** - We believe contract negotiations with teachers and other local government  
53 employees should be a local responsibility. We urge the repeal of final and binding arbitration.

1  
2 **Minimum Wage** - We oppose increasing the state minimum wage or any other labor requirements beyond  
3 those required federally. We support a two-tiered minimum wage for agriculture workers with adult minimum  
4 wage at \$7.25 per hour and minor minimum wage at 80 percent of the adult minimum wage.  
5

6 **Workers Compensation** - We support maintaining the minimum number of employees under workers  
7 compensation at six and increasing the minimum days required from 21 to 60.  
8

## 9 **LAND USE**

10  
11 **Annexation** - We support state legislation that will allow only the annexation of land owned by the petitioners.  
12 We support greater township control over the annexation of property and urge more boundary agreements  
13 among municipalities.  
14

15 We support requiring a municipality that annexes land from a neighboring township to pay off the township  
16 debt allocated to that land as part of the annexation.  
17

18 **Eminent Domain** - Eminent domain laws should not be used to confiscate private property for private uses or  
19 private gain.  
20

21 Eminent domain proceedings should be used only when there is a preponderance of evidence indicating that  
22 the project is necessary for public service. Under current statutes, in the event of forced farm sales involving  
23 the right of eminent domain, the farmer must take the proceeds in one lump sum incurring higher income and  
24 capital gains taxes. Therefore, we urge that the law be changed at both the state and national levels to allow  
25 payment to be deferred at the option of the seller. Property taken should be priced at current market value plus  
26 relocation costs.  
27

28 We support changing the wording of Wisconsin's eminent domain law from "for the public good" to "for the  
29 public necessity." Further, we support a definition of "public necessity" as "that without which the public  
30 health and safety would be endangered."  
31

32 We support using state eminent domain laws rather than federal condemnation procedures in siting gas  
33 pipelines. We believe that eminent domain projects should be required to utilize public land as much as  
34 possible.  
35

36 We support requiring land owners affected by eminent domain projects to be notified and given the  
37 opportunity to participate in any negotiated agricultural mitigation agreements. Any agricultural mitigation  
38 agreement should contain an enforcement clause with a sufficient non-compliance penalty.  
39

40 **Farmland Preservation Program** - We support local planning and/or zoning as the primary mechanisms to  
41 preserve farmland. We support changing the Farmland Preservation Program to create agricultural enterprise  
42 zones in which all types of production agriculture is allowed. Local units of government and landowners  
43 would receive financial incentives in return for a 15 to 20 year commitment. We believe that any FPP changes  
44 should allow those farmers with agreements to continue to receive credit.  
45

46 The conversion fee for any rezoned land should be split between the town and Department of Agriculture,  
47 Trade, and Consumer Protection.  
48

49 **Local Planning & Zoning** - We are concerned about the loss of productive agricultural lands. Haphazard  
50 growth of the urban community results in high costs of public services, conflicts between urban and rural  
51 landowners, and the destruction of precious resources. We urge farmers to become informed about and  
52 involved in local plan development and zoning ordinances that will help avert these problems and preserve the  
53 agricultural base of the community. We need to educate state agencies on the importance of preserving  
54 productive ag land for the production of food, fiber and fuel.  
55

1 We support the goals of the Smart Growth program provided the planning process continues to be locally  
2 controlled and the state provides adequate funding for the development of these plans in rural areas. We  
3 oppose state and federal regulation of land use.  
4

5 We encourage counties to adopt housing density zoning for cluster development to help save productive  
6 farmland.  
7

8 We encourage municipalities to devise land use plans that minimize the loss of productive agricultural land  
9 and that achieve a balance between local goals and individual landowners financial needs. We recommend  
10 that these ordinances create exclusive agricultural zones in which farming is designated as the priority use and  
11 other users remain in these zones without recourse to abate the practices which are common to farming. We  
12 urge property owners be put on notice if their property is located in an area zoned for agriculture or if farms  
13 are located nearby.  
14

15 We urge the publication of proposed changes in zoning rules and ordinances with a reasonable time to allow  
16 the public to take action to correct any injustices. When government bodies are taking action on individual  
17 zoning changes, special assessments or other matters affecting the value of private property, the owner of the  
18 property and adjoining landowners should be notified in writing prior to meetings or hearings on the actions.  
19

20 We oppose extra-territorial zoning. We also support increasing the population threshold to 50,000 in order for  
21 cities to exercise extra-territorial zoning within a three-mile radius.  
22

23 We support legislation to create charter towns.  
24

25 Zoning and land use plans should apply to government bodies as well as private individuals.  
26

27 We support allowing farmers to sell products, grown on their farm, at a location on their farm without having  
28 to be rezoned. We support legislation allowing farmers to erect and maintain a professionally painted sign on  
29 their property to advertise their farm produce. This would take precedence over town or county ordinances  
30 prohibiting such signage on farmer owned property.  
31

32 We recommend local units of government not be permitted to regulate USDA licensed and inspected kennels.  
33 We recommend that if a farm is zoned agricultural and has a USDA or state-licensed and inspected  
34 kennel/breeding operation that this activity be fully viewed as a part of the agribusiness on the farm. We  
35 recommend that state regulations mirror USDA for the inspection and licensing of kennels.  
36

37 **Property Rights** - We reaffirm our belief in the rights of private property ownership, and in the ability of  
38 landowners to make wise land use decisions. We support legislation requiring any governmental entity to  
39 compensate property owners when its actions reduce property values.  
40

41 We support legislation to facilitate the recovery of financial loss for nuisance lawsuits for time, attorney fees,  
42 and lost income for not being able to develop ethanol plants, wind farms, water plants, generating plants and  
43 livestock facilities.  
44

45 **Public Land** - We support a public policy which would require all public agencies to use lands which are less  
46 valuable for agricultural use for public projects. We believe that land should only be acquired by the  
47 government for truly public purposes, and any government owned lands which are not used for public  
48 purposes should be returned to the former or adjacent property owner. We support requiring state agencies  
49 that buy land to notify all local units of government affected by the land purchase at least 60 days in advance.  
50 State and federal agencies purchasing land should have to justify the price paid when they outbid private  
51 landowners.  
52

53 When the Department of Natural Resources purchases agricultural land, the payment in lieu of property taxes  
54 should be calculated at the purchase price.  
55

1 We oppose allowing non-profit tax-exempt groups to buy property and then sell it to a governmental entity for  
2 a profit in the name of preservation. We support requiring the Department of Natural Resources to sell two  
3 acres of land for every acre it purchases.

4  
5 We support a reduction in the Stewardship Program, prohibiting stewardship purchases of tillable land and  
6 targeting program purchases to non-agricultural land. We recommend that agricultural land currently owned  
7 by the Department of Natural Resources be leased back to farmers at local rates and under local customs. The  
8 Department of Natural Resources should not be allowed to bond for land purchases.

9  
10 We oppose further purchases of land by the Department of Natural Resources through the Stewardship  
11 Program until the Department of Natural Resources has paid for the land that has already been bought.

12  
13 We support prohibiting the Department of Natural Resources from purchasing land under the stewardship  
14 program until a county and its townships have completed a comprehensive plan. Stewardship Program  
15 purchases of land must be consistent with the adopted plan.

16  
17 We support limiting the amount of land owned or controlled by all units of government to no more than 20  
18 percent of the land in a township. Units of government should be held accountable for all services that are  
19 required for the land.

20  
21 **Purchase of Development Rights** - We support efforts to target stewardship funds for the purchase of  
22 development rights of productive agricultural land.

23  
24 We support purchase of development rights programs and transfer of development rights programs that are  
25 consistent with local comprehensive planning and zoning. Local governments need to contribute 50 percent of  
26 the cost. There needs to be acreage minimums. Local decision making is needed.

27  
28 We support using funds from the USDA Farm and Ranch Land Protection program to help fund purchase of  
29 development rights programs.

30  
31 We support requiring purchases by land trusts that receive government funding to be consistent with local  
32 comprehensive planning and zoning.

33  
34 **Right-to-Farm** - We support continued efforts which will protect agricultural operations from nuisance suits  
35 resulting from odor, dust, noise, etc. when the farming enterprise is operated in accordance with current  
36 agricultural practices. We also urge consideration of the role zoning, education, research and other activities  
37 may play in helping to prevent or alleviate these conflicts between differing land uses.

38  
39 We support amending the Right-to Farm Law to prohibit plaintiffs from applying public human health and  
40 safety standards to the environment. Further, we support strengthening the law by increasing the penalty for  
41 filing nuisance lawsuits found to have no merit. The punitive penalty should be equal to 50 percent of the  
42 producer's legal costs to defend himself/herself.

43  
44 We support having public agencies (town, county and state) that file nuisance lawsuits suits be held liable for  
45 defense costs in litigation where the case is found to have no merit.

46  
47 We support legislation to prohibit local units of government from regulating or banning the use or growing of  
48 biotech or genetically engineered crops or products.

49  
50 We support statewide uniform standards, provided they do not put us at a competitive disadvantage with other  
51 states, for farming operations rather than a patchwork of local and county ordinances. We believe that farmers  
52 should be able to operate and expand their farms as they choose as long as they comply with state and federal  
53 environmental regulations.

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

3  
4 **Trespass & Liability** - We support action to recognize and enforce ownership rights to prohibit unwanted  
5 activities on private property, including those of government agencies. We support requiring Department of  
6 Natural Resources wardens to enforce trespass laws.

7  
8 Landowners should not be held liable for those injured when using land, with or without permission. State law  
9 currently provides protection from liability for landowners that allow the recreational use of their land.  
10 However, we urge that the maximum amount of compensation allowed for recreational use under this statute  
11 be substantially increased.

## 12 **LIVESTOCK**

13  
14  
15 **Animal Identification System** - We support the state's livestock premise registration program. However, we  
16 oppose fees on producers to pay for livestock premise registration and support suspending the program if there  
17 is no federal or state funding for the program. We oppose state legislation to mandate individual animal  
18 identification.

19  
20 **Animal Welfare** - We support the right of farmers to raise animals humanely and in accordance with  
21 commonly accepted agricultural practices since no segment of society has more concern for the well-being of  
22 poultry and livestock than the producer. We also support animal-based medical research which benefits both  
23 humans and animals.

24  
25 We support enactment of stricter laws regarding the criminal release of animals used in agricultural production  
26 or for research purposes. Such crimes shall be punishable under organized crime laws.

27  
28 We support legislation prohibiting local units of government from regulating animal care and welfare and  
29 granting this authority to Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

30  
31 **Disease** - We support the continuation of interstate testing for brucellosis of livestock from states that are not  
32 "class-free". We recommend stronger action be taken against those who violate brucellosis laws and  
33 regulations.

34  
35 All animal health regulations, both domestic and wild, should be under the Department of Agriculture, Trade  
36 and Consumer Protection's authority.

37  
38 **Livestock Markets** - We urge that livestock market reports reflect the number of cattle sold at the quoted  
39 prices. Animals sold for slaughter should have to be slaughtered.

40  
41 **Nonambulatory Livestock** - We support two classifications of nonambulatory livestock, 1) those due to an  
42 injury or accident, and, 2) those which are diseased. Nonambulatory livestock "due to an injury or accident"  
43 should be allowed to be slaughtered and processed for personal use.

44  
45 **Veterinarians** - We support an incentive program to encourage large animal study and practice in the state.  
46 We support legislation requiring veterinarians to make portable written prescriptions available to their clients.

## 47 **MARKETING**

48  
49  
50 **Disparagement** - Since false claims about food products can have a devastating impact on the livelihood of  
51 farm families, we support enactment of state disparagement legislation.

52  
53 **Producer Security** - We support a state's indemnity fund law that will enhance a producer's ability to recover  
54 losses due to the financial failure of a handler or processor; however we believe the following changes need to  
55 be made to the program.

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

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

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

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

## NATURAL RESOURCES & THE ENVIRONMENT

**Ag Chemicals** - We oppose a complete ban on the use of any agricultural chemical or drug unless it can be demonstrated positively by prolonged and responsible research that use of a product represents a clear and present danger to health or that its use would seriously jeopardize our environment. Serious consideration should also be given to the technical and economic feasibility of any bans or limitations on the use of agricultural chemicals. We believe that compliance with federally approved label instructions when applying ag chemicals should make farmers immune from liability.

We support the original intent of the Agrichemical Management Fund and when necessary we support utilizing a portion of the fees collected for agriculture research and agriculture education.

We support the Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program with the difference of the program’s annual funds not to be reallocated to another fund and a reduction of fees based on a surplus of previous years.

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

We support a continuation of the state’s Clean Sweep program.

**Climate Change** - We oppose climate change legislation at the state level that would increase costs to production agriculture. This issue needs to be addressed at the national and international levels.

**Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations** - We oppose lowering the 1,000 animal unit threshold requirement for concentrated animal facility operations to get a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. We support requiring Department of Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to use the federal animal unit calculation method in their rules and regulations.

1  
2 **Cost Sharing** - We favor tax incentives and increased cost sharing of pollution abatement practices to  
3 encourage their use and to diminish potentially devastating costs.  
4

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

10  
11 We support allowing drainage districts to maintain ditches in municipalities and on public lands and assess  
12 costs accordingly.  
13

14 We support requiring any entity allowing or causing the deterioration of water drainage systems that adversely  
15 affect other agriculture land to be held liable for the correction of that drainage system.  
16

17 We urge changes that would require municipalities to control storm water runoff to reduce the serious flooding  
18 and financial losses this water can cause downstream. We urge that municipal drainage holding ponds be  
19 fenced and other appropriate precautions be taken to prevent children from being attracted to them.  
20

21 We oppose Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services interference with water  
22 control and construction of dams, including those on cranberry operations. We urge that aquaculture and  
23 cranberries be classified as water dependant by the Department of Natural Resources. We support legislation  
24 defining aquaculture as an agricultural activity.  
25

26 **Environmental Regulations** - State regulations, unless scientifically proven, should not be stricter than  
27 federal regulations. We support the use of consistent standards between all government agencies with respect  
28 to environmental issues. Any regulations should consider practical methods of maintaining environmental  
29 quality consistent with efficient and economical farming operations.  
30

31 Environmental incidents occurring when farmers have complied with accepted guidelines and regulations  
32 should be remedied at public expense.  
33

34 We support having the forfeitures for violating water quality standards being directed to the Discovery Farms  
35 Program.  
36

37 **Forest Cropland** - We support a fee payable to townships to offset the costs of providing fire protection and  
38 other services. We support having the managed forest program only offer contracts to land currently listed by  
39 the USDA Farm Service Agency as forestland. Cropland planted to trees should not be eligible for tax relief  
40 under the Managed Forest Law. We urge greater effort by the Department of Natural Resources to enforce  
41 compliance with the management contracts entered into under the Managed Forest Law. We support  
42 eliminating the cutting permit requirement for timber products.  
43

44 **Groundwater** - There is a need for increased monitoring, research and education relating to groundwater  
45 problems. We believe that the present law regarding the installation of high capacity wells serving  
46 municipalities should be amended to require that there be no adverse impact on the quality and supply of other  
47 local wells.  
48

49 **Invasive Species** - We urge the state to work closely with other states in the Midwest and the Great Lakes  
50 Basin to stop the spread of invasive species into Wisconsin.  
51

52 **Liability** - We believe that the unknowing buyer of property should not be held liable for pollution caused by  
53 prior owners. When materials were legally disposed of in earlier years and are now found to be hazardous the  
54 previous owners should not be held liable.  
55

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

6  
7 **Non-point** - Non-point pollution control efforts should be practical, scientifically-based best management  
8 practices, rather than the lowest cost practices, and have adequate cost sharing in order for farmers to  
9 economically implement any required practices, including compensation for lost opportunity costs.

10  
11 We support conservation credit as part of the non-point program. We oppose any regulation that requires  
12 landowners to give an easement for public access in order to participate. We support allowing temporary  
13 manure stacking when weather conditions prevent spreading on eligible land.

14  
15 Any new nonpoint source pollution regulations should provide 70 percent funding for the cost incurred by  
16 farmers to implement these new regulations. Cost sharing should be provided if feed leachate runoff  
17 containment is required. We also support adequate funding to local units of government to implement the  
18 nonpoint program, provided that local regulations do not exceed state standards.

19  
20 We support allowing regional Department of Natural Resources offices to have short form authority to quickly  
21 permit Land Conservation Department and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service cost-share projects.  
22 We oppose the dumping of raw sewage by municipalities into lakes and waterways. We support requiring  
23 urban and suburban lands to meet similar nonpoint standards as agricultural lands.

24  
25 Snow containing road salt should be disposed of at least 300 feet from streams and 1,000 feet from lakes.

26  
27 **Noxious Weeds** - We support mandatory enforcement of noxious weed laws, on Conservation Reserve  
28 Program lands, and land owned by lending institutions, absentee landowners and the government. We support  
29 the inclusion of multi-flora roses, purple loosestrife, and European buckthorn on the state's noxious weed list.  
30 Further, we support the creation of programs that would pay farmers to eradicate it.

31  
32 **Nutrient Management Plans** - We support allowing farmers to write their own nutrient management plans.  
33 We support an increase in funding to assist producers in writing the nutrient management plan.

34  
35 We support increased phosphate and potash levels for nutrient management planning due to higher yields and  
36 the ability of hybrids to better utilize these nutrients.

37  
38 **Nutrient Management Regulations** - We support reasonable state laws and regulations governing manure  
39 handling and runoff problems. We oppose a ban on the winter spreading of manure. Winter manure  
40 applications should be based on a farmer's nutrient management plan. We support requiring municipal and  
41 industrial sludge applications to be at the nutrient needs of the crop rotation. (i.e. The same as standards for  
42 livestock manure applications.)

43  
44 **Recycling** - We strongly support more recycling. We urge that landowners be allowed to burn non-recyclable  
45 resources on their property.

46  
47 We support stricter enforcement of our current litter laws to reduce the losses incurred by farmers due to  
48 damaged equipment and injury to livestock.

49  
50 **Wetlands** - We recognize the importance of preserving valuable wetlands and are concerned about the loss of  
51 these wetlands. We urge that the stringent regulations applied to farmers regarding wetlands be extended and  
52 enforced on all landowners, developers, municipalities, state and federal agencies on an equal and fair basis.

53  
54 We believe that a consistent set of definitions and guidelines need to be adopted for all wetlands. Further,  
55 wetlands that have been farmed should be allowed to remain in agricultural production.

1  
2 We believe that farmers' rights should be recognized in any wetlands legislation or regulations, including the  
3 right to maintain farm drainage systems and ditches. Any such legislation or regulations should compensate  
4 farmers for restrictions placed on any lands classified as wetlands.  
5

6 We urge that county regulations covering wetlands, flood plains and navigable streams be consistent with state  
7 regulations.  
8

## 9 **TAXATION**

10  
11 **Assessment** - We support use value assessment of agricultural land. We recommend that land dedicated to  
12 conservation practices (i.e. wind breaks, buffer strips, etc.) or programs be assessed as farmland under use  
13 value. We support the 50 percent prorated assessment of undeveloped land and agricultural forestland.  
14

15 **Capital Gains** - We support elimination of the state capital gains tax on the sale of a farm. We support  
16 allowing a taxpayer to defer taxes from the sale of agricultural property and machinery by investing the  
17 proceeds into a retirement account with taxes due at withdrawal.  
18

19 **Death Tax** - We oppose reinstatement of the state death tax.  
20

21 **Depreciation** - We support adopting federal depreciation laws as part of state tax laws.  
22

23 **Fees** - We oppose the indexing of fees.  
24

25 **Fuel Tax** - We support the continuation of the state fuel tax exemption for agricultural purposes. We support  
26 requiring the Legislature to vote on any increase in the state fuel tax  
27

28 **Income Taxes** - We support incorporating federal income tax deductions into Wisconsin income tax laws.  
29

30 **Investment Tax Credit** - We support continuing the dairy and livestock investment tax credit program.  
31

32 **Lapses** - We believe that when a fee or state tax is collected for a specific purpose that fund should not be  
33 transferred or raided for other uses.  
34

35 **Local Fees** - We oppose counties implementing a general tax or fee on farmers or farmland to pay for county  
36 land conservation department programs or other county programs.  
37

38 **Lottery Tax Credits** - We support reinstatement of the Farmland Tax Relief Credit.  
39

40 **Property Taxes** - We support continuation of two-thirds state funding for local school costs. We support the  
41 present system of semi-annual or annual payment of property taxes. We urge that all machinery and  
42 equipment on farms be exempt from taxation.  
43

44 **Sales Tax Exemption** - We support sales tax exemptions on items used directly in farming operations.  
45

46 **Shared Revenues** - We support having shared revenues distributed as equally as possible between towns,  
47 villages and cities.  
48

49 **Special Assessments** - We support extending current sewer and water assessment protection provisions for  
50 farmland located within towns to farmland located within cities and villages. We also support expanding this  
51 protection to include unwanted road improvements.  
52

53 **Spending Caps** - We support legislation or a constitutional amendment limiting the amount of taxes or fees  
54 that can be levied and/or establishing spending caps for all units of government.  
55

1 We support limiting the amount of property taxes that can be levied by all units of government. We support  
2 maintaining the current caps on school spending. We recommend that school-spending limits should not be  
3 decreased if a school does not spend up to its limits in any year. We oppose exceeding levy limits, except by  
4 referendum.  
5

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

10  
11 **Technical College System** - We urge eliminating, or substantially reducing, the property tax levied for the  
12 Wisconsin Technical College System and substituting state collected revenues.

## 13 14 **TRANSPORTATION**

15  
16 **Highways** - We urge that highway user taxes and sales taxes collected on over-the-road vehicles be used only  
17 for highway construction and maintenance purposes. We support an increase in local road funding.  
18

19 We oppose an increase in vehicle registration and driver's license fees.  
20

21 We support adequate funding for rural bridge improvements and urge that more reasonable construction  
22 standards be established for off-system bridges to minimize costs. We support requiring a gravel shoulder at  
23 least 3 feet in width on all new county road construction.  
24

25 We support allowing wider driveways for easier access to farmers' yards from state highways.  
26

27 We urge that greater emphasis be placed on improvement and maintenance of present highways rather than on  
28 new highway construction, using existing right-of-ways wherever possible.  
29

30 We urge the Department of Transportation to treat agricultural land equal to wetlands when obtaining land for  
31 the building of roads. The same degree of effort should be used in preserving agriculture land as is used in  
32 preserving wetlands.  
33

34 **Implements of Husbandry** - We oppose the registration of implements of husbandry or the licensing of their  
35 operators. We encourage the use of turn signals on farm implements.  
36

37 When overwidth farm equipment is traveling on public roads with an escort vehicle, the operator should be  
38 exempt from liability if an accident occurs due to someone else's negligence.  
39

40 We support updating state laws and Department of Transportation regulations to remove conflicting lighting  
41 requirements for agricultural vehicles. We support uniform manufacturing requirements for lighting and  
42 visibility markings on certain agricultural vehicles and implements of husbandry.  
43

44 **Licenses & Registration** - We support legislation which would require proof of statutory non-cancelable  
45 minimum automobile insurance coverage prior to registering a vehicle. The Department of Motor Vehicles  
46 must reduce scheduling problems for driver testing.  
47

48 **Railroads** - We support a viable rail system in Wisconsin for the shipment of agricultural products. We  
49 encourage the trucking and railroad industry to work together to improve the efficiency of product movement.  
50

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

1  
2 We urge that user fees and not public money primarily fund alternative forms of public transportation, such as  
3 light rail.  
4  
5 **Safety** - We support using higher quality reflective paint in highway markings to improve visibility. We  
6 support the installation of a backup warning device system on all commercial milk, cattle, feed and other  
7 trucks making farm pickups or deliveries.  
8  
9 We urge that highway departments regularly maintain highway right-of-ways to reduce weed and brush  
10 problems and improve highway safety.  
11  
12 We support increased education for law enforcement agents, as well as the general public, in regard to slow  
13 moving vehicles and the standard Slow Moving Vehicle signs that are required by law. We support stronger  
14 enforcement of this law.  
15  
16 We support expanding the section, which addresses agricultural issues, to the driver's education training  
17 manual published by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.  
18  
19 We support a requirement that a highly visible flag be displayed on ATVs that are operated on public roads  
20 when the road is being used for an ATV trail route.  
21  
22 We support a requirement that bicyclists be more visible when traveling on public highways.  
23  
24 We support requiring any bicycle rally or event with 15 or more bicycles be forced to get a permit to help pay  
25 for law enforcement.  
26  
27 **Vehicle Length** - All state constructed or funded highways should be open to all trucks meeting state length  
28 and weight limitations.  
29  
30 **Vehicle Regulations** - We oppose allowing non-licensed farm trucks to haul products for sale. We support  
31 excluding farm pickup trucks and trailers from the Department of Transportation's commercial vehicle  
32 regulations.  
33  
34 We support having the Department of Transportation educate its enforcement agents of the rules and  
35 regulations governing farm trucks and that the same information is made available to farm truck owners.  
36  
37 ATVs, or snowmobiles and lightweight utility vehicles that are used exclusively for agricultural purposes  
38 should be exempt from registration and license fees.  
39  
40 We encourage better enforcement of current regulations governing mud flaps and covered loads on  
41 commercial vehicles to reduce incidents of gravel or other debris from these vehicles damaging following  
42 vehicles.  
43  
44 All state owned vehicles should be subject to the same Department of Transportation requirements as privately  
45 owned vehicles.  
46  
47 We support requiring a sign on the back of school buses indicating that they stop at railroad crossings.  
48  
49 **Vehicle Weight** - We support increasing truck weight limits from 80,000 pounds to 90,000 pounds.  
50