

South Dakota Farm Bureau 2008 State Policy

1 **AGRICULTURE CREDIT**

2

3 Lending institutions should put more emphasis
4 on helping young farmers and ranchers get
5 started in agriculture with the aid of
6 guaranteed loans.

7

8 **AGRICULTURE EDUCATION &** 9 **RESEARCH**

10

11 We support the upgrade of the Animal Disease
12 Research and Diagnostic Laboratory
13 (ADRDL) at South Dakota State University to
14 include a Bio-Security Level 3 (BSL 3)
15 Laboratory and encourage the state legislature
16 to fund at least 16 million for its construction.

17

18 Farm Bureau requests a study in South Dakota
19 relating the amount of livestock in a county to
20 the economic activity in the county and the
21 number of students in school systems. This
22 study should involve each organized county in
23 the state.

24

25 We support the processing of raw materials
26 and commodities grown or produced within
27 the state, especially those products that are
28 intended for consumption within the state. We
29 oppose creation of a value-added ag fund
30 generated from a one-cent sales tax.

31

32 We support the use of ink made from soy oil.
33 We support the use of biodegradable
34 packaging materials made from ag products.

35

36 We support adequate funding for vocational
37 agriculture programs and encourage
38 curriculums that project farming and ranching
39 as a business, not just a way of life.

40

41 We support the Cooperative Extension
42 program, 4-H and FFA. Local Farm Bureau
43 boards should coordinate with county

44 extension boards to determine the best local
45 programs.

46

47 The Ag In the Classroom project should be
48 governed by a board of directors elected from
49 the dues paying members of AITC.
50 Supplemental funding for the project should be
51 included in the budget of the South Dakota
52 Department of Agriculture.

53

54 We encourage programs to educate consumers
55 regarding the safety, value and health benefits
56 of biotechnology and irradiated foods.

57

58 **AGRICULTURE PROMOTION**

59

60 South Dakota Farm Bureau supports the
61 concept of the S.D. Certified Beef Program.

62

63 We recognize the nutritional value of meat and
64 promote it as an essential part of everyone's
65 daily diet.

66

67 We urge state institutions to refrain from
68 purchasing imported meat and to give
69 preference to in state produced and processed
70 meat products, if available.

71

72 We recognize the right of producers to
73 promote increased research, sales and
74 consumption of the commodities they produce.
75 State and federal governments should not
76 cease funding research and promotion with the
77 intent of allowing the farmer checkoff-funded
78 programs to cover such costs. We support
79 commodity checkoff programs provided they
80 meet the following criteria:

81 (1) Approval by producer referendum prior to
82 implementation or change of a program;

83 (2) Referendum procedures which protect

84 voting rights and the confidentiality of

85 individual producers, provide uniform voting

86 procedures and encourage maximum

1 participation by producers. The minimum
2 voting age should be 18 years old;
3 (3) Producer control over the program. A
4 referendum shall be held at any time upon
5 petition of 10 percent comprising a
6 representative sample of registered producers;
7 (4) Producer control of the board
8 administering the program;
9 (5) Limitations so that funds are used only for
10 promotion, market development and research.
11 Grower educational programs should be
12 limited to project information and financial
13 statements;
14 (6) For programs that authorize refunds of
15 assessments, the refunds should be distributed
16 in a timely manner;
17 (7) Emphasize value-added benefits to
18 producers and focus on higher net returns for
19 farmers;
20 (8) Provide an annual report and strengthen
21 oversight activities to assure producers that the
22 funds are being used only for their intended
23 purposes of promotion, research and market
24 development and not diverted to help finance
25 state or national organizations whose major
26 purpose is to provide legislative and regulatory
27 services for members;
28 (9) Any commission or body created under an
29 agricultural commodity promotion program
30 should be required to provide complete
31 accountability to its producers of the
32 expenditure of funds collected from them,
33 including funds released to any agricultural
34 organization, public agency or private firm for
35 promotion or research purposes.

37 **AG REGULATIONS - LIVESTOCK**

38
39 We believe the current practice of slaughtering
40 horses in the United States is a humane and
41 effective way of utilizing horses and should
42 remain in effect.

43
44 We favor a permit for alternative technology
45 designs for the management and/or control of
46 feedlot runoff water that does not provide
47 actual storage capacities as set forth in the
48 general permit. Allowances for research
49 permit should be made when the “general

50 permit” is reviewed in 2008, as long as a state
51 university and/or federal agency such as
52 NRCS are parties to that research project. We
53 support third party verification by a university
54 or federal agency for a research permit.
55 Parameters for a “research permit” should be
56 limited by allowances of the Clean Water Act
57 rather than the South Dakota “general permit”.

58
59 South Dakota Farm Bureau supports the
60 review of the South Dakota general permit as
61 scheduled in 2008. The S.D. general permit
62 should again be reviewed when the EPA
63 CAFO rule is finalized while not being
64 restricted by extension time limits.

65
66 We believe livestock production is an
67 important value added ag industry. We
68 recognize the need to expand livestock
69 production in the state and encourage the
70 construction of processing facilities.

71
72 We feel livestock producers should receive
73 equal protection, as guaranteed in the
74 Constitution, in matters of siting and/or
75 expanding their operation.

76
77 Farm Bureau favors allowing the
78 establishment of livestock operations in South
79 Dakota if DENR regulations and local
80 ordinances are followed. Criteria should
81 include: (1) Science based air and water
82 quality standards; (2) Sound conservation
83 practices; and (3) Good stewardship.

84
85 We support and encourage the concept of ag
86 districts within the county zoning ordinances.

87
88 Local zoning laws should stipulate that once
89 livestock feeding operations are established
90 and operating within the law, a property right
91 has been established and that right is
92 transferable without further government
93 action.

94
95 We believe that actions, under ordinances of
96 zoning boards, are administrative and should
97 not be subject to referendum. County
98 ordinances are determined by the people and

1 set to be fair and equitable standards for all.
2 Individual permits under the ordinance should
3 not be subject to a public vote, which would
4 open the door to discrimination and become a
5 popularity contest.

6
7 We favor changing the law to require a simple
8 majority of the zoning board to obtain a
9 conditional use permit.

10
11 Procedures known and designated as
12 castrating, spaying, dehorning, and pregnancy
13 testing of cattle, sheep or horses, and swine,
14 should not be considered the practice of
15 Veterinary medicine within the meaning of
16 state law.

17
18 Farm Bureau favors continuance of the state
19 inspection of meat locker facilities and
20 products.

21
22 Farm Bureau supports the S.D. Family Farm
23 Act and supports amendments that would treat
24 all livestock producers equally.

25
26 NRCS Practice Standard 590, conservation
27 practices, does not allow for the application of
28 manure to frozen and/or snow covered ground.
29 SDFB will become involved in or take the lead
30 in developing a research project at SDSU to
31 develop sound practices and acceptable limits
32 allowing the application of manure to frozen
33 and/or snow covered ground.

34
35 **AG REGULATION**

36
37 We favor continuing the effective permitting,
38 regulating and monitoring of the breeding and
39 raising of elk, deer and other cervids under the
40 S.D. Animal Industry Board and the State
41 Veterinarian.

42
43 Introduction of wild animals or plants for
44 release in the state should continue under the
45 jurisdiction of the S.D. Department of Ag.

46
47 S.D. apiary regulations should be amended to
48 provide that landowners may allow or employ
49 any apiary to site bees on their property.

50 We support a concentrated effort by the public
51 and private sector to isolate and defeat chronic
52 wasting disease in both wildlife and livestock.

53
54 State and local farm organizations should have
55 input in setting up guidelines as to the
56 handling and use of hazardous ag chemicals.

57
58 We oppose any additional taxes and
59 regulations on non-restricted ag chemicals.

60
61 Farm Bureau opposes any additional taxes to
62 pay for clean up of chemical spills.

63
64 No city, municipality or township should be
65 permitted to enact stricter regulations than
66 current state or federal regulations in regard to
67 the use, storage or disposal of ag chemicals.

68
69 We oppose any additional regulations on farm
70 fuel storage tanks and request a review of the
71 present regulations.

72
73 State inspection should be mandatory for
74 protein and moisture testers used by licensed
75 grain handlers.

76
77 We recommend all commercial scales used in
78 the weighing of livestock, grain and feed be
79 equipped and operated only with an electronic
80 or mechanical weight ticket stamp.

81
82 We oppose state operation of OSHA plans
83 under federal guidelines that result in routine
84 enforcement inspections for small farm
85 employers.

86
87 **ANIMAL CARE**

88
89 We support industry established standards for
90 the treatment of animals in agriculture and in
91 medical research. Suspected violations of
92 those standards should be investigated by
93 appropriate legal authorities. Unlawful action
94 taken against livestock owners, research or
95 other facilities should be classified as a felony.

96
97 We are opposed to the use of animal rights
98 curricula in schools. We encourage Farm

1 Bureau members to emphasize the good care
2 farmers and ranchers presently give farm
3 animals.

4
5 We support due process before any private
6 property or any animals can be confiscated or
7 disposed of by the humane society or similar
8 groups.

9
10 **EDUCATION**

11
12 Farm Bureau supports adequate funding for
13 sparsity factor legislation.

14
15 Farm Bureau urges the South Dakota State
16 Legislature and the governor to remove or
17 raise the limits on fund reserves that a school
18 district can maintain.

19
20 The control for our schools should remain with
21 the local elected board of education. Public
22 schools should focus on the teaching of solid
23 academics with less emphasis on the teaching
24 of multiculturalism, spiritualism, self-esteem
25 and group counseling. Values education
26 should be a parental, not state, responsibility.

27
28 We support a strong reading and phonics
29 program along with a testing program at the
30 end of each year as a requirement to advance.

31
32 We support the concept of open enrollment.
33 We also support the option of home schooling.
34 The state aid to education formula should
35 allow for the cost of home school students to
36 participate in extra-curricular activities.

37
38 Students attending nonpublic accredited
39 schools should have access to transportation
40 services or mileage allowances equal to
41 children attending public schools in that
42 district.

43
44 South Dakota should have a required civics
45 education component in middle school and/or
46 junior high school curriculum.

47
48 We encourage more citizenship courses in
49 elementary schools, high schools and colleges.

50 We also encourage the “teaching” of the local
51 tax structure and local budgets.

52
53 We encourage retaining the right to say the
54 Pledge of Allegiance in all schools and at all
55 school functions.

56
57 We support voluntary prayer in schools, and
58 favor allowing public and private schools to
59 post the Ten Commandments.

60
61 We encourage consolidation of school
62 administration, faculty and electronic
63 equipment when feasible.

64
65 We oppose a program of teacher salary
66 enhancement out of state funds. Salary
67 decisions should remain at the local level.

68
69 We support the starting date of school districts
70 staying with local decision of the school
71 boards.

72
73 The present State Aid Formula is under-
74 funded and creating a hardship on many
75 school districts thereby jeopardizing the future
76 of rural communities. We ask the Legislature
77 to develop a formula which creates a quality
78 education system that is equitable to all school
79 districts.

80
81 Membership of the Board of Regents should
82 include at least two members from agriculture
83 related businesses. At least one of these should
84 be involved in production agriculture.

85
86 We urge the Board of Regents to increase
87 academic entrance requirements instead of
88 capping student enrollment.

89
90 We favor tuition reciprocity programs between
91 neighboring states at vocational schools,
92 colleges and universities.

93
94 Farm Bureau encourages student loan
95 programs and strongly recommends
96 enforcement of the repayment of such loans.

97

1 **ELECTIONS**

2
3 Only S.D. registered voters should be eligible
4 to circulate petitions for ballot measures.

5 For statewide ballot measures, we favor
6 changing the number of signatures required to
7 a percent of the state’s registered voters.

8
9 We favor retention of the Electoral College for
10 presidential elections, but electors should be
11 required to vote for the candidates on the
12 ballots to which they were pledged. We
13 oppose proposals to make the popular vote the
14 sole determinant of presidential elections.

15
16 We favor all legislative districts consist of one
17 senator and two representatives.

18
19 We oppose term limits for state legislators.

20
21 We support citizen’s rights of Referendum and
22 Initiated Measures.

23
24 The Public Utilities Commission should be
25 kept an elected body.

26
27 Farm Bureau favors revising election laws to
28 limit the amount of time for campaigns. We
29 also support efforts to require candidates to
30 clean up their litter after elections.

31
32 We support combining elections whenever
33 possible.

34
35 **ENERGY**

36
37 Farm Bureau recognizes the need of farmers
38 and ranchers have for increased energy
39 supplies and supports the construction of the
40 Keystone pipeline project in South Dakota.

41
42 We support building an oil refinery in South
43 Dakota.

44
45 SDFB supports efforts to identify
46 opportunities and address obstacles in the
47 development of renewable energies and uses
48 for by products from potential energy sources.

49

50 We support the rapid expansion of wind
51 energy production in South Dakota.

52
53 We support the use of a renewable energy
54 standard to be applied to the growth in energy
55 consumption.

56
57 We favor continued research into the
58 feasibility of alternative energy production in
59 South Dakota and support research to find
60 better methods to transmit and store electricity
61 produced by wind energy.

62
63 We support a state renewable fuel requirement
64 that all gasoline contain a minimum of 20%
65 ethanol.

66
67 We support the production and use of ethanol
68 fuels. We support the state’s finite producers
69 incentive for ethanol production and urge fuel
70 distributors to pass the two-cent tax incentive
71 on to ethanol users.

72
73 We support production and use of soy diesel
74 and biodegradable fuels.

75
76 **ENVIRONMENT**

77
78 We favor better enforcement of all S.D. litter
79 laws.

80
81 All soft drink and alcoholic beverages sold in
82 South Dakota should be in containers with a
83 deposit paid thereon.

84
85 Farm Bureau supports use of returnable
86 chemical containers.

87
88 Farm Bureau opposes holding farmers legally
89 and financially responsible for trace amounts
90 of ag chemicals found in a water source
91 providing manufacturer’s directions and
92 instructions have been followed.

93
94 Farm Bureau opposes holding present owners
95 accountable for past violations of water
96 protection and environmental laws by former
97 owners of that land.

98

1 Farm Bureau favors governmental entities and
2 agriculture being treated with the same criteria
3 for non-point water protection.

4
5 Farm Bureau believes the Department of
6 Environment and Natural Resources must
7 show proof that contamination is occurring
8 before adverse actions can be taken against
9 farmers.

10
11 **FAMILY**

12
13 South Dakota Farm Bureau supports the legal
14 definition of marriage as a union of one male
15 and one female.

16
17 We believe neither the United States nor any
18 state should deprive any human being of life or
19 equal protection of the law on account of
20 illness, age, or incapacity. We also believe life
21 begins at the moment of conception. Congress
22 and the State Legislature should establish these
23 principals with appropriate legislation.

24
25 **GAME, FISH & PARKS**

26
27 We favor state funding to compensate
28 landowners who suffer lost income due to
29 prairie dog migration and infestation from
30 public land to private land.

31
32 South Dakota Farm Bureau supports a prairie
33 dog management plan if it contains the
34 following criteria: 1) all counties in the
35 historic prairie dog range may not have a
36 disproportionate share of the total prairie dog
37 acreage; 2) each designated town shall have a
38 physically defined area with a mile buffer zone
39 and recorded with the county weed and pest
40 board; 3) designated prairie dog towns shall
41 be managed in a manner to maintain adequate
42 vegetative cover to protect the water shed from
43 erosion and provide adequate forage for the
44 dogs in the town; 4) responsibility of
45 maintaining the towns and dealing with
46 infestations with neighboring property shall be
47 the responsibility of the offending landowner
48 or the State of South Dakota; this
49 responsibility shall include all costs of

50 eliminating the depredation of the prairie dogs
51 and shall be accomplished in a time frame to
52 keep the damages caused by the depredation to
53 a minimum; 5) prairie dogs on private
54 property, next to public lands infested with
55 prairie dogs, will be controlled at state
56 expense. 6) the 168,000 acres shall include all
57 of the lands within the boundaries of the State
58 of South Dakota. 7) total acres of prairie dogs
59 will be counted every three years at state
60 expense. 8) compensation to landowners for
61 damages, from a permanent fund set up by the
62 state. 9) be based on valid, scientific data.

63
64 We favor returning the prairie dog to the S.D.
65 pest list and ask state and federal agencies to
66 immediately stop all activities and efforts to
67 list the prairie dog as endangered.

68
69 Farm Bureau supports the same season for
70 resident and non-resident pheasant hunters.

71
72 We will work with groups and individuals to
73 cause the legislature to review current laws
74 and court decisions in regard to officer access
75 to private lands and the “open fields doctrine”.
76 The South Dakota Farm Bureau supports the
77 SD residents for Game, Fish & Parks reform
78 including but not limited to efforts to:

- 79
80 1) support legislation to provide for
81 legislative review and approval of
82 the SD Game, Fish & Parks budget,
83 2) reform aerial hunting regulations in
84 order to make them more landowner
85 and agriculture-friendly,
86 3) clarify the authority of conservation
87 officers,
88 4) halt land acquisition by the Game,
89 Fish & Parks and encourage more
90 walk-in hunting funding and
91 designations,
92 5) encourage the SD Game, Fish &
93 Parks to act more landowner-
94 friendly by:
95 A) consulting with landowners
96 regarding game problems,
97 B) consulting with landowners
98 regarding hunting access,

1 C) providing transferable
2 licenses, coupons for
3 landowners, etc.

4 D) adequately funding
5 depredation programs.
6

7 The Secretary of the GF&P should be
8 appointed by the Commission and be directly
9 responsible to that board.
10

11 The landowner positions on the GF&P
12 Commission should be required to earn at least
13 60% of their income from their agricultural
14 production.
15

16 Game, Fish & Parks should establish hunting
17 seasons that reflect the number of wildlife and
18 the depredation problems that wildlife cause.
19 We support increasing the number of non-
20 resident waterfowl license sales.
21

22 We oppose additional acquisition of land by
23 GF&P except for small narrow tracts that
24 provide access to any existing GF&P property.
25 Before any property is acquired by GF&P,
26 public hearings should be held in the vicinity
27 of the proposed acquisition. Public oral or
28 written testimony should be seriously
29 considered in any decision. At least two GF&P
30 Commissioners should be in attendance.
31 Leasing of land for wildlife production and
32 hunting, as well as refuges, is preferred over
33 government ownership. GF&P funds which
34 are scheduled for land acquisition should be
35 used for animal damage control.
36

37 GF&P shall compensate farmers and ranchers
38 for game depredation. We also support the
39 issuing of transferable depredation tags to
40 producers based on damage.
41

42 Current Game, Fish & Parks policy allows 48
43 hours for action on a depredation complaint.
44 We favor shortening the time period to 8
45 hours.
46

47 If hunting license fees are increased, we
48 support a lesser percentage increase for

49 residents than non-residents. Predator license
50 fees should remain unchanged.
51

52 We support more effective predator control
53 measures. Government agencies shall control
54 predators. GF&P should return a percentage of
55 its income to counties for predator control.
56

57 We recommend extreme caution in the state
58 becoming involved in a comprehensive
59 wildlife management plan that includes federal
60 mandates, diminishes property rights or
61 impacts local economies.
62

63 We support coyote hunting by snowmobile
64 and aircraft to reduce livestock losses.
65

66 As long as a person is carrying a legal hunting
67 license, he should be allowed to shoot wildlife
68 for another member of the hunting party with a
69 valid hunting license.
70

71 We support the right of S.D. resident
72 landowners/operators to transfer big game
73 licenses to other hunters.
74

75 We oppose road hunting.
76

77 We oppose extending the pheasant hunting
78 season beyond December 1.
79

80 Game, Fish & Parks and School and Public
81 Lands must control noxious weeds and pests
82 on their property. Weed control requirements
83 should equal those required of private
84 landowners.
85

86 To aid in disease control and prevent water
87 contamination, Game, Fish & Parks shall
88 properly dispose of big game from roadways
89 and ditches.
90

91 We favor immediate steps to reduce the
92 mountain lion population to the extent that
93 they will not continue to be crowded into areas
94 of human habitation.
95

1 We favor no hunting without permission
2 within 660' of any house, farmstead, or
3 livestock.

4 5 **GOVERNMENT**

6
7 Since many incorporated cities have extra-
8 territorial jurisdiction beyond their boundaries
9 in such matters as zoning and law
10 enforcement, residents living in those extra-
11 territorial areas should be allowed to vote in
12 city elections so that they have representation.

13
14 Farm Bureau supports township and other
15 local levels of government.

16
17 Any consideration of local government
18 consolidation must be decided by a vote of the
19 people of each government entity involved.

20
21 We support policies and procedures to allow
22 local, community and private fire fighting
23 units the authority to extinguish forest and
24 prairie fires in instances when they are the first
25 responder.

26 27 **GUN OWNERS RIGHTS**

28
29 We oppose any legislation to require
30 registration or licenses for firearms.

31
32 We support reciprocity between states
33 involving firearms permits.

34 35 **HEALTH CARE**

36
37 South Dakota Farm Bureau opposes legalizing
38 marijuana for medical purposes.

39
40 South Dakota Farm Bureau is opposed to any
41 health care benefits discrimination against
42 individuals participating in work or leisure
43 activities involving ATV's, snowmobiles,
44 motorcycles and horseback riding.

45
46 We favor a blood test be mandatory for a
47 marriage license.

48

49 We continue to support a risk pool or some
50 similar concept by South Dakota to provide
51 health insurance for the uninsurable.

52
53 Any health care legislation should encourage
54 accountability and cost savings by the
55 consumer. People should be able to choose
56 their own health protection by purchasing a
57 high deductible insurance policy of their
58 choice. Coupling this with medical savings
59 accounts (MSA's) and 100% tax deductibility
60 of health insurance premiums would be true
61 reform in paying for health care.

62
63 We oppose federal government subsidy and
64 involvement in health care, and we recognize
65 that any government financed health program
66 is in fact, socialized medicine. We favor
67 expanding existing state programs for in-home
68 care for the elderly and disabled to assist these
69 people to remain in their homes and out of
70 nursing homes.

71 72 **HIGHWAY REGULATIONS**

73
74 S.D. Farm Bureau opposes S.D. Department of
75 Transportation inspections on non-commercial
76 pickups, trucks and trailers under 26,000 lb
77 GVW even if their combined GVW weights
78 are over 26,000 lbs.

79
80 The regulation of S.D. DOT which specifies a
81 date for mowing state highway rights-of-way
82 should be eliminated (safety, weed control,
83 hay quality).

84
85 We support the opportunity for haying the
86 median on interstate highways.

87
88 We oppose authority for S.D. DOT to enforce
89 fines for exceeding load limits by checking
90 elevator weight tickets.

91
92 We favor retaining the right to obtain a
93 restricted drivers permit at age 14, with
94 passage of the driving test.

95
96 The license plate number and one other
97 descriptive item should be the only

1 information required for prosecution for the
2 violation of passing a school bus with a
3 flashing red light.

4
5 Traffic laws for bicycle riders should be
6 enforced the same as for cars.

7
8 We encourage implementation of the living
9 snow fence program to work in conjunction
10 with the continuous CRP program. The state
11 and local governments should work together
12 on this to make it beneficial to the farmer as
13 well as to the local governments.

14 15 **INSURANCE**

16
17 Proof of liability insurance should be required
18 to be presented when purchasing vehicle
19 licenses. We support increased fines for failure
20 to carry proper liability insurance.

21
22 We favor raising minimum automobile
23 liability coverage to 50/100/50.

24
25 An insurance company should be required to
26 notify the insured party of any liability claim
27 paid on their behalf.

28
29 A person who lends a vehicle or machine to
30 another individual without compensation
31 should not be held liable for damages caused
32 by the vehicle or machine due to the
33 negligence of the borrower.

34
35 The workers compensation law should be
36 changed to simplify the admissions process
37 and allow up to 72 hours for authorization in
38 cases of emergency.

39 40 **JUDICIAL/LAW ENFORCEMENT**

41
42 There should be limitations on lawsuits, both
43 on what may constitute a lawsuit and on
44 monetary awards that can be sought. Plaintiffs
45 and their attorneys should be liable for the
46 defendant's legal fees if a jury finds a lawsuit
47 without grounds or if the prosecuting lawyer
48 handles the case on a contingency fee basis.

49

50 Medical malpractice should be limited to
51 \$250,000 for non-economic awards. Lawyer
52 contingency fees should also be limited.

53
54 In order for a civil court suit to be settled out
55 of court, it must be done before a jury is
56 called. Once the jury is called and an expense
57 to the county is created, the decision should be
58 in the hands of the court. Should an out of
59 court settlement be made after a jury is called
60 and before that jury has reached a verdict, the
61 plaintiff would pay for the cost of the court.

62
63 We support strict enforcement of criminal
64 laws, especially DUI and controlled substance
65 laws. Certain violent crimes warrant the death
66 penalty. Juveniles should be responsible for
67 their actions when laws are broken and/or
68 property is destroyed. We support
69 rehabilitation centers like the Custer Boot
70 Camp.

71
72 Those individuals who distribute
73 misinformation concerning detrimental effects
74 of agricultural products should be held
75 responsible for their actions.

76
77 The Right to Privacy Law should be rescinded
78 for prison inmates. Victims and their families
79 should be notified before parole or release of
80 the criminal from a correctional facility.

81
82 Innocent victims should be protected by
83 authorities requiring adequate bond payments
84 and suspects being held the proper length of
85 time before being released on bail.

86
87 Alternatives to conventional prisons are
88 appropriate for certain non-violent crimes.
89 These could include electronic monitoring,
90 heavier fines, and longer loss of privileges.

91
92 A portion of the tax derived from liquor sales
93 should be paid to counties for public defense
94 expenses in DUI cases.

95
96 We support enforcement of age requirements
97 for admission to theaters and renting of videos
98 based on the movie rating system.

1 The sale and distribution of hard core
2 pornography should be prohibited.

3
4 Farm Bureau favors inmates doing
5 constructive work in the community such as
6 fixing roads, building prisons, and other
7 feasible jobs.

8
9 **LABOR**

10
11 We favor retaining the Right to Work section
12 of the State Constitution.

13
14 We oppose mandatory workman's
15 compensation for farm employees.

16
17 Farm Bureau opposes teacher continuing
18 contract clauses.

19
20 **LAND OWNERSHIP**

21
22 We support action to return to the State of
23 South Dakota all federal land within the state's
24 boundaries, except as specified in Article I,
25 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. We call
26 upon the S.D. Legislature to fulfill these
27 constitutional duties.

28
29 Any proposed sale or transfer of land to an
30 entity of state or federal government must be
31 given public notice for three consecutive
32 weeks with a three month waiting period
33 before condemnation, sale, or transfer occurs.
34 The person renting the land must be notified in
35 writing at least two months before a deal is
36 closed.

37
38 If the state government acquires additional
39 property from the private sector, they should
40 be required to release like amount into the
41 private sector, either by sale or termination of
42 easements. We also oppose the purchase of
43 private land by state or federal agencies with
44 the intent of bartering with ranchers who lease
45 government owned grazing lands. Any land
46 acquisition by state or federal government
47 must be approved by the S.D. Legislature.

48

49 No trades should occur involving state lands
50 that would place such state lands into Federal
51 Government ownership or control.

52
53 **LAND USE**

54
55 Farm Bureau encourages counties to form
56 Public Land Use Resource Committees to
57 maximize local input into policy making and
58 lawmaking involving state and federal land in
59 their county.

60
61 Farm Bureau supports continued research at
62 SDSU in the monitoring of overland and
63 subsurface flows for water quality and
64 sediment reduction. SDFB will take the lead in
65 getting SDSU and DENR together to share
66 information and develop a realistic definition
67 of minor drainage that protects the
68 environment and minimizes the economic
69 burden on production agriculture.

70
71 We support efforts to reduce excess water
72 levels so farms can once again operate and the
73 annual cost of road repairs can be reduced.

74
75 There should be no public access on flooded
76 private land without landowner or operator
77 permission.

78
79 Farm Bureau favors a system under which
80 environmental regulatory authority would lie
81 with the state, while control of ag zoning
82 would stay with the counties. We oppose ag
83 zoning ordinance authority for townships,
84 except for townships within 4 miles of a
85 municipality of 50,000 population.

86
87 We believe land use is the right and
88 responsibility of the individual landowner.
89 Whenever land use decisions are made, we
90 believe the rights of individual property
91 owners should be given the highest
92 consideration.

93
94 We oppose the state imposing any wetland
95 regulations more stringent than federal
96 wetland regulations.

97

1 Farm Bureau favors the right to buy back
2 conservation easements at change of
3 ownership or a renegotiation of the easement
4 every 30 years.

5
6 Farm Bureau opposes the creation of
7 mandatory buffer zones along waterways in
8 the state.

9
10 We support the concept of trading pollution
11 credits between farmers in an effort to limit
12 overall non-point source pollution in a given
13 watershed.

14
15 We believe eminent domain should be kept
16 preciously in the hands of elected officials and
17 not sold or assigned to private profit
18 corporations.

19
20 **LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION &**
21 **THEFT PROTECTION**

22
23 We support NAIS sign-up remaining voluntary
24 on the state level.

25
26 The Farm Bureau encourages the brand
27 inspection program become statewide and
28 administered by the SD Brand Board.

29
30 We oppose any effort to legalize freeze brands
31 for ownership identification.

32
33 **MINERAL RIGHTS**

34
35 We believe when mineral rights are separated
36 from the surface landowners, these mineral
37 rights should be taxed. The tax should be
38 subtracted from the landowner's property tax.
39 If the mineral taxes are not paid for three
40 years, the mineral rights would be offered to
41 the landowner for payment of back taxes,
42 thereby clearing title to the mineral rights.

43
44 **NATURAL RESOURCES**

45
46 Farm Bureau supports the changes in wetland
47 mapping conventions and minimal effects that
48 make S.D. more consistent with the original
49 intent of swampbuster and neighboring states.

50 We favor the development of a state
51 management plan for the Topeka Shiner that
52 contains sound conservation practices and
53 protects the rights of property owners as a
54 method for eventual delisting.

55
56 We favor delisting the Topeka Shiner from the
57 ESA list.

58
59 We oppose the "no net loss" policy for
60 wetlands.

61
62 Farm Bureau opposes any expansion of
63 present wilderness areas or the establishment
64 of any new wilderness areas in the State of
65 South Dakota. Farm Bureau supports
66 legislation to prohibit the introduction of any
67 endangered species into South Dakota.

68
69 **PROPERTY RIGHTS**

70
71 Farm Bureau opposes the
72 condemnation/eminent domain of land for any
73 purpose other than highways and such public
74 utilities that benefit the majority of the public
75 and should not be abused for public
76 recreational facilities or private economic
77 development.

78
79 Farm Bureau supports the passage of private
80 property rights legislation which directs the
81 Attorney General to do an assessment of the
82 impacts of rules, regulations and/or laws and
83 provide compensation for "takings".

84
85 **RAILROADS**

86
87 We support railroad upgrade projects. A
88 commitment of service to agriculture must be
89 made. Railroads must put forth their best
90 efforts to address local concerns such as
91 safety, noise, and adjoining landowner issues.

92
93 Farm Bureau urges S.D. law be changed to
94 limit time to 10 minutes for a train blocked
95 crossing, except for emergency vehicles,
96 which must have access as soon as possible.
97 Other states have a 10-minute limit.

98

1 Farm Bureau supports the reverting of
2 abandoned railroad beds and rights-of-way
3 back to adjacent landowners.

4
5 When abandoned railroad beds go to public
6 use, the adjacent landowners should be exempt
7 from all liability incurred by the public use of
8 former railroad property.

9
10 The State of South Dakota should not enter
11 into any perpetual easements concerning the
12 abandoned railroad rights-of-way.

13
14 **RELIGIOUS LIFE**

15
16 We oppose actions preventing free distribution
17 of copies of the Bible. We believe it to be
18 man's inalienable right to worship God, to
19 offer prayers and to read the Bible as God's
20 Word in private and public places, including
21 classrooms. The necessary steps to reestablish
22 the right to offer voluntary prayers in public
23 schools should be supported at both state and
24 national levels. This will perpetuate the
25 principles on which this nation was founded.

26
27 **STATE GOVERNMENT**

28
29 We ask the S.D. Legislature to eliminate the
30 inaccurate percentage relationship between
31 claimed and unclaimed gas tax refunds from
32 the statute and use the updated formula for
33 conservation funding.

34
35 Farm Bureau supports an across the board
36 spending freeze on state government, with
37 adjustments for inflation.

38
39 Farm Bureau favors the philosophy of
40 privatization in county and state government.
41 Privatization of certain government functions
42 will reduce spending, lower the number of
43 employees, be more effective and save tax
44 dollars.

45
46 We oppose any type of state ownership or
47 operation of ag processing plants.

48

49 State government must provide funding for
50 any state-mandated changes that local
51 government must put into place before the cost
52 of such change can be properly budgeted.

53
54 All state agencies should reevaluate all travel
55 and vehicle requirements and enforce existing
56 policies regarding personal use of state owned
57 vehicles.

58
59 All surplus monies above the reserve
60 designated by the legislature should be
61 returned to the county governments using the
62 current distribution formula for property tax
63 relief. This should be done automatically and
64 no special session would be needed.

65
66 Farm Bureau favors a requirement that all
67 boards at the state and federal level which
68 regulate agricultural policy contain at least 51
69 percent membership that is involved in
70 agriculture production or the agricultural
71 industry.

72
73 We recommend existing laws governing
74 special taxation districts be changed to allow a
75 one-fourth or larger part of a district to petition
76 out, if a number equal to 10% of the people
77 who voted in the last governor's race sign the
78 petition. The county commissioners would set
79 up the election instead of the special taxation
80 district which would stop any discrimination in
81 a small area. A simple majority of voters from
82 that portion wishing to petition out would free
83 that portion of the district.

84
85 Farm Bureau favors state legislation to
86 regulate loan rate charges that are made by
87 lending institutions not regulated as banks,
88 credit unions or farm related lending
89 institutions.

90
91 The State Fair management is making an effort
92 to revitalize the S.D. State Fair. We ask the
93 state government to provide funding and other
94 support for the benefit of the S.D. State Fair.

95

1 We recommend the South Dakota State Fair
2 begin on the Thursday before Labor Day and
3 end on Labor Day.

4
5 In view of the fact that 4-H youth spend much
6 time observing at the fairgrounds, all state
7 sanctioned gambling should be banned on the
8 state fairgrounds.

9
10 Gambling should be allowed only on the
11 original reservation treaty lands and not on
12 Indian Trust Land.

13
14 Farm Bureau supports the repeal of video
15 lottery. Until accomplished, we also support a
16 moratorium on any increase in new games and
17 number of machines in casino gaming pending
18 a study of the social impact it has on the state,
19 i.e., law enforcement, rehabilitation, etc. Farm
20 Bureau favors an increase of at least an
21 additional 5% of the video lottery revenues for
22 the state and supports an additional 10% of the
23 gross revenue from video casinos be returned
24 to the state. The state portion should not be
25 used for promotion of gambling. SDFB
26 supports using a portion of the tax on alcoholic
27 beverages and revenues from gambling to
28 increase funding to finance the rehabilitation
29 of alcoholics and addicted gamblers, and
30 address other problems directly attributed to
31 alcohol and gambling.

32
33 Farm Bureau favors standards that would
34 allow volunteer ambulance services to operate
35 in communities of fewer than 3,500.

36
37 Bonding requirements for both auctioneers and
38 clerks should be adequate to protect the seller.

39
40 A single tax rate for auction sales would
41 eliminate confusion in the clerking process.

42
43 Farm Bureau supports state government's
44 design and construction efforts to increase the
45 maintenance free lifespan of South Dakota
46 highways.

47
48 **TAXATION-FUEL**

49

50 We favor continuing the per gallon tax on
51 gasoline rather than other forms of taxation to
52 finance state highway maintenance and
53 construction.

54
55 Fuel taxes should be collected at all retail
56 outlets on all fuel sold for road and highway
57 use.

58

59 **TAXATION-GENERAL**

60

61 Farm Bureau's goal is reduced spending by
62 state and local governments. We support a
63 concept of tax limitation. We would support an
64 increase in the state sales tax rate to offset a
65 corresponding reduction in real property taxes.
66 We oppose a personal property tax. We
67 support repeal of the contractors excise tax.

68

69 Farm Bureau supports a five-cent per drink
70 alcoholic beverage tax to be assessed and
71 collected at the wholesale level and distributed
72 on a county population basis to assist with
73 those costs of law enforcement and
74 incarceration.

75

76 All tobacco products should be taxed at the
77 same rate.

78

79 All telecommunications companies doing
80 business in South Dakota should be taxed.

81

82 **TAXATION-REAL PROPERTY**

83

84 Actions that would remove land from the tax
85 roll, must receive a majority approval of the
86 county commission. Notification must also be
87 given to the township chairman in any affected
88 township. Land to be purchased, sold or
89 transferred should be publicly advertised and a
90 bid process enacted.

91

92 Farm Bureau supports the interpretation of real
93 property as land and permanent structures
94 only.

95

96 The assessed valuation of ag land should
97 reflect the land's ability to produce under

1 natural conditions and should be adjusted on a
2 regular basis.

3
4 SDFB supports legislation that will allow
5 counties to equalize tax assessments and use
6 any measure of productivity in addition to the
7 soil survey to calculate assessments. The
8 practice of “neighborhooding” of cash rents in
9 specific geographic areas within a county
10 should be substantially weighted and at least
11 equal in influence with the soil survey.

12
13 The formula for arriving at taxable value for
14 land should be written in layman’s terms. This
15 formula should be sent to landowners along
16 with tax notices.

17
18 Farm Bureau opposes any attempt to raise the
19 tax rate per \$1000 of value on ag land to equal
20 that on non-ag land for school purposes.

21
22 The \$10,000 homestead exemption should be
23 increased to \$50,000 for ag structures.

24
25 Public lands should be taxed as if that land
26 was owned privately. The U.S. Government
27 should pay the tax with no fee increase to the
28 public land user.

29
30 Church property that generates income should
31 not receive preferential tax treatment.

32
33 Property owners who have been wrongfully
34 assessed taxes should receive compensation
35 from their county. This compensation should
36 include expenses incurred up through the
37 appeal process.

38
39 Township boards should be given more time to
40 have the tax assessments records in order to
41 make their recommendations on valuations to
42 the county assessor.

43
44 We urge a return to the law that assessors be
45 reappointed every five years.

46
47 **TAXATION-SALES**

48

49 We support collecting sales tax on internet,
50 catalog sales, clothing and food.

51
52 Farm Bureau supports legislation that would
53 tax advertising.

54
55 We oppose sales tax on feed, seed, fertilizer,
56 and ag chemicals. Sales tax should be removed
57 from veterinary supplies. City sales tax should
58 not be charged on machinery, repairs, building
59 materials and veterinary supplies used by
60 farmers. We oppose a county sales tax. We
61 oppose cities or school districts having extra
62 sales tax for the support of schools. Cities
63 should not be allowed to put sales tax receipts
64 in their general fund for property tax relief.

65
66 **TAXATION-SEVERANCE**

67
68 We are opposed to any tax on water usage,
69 including irrigation. If a water usage tax is
70 necessary, it should be applied to all water
71 users, including domestic, city, industrial and
72 agriculture.

73
74 **TRESPASS LAWS**

75
76 We support broadening the present trespass
77 law under which all land is off limits unless
78 permission is granted by the landowner or
79 operator, to include private land in the Black
80 Hills fire protection district. We favor
81 increased fines for violators.

82
83 The trespass and use policy for school and
84 public lands should release the lessee of all
85 liability.

86
87 **WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

88
89 We favor revising the S.D. Vested Drainage
90 Rights law to include new drainage and
91 previously undiscovered drainage systems.

92
93 We are concerned about the possible
94 ramifications of total maximum daily load
95 regulations and favor a credible data law.

96

1 Farm Bureau is opposed to legislation creating
2 drainage districts within water development
3 districts. County government should have
4 authority in their county.

5
6 We support state and federal legislation that
7 will positively affect domestic water
8 development in our state. We should work
9 closely with and lend our support to the South
10 Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems to
11 effectively promote and secure water for all
12 South Dakota communities with a need for a
13 dependable source of water.

14
15 People who benefit from water projects should
16 pay for those projects. Funding of water
17 projects should be determined in accordance
18 with the direct benefit. We oppose any new
19 taxes for water development.

20
21 We urge proper procedures be undertaken to
22 ensure Missouri River Basin water rights for
23 the people of South Dakota. The state
24 legislature should continue efforts to upgrade
25 the existing water management plan and
26 municipalities and communities should work
27 with the legislature toward this end.

28
29 Farm Bureau supports legislation to the effect
30 that no entity can stop a live and flowing
31 stream.

32
33 We feel the state should enact its own 401 and
34 404 drainage permit in the Clean Water Act.

35
36 Farm Bureau supports legislation that the
37 transfer of water rights for a different use or a
38 change of use be reviewed as a new
39 application and given a new priority date.

40
41 **WEED & PEST CONTROL**

42
43 Farm Bureau supports strict enforcement of
44 weed control laws with a goal of eradicating
45 primary noxious weeds, e.g. musk thistle,
46 Canada thistle and leafy spurge. S.D. Dept. of
47 Ag budgets should allow utilizing area
48 supervisors to assist counties in the
49 enforcement of the state Weed and Pest Law.

50 County weed supervisors need to be more
51 aggressive in enforcement and in reporting
52 weed infested CRP acres to the FSA. We
53 encourage streamlining the process for
54 noxious weed control so the time period from
55 complaint to action can be shortened. Weed
56 control requirements on local, state and federal
57 government lands should equal those required
58 of private landowners.

59
60 We support placing the mountain pine beetle
61 on the South Dakota pest list.

62
63 We favor action by the state to adopt state
64 emergency powers on federal lands in
65 instances where the federal government fails to
66 act in the best interest of South Dakotans
67 relating to fire prevention or pest and disease
68 prevention.

69
70 **WELFARE**

71
72 There should be little or no welfare allowed
73 for a person who is not willing but capable to
74 assume a job.

75
76 We are opposed to persons on strike being
77 eligible to receive food stamps or state
78 unemployment benefits.

79
80 Farm Bureau urges strict enforcement of the
81 law to prevent the use of food stamps to
82 purchase nonessential food items and to obtain
83 cash over one dollar.

84
85
86
87
88