

2008

Florida Farm Bureau

RESOLUTIONS WORKBOOK



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AG CHEMICALS

1. Fertilizer Regulation

We support efforts to ensure delivery of bulk fertilizer loads, with a financial penalty for deficient fertilizer. We continue to support unrestricted field sampling of fertilizer at no increased cost to the farmer. We oppose any efforts to allow the sale of unregulated fertilizer.

We oppose additional taxes being placed on fertilizer unless the state assumes the responsibility for mitigation. We support maintaining the Fertilizer Technical Council's current structure.

We should work with other agricultural organizations to resolve agricultural problems with liabilities related to soil and water contamination resulting from the use of chemicals and fertilizers. (PEANUT/COTTON)

2. Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)

We believe in a pesticide regulatory standard that is protective of human health and the environment. Responsible pest management, which includes the judicious use of pest control materials, provides significant societal health benefits. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should implement FQPA openly and scientifically using reliable information. EPA has the obligation to acknowledge that pesticides registered under FQPA are recognized as safe.

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation should use every means possible to force modification or improvement of the FQPA so as to use sound science and economically viable methods of enforcement and implementation so as not to create undue hardship on Florida growers.

We should actively seek the reinstatement of crop protection products that have had uses taken off the label. (OVERSIGHT)

3. Methyl Bromide

We support the continued use of methyl bromide and other agricultural chemicals that currently have no viable alternatives. We further encourage research funded through state and federal agencies, as well as private associations, to find viable alternatives for Methyl Bromide.

To be competitive, U.S. farmers must be allowed at least the same amount of time to use Methyl Bromide as agribusinesses are provided in developing countries. (VEG)

4. Pesticide Management

We support mandatory record keeping of all pesticides used in Florida provided that individual producer's records are treated as confidential business records.

All other state agencies must have sufficient cause to require the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to show producer records. Producers shall be notified by FDACS when other agencies request such records.

We encourage pesticide users to voluntarily implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. (OVERSIGHT)

5. Registration for Minor Crops

We urge the appropriate state and federal agencies to address the cost of label registration for chemicals to be used on minor crops. We also request economical methods of label clearance for minor crop chemicals that include procedures to speed clearance of chemicals (i.e., pest control/abscission growth hormones on minor use crops that are already cleared for other crops). (CITRUS) (HORT)

6. Research & Development of New Pesticides

We support actions which ensure continued research and development of new pesticides. We urge that the banning or limiting of already approved chemicals be based only on scientific research data. (PEANUT/COTTON)

7. Right of Producers to Use Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals

We support the right of individual producers to use chemicals and pharmaceuticals in accordance with label restrictions. If the user has followed label directions, he or she shall not be held liable for damages. (VEG)

NR 1—Chemical Testing

We urge EPA and chemical companies, during the development and registration process, to fully test ag chemicals for adverse effects on beneficial insects.

Notes: Resolution proposed by Apiculture Committee.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

8. Agriculture BMPs/Local Government

We acknowledge FDACS as the lead agency in the development, implementation and adoption by rule of agricultural BMPs. We urge local governments to participate with FDACS in the development, implementation and adoption by rule of BMPs to address agricultural non-point pollution by region, watershed or on a statewide basis. We oppose the development of ordinances by local governments to address agricultural non-point pollution.

We support Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Resource Conservation & Development Councils in their efforts to work with agricultural landowners in implementing BMPs. (W/NR)

9. Animal Husbandry BMPs

We urge that FDACS be the lead agency to certify that livestock producers are using animal husbandry BMPs based on United States industry standards. (DAIRY)

10. Best Management Practices

We support scientific, economically feasible and technology-based BMPs as developed by the United States Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS), FDACS and University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) with industry input as solutions to potential ground water and surface water problems while maintaining or even enhancing agricultural production.

As BMPs are established, FDACS and the USDA/NRCS should continue as the lead agencies in the development and implementation of BMPs.

We support continued research for voluntary BMPs and educational programs for the public that identify improved management practices as they relate to the environment. We encourage incentive program funding by the state and federal governments. (W/NR)

11. Nursery Best Management Practices

We continue to support the ~~development~~ adoption and implementation of voluntary, science-based BMPs ~~developed by and~~ for the nursery and landscape industry for the continued benefit of the environment. (HORT)

~~12. Tobacco Best Management Practices~~

~~To encourage export sales, we recommend growers use current BMPs for growing tobacco.~~
(OVERSIGHT)

COMMODITIES

APICULTURE

13. Apiary Promotion

We urge farmers to utilize Integrated Pest Management programs that are effective in controlling insect pests while minimizing any detrimental effects to honey bees. Such protection would resolve the viability of honey bee pollinators and the viability of our fruit and vegetable industry.

We urge that the general public be educated on the usefulness of honey bees. (APICULTURE)

14. Apiary Quality Assurance

We strongly recommend that the FDACS, USDA and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) take immediate action to eliminate problems with adulterated and/or mislabeled honey and honey products, foreign and domestic, by enforcing existing laws. (APICULTURE)

15. Bear Management

We should continue to work with the Florida State Beekeepers Association and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to manage the bear problem. (APICULTURE)

16. Bees on Public-Owned Lands

We recommend that beekeepers be permitted to keep bees on appropriate public-owned land.
(APICULTURE)

17. Definition of Honey

We recommend that FDACS and USDA develop an industry-wide standard of identity for honey.
(APICULTURE)

18. Honey Loan Program

We support continuation of a Honey Loan Program and/or a subsidy payment in an effort to assist Florida beekeepers. (APICULTURE)

19. Honey Marketing

~~We support the creation of a honey marketing cooperative in Florida. (APICULTURE)~~

20. Shipment of Live Animals

~~We encourage the United States Postal Service to continue to ship live animals. (APICULTURE)~~

AQUACULTURE

21. Alligator Farming

We support the development of alligator farming through continued research on captive propagation, ranching and husbandry practices. We also support a cooperative effort between alligator farms, state and federal agencies to develop BMPs and other standards for farm operations and products. (AQUA)

22. Aquaculture as Agriculture

We support aquaculture being recognized as an agricultural industry by the federal government.
(AQUA)

23. Aquaculture Drug Labeling

We encourage FDA to fast track the implementation of the Minor Use Minor Species (MUMS) law. We oppose species-by-species labeling of drugs. (AQUA)

24. Broodstock and Farm Cultured Products

Aquaculture products as agricultural products ~~should be~~ **are** exempted from regulations dealing with the protection of feral stocks.

We recommend amending the Lacey Act, Magnuson-Stevenson Act, and the Endangered Species Act to allow free interstate commerce of legitimately grown or harvested aquaculture products.

We encourage the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the National Marine Fisheries Service to allow aquaculturists to obtain plant materials, invertebrates, vertebrates, broodstock, eggs or juveniles from the wild as required for aquaculture purposes as

long as the wild population will not be adversely affected, and such materials become property of the aquaculturist upon arrival at his farm and be considered agricultural products. (AQUA)

25. Depredating Animals

We urge funding for the USDA Wildlife Services to enable them to cooperate with the aquaculture industry, state and other federal agencies to identify and resolve potential wildlife problems that would impact the agricultural industry in Florida. (AQUA)

26. General Permits for Aquaculture

~~General permits and/or BMPs should be developed for all currently excluded aquaculture activities by the appropriate agencies as required by Florida Statutes. (AQUA)~~

NR 2—Sturgeon Farming

We support the development of sturgeon farming through continued research on captive propagation and husbandry practices. We also support a cooperative effort between sturgeon farms and state and federal agencies.

We recommend amending the Endangered Species Act to allow free interstate and international commerce of legitimately grown or harvested sturgeon products.

We further recommend developing and implementing a management plan for the aquacultural production and sale of short nose sturgeon in Florida.

Notes: Resolution proposed by Aquaculture Committee.

BEEF

27. Animal Health Products

We support the continued sale of over-the-counter animal health products and oppose further restrictions on their use. (BEEF)

28. Animal ID

We support a voluntary national animal ID program. In the event of mandatory animal ID, we support increased federal funding for phased implementation.

We also support the strategic approach of the ongoing National Animal Identification System cooperative agreement administered by the State Veterinarian allowing free market development of the system in a private industry/government partnership. (BEEF)

29. Beef Check-Off

We support the national Beef Check-Off as well as the State Voluntary Program. We also support future increases to provide continued benefits of the National program. (BEEF)

30. Florida Cattlemen's Association's Voluntary Assessment

We support the Florida Cattlemen's Association's program for funding environmental research, education, and legal defense on a voluntary basis. (BEEF)

31. Range Lands

Recognizing the environmental and societal benefits of grazing by livestock, we recommend increased public education, on-site technical assistance, extension and research dealing with range use and management on public and private lands. (BEEF)

CITRUS

32. Adulteration of Juice

We support the timely enforcement of FDA regulations concerning the adulteration of citrus juice. (CITRUS)

33. Citrus Harvesting

We support legitimate research proposals aimed at reducing citrus harvesting costs either through increased productivity on the part of labor, mechanization or through abscission technology. (CITRUS)

34. Citrus Trust Funds

We strongly urge the State of Florida to keep the faith with the Florida grower and not take funds or accrued interest from the Citrus Advertising Trust Fund, Florida Citrus Inspection Trust Fund or any other trust fund that is solely funded by growers or the citrus industry. (CITRUS)

35. Department of Citrus (DOC)

The DOC, financed by grower taxes and federal programs for exports, should have as its primary function the enhancement of the profitability of Florida citrus groves and the fruit and fruit products. The DOC's ~~primary~~ program for increasing profitability should ~~be~~ include the establishment and perfection of a system to sell Florida-identified quality as well as financially supporting research for pests and diseases (i.e., Citrus canker and citrus greening).

We urge the DOC to encourage a higher quality standard for Florida orange juice.

Rebate programs or any other promotional activity sponsored by DOC should be structured so that they may be used, not only to increase participation in the identification program, but also to expand the total advertising effort on orange and grapefruit products and on fresh fruit.

The Florida Citrus Commission (FCC) should give consideration to the use of only one symbol, which can be advertised and used on fresh fruit, grapefruit products and orange juice products. (CITRUS)

NR 3—Abandoned Citrus Groves

Slowing the spread of disease due to abandoned or unmanaged groves is an important issue to the citrus industry. FFBE should work with the appropriate agencies to find ways to address this issue

without unduly infringing on private property rights.

Notes: Resolution proposed by Citrus Committee.

NR 4–Citrus Products in Public Schools

Because of the exceptional nutritional value that Florida’s citrus products provide, we urge the use of fresh Florida orange and grapefruit juice in single serve plastic containers in the public school system.

Notes: Resolution proposed by Citrus Committee.

DAIRY

36. Animal Husbandry Regulations

Since it is to the advantage of the producer to care properly for animals, we oppose any regulations restricting accepted management practices. We should also develop educational programs for the general public about accepted management practices. (DAIRY)

37. Animal Products in Public Schools

Because of the exceptional nutritional value that milk and dairy products provide, we urge the use of milk and milk-products in single-serve plastic containers in the public school system. In addition, we urge the proper handling of dairy and meat products used in the public school system and other government entities. (DAIRY)

38. Florida Dairy Regulations

All regulation of Florida producers, processors and manufacturers of dairy products that will be sold for consumption by humans or animals should be done by the FDACS Dairy Division. (DAIRY)

39. Imported Milk Standards

We support strict enforcement of milk quality standards on raw milk imported into the state of Florida. This enforcement should be done by FDACS Dairy Division. (DAIRY)

40. Locally Produced Dairy Products

We support any advertising and/or promotion programs that would encourage the consumption of locally produced milk and other dairy products. (DAIRY)

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

41. Environmental Benefits of Plants

We support research and promotion of plants and turfgrass as a means of improving air and water

quality, heat reduction, soil and energy conservation as well as the other environmental benefits, they provide to improve the quality of life.

We strongly support full funding of the Floriculture and Nursery Research Initiative under the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

| We support continual educational efforts such as the [UF/IFAS](#) Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology. (HORT)

42. Foliage Shipments to California

We strongly encourage FDACS-Division of Plant Industry (DPI), the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the California County Commissioners and other state agencies to resolve, with industry input, issues affecting the shipment and inspections of Florida plant material to California. (HORT)

EQUINE

43. Equine as Livestock

We support clarification of livestock in section F.S. 193.461 (agricultural lands; annual application process; extenuating circumstances; waivers) to include the breeding, pasturing, boarding and training of livestock. We support the continued inclusion of equine in the definition of livestock. (EQUINE)

44. Florida Horse Park

We support efforts to develop and fund the Florida Agriculture Center and Horse Park. The proposed facility will become a beneficial economic enhancement to the state as well as a positive public relations vehicle for all of Florida's equine industry. (EQUINE)

45. Horse Identification

We support use of microchip implanting for identification of horses for intra/interstate movement. (EQUINE)

46. Horse Slaughter Prevention Act

We oppose the adoption of the Horse Slaughter Prevention Act.

| [We also oppose legislation that will restrict the humane hauling of horses for the purpose of processing/slaughter.](#) (EQUINE)

47. Legislation for Horse Racing

The health and vitality of the equine industry is important to the agricultural industry in Florida, and Farm Bureau members breeding, boarding and raising horses. The sport of racing purses are a critical part of Florida's horse industry given the direct relationship between the race winnings of Florida's race horse and the investment in the equine industry of this state. Presently purses in Florida are falling behind other states due to regulations, which restrain the full development of Florida's race horse industry. Any future expansion of product affiliated with racing facilities or

lottery legislation must allow for an expansion of racing opportunities for Florida race horses and provide tracks with the same regulatory privileges afforded to other gaming venues in order to help stimulate an increase in revenues available to Florida horsemen via purses, purse increases, breeder award, promotional fund incentives and equine research. (EQUINE)

FORESTRY

48. Division of Forestry (DOF)

The DOF should continue its assistance efforts for private timberland owners. DOF should continue landowner and neighborhood incentive programs to promote and conduct fuel load reduction. Sufficient resources should be allocated to maintain adequate staff and equipment as well as implement the annual forest inventory. DOF should also utilize the FDACS Marketing Division to increase public education, create awareness and acceptance of the need for statewide prescribed burning to include public safety, wildlife, agricultural and commercial benefits. (FORESTRY)

49. Public Land/Multiple Use Management

We support active multiple use management of all public land including timber production, using the Division of Forestry as lead agency for all forested lands. (FORESTRY)

50. Reforestation

We support the reforestation of private timberlands through cost effective incentive programs. (FORESTRY)

51. State Tree Nursery

We support the DOF Tree Improvement Program and State Nursery Program to provide high quality seed and seedlings to landowners. (FORESTRY)

PEANUT/COTTON

52. Documentary Stamp Exemption

All commodities placed in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan should be exempt from Documentary Stamps or other state loan fees. (PEANUT/COTTON)

53. Florida Cotton Marketing Order

We support the effort to implement a mandatory Florida cotton marketing order for the purpose of research, promotion, education, and other cotton related activities. (PEANUT/COTTON)

54. Loose Shelled Kernels

All loose shelled kernels should be crushed and should not be allowed to enter the edible trade. We support no reduction in price for loose shelled kernels. (PEANUT/COTTON)

55. National Cotton Check-off

We support changes in existing legislation and regulation of the national Cotton Check-off that would allow for full representation of Florida's cotton growers and our cotton industry in the use

of check-off dollars. (PEANUT/COTTON)

56. National Peanut Check-off

We support an increase in the national Peanut Check-off funds allocated for production research from the current 20% level to 40%. (PEANUT/COTTON)

57. Seg 2 & Seg 3 Peanuts

Seg 2 & Seg 3 Peanuts should be supported at no less than 65% of loan rate. (PEANUT/COTTON)

SOD/TURFGRASS

58. Environmental Benefits of Turfgrass

We support legislation that requires ~~encourage policymakers to~~ scientific evaluation and utilization of ~~recognize~~ the environmental benefits of turfgrass, ~~which~~

Environmental benefits includes but are not limited to carbon sequestration, filtering pollutants from water, preventing erosion, ~~and~~ generating oxygen and its ability to provide a cooling effect to the atmosphere. (SOD/TURFGRASS)

59. Regulation of Turfgrass

We support legislation that requires ~~encourage~~ governmental agencies to utilize sound economic and scientific research prior to developing new programs, rules, ordinances and state regulations relating to the production and utilization of turfgrass products. (SOD/TURFGRASS)

60. Turfgrass Education

We continue to support ~~an~~ educational programs based on sound scientific research that are directed at regulators, ~~and~~ policy makers and the public, ~~on the environmental benefits, proper care and maintenance of turfgrass.~~ (SOD/TURFGRASS)

61. Turfgrass and Water Conservation

We object to limiting turfgrass as criteria for water conservation as cited in Florida Statutes and other governmental ordinances. (SOD/TURFGRASS)

62. Water Use on Turfgrass

~~We encourage governmental agencies to utilize sound scientific principles in the education of the public in the development of new programs, rules and ordinances relating to the use of water on turf areas.~~ (SOD/TURFGRASS)

SUGAR

63. Domestic Sugar Program Management

USDA must provide program support through the CCC in order to maintain a sustainable sugar industry. CCC program management must include non-recourse loans. Loan rates should be balanced to reflect increased production costs and inflation. In addition, we strongly support the

Farm Facility Storage Loan Program at no net cost to the U.S. Treasury. (SUGAR)

64. Federal Sugar Policy

America's sugar policy should be managed to operate at no net cost to the U.S. Treasury.

We support Federal policy that insures a strong economically viable domestic sugar industry. We strongly support USDA's management and operation of the sugar program in a manner that ensures fair returns to the grower.

We encourage USDA to publish monthly USDA validated reports beginning in 2008 on Mexico sugar consumption, production, processing, exports, imports, and non-food use, similar to reports available in the U.S. (SUGAR)

TOBACCO

65. State and Federal Tobacco Services

State and Federal agencies should provide services for tobacco growers just as they do other crops [e.g. reporting, record keeping, acreage assessments, crop insurance and other USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) services]. (OVERSIGHT)

VEGETABLE

66. License and Bond

We support Florida's current a system of licensing and bonding of agricultural dealers to better protect the growers. (HORT) (VEG)

67. Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)

Florida Farm Bureau supports retention of the PACA under the supervision of the USDA to provide growers with more effective provisions for enforcing prompt payment and aid them in situations in which the buyer has not paid the seller. (VEG)

EDUCATION

68. 4-H & FFA Youth Programs

We support 4-H Extension and FFA youth programs. These programs should encourage an agricultural-based education system that utilizes traditional agricultural experiences. (OVERSIGHT)

69. Ag-in-the-Classroom (AITC)

We strongly support the AITC program, and encourage our members to purchase the agricultural specialty license plate (Ag tag). (OVERSIGHT)

70. Agricultural Fairs & Expositions

We strongly support agricultural fairs and expositions and the public exhibition of livestock. These programs encourage and support 4-H and FFA youth programs and agricultural education. We urge municipalities and governmental entities to actively support fairs and expositions to help them grow and flourish. (OVERSIGHT)

71. Aquaculture Education

We encourage funding and participation in aquacultural education programs at all levels for the youth of the State of Florida through programs such as AITC, FFA and 4-H. (AQUA)

72. Educational Materials that Discourage Use of Animal Products

We strongly oppose the use of educational material in our public schools that discourages the use of animal products.

We strongly urge the use of accurate and up-to-date information on the value of animal products in a healthy diet as part of the nutrition curriculum for our public schools. (BEEF) (DAIRY)

73. Food Animal Practitioners

We support efforts by the Legislature, UF/IFAS and College of Veterinary Medicine to address the critical shortage of food animal practitioners in Florida. We recommend the development of six to eight scholarships per class for students who will commit to practice Food Animal Medicine for a specified number of years in Florida. (DAIRY) (BEEF)

74. School Vouchers

~~We believe that all children in the state are deserving of the best education available; therefore, public dollars that have been assured for education of each child in the state should be treated as a scholarship that will follow the child to the school chosen by the family — whether it be a public, private or parochial school. (OVERSIGHT)~~

75. Two-Year Ag Degree Programs

We favor the development of more two-year agricultural degree programs in cooperation with our current community colleges utilizing the professional expertise of the UF/IFAS Agricultural Extension Service. (OVERSIGHT)

76. University of Florida/IFAS

Agriculture provides positive impact on the economy and environment of Florida to the benefit of all citizens. We urge the Board of Trustees and the Florida Legislature to give high priority to agricultural research and transfer of technology needed to keep agriculture viable in this state.

We strongly support the continuation of UF/IFAS as an integrated research, teaching and extension program and a separate budgetary unit for conducting the food and agricultural programs at the University of Florida.

We encourage UF/IFAS and agricultural leadership to continue to strengthen joint planning of

the research and education programs for the State of Florida.

We urge the Legislature to recognize that UF/IFAS budget is a unique budget item of the state that provides for economic development and consumer benefits. As government is restructured, this budget area should be strengthened in relation to other university budget areas.

We urge the Florida Legislature and Congress to provide funding of UF/IFAS to meet the challenges of commercial agriculture in this state.

We support the School of Natural Resources and the Environment using cross-disciplinary resources administered by the Office of the Vice President of UF/IFAS.

~~We encourage UF/IFAS to provide research and information to producers seeking alternative crops for increased revenues.~~

We encourage UF/IFAS to continue research on new and emerging crops (e.g. perennial peanut, alternative energy crops) and disseminate additional information to producers.

We support the appropriate interstate regionalization of agricultural research, extension and education at our land grant institutions. (OVERSIGHT)

Notes: Inserted language moved from Policy 161.

77. Vocational Agriculture Education

We support the ~~vocational~~ agricultural education and FFA programs in Florida's schools. State funds generated by Full Time Equivalent (FTE) from ~~vocational~~ career programs must be utilized by those programs. Each local ~~vocational~~ agriculture education program shall have a functioning advisory committee.

We urge the Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to keep weighted FTE funding for ~~vocational~~ agricultural ~~education~~ programs.

We urge FDOE to provide for ~~pre-vocational~~ agricultural le education at the ~~pre-ninth grade~~ middle school level.

We recommend that more emphasis by FDOE be given to hiring certified, professional teachers for all secondary school ~~vocational~~ agriculture education teacher positions.

We urge FDOE's continued support of the FFA activities and ~~vocational~~ agriculture education competitive ~~contests~~ events. (OVERSIGHT)

ENERGY

78. Agricultural Based Energy Production

We support legislation, including tax incentives, to encourage agricultural based energy production.

Agricultural producers should be able to sell renewable sources of energy back to the grid through net metering. These producers should receive a fair price for the energy they produce whether it be through the production of an energy crop, the utilization of waste materials or other means.

Because the utilization of waste materials for energy production provides additional benefits to society, certain incentives (~~e.g. full retail price or higher~~) should be provided to the producers of such energy. (OVERSIGHT)

79. ~~Bio-energy~~Alternative Energy Support

We support the development of all sources of alternative energy (i.e., bio-fuels, bio-mass based energy, wind, solar, etc.).

To the extent that waste material or underutilized land can be used to produce energy, we support research and cost assistance to producers by the appropriate local, state and federal agencies to foster ~~bio-~~alternative energy production or conservation. (OVERSIGHT)

80. Carbon Sequestration

~~We believe that e~~Emission offsets that sequester carbon through soil, forestry and other agricultural offsets are just as effective in reducing atmospheric carbon as are emission reductions and should be fully recognized in any cap and trade system.

Carbon sequestration is a new industry evolving in agriculture. Contracts for landowners are long term in nature and tax treatment of revenues should reflect the unique requirements of the carbon industry.

We also encourage Florida Farm Bureau Federation to become a leader in investigating opportunities surrounding climate mitigation strategies for Florida agriculture. (OVERSIGHT)

81. ~~Offshore~~Oil and Natural Gas Exploration

We support ~~offshore~~ exploration and drilling for oil and natural gas ~~in the Outer Continental Shelf not in conflict with the Military Mission Line in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.~~ (OVERSIGHT)

NR 5—Refineries

We support the necessary construction or renovation of facilities required for refining any future or present sources of energy whether fossil or bio-fuel.

Notes: Resolution proposed by Oversight Committee.

NR 6—Biomass

We support the inclusion of timber and other renewable resources when defining biomass.

Notes: Resolution proposed by Forestry Committee.

FARM BILL

82. Farm Bill

~~We support a Farm Bill similar to the 2002 Farm Bill that includes:~~

- ~~• Commodity loans.~~
- ~~• Direct payments.~~
- ~~• Specialty crop block grants.~~
- ~~• Payments to compensate for low commodity prices (e.g. counter-cyclical payments).~~
- ~~• Target prices that reflect the cost of production.~~
- ~~• Marketing certificates.~~
- ~~• The retention of a separate payment limitation for peanuts.~~
- ~~• The elimination of the fruit and vegetable planting prohibition.~~
- ~~• A producer-friendly conservation title that provides long-term benefits to growers who implement environmentally friendly practices and is open to all agricultural production.~~
- ~~• A permanent title for risk management and disaster programs.~~
- ~~• A long-term energy policy that includes provisions that benefit farmers who produce crops used for bio-fuels and the manufacturing of the same.~~

We support national farm policy that includes production price and yield loss safety nets, specialty crop block grants, producer-friendly conservation programs, permanent comprehensive disaster risk management, and long-term renewable energy benefits. (OVERSIGHT)

83. Payment Limitations

~~We support maintaining the current limitation as the minimum on all program and conservation payments.~~

We oppose any additional restrictions or reductions in payment limitations, adjusted gross income (AGI) or means testing. (PEANUT/COTTON)

84. Peanut Program

In respect to developing the rules and regulations to implement the new Farm Bill, we support the following:

- The \$355.72 loan rate basis grade for peanuts should be the minimum net guarantee per delivered ton of farmer stock peanuts.
- All storage, handling, and other associated costs should be paid by the CCC and made

available for farm-stored loans.

- The USDA should be open with the method of calculating the loan repayment rate.
- USDA/FSA, area associations and farmer owned cooperative-marketing associations should be allowed to administer the marketing assistance loans.
- The Secretary of Agriculture should allow on the farm storage loans to be available under the new Farm Bill at the growers' discretion. (PEANUT/COTTON)

85. Producer Eligibility Determination

We support implementation of farm policy in such a manner as to minimize the disruptions to landlord-tenant relationships. We support efforts to provide the state FSA Committee authority to determine eligibility requirements for farm program benefits. (OVERSIGHT)

86. Storage and Handling Fees

~~In 2007 and future farm policy negotiations, priority should be placed on~~ **We support** retaining storage and handling fees as established in the 2002 Farm Bill.

All storage, handling and other associated costs should be paid by the CCC and made available for farm-stored loans. At a minimum, priority should be given to forfeited peanuts. (PEANUT/COTTON)

NR 7 – Forestry and EQIP

~~We support the forest management element of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program in the Farm Bill and we encourage enhancement of landowner incentive programs.~~

Notes: Resolution proposed by Forestry Committee. Deleted by Oversight Committee. Language incorporated into rewrite of policy 82, "...producer friendly conservation programs..."

NR 8 – Farm Income

Future farm policy should be based on or take into consideration production cost.

Notes: Resolution proposed by Peanut/Cotton Committee.

FOOD SAFETY

87. Food Inspection Program Funding

The quality of food is a public health benefit assuring safety and wholesomeness of food to all citizens, producers and consumers alike. Therefore, the cost of an inspection should be funded by general revenue. (DAIRY)

88. Food Safety

We encourage our grower members to utilize Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), BMPs, IPM practices and other current information on food safety to ensure a safe, wholesome, nutritious food source for the consumer.

We support the use of irradiation to control harmful bacteria and pathogens and to extend shelf life of agricultural products.

We support FDA, FDACS and similar agencies in other states as the appropriate agencies for testing food to ensure wholesomeness.

We encourage all state and federal agencies and industry efforts to establish public confidence that the American food supply is wholesome and safe.

We support the standardization and certification of laboratory methods to allow pooling of analytical data between the state and federal levels. (VEG)

89. Sale of Raw Milk

In the interest of public safety, we oppose the sale of raw milk and raw milk products for human consumption. (DAIRY)

GENERAL

90. Florida Seed Law

We support enforcement of the current seed law and recommend the continued use of general revenue dollars in this effort. Consumer protection of seed purchases is important and needs to be continued. Trust fund revenues should not be expected to fully fund consumer-based programs.

We support maintaining a viable state seed regulatory program. (OVERSIGHT)

91. Food Recovery Program/Food Banks

We encourage growers to donate surplus food to charitable organizations who will utilize the product outside the market.

We strongly encourage the state to fund the Florida Association of Food Banks from general revenue to utilize surplus Florida farm products to feed needy Americans. (OVERSIGHT)

92. Foreign Ag Enterprise

We strongly oppose any state, federal or international programs that will encourage foreign agriculture enterprises to compete directly against our domestic farmers. (OVERSIGHT)

93. Official Language

We continue to support English as the official language for the State of Florida and the United States. (OVERSIGHT)

94. Weather Information

We support efforts that provide farmers and ranchers with timely and reliable weather information [e.g. Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN)]. (OVERSIGHT)

NR 9—Fees

~~We, Putnam/St. Johns County Farm Bureau oppose increased fees on all pesticide license applications.~~

All fees imposed on agriculture should provide a benefit to the agricultural producer and should not cause an undue burden on the producer.

Fees for the purpose of protecting public health and safety should be paid by the general public and not be the sole burden of the agricultural producer.

Notes: Resolution proposed by Putnam/St. Johns County. Amended by Oversight Committee.

NR 10—Food Banks

~~We strongly encourage the state to fund the Florida Association of Food Banks to utilize surplus Florida farm products to feed needy Americans.~~

Notes: Resolution proposed by Vegetable Committee. Deleted by Oversight Committee. Language incorporated into Policy 91.

GOVERNMENT

95. Duplication of Regulations

To avoid duplication and keep our farmers and ranchers competitive, we oppose redundant local, state or federal laws and regulations. Furthermore, we support continued attempts to amend existing laws and regulations to reduce undue and unnecessary duplication. (OVERSIGHT)

96. Economic Impact

We support legislation that requires ~~encourage~~ state and local government to consider the economic impacts before initiating new programs, rules and ordinances. (OVERSIGHT)

~~97. Elections by Single Member Districts~~

~~When changes to elected, governing, or taxing bodies are considered, we support the concept of elections by single member districts at all levels. (OVERSIGHT)~~

98. Elections Process

We support amending the Constitution of the State of Florida to require run-off elections in all instances where a candidate does not receive a majority of votes cast in an election. (OVERSIGHT)

99. State Constitution

Florida Farm Bureau shall oppose all proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution unless a majority of the State Board of Directors votes to support or remain neutral on a specific amendment.

We support a revision that would limit the opportunity to amend the constitution through voter referendum.

We support changes in the current ballot initiative process of amending the Florida Constitution to make the process more deliberative.

~~As an example, but not limited to, we urge defeat of Constitutional amendment proposals which would:~~

- ~~a. — Require referenda for adoption and amendment of local government comprehensive land use plans;~~
- ~~b. — Require legislative determination that sales tax exemptions and exclusions serve a public purpose; and~~
- ~~c. — Mandates animal husbandry practices. (OVERSIGHT)~~

100. Unfunded Mandates

Farm Bureau supports legislation that will require all laws that contain mandates be funded with an adequate appropriation to cover all costs of implementation. Unfunded mandates create a financial hardship for governmental bodies, which are forced to pass these expenses on to taxpayers and property owners.

We consider a mandate unfunded, unless the regulatory agency provides the funding for implementation. (OVERSIGHT)

INSURANCE

101. Equine Insurance

We urge Farm Bureau Insurance to provide coverage for the equine industry. (EQUINE)

102. Fair Insurance Cost

~~We support state and federal laws to stabilize the cost of insurance and increase its availability. (OVERSIGHT)~~

103. Uniform Automobile Insurance Premiums

We oppose any attempt to make automobile insurance premiums uniform throughout Florida.
(OVERSIGHT)

NR 11–Citizens Insurance

We recommend the abolishment of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation. We support a free market system for property and casualty insurance in the state of Florida.

Notes: Resolution proposed by Oversight Committee

NR 12–Health Insurance

We oppose government mandated employer provided health insurance.

Notes: Resolution proposed by Oversight Committee

LABOR

104. Child-Labor Laws

We support strict enforcement of child-labor laws by proper authorities to ensure that children have a full educational experience opportunity. However, state law should not be so restrictive that secondary vocational agricultural students be prohibited from participation in internship programs. The appropriate agencies should work together to foster opportunities for vo-ag students in concert with the "school-to-work" initiative. (LABOR)

105. Collective Bargaining Law

For purposes of uniformity, we strongly favor agricultural labor relation’s legislation at the national level rather than state legislation. Any legislation should include safeguards for workers, employers, and consumers, such as:

- requiring secret ballot elections,
- prohibiting secondary boycotts as in other industries,
- providing immediate injunctive remedies for illegal acts,
- protecting against strikes at harvest time,
- requiring continued right-to-work protection. (LABOR)

106. Employee Transportation Expenses

We oppose any regulation or court decision requiring employers to pay travel or visa costs for

employees from their permanent residence to the employer's place of business except as may be required by a temporary foreign worker program in which the employer is voluntarily participating.

We oppose paying, during the first week of work, costs of any migrant employees, as these costs are not primarily for the benefit of the employers but also benefit the employee. Employers should not have to pay wages for travel time from employee residence to the place of work. (LABOR)

107. Immigration at the Federal Level

Recognizing that immigration is a federal issue, we oppose immigration legislation, ordinances or rules at the state or local level. (LABOR)

108. Independent Contractors

We oppose regulations that impose strict employer liability against growers who utilize *bona fide* independent contractors. (LABOR)

109. Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts

We oppose the concept of compulsory Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (ILTA). Furthermore, ILTA grantees should not be allowed to engage in any activity precluded under legal services corporation regulations. (LABOR)

110. Labor Housing

We encourage agencies that perform labor-housing inspections to work with farm labor housing providers to provide safe housing and to allow them to correct problem areas in a timely manner before imposing fines. We urge public agencies to educate farm workers on housing maintenance issues. We support changes in housing funding legislation to prevent discrimination against agricultural workers. (LABOR)

111. Legal Foreign Workers

The use of legal foreign workers is critical to the sustainability of agriculture in Florida and needs to be assured, simplified and cost-competitive to make their employment more feasible for agriculture. (LABOR)

112. Legal Services

We support the concept of legal assistance to the poor. We particularly encourage *pro bono* work by state bar associations. While we support the concept of legal assistance, we believe that legal service grantees have acted far beyond the scope of their original mission.

We support efforts to reform these abuses. (LABOR)

113. Management Programs

We strongly encourage employers of farm laborers, either directly or through farm labor contractors, to pursue progressive labor management relations programs. These programs should include training, oversight and analysis of such things as working conditions, wages, housing, transportation and the general well being of those employed. (LABOR)

114. Mandated Safety Programs

We are opposed to federal or state mandatory safety programs for employers who have good safety experience ratings. (LABOR)

115. Occupational Safety & Health Act (OSHA)

We are opposed to Florida being an OSHA contract state. (LABOR)

116. Right-to-Work

We support the principle of right-to-work as a constitutional guarantee and recommend strict enforcement of and adherence to the Florida Right-to-Work Law. (LABOR)

117. Rural Child Care

We encourage public and private support of licensed child-care facilities in rural areas. We commend and support the Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) and other similar organizations in their efforts to provide quality child care for children of Florida agricultural workers. (LABOR)

118. Workers Compensation

~~We recommend workers' compensation be retained and administered by private industry and not taken over by the state or federal governments.~~

~~We urge modification of existing statutes, which would assist in reducing the net costs of workers' compensation to employers. Workers' compensation is especially punitive to agricultural operations because farmers cannot pass on these costs, as do other industries.~~

We recommend workers compensation be retained and administered by private industry and not taken over by the state or federal government.

Housing voluntarily offered by the employer that is not considered part of the worksite should not be covered by workers compensation.

We urge modification of existing statutes, which would assist in reducing the net costs of workers' compensation to employers. Workers' compensation is especially punitive to agricultural operations because farmers cannot pass on these costs as do other industries. (LABOR)

LAW & ORDER

119. Agricultural Crime Units

We urge county Farm Bureaus to work with their county sheriff's department to establish ranch and agricultural crime units. (OVERSIGHT)

120. Capital Punishment

We support capital punishment as provided for in the Florida Statutes and believe that sentences

under these statutes should be carried out without undue delay. Therefore, we support a system of accelerated appeals in capital cases and a time limitation for the filing of all appeals.

We oppose the use of a convicted criminal's mental capacity as a means for prohibiting capital punishment. (OVERSIGHT)

121. Crimes Against Beekeepers

We encourage strict enforcement by appropriate law enforcement agencies to mitigate the theft and vandalism of a beekeeper's property. (APICULTURE)

122. Drug and Alcohol Abuse

We support and endorse efforts to stop drug and alcohol abuse with emphasis on education. We favor the strengthening of narcotic-control laws.

We oppose the decriminalization of growing, selling, or processing of any illegal substances. (OVERSIGHT)

123. Litter Laws

We recommend strict enforcement of current litter laws and recommend legislation that removes private landowners' responsibility for illegally dumped refuse on their land. (OVERSIGHT)

124. Support of the Second Amendment

We support the right of American citizens to own and use firearms as provided for in the Second Amendment. We oppose any effort that would infringe on this right. (OVERSIGHT)

125. Treatment of Criminals

We oppose the pampering of criminals and the furnishing of elaborate and unnecessary prison facilities.

We recommend firm and mandatory sentences for criminal acts, which involve property or threaten lives, and we oppose the use of plea-bargaining to simply expedite court caseloads. The state's uniform-sentencing guidelines are currently too lenient regarding mandatory sentences for major crimes and repeat offenders and urge these guidelines be strengthened. (OVERSIGHT)

126. Trespassing Laws

We continue to support strict enforcement of the Florida trespass law and any changes that would strengthen the law.

Criminal penalties for failure to comply with F.S. 472.029 (authorization to enter lands of third parties) should be established by the Florida Legislature. (OVERSIGHT)

NR 13—Fireworks

~~We support clarification on aerial and explosive fireworks statutes to only allow sale for bona fide agricultural purposes and professional use on holidays and special events.~~

MARKETING

127. Country of Origin Labeling

We support Country of Origin Labeling. Costs should not be burdensome to agricultural producers.

~~We support a voluntary country of origin labeling program for agricultural products that is market driven, adds value to the products with rules and regulations for certification administered by the USDA.~~ (OVERSIGHT)

128. Florida Ag Promotion Support

We support continued funding for full implementation of the Florida Farm Bureau Agricultural Promotion Program developed by the FDACS. We urge producers to join and participate in the "Fresh from Florida" promotion program. We strongly encourage FDACS to educate consumers about the benefits of Florida agriculture especially fresh Florida produce. (VEG)

129. Marketing Florida Citrus Juice

The FCC should devise mechanisms to encourage processors to market and identify 100% pure Florida citrus juice product. (CITRUS)

130. Promotion and Marketing

We should continue to work with the citrus industry in promoting the sale of fresh and processed citrus products in various forms. More emphasis is needed on developing new marketing concepts for all Florida citrus.

We support the development of marketing programs that can collect marketing assessments from citrus imports. These programs should promote the beneficial attributes of both foreign and domestic origin so long as they are equally financed by all parties selling product in the U.S.

(CITRUS)

131. State Farmers' Market

We recommend that the FDACS demand brokers in the state farmers' market system assure that these markets handle and promote Florida grown products. We also recommend changes in the state farmers' market system to make these markets more beneficial to producers. (VEG)

PESTS & DISEASES

132. Ag Emergency Declarations

We support the Commissioner of Agriculture's right to declare an agricultural emergency. We further recommend that just compensation should be given for agricultural material that is destroyed under such an emergency.

In the event a new or exotic disease of plants or animals is discovered, we support a joint state-federal funded eradication program that provides for indemnification as a part of the eradication program.

We support programs that promote the biological control of exotic pests.

We support the continuation of an agricultural emergency trust fund as established under current law. (CITRUS)

133. Agricultural Inspections at Ports of Entry

We support the transfer of authority for agricultural inspections at U.S. ports of entry from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to USDA/Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). (HORT)

134. Boll Weevil Program

We support the boll weevil program and support state help for this program. (PEANUT/COTTON)

135. Brucellosis

We urge the continuation of calf hood vaccinations for heifers. (BEEF) (DAIRY)

136. Caribfly-free Zones

We urge the expansion of Caribfly-free zones and the necessary research for that expansion. (CITRUS)

137. Equine Diseases

Several diseases threaten Florida's equine industry. We support legislation allowing the administration of approved medication for the treatment of Equine Protozoal Myelitis on horses competing in the state. We support the ability of horse owners to purchase vaccine and vaccinate their own horses for West Nile Virus and other infectious diseases. (EQUINE)

138. Foreign and Domestic Diseases

We urge state and federal agencies to more closely monitor all foreign and domestic diseases and pests that could endanger United States agriculture and wildlife.

We support Plum Island as our first choice BSL4 Research Facility. Should they not be selected, we still support the construction of a class BSL4 Research Facility to serve the United States livestock industry. (BEEF)

139. Imported Fire Ant

We support the fully funded federal maintenance of the fire ant quarantine and research to eradicate or effectively control the imported fire ant. (HORT)

140. Invasive Pest Plants

We support the scientific recognition of pest plants using the UF/IFAS Invasive Plant Assessment and support the control and eradication of ~~these~~ **pest** plants **identified on the official state of Florida noxious weed list**. We support the development of state and federal funding for the evaluation, control and eradication of defined pest plants. (HORT)

141. Livestock Disease

We support increased federal (USDA) funding for livestock disease surveillance and control. (BEEF)

142. Management of Citrus Diseases

We support continued citrus research and the development of management plans that help growers manage and control pests and diseases (e.g. canker and greening). All findings should be made readily available to growers.

We urge USDA and FDACS to base their regulations strictly on conclusive science. These regulations should be practical, economical and include industry input in their adoption. We encourage these regulatory agencies to look for ways to achieve compliance through education rather than fines and penalties. (CITRUS)

143. Plant and Animal Pests and Diseases

Invasive plant pests and animal diseases pose a serious threat to all Floridians. Florida is a sentinel state for pest introductions and should receive increased focus and support to strengthen our pest protection efforts. Pest and disease exclusion should be the top priority for state and federal agencies with regulatory authority for invasives. Additional emphasis should be placed on the inspection of solid wood packaging material and other known sources of invasive pests.

We support the creation of state and federal funding sources, for the eradication and control of plant and animal pests and diseases that are not tied to annual budgeting requirements. We support increased agency cooperation to reduce duplication among the various agencies. We support increased penalties for smuggling of agricultural products. Increased emphasis on education for all stakeholders is necessary to protect our natural resources in the future. (HORT)

144. Protection Against Imported Pests and Diseases

APHIS and Homeland Security funding should be ~~increased~~ **sufficient** to ensure adequate facilities and resources for the sampling and inspection of imported plants, foliage, seeds and cut flowers to detect and prevent the introduction of pests and diseases entering at all ports of entry. Improvements to infrastructure, facilities and shared database technology must become a priority for both agencies. (HORT)

145. Quarantines

Quarantines restricting the interstate movement of agricultural products should be based on conclusive science. (CITRUS)

146. Southern Pine Beetle

We recommend a coordinated and intensified approach to the problems caused by Southern Pine Beetle and other forest pests. We support increased research for these pests and landowner educational efforts for sound pest management practices. (FORESTRY)

147. Strengthening of Quarantine 37

We believe the biological foundation of Quarantine 37 should never be compromised, as it is the first line of defense against the introduction of foreign pests and diseases. We support changes that strengthen the intent of Quarantine 37. These changes should be developed with full industry involvement.

We support adequate funding from state and federal agencies for inspection officials to enforce a strengthened Quarantine 37.

We believe that producers of plant material for export into the U.S. should be held to a responsible standard in utilizing practices that meet phytosanitary standards of the United States. (HORT)

PROPERTY RIGHTS/LAND MANAGEMENT

148. Eminent Domain

The legal basis for an eminent domain taking of private property should not be solely to increase the taxable value of the property. (OVERSIGHT)

149. Jurisdictional Wetlands

We oppose any expansion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' authority pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) beyond that which it has historically exercised over water of the United States. We urge legislation to clarify the Corps' responsibilities and limit its regulatory authority over isolated wetlands and navigable waters. (W/NR)

150. Land Acquisition

~~Land acquisition by any government entity should be limited to that necessary to accomplish the primary purpose of its land acquisition program.~~

~~In the event that state-owned land is not being used for the purpose for which it was purchased, we urge the agency to sell the surplus land in a timely fashion, returning it to the tax rolls and more efficiently utilizing funding.~~

~~When policy makers want to preserve or set aside additional lands, a dedicated public funding source should be utilized to purchase the land. It should not be preserved by regulation. (W/NR)~~

Notes: Deleted by Oversight Committee. Language incorporated in Policies 151 and 153.

151. Less-than-Fee Acquisition

As a result of a very aggressive land acquisition program, the state has greatly increased the amount of publicly owned land. We believe that any future land acquisitions ~~programs~~ should ~~include~~ be restricted to less-than-fee simple acquisitions such as the purchase of development rights or conservation easements or agricultural easements. In addition, state, regional and local governments should coordinate funding for acquisitions in order to leverage tax dollars and seek federal matching funds where applicable.

We support less-than-fee acquisitions as long as they are voluntary, incentive-based, allow for the continued economically viable use of the property for agriculture. We do not support public access without consent of the landowner.

We feel that state land conservation programs that focus on less-than-fee acquisitions offer the state, the conservation community and the landowner a win-win situation because:

- a. limited state financial resources can be stretched further;
- b. the private landowner maintains the stewardship of the property-saving tax payer dollars that would otherwise be necessary for management;
- c. the land stays on the tax rolls, and;
- d. economic activity continues on the property. (W/NR)

152. Private Property Rights

We strongly believe in and uphold the sanctity of private property rights upon which this country was founded. Short of constituting a public health hazard, property owners should be allowed and encouraged to use their property for their own benefit. (OVERSIGHT)

153. Public Lands Management

Government agencies purchasing land should establish management guidelines and criteria for purchased lands in a timely manner.

When applicable, agriculture should be given priority as a land management tool that would allow those lands to be available for lease and management (e.g. grazing, silvopasture, or forestry entities). The governing bodies should provide that income from public lands, when legislatively approved, be utilized for management and payment in lieu of taxes.

When lands acquired for a specific public purpose but not used for that purpose within a reasonable time, the prior owners, or their heirs should have the first right of refusal.

When agricultural lands are acquired through eminent domain, agricultural producers shall be paid for land value and business damages.

~~We request the Legislature to establish guidelines and criteria for lands purchased by governmental agencies. When applicable, agriculture should be given priority as a land management tool that would allow those lands to be available for lease and management by agriculture (e.g. grazing and silvopasture or forestry entities). Lands acquired for a specific purpose but not used for that purpose should be made available to the prior owner or their heirs through the right of first refusal.~~

~~We ask the governing bodies to provide that income from public lands, when legislatively approved, be utilized for management and payment in lieu of taxes. (OVERSIGHT)~~

154. Public Purpose Land Use

~~When lands acquired through eminent domain for specific public purpose are not used for that purpose within a reasonable time, the prior owners, or their heirs should have the first right of refusal.~~

~~When agricultural lands are acquired through eminent domain, agricultural producers shall be paid for land value and business damages. In addition, where private easements of railroads are no longer used, rather than being transferred to Rails to Trails or other such programs, the present adjacent land owners should be given the right of first refusal, especially in those circumstances where farms are divided by the easement. (OVERSIGHT)~~

Notes: Deleted by Oversight Committee. Language incorporated in Policies 151 and 153.

155. Sovereign Lands

We support the historical ordinary high water mark and navigable waters as established when Florida received statehood. We oppose any changes to the law or state agency policy that would adversely affect private property rights. (W/NR)

RESEARCH

156. Apiculture Research

We recommend research be funded at the state and federal levels on pollination, pests and diseases of honey bees.

Considering the severity of damage caused by pests to Florida's apiary industry, the state of Florida should provide adequate long-term funding to maintain the continuity of relevant bee research programs at Florida's universities.

We support the investigations conducted under FDACS that assist the apiary industry. (APICULTURE)

157. Biotechnology

We continue to support conventional and biotech agriculture research and public education on biotechnology.

USDA should be the lead agency responsible for all transgenic crops.

We strongly urge FDACS to support and fund necessary consumer and farmer protection for genetically modified crops. (OVERSIGHT)

158. Citrus Research

We urge continuance of the citrus quality research now being conducted industry-wide including, but not limited to, genetic enhancement of present and future varieties and rootstocks. The Florida citrus industry, working with UF/IFAS and other agencies should develop and secure funding for a high priority program to genetically map and patent the citrus genetic code so as to enhance the returns to Florida citrus growers. (CITRUS)

159. Forest Products

We support the exploration and development of new markets (e.g. energy) for forestry and forest products through research and extension. (FORESTRY)

160. Forestry Research and Extension Programs

We support increased funding, improved accountability and more progressive and aggressive forestry research, instruction and extension programs at the University of Florida aimed at increasing forestry productivity and stewardship through genetics, biotechnology, forested wetland ecology, silvicultural practices, integrated pest management and economic development. (FORESTRY)

161. New & Emerging Crops

~~We encourage UF/IFAS to continue research on new and emerging crops (e.g. perennial peanut, alternative energy crops) and disseminate additional information to producers. (OVERSIGHT)~~

Notes: Language moved to policy 76 by Oversight Committee.

162. Ownership of Research

We oppose the forward marketing of any product developed from UF/IFAS research. However, we do support the right to license developed products. (OVERSIGHT)

163. Research on Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture

State resources must be reallocated for marine and fresh water aquaculture research for focused programs addressing the pressing needs of the commercial aquaculture industry as identified by the Aquaculture Review Council.

We encourage research, which focuses on aquaculture and its positive impact upon the state's environment, including the utilization of aquaculture effluent waters. (AQUA)

RISK MANAGEMENT

164. Disaster Program Payments

We recommend that when a disaster program is initiated, guidelines for program integrity should be implemented.

Disaster payments should be exempted from payment limitations. (PEANUT/COTTON)

165. Farm and Ranch Risk Management (FARRM) Accounts

We affirm FARRM accounts as a method of risk management for farmers and ranchers. (TAX)

166. Federal Crop Insurance/Risk Management

We recommend expansion of federal crop insurance programs and catastrophic insurance programs to include currently excluded crops, such as, plant starter materials and in-ground material. We further recommend that the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation keep the farm serial number as the identification of our insurable unit. We recommend a more equitable average assessed of formidable yields in disaster years for consideration by the actual production history (APH).

We recommend the development of a risk management program or self-insured program for farmers, similar to Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

We recommend that current cotton coverage be expanded to insure for actual loss due to wind or hail damage. Crop insurance should be experience rated for premium and availability.
(PEANUT/COTTON)

167. Risk Management Agency

We support working with USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) to accelerate development of new crop insurance programs for aquaculture. (AQUA)

TAX

168. Ag Practices Act

We support amending the Ag Practices Act to preempt local governments from taxing or assessing fees on agriculture lands or operations. (TAX)

169. Agricultural Assessment (Greenbelt)

We recognize the intent of Florida's agricultural land classification and assessment law to be the maintenance of the economic viability of agriculture. We continue to support the law's strict application of *bona fide*, good faith commercial agriculture and forestry operations. The commercial agricultural use of the land must be a primary consideration when determining entitlement to agricultural classification.

We are opposed to an *ad-valorem* recapture tax. (TAX)

170. Agricultural Taxes

We oppose any change in the Florida Retail Sales Tax Law, which would result in multiple taxation. We support the exemptions under the present tax law on materials which are used to produce or manufacture consumer products.

When a clear and demonstrated public need for additional revenues has been proven, we favor a sales tax rather than *ad-valorem* tax.

We support the elimination of the sales tax on electricity for agricultural processing or packing plants **not on the farm**.

We are opposed to sales tax on insurance premiums and agents' commissions and we oppose any extension or expansion of sales tax on services.

We support the enhancement of agricultural energy exemptions.

We recommend that no sales tax be collected on any fuels if such tax is refundable to the farmer.

To keep Florida competitive with other states, we need a livestock sales tax exemption for out of state buyers that allows a reasonable amount of time in which to ship purchased livestock out of state.

We are opposed to constitutional referendums that mandate sales tax exemption reviews. (TAX)

171. Alternative Minimum Tax

We support the elimination of the Federal Alternative Minimum Tax. (TAX)

172. Farm Building Fees

We oppose any fees for counties or municipalities on buildings on farms. (TAX)

173. Federal Estate Tax

We support the permanent elimination of the Federal Estate Tax. (TAX)

174. Homestead Exemption

We believe fairness dictates that all real property owners should be required to share in the responsibility of funding our local governments and schools. Therefore, we recommend that all

homestead properties be taxed on fifty percent of the value up to \$100,000 of value. (TAX)

175. Local Government Taxes/Assessments/Fees on Agriculture

Property that has a land use designation of agriculture, timber or aquaculture does not burden local government services to the same extent as urban and suburban lands and therefore should not be taxed or assessed at the same level as urban properties with other land use designations to support those services.

We support incentives to agricultural producers from county governments to allow agricultural property to remain in agriculture. (TAX)

176. Local or State Taxes

We oppose any local or state tax, fee or assessment on farms. (TAX)

177. Municipal Service Districts

We oppose the taxation of land that does not specifically benefit from taxes levied under municipal service districts and municipal or county taxing districts. We support sunset provisions of five years for special created districts, and all those boards will be elected by residents of that district. We believe all special districts should be accountable. We affirm the right of private landowners to establish special agricultural taxing districts based on the one-vote-per-acre principle to tax themselves to address specific issues. (TAX)

178. Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes

We support legislation to allow local governments to receive a fair and equitable annual payment for an agreeable timeframe not less than 20 years (including adjustments for increased land value) from the acquiring agency in lieu of lost *ad valorem* taxes, regardless of size or population of the county, when private lands are purchased for the public.

We recommend that any government agency or water management district that purchases land to be held in reserve or to be protected should be required to pay a property equalization tax on this property to the local county commission, school board and other governmental units normally funded from *ad valorem* taxes so that the local tax impact is minimized. (TAX)

179. Reduction of Unemployment Compensation Tax

State unemployment compensation trust funds should be kept at a reasonable level. Because of the current excessive levels in the trust fund, we support a reduction in unemployment compensation tax. (TAX)

180. State Taxes

We urge government on all levels to eliminate wasteful financial practices and improve accountability before giving any consideration to the concept of raising taxes.

We oppose a state personal income tax.

We oppose the adoption of a gross-receipts tax by the Florida Legislature.

We are opposed to a state personal income tax on Sub-chapter S corporations and partnerships.

We support changing the formula that requires any state or regional agency to reimburse counties for any lost tax revenues as the result of acquisition of land, so that all counties are included.

We urge property appraisers to utilize a consistent application of existing laws when determining agricultural classifications. (TAX)

181. Tangible Personal Property Assessment

We are opposed to tangible personal property taxes on farm equipment. (TAX)

182. Tax Exemption for Parts

We support the sales tax exemption for parts and repairs on used agricultural equipment exempt from sales tax under section 12-A-1-087. (TAX)

183. Tax Exemption for Rabbit Feed

We recommend that the State statute which deals with livestock feed, Section 212.08 (7) (d), F.S. be amended to include rabbits raised commercially for consumption in the definition of livestock and therefore exempt rabbit producers from paying sales tax on rabbit feed. (TAX)

184. Tax Exemptions

We support a phase-out of sales and use tax for all inputs for farms (TAX)

185. Tax Reform

We support reasonable and just tax reform of the Federal Tax Code, to include the repeal of the 16th Amendment. The changes should not cause undue additional taxes or increase costs to agriculture. (TAX)

186. Timber Casualty Losses and Reforestation

The current Tax Reform Act should be amended to provide income averaging, to further reduce capital gains tax rates, and to allow up to \$20,000 of reforestation expenses to be expensed in the year the expenses are incurred. The tax code should also provide for reasonable casualty loss for agricultural uses. We favor no change in the current treatment of tax-deferred exchanges of property under Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code. (FORESTRY)

NR 14—County Farm Bureau Tax Exemption

The County Farm Bureau's are an important part of many rural counties in our state. They are involved in numerous projects that range from Agricultural Education and Public Relations to Political Education.

Therefore, in order to keep the county Farm Bureau's strong and active in rural Florida, we strongly believe that all County Farm Bureaus with the 501-C5 designation by IRS Code should be tax exempt from paying real property taxes in Florida.

Notes: Resolution proposed by Madison and Taylor Counties. Amended by Oversight Committee.

~~NR 15 Taxes From Carbon Sequestration Revenue~~

~~Carbon sequestration is a new industry evolving in agriculture. Contracts for landowners are long term in nature and tax treatment of revenues should reflect the unique requirements of the carbon industry.~~

Notes: Resolution proposed by Tax Committee. Deleted by Oversight Committee. Language incorporated into Policy 80.

TRADE

187. Ag Products from Cuba

We oppose the importation of any agricultural products from Cuba under the current regime. (OVERSIGHT)

188. Animal Import Center

We support the continued use and improvement of the USDA/APHIS Equine and Large Animal Import Center at the Miami International Airport. (EQUINE)

189. Citrus Tariffs and Non-tariff Barriers

In international trade negotiations, we support efforts to maintain U.S. tariffs on imported fresh and processed citrus products. We oppose non-tariff barriers, which restrict or hamper the sale of U.S. citrus fruit and processed citrus products in foreign markets.

Efforts should be expanded to remove non-tariff barriers in place on citrus going into foreign markets. (CITRUS)

190. Export Programs

We favor federal funding for export promotion programs. (CITRUS)

~~191. Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)~~

~~We recommend that import sensitive agricultural products (i.e., sugar, citrus and vegetables) be negotiated separate from the FTAA. (OVERSIGHT)~~

192. Import Relief for Perishable Products

We favor the development and enactment of regulations such as production, volume or price triggers that would deal with the dumping (on a rapid and timely basis) of foreign perishable commodities into the United States. No open or consigned loads should be allowed to be imported. (VEG)

193. International Trade

We support free and fair trade.

Any modifications to our domestic trade policy and tariff schedules should be done through multilateral negotiations. Any modifications should be compatible with current farm programs.

We support legislation to prevent circumvention of domestic trade policy and tariff schedules.

Import-sensitive crops (i.e., sugar, citrus, vegetables) should not be negotiated on a bilateral or regional basis.

Future trade negotiations should take into account advantages that are realized by foreign producers through subsidies, chemical use and environmental, labor or safety standards.

Human rights requirements should not be tied to trade agreements.

We oppose tariff reduction if it results in creating an oligopoly.

We should not sacrifice our domestic producers to gain export markets for certain commodities.

We support Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) for the President to negotiate trade agreements only at the World Trade Organization (WTO). We oppose TPA for the President to negotiate bilateral and regional trade agreements.

Any trade agreement should include strict measures to control the spread of noxious plants, insects and animal pests. Quarantine protection from pests and disease should not be compromised in any trade negotiations.

We urge all appropriate state and federal agencies to strictly enforce current regulations to insure that imported products are not re-packed or re-labeled as a product of the United States.

We favor the development and enactment of regulations that would provide relief from import surges of foreign commodities due to extreme foreign currency devaluations.

NAFTA trade relief should be negotiated to protect regional producers of fresh fruits, vegetables and nursery products.

We oppose the Generalized System of Preference (GSP).

Should a trade embargo or restriction be declared for national security reasons, the embargo should be total and apply to all products and services.

~~Import sensitive agricultural products should be exempted from reciprocal trade agreements with countries whose producers have unfair advantages over domestic producers through subsidies and other means.~~

~~We oppose the Generalized System of Preference (GSP).~~

~~We oppose the importation of agricultural products from all foreign countries that have not met the same environmental, labor and safety standards required of our growers, including but not limited to, use of agricultural chemicals.~~

~~We urge all appropriate state and federal agencies to strictly enforce current regulations to insure that imported products are not re-packed or re-labeled as a product of the United States.~~

~~We encourage a thorough inspection system by all appropriate state and federal agencies on all plants, animals and products moved across the Mexican or Canadian border or other ports of entry into the United States.~~

~~We support strict enforcement of import restrictions and enhanced export support from our government, and we support the concepts of like quality inspections for domestic and foreign products.~~

~~The trade relief measures provided for in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have proven ineffective as originally designed. For this reason, a trade relief remedy should be negotiated to protect regional producers of all agricultural products.~~

~~We favor the development and enactment of regulations that would provide relief from import surges of foreign commodities due to extreme foreign currency devaluations.~~

~~The interest of all Florida farmers and ranchers shall be protected from unfair trade practices and we encourage exports in a fair and competitive market.~~

~~We should not sacrifice our domestic producers to gain export markets for certain commodities. When developing trade agreements the impacts on the diversity of Florida agriculture should be considered.~~

~~Human rights requirements should not be tied to trade agreements. (OVERSIGHT)~~

194. Patent Protection

We support strict enforcement of patent protection and harsh punishment for those countries or individuals who violate patents. (OVERSIGHT)

~~195. Phytosanitary Standards in Trade Agreements~~

~~Any trade agreement should include strict measures to control the spread of noxious plants, insects and animal pests. Quarantine protection from pests and disease should not be compromised in any trade negotiations. (OVERSIGHT)~~

Notes: Deleted by Oversight Committee. Language incorporated into Policy 193 rewrite.

196. Producer Export Sales

We support measures that would better protect producers who export vegetables to other countries, with regard to grades and standards, pesticide residue regulations and provisions for prompt payment. (VEG)

~~197. Tariff Reductions~~

~~We oppose tariff reduction if it results in creating an oligopoly. (OVERSIGHT)~~

Notes: Deleted by Oversight Committee. Language incorporated into Policy 193 rewrite.

~~198. Trade Agreements~~

~~We support free and fair trade. Any modifications to our domestic trade policy and tariff schedules should be done through multilateral negotiations. Any modifications must be compatible with current farm programs. We support legislation to prevent circumvention of domestic trade policy and tariff schedules. Import sensitive crops (i.e., sugar, citrus, and vegetables) should not be negotiated on a bilateral or regional basis. (OVERSIGHT)~~

Notes: Deleted by Oversight Committee. Language incorporated into Policy 193 rewrite.

~~199. Trade Embargo~~

~~Should a trade embargo or restriction be declared for national security reasons, the embargo should be total and apply to all products and services. (OVERSIGHT)~~

Notes: Deleted by Oversight Committee. Language incorporated into Policy 193 rewrite.

200. Trade Promotion Authority

We support Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) for the President to negotiate trade agreements only at the World Trade Organization (WTO). We oppose TPA for the President to negotiate bilateral and regional trade agreements. (OVERSIGHT)

Notes: Deleted by Oversight Committee. Language incorporated into Policy 193 rewrite.

TRANSPORTATION

~~201. Mexican Truck Restrictions~~

~~We oppose the permanent lifting of current restrictions for Mexican trucks importing agricultural products into the U.S. (OVERSIGHT)~~

~~202. Over Dimensional Farm Equipment~~

~~Farm equipment should be exempt from requirements to obtain an over-dimensional permit when being transported in the normal course of agricultural production.~~

~~We support measures that promote safety without placing financial burden on agricultural producers. (OVERSIGHT)~~

~~203. Overweight Shipments~~ Agricultural Truck Weights

We support increasing truck weight limits to facilitate the intrastate movement of Florida agricultural and timber products from farm to market.

We support exemptions or permits for ~~citrus or other~~ agricultural real commodities that would allow oversize and/or overweight ~~containers~~ shipments to be transported on highways for ~~export shipment~~ necessary movement under emergency conditions. (CITRUS)

~~NR 16 – Increased Truck Weights~~

~~We support increasing truck weight limits to facilitate the movement of Florida ag and timber products from farm to market.~~

Notes: Resolution proposed by Forestry Committee. Deleted by Oversight Committee. Language incorporated into rewrite of Policy 203.

WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES

GENERAL

204. Air Quality Standards

Particulate matter from agricultural sources should be excluded from the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Without conclusive scientific evidence indicating that particulate matter from farm and ranch operations adversely affects public health, we oppose any mandatory air quality standards for ozone and particulate matter for agricultural operations. We oppose any attempt to regulate methane emissions from ruminant animals under the Clean Air Act or any other legislative vehicle; and air permits for agricultural operations that are not science based. We recommend further research into emission factors for particulate matter for agricultural operations. (W/NR)

205. Conservation Programs

We should educate our members on state and federal cost share opportunities. We should also seek ways to mitigate or ease the economic burden placed on growers that participate in these programs. (W/NR)

206. Cost Share Programs

Any mandatory environmental regulatory program must be accompanied with cost share funding equivalent to an amount historically provided. In addition, environmental enhancements can be cost shared without the need for a conservation plan. (DAIRY)

207. Dipping Vats

We recommend that federal agencies absolve present and past landowners and operators from liability and cost of clean up or damages from dipping vat sites which were established under a federally mandated program from tick eradication affecting 985 counties and 14 states. (BEEF)

208. Endangered Species

We oppose rules unreasonable and harmful to agriculture concerning endangered species. Any implementation should be postponed until further study and more user input can be provided.

We support the immediate “delisting” of those species that have reestablished viable population according to established population models and survey methods developed by the appropriate state, federal, or international governing authority. In the event a species is delisted, we oppose any new or retroactive regulation that may be more restrictive or burdensome than previously required under Endangered Species designation.

Prior to the U.S. FWS, state or local agency proposing a species for endangered or threatened status or species of special concern, we urge that a thorough investigation using sound scientific methods be made by that agency with enhanced opportunity for public input by affected landowners.

We are adamantly opposed to introduction, re-introduction or interstate transfer that may pose any threat to humans. This distribution includes any animals that prey upon livestock or native wildlife (i.e., cougars, panthers, wolves, etc.).

Any reintroduction of endangered species on public lands should be classed as an experimental population and not be protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) if the species moves onto private lands.

Any rewrite of the ESA should include economic effects as a consideration in the listing of a species. The rewrite should address individual species, and include a landowner incentive program.
(W/NR)

209. Environmental Mandates and Restoration

Environmental mandates or any other governmental entity's regulatory management of agriculture must be based on sound, scientific data. Further, we recommend that in cases where an agricultural industry will be affected and removed as an accused source of pollution, that the area in question be monitored to ascertain if the removal is rectifying the problem.

We encourage legislation that provides fast track recourse for landowners who are unjustly slandered or adversely affected by environmental mandates or restoration projects.

No single sector of the economy should pay a disproportionate share of the cost of any ecosystem restoration program. (W/NR)

210. Environmental Self Audit

We support voluntary environmental self-audits conducted with the intention of preventing and correcting noncompliance, as well as identifying pollution prevention opportunities that will assure not only more effective implementation of environmental laws, but faster correction of compliance problems which put the environment at risk. The environmental audit and documents related to an environmental self-audit should be confidential. (W/NR)

211. Environmental Stewardship Certification

We support the Environmental Stewardship Certification program as a vehicle for encouraging incentive-based cost-share programs throughout the state. The Environmental Stewardship Certification is a three-part program consisting of quality assurance, education and County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) recognition. Within the Environmental Stewardship Certification program, the Florida Farm Bureau's CARES program plays an integral role of recognizing farmers for their environmental stewardship. (W/NR)

212. Growth Management

Agricultural lands should be protected by incentives which ensure the economic viability of agricultural activities. The Rural and Family Lands Protection Act and Rural Land Stewardship Areas are good examples of incentive based growth management programs.

We continue to urge the Florida Legislature and Governor to support and establish a funding

mechanism at the state level and to support cost sharing with participating local governments. (W/NR)

213. Incentive-Based Environmental Programs

We support incentive-based environmental programs and cost-share programs for agricultural operations that replace command-and-control type regulatory programs while providing positive environmental benefits. The Suwannee River Partnership is a good example of a progressive alternative to the traditional permitting approach. It has resulted in greater environmental compliance of more agriculture operations in less time than any previous regulatory program utilized in Florida.

We support the continuation of funding for Operation Cleansweep by the Florida Legislature. We support FDACS as the lead agency in cooperation with other public/private entities. (W/NR)

214. Mineral Rights

We support legislation that would require all mineral rights that have not been exercised by the non-fee owner of a parcel of land, automatically be reverted to the fee owner, after a period of twenty-five (25) years. (W/NR)

215. Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III

The federal SARA Title III should be amended to require notification and reporting of agricultural facilities under Section 302 only if such facilities produce or store Extremely Hazardous Substances above the Threshold Planning Quantity.

We recommend elimination of the \$5/employee fee.

We recommend a one-time activation fee with the agriculture entity being exempt from any fee or tax in the future and a simplified application and process. (W/NR)

WATER

216. Competing Uses

The Florida Legislature carefully delineated requirements for water planning, and placed an emphasis on water resource and water supply development, including funding for new alternative water supplies in F.S. 373.0831.

We support the immediate implementation of these programs by the water management districts to avoid the need for competing water-use applications. (W/NR)

217. Everglades

We support continuation of agricultural production in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), the C-139 basin and the Northern Everglades. We support the Everglades Forever Act and the Northern Everglades Protection Act. Any changes made in the Everglades Forever Act, the Northern Everglades Protection Act and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

must be based on sound scientific evidence and a cost-benefit analysis.

We support balanced implementation of the Everglades Forever Act, the Northern Everglades Protection Act and the CERP in a manner that provides for water related needs of the region, including the enhancement of water supply while maintaining flood control.

We support the Northern Everglades initiative to implement Best Management Practices throughout the Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee watersheds to reduce nutrient loading to the lake and estuaries. (W/NR) (SUGAR)

218. Existing Users

We support the existing statutory provisions in F.S. 373.233 (2), giving preference to renewal applications and F.S. 373.171 (2) and (3) relating to protecting the rights of existing users. Any rules or policies adopted by the water management districts shall comply with these provisions.

Existing legal users' rights to permit renewals should be strengthened. In the event that two or more competing applications qualify under the provisions of F.S. 373.233 (1), the governing board or the department should give preference to a renewal application over a new application. (W/NR)

219. Federal Clean Water Act

We encourage the EPA to continue working with USDA, States and agricultural organizations toward the goals of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). We also encourage the EPA to recognize functionally equivalent programs for agricultural non-point source discharges as a means to protect and/or improve water quality. We support the establishment of incentive based BMP programs adopted by the FDACS pursuant to state law and further support the continuation of the CWA exemption for agricultural discharges.

We oppose any attempt to broaden the jurisdiction of the CWA. (W/NR)

220. Gulf of Mexico Program

We support and encourage the right of states to develop a volunteer plan of action to address the agricultural non-point source portion of the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program. (W/NR)

221. Lake Okeechobee

We support Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Management and alternatives that maximize protection of the water use community's existing permitted water allocations that minimize the potential for short-term water supply shortages and assure the predictability of a continued and reliable water supply.

Everglades Forever Act mandates that 298 Districts be allowed to pump 20% of excess supply into Lake Okeechobee in times of a water emergency. We support recognition that water emergencies include both flooding and drought relief. (SUGAR)

222. Long Term Permitting

We strongly encourage the water management districts to issue agricultural water use permits for a duration of twenty (20) years as authorized by F.S. 373.236. (W/NR)

223. Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs)

We support the state's network of agricultural MILs and further support making these services available at no charge to participating growers. MILs perform valuable evaluations on irrigation systems and are extremely important to existing water conservation efforts and emerging policies therein. (W/NR)

224. Petitions by Third Parties

Water use permit holders who legally hold and use permits should not be harassed by frivolous challenges by third parties during the permit renewal process. Third party petitioners should bear the burden of proof of harm or negative impact caused by the permit holder. We encourage the water management districts to defend the permitting process from nuisance petitions filed by third parties. (W/NR)

225. Potable Water Testing

It is not reasonable to require installation of costly and complex systems to treat potable water based solely on the number of consumer/workers a business serves/employs, particularly when no real threat to public safety exists. Should a problem be discovered by testing or sanitary survey, reasonable corrective action, such as water treatment or providing alternative water sources, should be implemented by the business affected.

The rules for primary inorganic, volatile organic and other chemical sampling are so complex that there should be a burden on the DEP and the health departments to minimize sampling requirements. (W/NR)

226. Water Management District Ag Teams

We support the Southwest Florida Water Management District's establishment of Ag Teams. These Ag Teams consist of water management district personnel who specialize in agricultural-related permitting issues. We encourage other water management districts to establish similar teams to act as liaisons to the agriculture community. (W/NR)

227. Water Management Districts

We support legislative, regulatory and administrative efforts to simplify, streamline and make water management districts more responsive to the water needs of local communities and their citizens.

- **Regional Management & District Boundaries**

We support the continued regional management of water resources through the water management districts with no consolidation at the state level. Without scientific and public policy justification, we oppose any change in current water management district boundaries.

- Local Sources First
We support the “local sources first” statute F.S. 373.223(3) (a-g) and philosophy in regional water supply planning statewide.
- Agriculture Exemptions
We recommend the Florida Legislature require those agencies that promulgate surface water rules, recognize the provisions of F.S. 373.406, exempting agricultural activities.
- Water Management District Boards
We urge the Governor to appoint water management district board members with commercial-agricultural backgrounds, and we support continuing the process of appointments by the Governor rather than elected board members.

We support the retention of basin boards of the water management districts as described in F.S. 373.0693.

- Lake Okeechobee Backpumping
We support the South Florida Water Management District’s authority to replenish Lake Okeechobee’s water supply from other available sources as it deems necessary, including the EAA.
- Fee, Fines & Taxes
We oppose any increases in permitting fees by the water management districts. In the event of permit fee increases, agricultural fees should be separate and held at a lower level.

We oppose water management districts’ seeking legislative authority to create an administrative fine system.

We oppose the use of *ad valorem* taxes for the purchase of property.

We oppose water user fees or any self-supplied water use tax.

- Metering & Monitoring
We should cooperate with the water management districts to obtain accurate groundwater consumptive use data. However, we oppose the mandatory metering and testing of wells on private property. When such metering and monitoring are required by any governmental agency, that agency should underwrite the total cost of those programs and growers should be allowed to use reasonable alternative methods when appropriate.
- Minimum Flows & Levels
We support the Water Management Districts’ utilizing peer review in establishing and adopting Minimum flows and Levels and recovery strategies.

- Flood Control/Excess Water

Due to the importance of flood control protection to the citizens of Florida, flood control projects and systems of locks and dams shall be preserved and not materially diminished without specific legislative approval.

We oppose rules and regulations that prevent the removal of excess water from agricultural lands, and that agriculture retain the right to remove excess water in an economically feasible manner to maximize production.

- Alternative Water Supply

We strongly encourage research into alternative water sources. We support legislation and policies that encourage or require urban and public water utilities to utilize and enhance water supplies through alternative sources.

We support water storage on private lands when the property owner is adequately compensated and held harmless from such action. (W/NR)

228. Water Quality

Agricultural practices should be protective of surface and ground water quality. We support a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards in F.S. 373.4595, 403.067, 576.045 and 597.004 and release from liability as provided by F.S. 376.307(5) for producers who have implemented appropriate BMPs on their operation. We support continuing the self-tax on fertilizer for BMP research.

If required by permit conditions, we support the simplification of testing procedures and justification for water quality so as to reduce the unusual burden and expense to the agricultural community. (W/NR)

229. Water Use Permit Relocation

We support the ability of an agricultural water use (consumptive use) permittee to relocate their water use permit, consistent with permit criteria with no penalty or loss of allocated quantities, based on the permit maintaining the same ownership, use and quantity of the existing permit. (W/NR)

230. Wellhead Protection

We oppose the development of wellhead protection ordinances or rules by any unit of government without specific and scientifically, peer-reviewed based criteria. (W/NR)

~~NR 17—Water Conservation Legislation~~

~~We oppose legislation that would single out one agricultural commodity in a means to conserve water.~~

Notes: Resolution proposed by Sod Committee. Deleted by Oversight Committee.

ABBREVIATED TERMS

AITC.....	Ag-in-the-Classroom
APH.....	Actual Production History
APHIS.....	Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
ARS.....	Agriculture Research Service
BMP.....	Best Management Practice
CARES	County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship
CCC	Commodity Credit Corporation
CERP.....	Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
CWA	Clean Water Act
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DHS.....	Department of Homeland Security
DOC.....	Department of Citrus
DOF.....	Division of Forestry
DPI	Division of Plant Industry
EAA.....	Everglades Agricultural Area
EPA.....	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA.....	Endangered Species Act
FAWN	Florida Automated Weather Network
FCC.....	Florida Citrus Commission
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FDOE	Florida Department of Education
FQPA.....	Food Quality Protection Act
FSA	Farm Service Agency
FTE.....	Full Time Equivalent
FWC.....	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWS.....	Fish and Wildlife Service
GSP.....	Generalized System of Preferences
IPM.....	Integrated Pest Management
IRA	Individual Retirement Accounts
ITLA	Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts
MIL.....	Mobile Irrigation Labs
NAFTA.....	North American Free Trade Agreement
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service
OSHA.....	Occupational Safety and Health Act
PACA.....	Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act
RCMA.....	Redlands Christian Migrant Association
RMA.....	Risk Management Agency
SARA.....	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
TMDLs	Total Maximum Daily Loads
TPA.....	Trade Promotion Authority
UF/IFAS.....	University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
WTO	World Trade Organization