



Florida Farm Bureau Federation

2024 Policy Book

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Farm Bureau Philosophy

We believe in the founding principles of this nation. The strength of our nation lies not in government but in its citizens. Government is the servant of its citizens, not their master. We recognize that to keep our nation strong, citizens must be involved in the political process: demonstrating and demanding high moral standards and values from public officials and private citizens. We oppose the public glorification of sex and violence in all forms.

We believe in the dignity of the individual. This God given quality is basic to our way of life. Dignity is achieved through safeguarding opportunity for individual initiative, not by illusions of security by government programs. There is dignity in work, and persons should be rewarded for their productive contributions to society.

We believe in the American economic system based on the right to make a profit. The right to own, control and use private property is the very heart of our competitive economic system. While this right does not permit use of property in a harmful, illegal, or immoral way, we are alarmed by recent trends to infringe on legal use of private property. We believe that property owners should be compensated from public funds for curtailment of the use of property deemed "in the public interest."

We believe that education is necessary for a well-informed public and favor permitting the use of organized prayer in public schools. We continue to support positive, creative youth programs such as 4-H and FFA which provide educational opportunities, leadership training and experience in the free enterprise system. We encourage activities, which would increase public awareness of the industry and contributions made by agriculture to the people of the State. We believe that discipline is necessary within that society. Both self-discipline and proper group behavior begin within the family. We do not condone abuse in any form, under the guise of discipline, whether it be a child, spouse or parent who is the target of said abuse.

We believe that all persons have the ability and responsibility to improve the society in which they live. Sharing one's talents through voluntary efforts has been keystone to America. We are proud that the members of our Farm Bureau have accomplished much to improve our industry, communities and nation. We invite others to join in our service to agriculture and mankind.

Agriculture Chemicals	1
1. Chemical Labeling	1
2. Fertilizer Ordinances	1

3. Fertilizer Regulation	1
4. Food Quality Protection Act	2
5. New Crop Protection Products	3
6. Pesticide Management	3
7. Registration for Minor Crops	4
8. Right of Producers to Use Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	4
9. Soil Fumigants	4
Best Management Practices	5
10. Agricultural Best Management Practices/Local Governments	5
11. Best Management Practices	5
12. Nursery and Landscape Best Management Practices	7
13. Silviculture and Wildlife Best Management Practices	7
Budget/Economy	8
14. Agricultural Land Classification (Greenbelt)	8
15. Conservation Easements	9
16. Federal Tax Reform	9
17. Fee Reduction	10
18. Forestry Taxes	11
19. Horse Sales Tax Exemption	11
20. Land Exchanges	11
21. Local Preemption	11
22. Municipal Service Taxing Units	12
23. Payment in Lieu of Taxes	12
24. Sales Tax on Nonprofit Events	13
25. Section 199A Rules	13
26. State Sales Tax Exemptions	14
27. State Tax Reform	15
28. Timber Casualty Losses	15
Commodities	16
Apiculture	16
29. Apiary Quality Assurance	16
30. Beekeeping Greenbelt Assessment	16
31. Bees on Public Lands	16
32. Definition of Honey	16
33. Honey Loan Program	17
34. Integrated Pest Management Promotion	17
35. Native Pollinators	17
Aquaculture	18
36. Alligator Farming	18
37. Aquaculture as Agriculture	18
38. Aquaculture Drug Labeling	18
39. Black Bass (Genus Micropterus) Farming	18
40. Broodstock and Farm Cultured Products	19
41. Compensation Insurance for Aquaculture Workers	19
42. Marine Aquaculture in Federal Waters	20
43. Shrimp Farming Research	20
44. Sturgeon Farming	20
45. UF/IFAS Tropical Aquaculture Research Lab	21
46. United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services	21
47. Division of Aquaculture	21
Beef	21
48. Animal Health Products	21
49. Animal Identification and Traceability	21
50. Beef Check-Off	22
51. Beef Research and Promotion	22
52. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection	22
53. Florida Cattlemen's Association's Voluntary Assessment	22

54. Livestock Animal Practices Training	23
Citrus	23
55. Adulteration of Juice	23
56. Citrus Products in Public Schools	23
57. Citrus Trust Funds	23
58. Department of Citrus	23
59. Quality Standard for Orange Juice	24
60. Risk Management Citrus Fruit Policy	24
Dairy	25
61. Animal Husbandry Regulations and Education	25
62. Animal Products in Public Schools	25
63. Class I Milk Mover Base Price	26
64. Class I Milk Mover Formula	26
65. Dairy Economic Incentives	26
66. Florida Dairy Regulations	26
67. Imported Milk Standards	27
68. Locally Produced Dairy Products	27
69. National Dairy Policy	27
Environmental Horticulture	28
70. Environmental Benefits of Plants	28
71. Foliage Shipments to California	29
72. Nursery Crop Insurance	29
Equine	30
73. Definition of Horse Racing	30
74. Equine Disposition	30
75. Equine as Livestock	30
76. Equine Industry Economic Impact	30
77. Exemptions for Farriers	31
78. Florida Horse Council	31
79. Florida Horse Park	31
80. Horse Identification	31
81. Legislation for Horse Racing	31
82. Pari-mutuel Decoupling	32
83. Racetrack Permits	32
84. Florida Equestrian Heritage Trail Network	32
Forestry	32
85. Florida Forest Service	32
86. Non-Market Values of Working Forests	33
87. Prescribed Burning	33
88. Public Land/Multiple-Use Management	34
89. Reforestation and Forest Management	34
90. State Tree Nursery	34
91. Wildfire Suppression	34
Fruit/Vegetable	35
92. Antitrust Laws	35
93. License and Bond	35
94. Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act	35
95. Pest Deterrents	35
Peanut/Cotton	36
96. Documentary Stamp Exemption	36
97. Florida Cotton Marketing Order	36
98. Grading and Quality Standards for Peanuts	36
99. Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)	36
100. Loose Shelled Kernels	37
101. National Cotton Board Uniform Assessment	37
102. National Peanut Board Uniform Assessment	37
103. State Peanut Advisory Council	37
104. Seed Cotton	37

Sod/Turfgrass	38
105. Environmental Benefits of Turfgrass	38
106. Regulation of Turfgrass	38
107. Turfgrass Education	38
108. Turfgrass and Water Conservation	38
Sugar	39
109. Domestic Sugar Program Management	39
110. Federal Sugar Policy	39
Education	40
111. 4-H and FFA Youth Programs	40
112. Agriculture in the Classroom	40
113. Agricultural Education	40
114. Agricultural Fairs and Expositions	41
115. Aquaculture Education	41
116. Educational Materials that Discourage Use of Animal Products	41
117. Food Animal Practitioners	42
118. Technology Development	42
119. The University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences	43
120. Agricultural Degree and Certification Programs	45
Energy	45
121. Biomass	45
122. Energy	45
123. Oil and Natural Gas Exploration	46
124. Refineries	46
125. Regulation of Greenhouse Gases	47
Farm Policy/Farm Programs	47
126. Farm Income	47
127. Federal Funding for Implementation of Growing Practices	47
128. National Farm Policy	48
129. Payment Limitations	48
130. Peanut Program	48
131. Producer Eligibility Determination	49
132. Storage and Handling Fees	49
133. Agriculture Disaster Programs	49
134. USDA Programs to Include Aquaculture	50
Food Safety and Labeling	50
135. Country of Origin Labeling	50
136. Food Inspection Program Funding	51
137. Food Labeling	51
138. Food Safety	51
139. Imitation Product Labeling	53
140. Sale of Raw Milk	53
141. Synthetic Milk	54
142. Lab Grown Protein	54
General	54
143. Agritourism	54
144. Biosolids	55
145. Consumer Burden of Proof	55
146. Fees	55
147. Florida Seed Law	56
148. Food Recovery Program/Food Banks	56
149. Mixed Use Fire Code Exemption	56
150. Official Language	56
151. Personal Injury Industry Solicitations	56
152. Right to Repair	57

153. Rural Broadband	57
154. State Agricultural Response Team	58
155. Unmanned Aircraft Systems	58
156. Weather Information	59
157. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Salary Caps	59
158. Fire Assessments	59
Government	59
159. Duplication of Regulations	59
160. Economic Impact	60
161. Government Supported Food Programs	60
162. State Constitution	60
163. Unfunded Mandates	60
164. Artificial Intelligence	61
165. District Courts Structure	61
Insurance	61
166. Citizens Insurance	61
167. Dairy Revenue Protection Insurance	61
168. Equine Insurance	61
169. Health Insurance	62
170. Uniform Automobile Insurance Premiums	62
Labor	62
171. Child Labor Laws	62
172. Collective Bargaining Law	63
173. Employee Transportation Expenses	63
174. Federal Government Contractors	63
175. Immigration at the Federal Level	64
176. Independent Contractors	64
177. Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts	64
178. Labor Housing	64
179. Legal Workers	65
180. Legal Services	65
181. Local Labor Laws	65
182. Management Programs	66
183. Mandated Safety Programs	66
184. Mediation	66
185. Minimum Wage	66
186. Occupational Safety and Health Act	66
187. Right-to-Work	66
188. Rural Child Care	67
189. Social Responsibility	67
190. Workers Compensation	67
191. Heat Related Labor Regulations	68
Law and Order	68
192. Agricultural Crime Units	68
193. Capital Punishment	68
194. Definition of Marriage	69
195. Drug and Alcohol Abuse	69
196. Litter Laws	69
197. Support of the Second Amendment	69
198. Treatment of Criminals	69
199. Trespass and Theft	70
Marketing	70
200. Citrus Promotion and Marketing	70
201. Florida Agricultural Promotion Support	70
202. Marketing Florida Citrus Juice	71
203. State Farmers' Markets	71
204. Livestock Marketing	71

Pests and Diseases	72
205. Agricultural Emergency Declarations	72
206. Agricultural Inspections at Ports of Entry	73
207. Boll Weevil Program	73
208. Brucellosis	73
209. Caribfly-free Zones	73
210. Equine Diseases	73
211. Feral Hog and Invasive Plant Control	74
212. Foreign and Domestic Diseases	74
213. Invasive Pest Plants	74
214. Livestock Disease	75
215. Management of Citrus Diseases	75
216. Plant and Animal Pests and Diseases	76
217. Protection Against Imported Pests and Diseases	76
218. Quarantines	77
219. Strengthening of Quarantine 37	77
220. Trichomoniasis	78
221. Point of Care Testing	78
Property Rights/Land Management	78
222. Abandoned Vegetable Fields and Citrus Groves	78
223. Eminent Domain	79
224. Jurisdictional Wetlands	79
225. Legal Ingress/Egress	80
226. Less-than-Fee Acquisition	80
227. Private Property Rights	81
228. Public Lands Management	81
229. Range Lands	82
230. Rights of Nature	83
231. Sovereign Lands	83
Research	83
232. Apiculture Research	83
233. Biotechnology	84
234. Citrus Plant Improvement Research	84
235. Forest Products	84
236. Forestry Research and Extension Programs	85
237. Ownership of Research	85
238. Production and Harvesting Mechanization	85
239. Research on Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	85
240. Sugarcane Research	86
Risk Management	86
241. Disaster Program Payments	86
242. Federal Crop Insurance/Risk Management	86
Trade	87
243. Agricultural Products from Cuba	87
244. Citrus Tariffs	87
245. Export Programs	88
246. Foreign Agricultural Enterprise	88
247. Health Protocols for Trade	88
248. Import Relief for Perishable Products	88
249. International Trade	89
250. Non-Tariff Barriers	91
251. Patent Protection	91
252. Producer Export Sales	91
Transportation	91
253. Agricultural Transportation Exemptions	91
254. Emergency Hauling Exemptions	92
Water/Natural Resources	92
General	92

255. Air Quality Standards	92
256. Conservation Programs	92
257. County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES)	93
258. Depredating Animals	93
259. Dipping Vats	94
260. Endangered Species Act	94
261. Environmental Mandates and Restoration	96
262. Environmental Regulatory Programs	96
263. Federal Environmental Self Audit	96
264. Growth Management	97
265. Incentive-Based Environmental Programs	97
266. Indemnification of Losses	98
267. Mineral Rights	98
268. Single Species Management	99
269. Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Title III	99
270. Contaminant Liability	100
Water	100
271. Agricultural Exemptions	100
272. Alternative Water Supply	100
273. Competing Uses	101
274. Everglades Restoration Programs	101
275. Existing Users	102
276. Federal Clean Water Act	103
277. Fees, Fines and Taxes	104
278. Flood Control/Excess Water	104
279. Gulf of Mexico Program	105
280. Lake Okeechobee	105
281. Lake Okeechobee Augmentation	106
282. Local Sources First	106
283. Long Term Permitting	106
284. Metering and Monitoring	106
285. Minimum Flows and Levels	107
286. Mobile Irrigation Labs	107
287. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits for Agricultural Chemical Applications	108
288. Payment for Environmental Services	108
289. Petitions by Third Parties	109
290. Potable Water Testing	109
291. Total Maximum Daily Load Targets	110
292. Water Quality	110
293. Water Use Permit Relocation	111
294. Wellhead Protection	111
Water Management Districts	111
295. Regional Management and District Boundaries	111
296. Water Management Districts	112
297. Water Management District Agriculture Teams	112
298. Water Management District Boards	112
Abbreviated Terms	114

Agriculture Chemicals

1. Chemical Labeling

We urge chemical companies and retail outlets to prominently label chemicals for their independent and combined effects on all life stages of pollinators and then label the chemicals appropriately.

(APICULTURE) (OVERSIGHT)

2. Fertilizer Ordinances

We urge local governments to adopt the State of Florida's Model Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer use on Urban Landscapes (§ 403.9337, Florida Statute). Based on an overwhelming body of peer-reviewed, sound scientific evidence and research, this Model Ordinance allows for healthy turf and proper use of fertilizer to strengthen plant life and maximize filtration capacity. The Model Ordinance properly requires individuals who oversee or apply fertilizer for commercial purposes to be Best Management Practices (BMPs) trained, certified and licensed.

We oppose fertilizer black-out periods and point-of-purchase bans, as such are counter-productive, ignore sound science, do not change human behavior and transfer the burden and responsibility of local governments onto the backs of local businesses. (ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

3. 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 Agriculture Feed, Seed, and Fertilizer Advisory 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)

4. Food Quality Protection Act

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 the Food Quality Protection Act (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 (FFBF) should use every means possible to force modification or improvement of the FQPA requiring the use of sound science and economically viable methods of enforcement and implementation that will

not 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)

5. New Crop Protection Products

We support actions which ensure continued research and development of new crop protection products. We urge that the banning or limiting of already approved crop protection products be based only on scientific research data.

We urge the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to quickly register crop protection products that would benefit Florida growers. (PEANUT/COTTON)

6. 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 the FDACS when other agencies request such records.

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

7. 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) (ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

8. 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.

We oppose exclusive use of web-based pesticide labeling. (FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

9. Soil Fumigants

We support the continued use of agricultural chemicals that currently have no viable alternatives. We further encourage research funded through state and federal agencies, as well as private associations, to develop economically viable soil fumigation options for agricultural producers.

U.S. farmers must not be constrained by regulations that result in a competitive disadvantage. (FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

Best Management Practices

10. Agricultural Best Management Practices/Local Governments

We oppose the development of ordinances by local governments to address agricultural non-point source discharges.

We urge local governments to recognize the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) adopted Best Management Practices (BMPs) manuals, and support agriculture's effort to address non-point source discharges by region, watershed or on a statewide basis.
(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

11. Best Management Practices

We support scientific, economically feasible and technology-based Best Management Practices (BMPs) for all commodities with manuals adopted by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). We support the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) research efforts with industry input to develop solutions to potential ground water and surface water quality and quantity issues while maintaining or even enhancing agricultural production.

We support nutrient and irrigation management decisions based on current science and data analysis that are consistent with the intent of the applicable BMP manual. Since BMP manuals are adopted rules, it is imperative that we have a vigorous, well-funded research program that stays current with new varieties,

technologies and production practices. To accommodate continued agricultural production while research to review and revise BMPs is underway, we support the use of rate tailoring for nutrient application rates where that rate tailoring is supported by written recommendations from academic institutions or certified professionals and such recommendations are accompanied by production records and field data for use in the BMP implementation verification process.

We support scientific, economically feasible and technology-based BMPs for all commodities as implemented by the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS) as a part of Federal cost-share programs.

We support Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Resource Conservation and Development Councils in their efforts to work with agricultural landowners in implementing BMPs.

As BMPs are updated, FDACS, USDA/NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation Districts should continue as the lead agencies in the development and implementation of BMPs when such agencies are operating in a manner that is consistent with the needs of the farming community. BMP manuals should continue to recognize the protections for agriculture under the Florida Right to Farm Act.

We support continued research for BMPs as one of the tools for protecting or improving water quality and funding for 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.

Information provided to FDACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP) regarding implementation of BMPs for individual farms or operations should be exempt from disclosure under Florida public records laws. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

12. Nursery and Landscape Best Management Practices

All landscape BMPs should fall under the authority of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) rather than the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Local landscape ordinances, and their enforcement, shall comply with and not exceed the Green Industry BMPs and the State of Florida's Model Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer use on Urban Landscapes (§403.9337, Florida Statute). (ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

13. Silviculture and Wildlife Best Management Practices

We support the Florida Forest Service (FFS) to continue program oversight of silviculture and forestry wildlife best management practices (BMP). (FORESTRY)

Budget/Economy

14. Agricultural Land Classification (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 are opposed to an ad-valorem recapture tax.

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 the continuation of Florida's Greenbelt law as enshrined in §193.461, Florida Statute, directing county property appraisers to classify and assess lands used primarily for bona fide, good faith, commercial agricultural purposes.

We believe that county property appraisers should not deny or revoke agricultural classification based solely on statutorily-recognized agricultural activities conducted on the property in furtherance of permits or approvals authorized by government agencies and water management districts for floodplain management, stormwater management, water quality improvements, agricultural water management systems and pollution control.

Agricultural activities include all necessary farming and forestry operations which are normal and customary for the area, such as site preparation, clearing, fencing, contouring to prevent soil erosion, soil preparation, plowing, planting, cultivating, harvesting, fallowing, leveling, construction of access roads, placement of bridges and culverts and implementation of best management practices.

We believe that nonresidential farm buildings and support structures used for agriculture, timber, or aquaculture, storage of farm equipment and machinery, fencing and sheltering of livestock has no separate, ascertainable value from the land and should not be assessed separately at market value. (BUDGET/ECONOMY)

15. Conservation Easements

We support conservation easements for perpetuity or less than perpetuity to be available to farmers and ranchers with a federal tax deduction available.

We support sufficient funding for working lands conservation easement programs. In addition, we support unrestrictive agricultural land use rights on conservation easements. (BUDGET/ECONOMY)

16. Federal Tax Reform

We support elimination of the Federal Estate Tax or support unlimited special use valuation of agricultural land.

We support the elimination of the Federal Alternative Minimum Tax.

We support balancing the federal budget and eliminating the national debt.

We support amending the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced budget and to liquidate federal assets to pay down the national debt. For any increase of federal taxes, we support a requirement of a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote in both houses of Congress.

We oppose cost of living tax adjustments on federal income tax or benefits because of locations.

We support the continued deduction of sales tax from federal income tax.

We support reasonable and just tax reform of the Federal Tax Code. The changes should not cause undue additional taxes or increase costs to agriculture.

We oppose the value-added tax.

We support the stepped-up basis for the gifts of agricultural property and the elimination of the estate and gift tax on gifts of properties that remain in agricultural production. (BUDGET/ECONOMY)

17. Fee Reduction

We support a reduction in the registration fee for seed dealers to a level that continues to allow for inspection, sampling, compliance, enforcement and analysis.

We support a reduction in the fees for the weights and measures commercial use

permit. (BUDGET/ECONOMY)

18. Forestry Taxes

We support amending the current tax code to provide income averaging as a means of lowering tax rates for forest landowners.

(FORESTRY) (BUDGET/ECONOMY)

19. Horse Sales Tax Exemption

We support a sales tax exemption on the sale of equine when sold for agricultural or competition purposes. (EQUINE)

(BUDGET/ECONOMY)

20. Land Exchanges

We support like-kind exchanges of property under Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code as a means of tax deferral and favor no change rules and guidelines governing those exchanges.

(FORESTRY) (BUDGET/ECONOMY)

21. Local Preemption

We support the Agricultural Lands and Practices Act to preempt local governments from taxing or assessing fees on agriculture lands or operations.

We oppose any fees for counties or municipalities on buildings or land improvements on farms.

We oppose any special local or state fee or assessment on farms including special taxing districts.

We support the firm definition of a tax from the government. The goal of a definition is to remove ambiguous language for fees and

assessments which are, in fact, taxes.
(BUDGET/ECONOMY)

22. Municipal Service Taxing Units

We oppose the taxation of land and structures that do not specifically benefit from taxes levied under municipal service taxing or benefit.

We believe that the provision of essential services such as fire safety should be assessed fairly and equitably as a non-ad valorem assessment based on the special benefit provided to the individual property. We do not support the use of Municipal Service Taxing Units for providing essential, property specific services.

We support sunset provisions of five years for municipal service taxing or benefit units.

We support boards who are elected by property owners in that area.

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.
(BUDGET/ECONOMY)

23. Payment in Lieu of Taxes

We support §259.0322, Florida Statute, the reimbursement to local governments when private lands are purchased by public agencies and also support payments of

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to other local governments not covered by the statute.

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, calculated at current, annual assessed value of like-kind properties 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.

The burden should be placed on the entity purchasing the land to notify the appropriate taxing districts to ensure the funds are paid.

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. (BUDGET/ECONOMY)

24. Sales Tax on Nonprofit Events

We support the elimination of sales tax on events for all nonprofit organizations. (BUDGET/ECONOMY)

25. Section 199A Rules

Under proposed Section 199A rules of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code, Section 1231 gains should be considered as Qualified Business Income (QBI) for pass-through entity deductions. Any capital gains should be factored into this deduction. (BUDGET/ECONOMY)

26. State Sales Tax Exemptions

We support a phase-out of sales and use tax for all inputs for farms.

We support sales tax exemption certifications or affidavits being valid until the ag exemption expires or until the purchaser is no longer eligible for the exemption.

We support sales tax exemptions on buildings and structures that can only be used for agricultural purposes.

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.

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. (BUDGET/ECONOMY)

27. State Tax Reform

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 income tax.

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

We oppose a state income tax on Subchapter S corporations and partnerships.

When a clear and demonstrated public need for additional revenues has been proven, we favor a revenue other than an ad-valorem tax.

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

State unemployment compensation trust funds should be kept at a reasonable level.

We oppose tangible personal property taxes on farm equipment. We support increasing tangible personal property tax exemptions based on inflation. (BUDGET/ECONOMY)

28. Timber Casualty Losses

We support amending the current tax code to provide for recouping actual value of casualty losses rather than basis value for forestry operations. (FORESTRY)
(BUDGET/ECONOMY)

Commodities

Apiculture

29. Apiary Quality Assurance

We strongly recommend that the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), United States Customs and Border Protection and other appropriate agencies take immediate action to identify and eliminate problems with adulterated and/or mislabeled honey and honey products, foreign and domestic, by enforcing existing laws. (APICULTURE)

30. Beekeeping Greenbelt Assessment

We recommend that the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry (FDACS/DPI), the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) and the Florida State Beekeepers Association (FSBA) work to educate county property appraisers in an effort to standardize rules that harmonize beekeeping agricultural assessment classification for greenbelt tax assessment purpose. (APICULTURE)
(BUDGET/ECONOMY)

31. Bees on Public Lands

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

32. Definition of Honey

We support the Florida Standard of Identity for honey (5K-4.027).

We recommend that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) adopt the 1987/2001 Revised Codex Standards of Identity for honey (with certain deviations) as the national standard for honey. (APICULTURE)

33. Honey Loan Program

We support continuation of a Honey Loan Program and an increase in subsidy payments to reflect current market value for honey in an effort to assist Florida beekeepers. (APICULTURE)

34. Integrated Pest Management Promotion

We urge farmers and other pesticide applicators to utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs that are effective in controlling insect pests while minimizing any detrimental effects to honey bees. Such programs would resolve the viability of all pollinators and especially honey bees and the viability of our fruit and vegetable industry.

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

35. Native Pollinators

We support rebuilding viable and vibrant pollinator communities through continued research across all lands in pollinator populations and to improve long-term profitability of agriculture. (APICULTURE)

Aquaculture

36. Alligator Farming

We support the development of alligator farming through continued research on captive propagation, ranching, husbandry practices and the Florida Alligator Marketing and Education (FAME) program. We also support a cooperative effort between alligator farms, state and federal agencies to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other standards for farm operations and products. (AQUACULTURE)

37. Aquaculture as Agriculture

We support Federal legislation recognizing aquaculture, including ornamental aquaculture, as an agricultural industry with full benefits of traditional agriculture and adopt a definition of aquaculture that is consistent with existing American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) policy. (AQUACULTURE)

38. Aquaculture Drug Labeling

We continue to support the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) implementation of the Minor Use Minor Species (MUMS) law. We oppose species-by-species labeling of drugs. (AQUACULTURE)

39. Black Bass (Genus Micropterus) Farming

We continue to support policy that allows black bass (Genus Micropterus) to be raised and sold commercially for human consumption. (AQUACULTURE)

40. Broodstock and Farm Cultured Products

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

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

We recommend amending the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to provide captive-bred exemptions.

We encourage the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and 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 and such materials become property of the aquaculturist upon arrival at his farm and be considered agricultural products.
(AQUACULTURE)

41. Compensation Insurance for Aquaculture Workers

We support legislation that allows aquaculture farmers or employers in state or federal waters to cover workers through state compensation insurance.
(AQUACULTURE)

42. Marine Aquaculture in Federal Waters

In the intent to expand marine aquaculture in federally regulated waters, we support funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to be the lead agency in facilitating the discussion with industry and local, state and federal agencies.

We urge NOAA to have a cohesive plan to:

- identify marine aquaculture sites in federal waters
- assist industry in the placement of marine aquaculture in federal waters
- reduce conflicts among competing uses
- minimize adverse impacts on the environment
- identify activities for potential co-location with aquaculture operations.

(AQUACULTURE)

43. Shrimp Farming Research

We support research and development for Florida's shrimp farming industry.

(AQUACULTURE)

44. Sturgeon Farming

We support the development of paddlefish and sturgeon farming through continued research on captive propagation and husbandry practices.

We also support a cooperative effort between paddlefish and sturgeon farms and state and federal agencies. We recommend amending the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to provide a captive-bred exemption.

(AQUACULTURE)

45. UF/IFAS Tropical Aquaculture Research Lab

We support continued funding and expansion of the UF/IFAS Tropical Aquaculture Research Lab. (AQUACULTURE)

46. United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services

We urge increased and continued funding for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services to enable them to cooperate with the aquaculture industry, state and federal agencies. (AQUACULTURE)

47. Division of Aquaculture

We support Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (FDACS) Division of Aquaculture as the lead agency for aquaculture in Florida. Including, but not limited to, permitting, policy and enforcement. (AQUACULTURE)

Beef

48. Animal Health Products

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

49. Animal Identification and Traceability

We support an animal identification system that facilitates animal disease traceability, and:

- guarantees it will maintain confidentiality of producers, premises and animal information
- is nationally uniform
- improves consumer confidence

- adds value for the beef producer
- functions at the industry's speed of commerce without substantial financial burden
- utilizes a privately held database of information available only to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and/or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Animal Industry.

In the event of mandatory animal ID, we support increased federal funding for phased implementation. (BEEF) (DAIRY)

50. Beef Check-Off

We support the current National Beef Check-Off program administered under the 1985 Beef Promotions and Research Act and Order. To continue beef education, research and promotion, we support future increases to the National program, as well as an automatic State Check-Off with a refund option. (BEEF)

51. Beef Research and Promotion

We support the continued appropriation of state funds for beef research and promotion. (BEEF)

52. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

We support adjacent interstate compatibility to allow multiple state locations on a valid Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). (BEEF)(EQUINE)

53. Florida Cattlemen's Association's Voluntary Assessment

We support the Florida Cattlemen's Association's (FCA) program for funding

environmental research, education and legal defense on a voluntary basis. (BEEF)

54. Livestock Animal Practices Training

We support training, education and certification of animal control personnel and local level law enforcement personnel in industry-approved livestock animal practices in Florida. (BEEF)

Citrus

55. Adulteration of Juice

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

56. Citrus Products in Public Schools

Because of the exceptional nutritional value that Florida's citrus products provide, we urge the availability of Florida citrus juice, and fruit, as user-friendly choices in the public school system. (CITRUS)

57. 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)

58. Department of Citrus

The Department of Citrus (DOC), financed by grower taxes and federal programs for exports, should have as its primary function

the enhancement of the profitability of Florida citrus growers.

The DOC's program for increasing profitability should include the establishment and perfection of a system to sell Florida-identified quality through the use of marketing and public relations. We urge the DOC to encourage high quality standards for Florida orange juice.

Promotional activities sponsored by the 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 marketing and public relations effort on fresh fruit, grapefruit products and orange juice products.

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.

Secondary focus of the DOC should be to financially support research for the management and control of pests and diseases. (CITRUS)

59. Quality Standard for Orange Juice

We support a quality standard for orange juice that reflects the actual production quality in a given crop year. (CITRUS)

60. Risk Management Citrus Fruit Policy

We support clarifying the difference between processed and fresh fruit policy for claims. A grower should be compensated

based on the policy that is purchased without penalty.

We support that there is no difference between the declaration day of the policy and the coverage start date.

We support viable risk management tools for fresh and processed citrus crop and tree policies. (CITRUS)

Dairy

61. Animal Husbandry Regulations and Education

We advocate for the welfare of our animals through scientifically sound, economically feasible practices based on United States industry standards. We should develop educational and communication programs at the state and federal level about these practices.

We strongly encourage the use of educational materials in our public schools that encourage the humane, scientifically based treatment of animals. We support statewide curriculum that mandates animal care education. (DAIRY)

62. Animal Products in Public Schools

Because of the exceptional nutritional value that milk and dairy products provide, we urge the use of fresh, Florida, whole milk and milk products in single-serve 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. (BEEF)
(DAIRY)

63. Class I Milk Mover Base Price

We support the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) developing an improved method to determine the Class I Milk Mover base price which:

- is not relying solely on manufacturing dairy products
- better reflects local market conditions
- provides more appropriate economic incentives to fluid milk producers and processors
- recognizes the costs in servicing a fluid milk market
- continues to ensure fluid milk consumers have a quality and adequate supply of fresh fluid milk. (DAIRY)

64. Class I Milk Mover Formula

We support returning the Class I milk mover formula to the higher-of Class III or IV. This change should occur in the 2023 Farm Bill. (DAIRY)

65. Dairy Economic Incentives

We support efforts by the state and federal governments to ensure viable dairy production and processing in Florida through economic and other incentives. (DAIRY)

66. 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 Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Bureau of Dairy Industry. (DAIRY)

67. 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 the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Bureau of Dairy Industry. (DAIRY)

68. Locally Produced Dairy Products

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

69. National Dairy Policy

Future changes to national dairy policy should recognize that local fluid milk demand is best served by local milk production whenever available. This ensures consumers have ample supplies of fresh, high quality fluid milk products at the best value possible.

National legislative/administrative plans or programs that manage milk supply must take into consideration regional differences in fluid milk demand and supply. Any plan/program must provide the proper economic signal to dairy farmers to meet the demand needs of the local fluid milk market.

Changes in Federal Milk Marketing Orders should take place solely through the administrative hearing process in the respective marketing areas and should not be subject to changes legislatively. Any major proposed revisions to the number of milk classes or Federal Milk Marketing Orders

should have an economic impact analysis performed before the changes are implemented. This analysis should include economic impacts to both the dairy industry and individual dairy farmer income.

We request that Congress fully fund the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) and not have a sequester deduction, or have the sequester deduction also reflected in the DMC premium rates.

Milk should be designated as a commodity and not included under livestock insurance. Dairy producers should have the option to utilize Title I farm safety net programs and Title XI insurance programs simultaneously to manage risk. If milk is not designated as a commodity, we encourage congress to increase funding for federal livestock insurance because the current level of funding is inadequate and does not reflect the value or scale of the livestock industry.
(DAIRY)

Environmental Horticulture

70. 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 United States Department of

Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

We support continual educational efforts such as the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology. (ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

71. Foliage Shipments to California

We strongly encourage the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry (FDACS/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.
(ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

72. Nursery Crop Insurance

We urge the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) to embrace meaningful reforms to the federal nursery crop insurance policy.

We support streamlining the initial inspection to eliminate disruption to business.

We support flexibility for growers to select appropriate coverage for their nursery and/or inventory.
(ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

Equine

73. Definition of Horse Racing

We support legislation that would create a specific definition of a horse race relevant to each breed. (EQUINE)

74. Equine Disposition

We support legislation and rulings that allow for the sale, possession and transport of horses intended for processing or rendering, and encourage an education campaign targeted toward legislators and the media as to the consequences of eliminating equine harvest, resulting in unintended animal abuse and neglect and the negative impact on the equine industry.

We also support domestic ownership, control and location of equine processing facilities, and the reopening and development of a new equine harvesting facility. (EQUINE)

75. Equine as Livestock

We support clarification of livestock in section §588.13, Florida Statute, to include the breeding, pasturing, boarding and training of livestock. We support the continued inclusion of equine in the definition of livestock. (EQUINE)

76. Equine Industry Economic Impact

We support regular updates to the equine inventory and economic impact study for the industry in Florida. (EQUINE)
(BUDGET/ECONOMY)

77. Exemptions for Farriers

We support the continued exemption for farriers within the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) Model Veterinary Practice Act (MVPA). (EQUINE)

78. Florida Horse Council

We support the establishment of the Florida Horse Council. (EQUINE)

79. Florida Horse Park

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

80. Horse Identification

We support the use of International Organization for Standardization (IOS) compliant microchip implanting for identification of horses for intra/interstate and international movement. (EQUINE)

81. Legislation for Horse Racing

We support legislation that will provide a beneficial environment for Florida's horse race industry to expand and allow state horse racing purses and breeders awards to be competitive with other states.

Any product affiliated with racing facilities, lottery legislation or gambling must allow for an expansion of racing opportunities, purses and breeding incentives for Florida race horses and provide tracks with the same regulatory privileges afforded to other gaming venues.

We support the establishment of a racing commission for the purpose of regulating sanctioned pari-mutuel racing in Florida.

We support long-term extension of the equine provisions of §550.09516, §571.26, and §571.265, Florida Statutes. (EQUINE)

82. Pari-mutuel Decoupling

We support legislation and regulation that requires a substantial number of live racing opportunities at all pari-mutuel venues under contractual agreement requirements with their respective and lawful horsemen's groups. We do not support decoupling or conversion of a permit to another non-equine use at any pari-mutuel venues. (EQUINE)

83. Racetrack Permits

In the event that a pari-mutuel racetrack ceases live racing, we support the transferring of that permit to another facility capable of operating a likeminded race meet. (EQUINE)

84. Florida Equestrian Heritage Trail Network

We support the development of the Florida Equestrian Heritage Trail network. (EQUINE)

Forestry

85. Florida Forest Service

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) should continue its assistance efforts for private timberland owners. The FFS should continue landowner and neighborhood incentive programs to promote and conduct fuel load reduction. Sufficient resources should be

allocated to enhance personal compensation package and equipment replacement as well as update the annual forest inventory. The FFS should also utilize the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Marketing Division to increase public education, create awareness and acceptance of the need for statewide prescribed burning to include public safety, wildlife, ecological, agricultural, and commercial benefits. (FORESTRY)

86. Non-Market Values of Working Forests

We support the recognition of the many environmental benefits that forestry provides to society. We encourage the inclusion of current and future management practices that sequester carbon and protect and enhance water quality and quantity.

We support the establishment of forestry baselines that recognize the environmental benefits of forest management practices and provide full credit for existing forest stands. (FORESTRY)

87. Prescribed Burning

We support efforts to promote more prescribed burning in Florida, including mitigating areas located in the wildland urban interface. We also support increasing opportunities, education and flexibility for Certified Prescribed Burn Managers (CPBM) and certified pile burners to burn more. (FORESTRY)

88. Public Land/Multiple-Use Management

We support active multiple-use management of all public land including federal forest timber production and recreational activities, using the Florida Forest Service (FFS) as the lead agency for all state forested lands. (FORESTRY)

89. Reforestation and Forest Management

We support the reforestation and management assistance of private timberlands through cost-effective incentive programs. These incentives should allow for more production-based forestry practices, such as higher planting densities and site-specific species selection.

We support allowing all reforestation expenses to be expensed in the year the expenses are incurred. (FORESTRY)
(BUDGET/ECONOMY)

90. State Tree Nursery

We support the Florida Forest Service (FFS) Tree Improvement Program for all commercial species and the State Nursery Program to provide high quality seed and seedlings to landowners. (FORESTRY)

91. Wildfire Suppression

We support increased funding for the Florida Forest Service (FFS) wildfire equipment replacement needs, firefighting personnel training and salaries. This is critical to the protection of Florida's natural resources and the safety of its citizens. (FORESTRY)

Fruit/Vegetable

92. Antitrust Laws

We support the rigorous enforcement of antitrust laws by the United States Department of Justice for agricultural commodities. (FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

93. License and Bond

We support a rigorous reform of licensing and bonding requirements for agricultural dealers conducting business in Florida to better protect the growers.

(ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)
(FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

94. Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act

We support rigorous reform of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) under the supervision of the United States Department of Agriculture (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 by setting higher bond requirements. We support a stream-lined program that enforces real-time transaction logs, prompt payments and reporting requirements. (FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

95. Pest Deterrents

We support the use of visual, audible and other pest deterrents for use in agricultural production.

We support the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) being the agency of enforcement for fireworks use in bona-fide agriculture.

(FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

Peanut/Cotton

96. Documentary Stamp Exemption

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

97. 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)

98. Grading and Quality Standards for Peanuts

We support an increase in the allowance for damaged kernels in Seg 1 farmer's stock peanuts.

Seg 2 and Seg 3 peanuts should be supported at no less than 85% of loan rate. We support maintaining the grower option to regrade Seg 2 and Seg 3 peanuts.

Farmer's stock should fall under the same damage tolerance level for Seg 1, Seg 2 and Seg 3 as outgoing stock. (PEANUT/COTTON)

99. Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

If a producer has an on-call contract on an eligible commodity, that has unpriced production (or subject to price risk, meaning not subject to an agreed-upon price in the future), at the time a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) becomes available, the

unpriced amount would be eligible for the LDP payment. (PEANUT/COTTON)

100. Loose Shelled Kernels

We oppose the reduction in price for loose shelled kernels. (PEANUT/COTTON)

101. National Cotton Board Uniform Assessment

We fully support the Cotton Board Assessment and should continue in its role as a certified producer organization. (PEANUT/COTTON)

102. National Peanut Board Uniform Assessment

We encourage greater emphasis on production research through the Peanut Board Uniform Assessment. No less than legislated available funds should be used for production research. The Peanut Board should have authority to increase the proportion of research funds as it sees fit. (PEANUT/COTTON)

103. State Peanut Advisory Council

We encourage the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to appoint Florida peanut producers to the State Peanut Advisory Council proportionate to growing regions, number of producers and number of acres. (PEANUT/COTTON)

104. Seed Cotton

We support an increase in the reference price for the Seed Cotton Program.

We support the development of a Cotton Seed Marketing Loan Program.
(PEANUT/COTTON)

Sod/Turfgrass

105. Environmental Benefits of Turfgrass

We support legislation that requires scientific evaluation and utilization of the environmental benefits of turfgrass.

Environmental benefits include, but are not limited to, carbon sequestration, filtering pollutants from water, preventing erosion, generating oxygen and its ability to provide a cooling effect to the atmosphere.
(ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

106. Regulation of Turfgrass

We support legislation that requires governmental agencies to utilize sound economic and scientific research and environmental benefits of turfgrass prior to developing new programs, rules, ordinances and state regulations relating to the production and utilization of turfgrass products. (ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

107. Turfgrass Education

We continue to support educational programs based on sound scientific research that are directed at regulators, policy makers and the public. (ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

108. Turfgrass and Water Conservation

We oppose any legislation, ordinances or rules developed without the use of peer-reviewed, sound science and industry input

that would limit turfgrass as criteria for water conservation.

(ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

Sugar

109. Domestic Sugar Program Management

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) must provide program support through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) in order to maintain a sustainable sugar industry. The 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)

110. Federal Sugar Policy

America's sugar policy should continue to be managed to operate at no net cost to the U.S. Treasury and at no additional cost to the American consumer.

We support Federal policy that ensures a strong, economically viable domestic sugar industry. We strongly support the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) management and operation of the sugar program in a manner that ensures fair returns to the grower.

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

Education

111. 4-H and FFA Youth Programs

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

We support state and federal funding for these programs. (OVERSIGHT)

112. Agriculture in the Classroom

We strongly support the Agriculture in the Classroom (AIC) program and encourage our members to purchase the agricultural specialty license plate (Ag Tag). (OVERSIGHT)

113. Agricultural Education

We support agricultural education and The National FFA Organization (FFA) programs in Florida's schools. State funds generated by Full Time Equivalent (FTE) from career programs must be utilized by these programs. Each local 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 agriculture education programs.

We urge the FDOE to provide for agriculture education at the middle school level.

We recommend that more emphasis by the FDOE be given to hiring certified,

professional teachers for all secondary school agriculture education teacher positions.

We urge the FDOE's continued support of FFA activities and agricultural education competitive events.

We support certification programs in agriculture, such as those facilitated by Agriculture Education Services and Technology, Inc. (OVERSIGHT)

114. Agricultural Fairs and Expositions

We strongly support agricultural fairs and expositions and the public exhibition of livestock. These programs encourage and support 4-H and The National FFA Organization (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)

115. 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 Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC), The National FFA Organization (FFA), 4-H, and the Florida Aquaculture Association's Aquaculture Certification Program. (AQUACULTURE)

116. Educational Materials that Discourage Use of Animal Products

We strongly oppose the use of educational materials in our public schools that discourage 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)

117. Food Animal Practitioners

We support efforts by the Legislature, the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) College of Veterinary Medicine and industry to address the shortage of large animal practitioners in Florida.

We recommend the development of scholarships for students who will commit to practice large animal medicine for a specified number of years in Florida.

We recommend the UF/IFAS College of Veterinary Medicine establish a standard of care skills program for large animal veterinary students to ensure the development of their practical ability prior to graduation. (BEEF) (DAIRY) (EQUINE)

118. Technology Development

We support the development of technology that is science-based, with quantifiable reductions in the production inputs and environmental impact, uniform for all producers of an eligible product, and subject to the oversight of producers.

We support the use of cost share funding in the development of technology.
(OVERSIGHT)

119. The University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

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

We strongly support the continuation of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (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 support UF/IFAS developing a vigorous, ongoing research program for Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address commercially produced commodities and geographic differences, funded by legislative appropriations, which support a dynamic agricultural industry in Florida.

We encourage UF/IFAS and the agricultural industry to continue to strengthen joint planning of the research, teaching and extension programs for the State of Florida.

We urge the Legislature to recognize that the 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 sufficient funding to the UF/IFAS to primarily meet the challenges of commercial agriculture in this state.

We encourage the UF/IFAS to continue research on existing, new and potential crops and to disseminate additional information to producers.

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

We support the development of a curriculum at land grant universities to address public perceptions and the benefits of agriculture technology. Once developed, the curriculum should be aggressively marketed to the general public and agricultural producers through the extension program.

We recommend and urge the placement of Extension Directors with specific knowledge and appreciation of Florida agriculture who understand and will support, encourage and foster extension programs such as 4-H and traditional agriculture.

We encourage the UF/IFAS to include industry representatives in the review and selection of potential candidates for Vice President, Research, Education and Extension Deans, Department Chairs,

Research and Education Center Directors, District Extension Directors and County Extension Directors.

We oppose indirect cost (IDC) fees on grower checkoff dollars. Being as grower check-off dollars are paid by Florida tax-paying producers, which fund UF/IFAS, no IDC fees should be assessed on any grower assessed research. National Marketing Orders forbid direct payment of IDC fees from state support funds. We strongly encourage the Florida legislature to work alongside UF/IFAS to address this issue. (OVERSIGHT)

120. Agricultural Degree and Certification Programs

We encourage the development of more agricultural degree and certification programs in cooperation with our public and private colleges and universities utilizing the professional expertise of the state's land grant institutions. (OVERSIGHT)

Energy

121. Biomass

We support the continued inclusion of timber and other renewable resources when defining biomass. (FORESTRY)

122. Energy

We support the development of all sources of energy (i.e., biofuels, biomass-based energy, wind, solar, etc.).

We encourage efforts to locate solar energy projects on marginal or underused lands. 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 alternative energy production or conservation.

We support legislation to encourage agricultural based energy production.

We support grants, grid access and a price for the renewable electricity produced based on the cost of production and a reasonable return on investment. However, because of the upward pressure ethanol incentives have on corn prices and thus increasing feed costs for those in animal production agriculture, we believe these incentives should be available only to non-corn ethanol methods of production and processing.

We support tax incentives as a temporary measure to support the development of new energy sources. Tax incentives should not be used to support or prop up energy sources that are not economically viable long-term.

We support the suspension of the mandatory use of corn-based ethanol in fuel.
(OVERSIGHT)

123. Oil and Natural Gas Exploration

We support continued and increased domestic exploration and drilling for oil and natural gas. (OVERSIGHT)

124. Refineries

We support the necessary construction or

renovation of facilities required for refining any future or present sources of energy whether fossil or biofuel. (OVERSIGHT)

125. Regulation of Greenhouse Gases

We support continued funding for research to develop science based, effective agricultural practices that further sequester carbon. 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.

We oppose mandatory cap-and-trade systems or carbon sequestration and the regulatory enforcement of greenhouse gas emissions. We oppose any and all taxes on livestock emissions, as well as any attempt to regulate emissions from livestock under the Clean Air Act (CAA) or any other legislative vehicle.

We encourage incentives for emissions capture as opposed to mandatory restrictions on emissions from livestock. (OVERSIGHT)

Farm Policy/Farm Programs

126. Farm Income

Future farm policy should be based on or take into consideration production cost. (PEANUT/COTTON)

127. Federal Funding for Implementation of Growing Practices

We encourage the United States

Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS) to expand funding opportunities for implementing more diverse growing practices that reflect advances in emerging technologies (i.e., tabletop production, suspended substrates, hydroponic growing practices, etc.). (FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

128. National Farm Policy

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)

129. Payment Limitations

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

130. Peanut Program

In respect to the peanut program, we support:

- a minimum reference price of \$535/ton
- the \$355.72 loan rate basis grade for peanuts being the minimum net guarantee per delivered ton of farmer stock peanuts
- all storage, handling, and other associated costs being paid by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and made available for farm-stored loans
- the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) being open with the

method of calculating the loan repayment rate

- the USDA/Farm Service Agency (FSA), area associations and farmer owned cooperative-marketing associations being allowed to administer the marketing assistance loans
- the United States Department of Agriculture Secretary allowing on farm storage loans to be available under the new Farm Bill at the growers' discretion
- peanut provisions to allow producers to build, buy, sell or transfer base
- peanuts only being made available for non-edible uses after loan maturity.
(PEANUT/COTTON)

131. 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 Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee authority to determine eligibility requirements for farm program benefits. (OVERSIGHT)

132. Storage and Handling Fees

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 Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and made available for farm-stored loans. At a minimum, priority should be given to forfeited peanuts. (PEANUT/COTTON)

133. Agriculture Disaster Programs

FFBF will work with our elected federal officials and USDA disaster programs to

include provisions that better serve the needs of agriculture producers adversely affected by natural disasters.

We support streamlining the claims process to eliminate disruption to business.

(FORESTRY)(OVERSIGHT)

134. USDA Programs to Include Aquaculture

We urge the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to expand existing programs to include aquaculture.

(AQUACULTURE)

Food Safety and Labeling

135. Country of Origin Labeling

We support Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) that conforms with COOL parameters and meets World Trade Organization (WTO) requirements. Costs should not be burdensome to agricultural producers.

We support COOL requirements that standardize placement and font size to ensure the product origin is easily identifiable by the end consumer.

We support banning the use of the USA flag on the labeling of any agricultural product imported into the United States.

We urge all appropriate state and federal agencies to strictly enforce current regulation to ensure that imported products are not re-packed or re-labeled as produce of the U.S.

We support adequate funding for strict enforcement at the packing and retail levels. (BEEF) (TRADE)

136. 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)

137. Food Labeling

We encourage the development of standards that require individuals and companies to truthfully label food products in the marketplace, so that consumers are provided with accurate information. (OVERSIGHT)

138. Food Safety

We support economically viable food safety practices to ensure a safe, wholesome, nutritious food source for the consumer.

We support the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (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 standardization of food safety certification requirements.

Any new food safety legislation and guidelines must be science-based, commercially available and must recognize the difference in regional and commodity practices and both the industry and land grant universities must be involved in the rule making and implementation process. We encourage reasonable, timely release of guidelines for producers prior to enforcement of rules and provisions for an adequate transition period.

All food safety legislation should apply equally to domestic and foreign food sources.

We encourage increased funding for the FDA to enforce the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Foreign Supplier Verification Program on non-domestic products.

We encourage the education of consumers on the proper preparation, cooking and serving of all food products and on sanitary practices.

We encourage the USDA to work with the FDA and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to hold town-hall style meetings to improve the regulatory understanding of growing, harvesting, packing and traceability processes prior to issuing additional consumer advisories.

We encourage the USDA to work with the FDA and the CDC to develop a fresh fruit and vegetable food safety technical expert and grower stakeholder advisory committee

focused on improving the consumer advisory process.

In order to protect nearby agriculture in proximity of composting facilities, we support scientific research and the development of standards, placement and updates to operation of facilities to reduce inherent risks from biological, chemical, physical and radiological hazards. (FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

139. Imitation Product Labeling

The correct nomenclature for imitation products used as substitutes for traditional foods and fibers is an integral part of consumer protection. We do not object to new food products entering the market; however, these products should stand on their own merits. Manufacturers of imitation foods should be allowed to label their products with any available name provided no reference is made to the product being simulated and no descriptions are used that imply the traditional food origins. Labels on imitation products should state on the main display panel of the package that the product is an imitation. (OVERSIGHT)

140. Sale of Raw Milk

In the interest of public safety, we oppose the sale of raw milk and raw milk products that do not meet food safety standards for human consumption.

Additionally, we highly discourage the human consumption of raw milk and raw milk products labeled as pet food. (DAIRY)

141. Synthetic Milk

We oppose any plant-based imitation dairy products being labeled as milk, yogurt or any other standardized dairy term. We encourage the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to enforce the standards of identity for milk products. (DAIRY)

142. Lab Grown Protein

As United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) maintains authority and jurisdiction over all animal protein inspections, we support USDA and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) adopting a standard of identity for meat, utilizing the definition of meat found in the Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR 301.2 "Meat").

We oppose the use of commonly used nomenclature or specific "meat" terms in the naming, labeling or promotion of any lab grown protein or meat alternative.

Lab grown protein or meat alternatives should not utilize the same quality grading system as meat. Food safety standards for these products should be at least as stringent as those historically imposed on conventionally raised meats. (BEEF)

General

143. Agritourism

Agritourism should be used as a benefit to *bona-fide* agricultural operations and as an educational opportunity for the general public. (OVERSIGHT)

144. Biosolids

We support the right to receive, process and/or apply biosolids on *bona-fide* agriculture properties within current regulations, as long as they don't compromise the food safety requirements of other agricultural commodities. FFBF understands the risk of contamination and recommends landowners mitigate that risk through contracts with haulers and facilities.

We oppose the commercial processing of biosolids as *bona-fide* agriculture when such processing is done for sale to third parties.

(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

(FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

145. Consumer Burden of Proof

We support the burden of proof be on the complainant to prove negligence on an operation with a written, implemented and annually reviewed food safety plan in accordance with the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) (21 USC 2201).

(FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

146. Fees

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 burden of the agricultural producer. (BUDGET/ECONOMY)

147. 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)

148. 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 Feeding Florida from general revenue to utilize surplus Florida farm products to feed needy Americans. We support providing grower incentive funds to cover harvest costs. (OVERSIGHT)

149. Mixed Use Fire Code Exemption

We support fire sprinkler exemption for barns on lands classified as agriculture, including barns with attached living quarters separated by a firewall. (EQUINE)
(OVERSIGHT)

150. Official Language

We support English as the official language for business in the United States. (OVERSIGHT)

151. Personal Injury Industry Solicitations

We believe that constant solicitations from the personal injury industry results in frivolous

lawsuits that have a negative impact on the business community, including agriculture.

We support tort reform to discourage frivolous lawsuits.

We support working with the Florida Bar to address attorney advertising standards to limit inflammatory and misleading advertising intended to generate unsubstantiated claims.

We support vigorous enforcement to prevent the unlicensed practices of law in Florida. (OVERSIGHT)

152. Right to Repair

We support the right to repair one's own equipment. Agricultural equipment manufacturers should allow equipment owners and independent repair facilities to have access to agricultural equipment diagnostic and repair information at a reasonable cost. (OVERSIGHT)

153. Rural Broadband

We support identification of underserved areas in regard to broadband availability and the prioritization of those areas in terms of resource allocation.

We support increased funding for and improvements to broadband programs through the utilization of grants and loans in rural/underserved communities.

We encourage the development of secondary power sources to provide

continued broadband service in the event of extended power outages.

We urge increased cooperation among internet providers to improve access to broadband in rural areas through coordination/sharing of either current assets or the installation of necessary infrastructure. (OVERSIGHT)

154. State Agricultural Response Team

We support the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) as the lead multi-agency coordination group dedicated to animal and agricultural emergency preparedness and response.

We urge continued funding for SART to enhance their local and regional response capabilities. (OVERSIGHT)

155. Unmanned Aircraft Systems

We support the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in production agriculture, including forestry.

We support requiring operators of UAS to gain the written consent of the landowner and/or farm operator if the UAS will be surveying or gathering data above private properties.

We oppose all operators, including private and local, state or federal agencies, using UAS for the purpose of regulatory enforcement, litigation and as a sole source for natural resource inventories used in planning efforts. (OVERSIGHT)

156. Weather Information

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

157. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Salary Caps

We encourage the Florida legislature to re-evaluate current Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) salary caps to enable retention of current personnel and recruitment of qualified professionals. (EQUINE) (OVERSIGHT)

158. Fire Assessments

Any fire assessment must be based on a cost-benefit analysis for services provided. (EQUINE) (OVERSIGHT)

Government

159. Duplication of Regulations

To avoid duplication and keep our aquaculturalists, farmers and ranchers competitive, we oppose redundant local, state or federal laws and regulations.

We support legislation that will provide for consistent wetland interpretation to avoid duplication of regulation and permitting for bona-fide farm operations on lands classified as agriculture pursuant to § 193.461, Florida Statute, and enrolled in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Best Management Practices (BMP) program. (OVERSIGHT)

160. Economic Impact

We support legislation that requires state and local government to consider the economic impact, before initiating new programs, rules and ordinances.

(BUDGET/ECONOMY) (OVERSIGHT)

161. Government Supported Food Programs

When any government programs provide food or nutritional support, the food supply purchased should be from a domestic source. (OVERSIGHT)

162. State Constitution

We believe the Florida Constitution should be the founding document that describes the powers, duties and functions of government in the state of Florida.

Constitutional amendments should not contain provisions that could be accomplished through the legislative process.

We support making the ballot initiative process more deliberative.

We support the elimination of the Constitution Revision Commission.
(OVERSIGHT)

163. Unfunded Mandates

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation (FFBF) supports legislation that will require all laws that contain mandates be funded with an adequate state or federal 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)

164. Artificial Intelligence

We oppose the use of any artificial intelligence to impact or compromise constitutionally protected individual rights and liberties, or those that compromise national or industrial security and their autonomy. (OVERSIGHT) (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

165. District Courts Structure

District courts should be structured to adequately represent rural communities. (OVERSIGHT)

Insurance

166. 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. (OVERSIGHT)

167. Dairy Revenue Protection Insurance

We support the development of revenue protection policies for the dairy industry. Dairy insurance policies should not limit the amount of milk production eligible for insurance protection. (DAIRY)

168. Equine Insurance

We urge the Florida Farm Bureau Insurance to provide a source of coverage for the

equine industry. (EQUINE)

169. Health Insurance

We oppose government mandated employer provided health insurance.

We support the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Until repeal, we support the development and access to additional health care options for farmers and ranchers, such as health plans. (LABOR)

170. Uniform Automobile Insurance Premiums

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

Labor

171. 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 work-based learning experiences. The appropriate agencies should work together to foster opportunities for vocational agriculture students in concert with the "school-to-work" initiative.

We oppose any changes to federal child labor laws. (LABOR)

172. Collective Bargaining Law

For purposes of uniformity, we strongly favor agricultural labor relations 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)

173. 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)

174. Federal Government Contractors

Any vendor or contractor of the federal government should be required to implement all federal and state employment laws. (LABOR)

175. 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 that would prevent the sustainability and economic viability of Florida agriculture.
(LABOR)

176. Independent Contractors

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

177. 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)

178. Labor Housing

We support an employer's ability to build farm worker housing. We support streamlining inspection and permitting for farm worker 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.

Permitting timelines should be based on the production cycles of the commodities for which laborers are requested. (LABOR)

179. Legal Workers

The use of legal 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. We support wages that will not negatively impact the domestic workforce.

We oppose the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR).

We oppose human trafficking and support strict enforcement. (LABOR)

180. 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, including, but not limited to, the recovery of the farmer's cost and attorney fees. (LABOR)

181. Local Labor Laws

We support state legislation that would preempt county and local government from the regulation of labor issues, including wage and hour. (LABOR)

182. 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. We also support the formation of a voluntary farm labor contractor certification program. (LABOR)

183. Mandated Safety Programs

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

184. Mediation

In mediation arising from issues related to employment, we support an employer's right to face-to-face meetings. Notification of language barriers should be made to both parties prior to mediation. (LABOR)

185. Minimum Wage

We oppose an increase in the minimum wage and indexing of the minimum wage when believed to be inflationary. (LABOR)

186. Occupational Safety and Health Act

We are opposed to Florida being an Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) contract state. (LABOR)

187. 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)

188. Rural Child Care

We encourage public and private support of licensed child care facilities in rural areas. We support organizations in their efforts to provide quality child care for children of Florida agricultural workers. (LABOR)

189. Social Responsibility

We support the formation of a broad-based coalition to collaborate with producers and surface solutions to alleviate problems faced when third party groups initiate social programs that have impacts on producers.

We support a uniform social responsibility audit program acceptable to the vast majority of perishable product buyers to reduce unnecessary duplication. (LABOR)

190. Workers Compensation

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 like other

industries. (LABOR)

191. Heat Related Labor Regulations

We oppose any heat related regulations.

In the event heat related regulation is adopted, we recommend that any regulations account for the diverse labor requirements of agriculture and not be so restrictive as to create unnecessary difficulty in completing tasks essential to agriculture and related industries.

Any regulations enacted in response to a public health emergency should be temporary and be the minimum needed to protect worker health, and enforcement should not be the obligation of the employer. These regulations should not be allowed to extend beyond the public health emergency. (ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE) (LABOR)

Law and Order

192. Agricultural Crime Units

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

193. 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)

194. Definition of Marriage

We believe marriage should be defined as a legal union only between one man and one woman as husband and wife. (OVERSIGHT)

195. 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)

196. Litter Laws

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

197. 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)

198. 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, 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 we urge these guidelines be strengthened. (OVERSIGHT)

199. Trespass and Theft

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

We encourage law enforcement agencies to vigorously enforce agricultural theft and vandalism laws. (OVERSIGHT)

Marketing

200. Citrus 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. Continued emphasis is needed on developing new marketing concepts for all Florida citrus.

We support the collection of marketing assessments from citrus imports. These programs should promote the beneficial attributes of all citrus, no matter the origin, so long as they are equally financed by all parties selling product in the U.S. (CITRUS)

201. Florida Agricultural Promotion Support

We urge producers to join and participate in the "Fresh from Florida" promotion program.

We support and encourage the expansion of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Farm to School program.

We encourage the standardization of the Farm to School program across all Florida counties. We support reforming the program to ensure school districts meet contractual purchasing agreements to get Florida produce on plates.

We strongly encourage the education of consumers about the benefits of Florida agriculture, especially fresh Florida produce. (FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

202. Marketing Florida Citrus Juice

The Florida Citrus Commission (FCC) should encourage processors to market and identify 100 percent pure Florida citrus juice product. (CITRUS)

203. State Farmers' Markets

We recommend that the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) encourage brokers in the state farmers' market system handle and promote Florida-grown products, when in season. We also recommend that changes made in the state farmers' market system are beneficial to producers. (FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

204. Livestock Marketing

Livestock producers should have access to competitive markets for price discovery that accurately determine the value of their products. Any effort undertaken to increase transparency, however, should be respectful

of regional differences in marketing strategies, maintain producer confidentiality, and be based on sound, peer-reviewed data. Such measures should not restrict the variety of marketing arrangements available to producers.

We support:

- development and implementation of value-based marketing systems that convey the true value of product quality from the retail market to the farm
- rights of producers and packers to enter voluntarily into negotiated trade, formula pricing, grid pricing and other marketing arrangements and contract relationships. Contracts and pricing arrangements should not be used to manipulate the market to the detriment of producers
- equipping producers with more price information including the creation of a Beef Contracts Library and requiring a 14-day slaughter reporting period
- continued programming and reduced regulations that allow regional and local slaughter plants to provide additional marketing opportunities for producers.

We oppose:

- government mandates that interfere with the ability of producers and packers to enter freely into any form of marketing arrangements. (BEEF)

Pests and Diseases

205. Agricultural Emergency Declarations

We support the Commissioner of Agriculture's right to declare an agricultural emergency pursuant to §570.07 (21), Florida

Statute. We further recommend that just compensation should be given for agricultural material that is destroyed under such an emergency.

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

206. 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 the United States Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS). (ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

207. Boll Weevil Program

We support the boll weevil program and support state help for this program. We request removal of "The board shall provide the department with an annual audit of its accounts performed by a certified public accountant" from §593.111(3), Florida Statute, due to the excessive cost of this annual requirement. (PEANUT/COTTON)

208. Brucellosis

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

209. Caribfly-free Zones

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

210. 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 in horses competing in the state.

We support the ability of horse owners to purchase vaccines and vaccinate their own horses for West Nile Virus and other infectious diseases. (EQUINE)

211. Feral Hog and Invasive Plant Control

We encourage public and private land managers to use all measures necessary to control the overpopulation of feral hogs and invasive plant species. Feral hogs threaten the environment, wildlife and public health. Feral hogs also cause significant economic damage to private property.

We support state and federal funds for research to control the overpopulation of feral hogs and invasive plants. (OVERSIGHT)

212. 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 Bio Safety Level 4 (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)

213. Invasive Pest Plants

We support the scientific recognition of pest plants using the University of Florida Institute

of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Invasive Plant Assessment and support the control and eradication of 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.
(ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

214. Livestock Disease

We support increased United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding for livestock disease surveillance, prevention and control including appropriate vaccine banks. (BEEF)(DAIRY)

215. Management of Citrus Diseases

We support continued citrus research and the development of management plans that help growers manage and control pests and diseases. Research and all findings should be made readily available to growers.

We urge the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (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)

216. 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 (i.e., Agricultural Emergency Eradication Trust Fund §570.191, Florida Statute). These funds should be made available for the creation of rapid-response research that focuses on quick control of newly identified invasive pests or diseases that trigger a quarantine for producers.

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.

(ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

217. Protection Against Imported Pests and Diseases

The United States Department of Agriculture/Animal Plant Health Inspection

Service (USDA/APHIS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding should be sufficient to ensure adequate facilities and resources for the sampling and inspection of all imported agricultural products 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.

We encourage the establishment of verifiable pre-inspection programs at the point of origin.

We encourage the increased inspection of all loads of imported agricultural products to ensure that these products comply with U.S. standards. (ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

218. Quarantines

Quarantines restricting the interstate and intrastate movement of agricultural products should be based on conclusive science.

We support a revision of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) pre- and post-harvest treatment manuals relating to quarantines. (CITRUS)

219. 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 import into the U.S. should be held to a responsible standard in utilizing practices that meet phytosanitary standards of the United States.

(ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE)

220. Trichomoniasis

We recommend any new rules regarding trichomoniasis testing in the transportation of bulls across state lines be uniform throughout the United States. (BEEF)

221. Point of Care Testing

We oppose the use of point of care testing for regulatory diseases, defined as state reportable diseases (F.A.C. 5C-20) and National List of Reportable Animal Diseases, until further research, test validation and quality control is ensured. (EQUINE)

Property Rights/Land Management

222. Abandoned Vegetable Fields and Citrus Groves

Slowing the spread of disease and pests due to abandoned or unmanaged land that has been in agricultural production is an important issue to the agriculture industry. The Florida Farm Bureau Federation (FFBF) should work with the appropriate county and state agencies to find ways to address

this issue without unduly infringing on private property rights. FFBF supports the development of incentive programs for the removal of abandoned or neglected agricultural properties.

FFBF encourages public entities working towards mitigation of abandoned fields and/or groves so as not to increase disease or pest populations in adjoining agricultural properties. (CITRUS) (FRUIT/VEGETABLE)

223. Eminent Domain

When agricultural lands are acquired through eminent domain, agricultural producers shall be paid for land value and business damages. The legal basis for an eminent domain taking of private property should not be solely to increase the taxable value of the property. (OVERSIGHT)

224. Jurisdictional Wetlands

We oppose any expansion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (ACOE) authority pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) beyond that historically exercised over Waters of the United States. We urge legislation to clarify the definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS). We encourage the State of Florida, as part of its assumption of section 404 of the CWA, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to continue to recognize the protections of prior converted cropland under the Food Security Act for existing agricultural uses. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

225. Legal Ingress/Egress

The landowner and/or lessee should be notified of any entry of real property by a governmental entity or the public in general.

We support compensation for a breach of real property that causes damages or creates a liability for the landowner and/or lessee by a governmental entity or the public in general.

We support the required notification in real time to the landowner and/or lessee by law enforcement of any breach of real property (i.e., fencing and/or gates). (OVERSIGHT)

226. 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 should be restricted to less-than-fee simple acquisitions such as the purchase of development rights or conservation easements, agricultural easements, or contracts for Payments for Environmental Services (PES). 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 or PES, either perpetual, or for a specific term of years, as long as they are voluntary, incentive-based and 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:

- limited state financial resources can be stretched further
- the private landowner maintains the stewardship of the property saving taxpayer dollars that would otherwise be necessary for management
- the land stays on the tax rolls
- economic activity continues on the property.

(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

227. 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)

228. Public Lands Management

Government agencies purchasing land should establish and implement management guidelines and criteria for purchased lands in a timely manner. We encourage the state of Florida to generate a single, accurate and complete inventory of all publicly owned lands within the state.

We support nutrient allocations assigned to public lands as part of a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). Public lands shall comply with nutrient management and

reduction requirements adopted as part of a BMAP.

Agriculture should be given priority as a land management tool that would allow those lands to be available for lease and management (i.e., 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 (PILT).

We support the sale of surplus public lands back into private ownership.

We encourage state agencies to evaluate purposes for land ownership, to determine if objectives can be accomplished under private ownership. Agencies should transfer title back to private ownership where feasible.

When lands are 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 right of first refusal to purchase the surplus land.
(OVERSIGHT)

229. Range Lands

We recommend legislation that would require utilization of public land for historically sound agricultural purposes recognizing the environmental and societal benefits of grazing livestock. We support long-term, sustainable private/public partnerships that encourage Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Beef

Quality Assurance (BQA) practices that would benefit the environment and mitigate wildfire risk. We recommend increased public education, on-site technical assistance, extension and research dealing with range use and management on public and private lands. (BEEF)

230. Rights of Nature

We oppose granting rights of personhood to natural resources or species, other than homo sapiens, for purposes of establishing a cause of action or standing. (OVERSIGHT)

231. 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. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

Research

232. Apiculture Research

We recommend research be funded at the state and federal levels on honey bee health and husbandry.

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 by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) that assist the apiary industry. (APICULTURE)

233. Biotechnology

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

We oppose a requirement to label biotech products.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) should be the lead agency responsible for all transgenic crops and animals. (OVERSIGHT)

234. Citrus Plant Improvement Research

We urge continuance of the citrus quality research now being conducted industry-wide including, but not limited to, genetic enhancement and plant improvement of present and future varieties and rootstocks.

The Florida citrus industry, working with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) and other agencies, should develop and secure funding for high priority programs to improve citrus, so as to enhance the returns to Florida citrus growers. (CITRUS)

235. Forest Products

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

236. 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 forest productivity, health and stewardship through genetics, biotechnology, forested wetland ecology, silvicultural practices, integrated pest management and economic development. (FORESTRY)

237. Ownership of Research

We oppose selling any agricultural product under development by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) prior to licensing. However, we do support the right to license developed products. (OVERSIGHT)

238. Production and Harvesting Mechanization

We support research funded by legislative appropriation aimed at reducing production and harvesting costs of agricultural products through mechanization and new technology, including artificial intelligence. (OVERSIGHT)

239. Research on Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture

We support continued funding of Aquaculture Review Council projects. State resources must be allocated for marine and freshwater aquaculture research for focused programs addressing the pressing needs of the commercial aquaculture industry as identified by the Aquaculture Review

Council. (AQUACULTURE)

240. Sugarcane Research

We strongly support full funding of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Sugarcane Genetic Research initiatives that provide cost effective varieties and improve productivity. (SUGAR)

Risk Management

241. Disaster Program Payments

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

Any disaster program should be designed to take into account timeliness and not be discriminatory to diversified operations. Disaster payments should be exempted from payment limitations. (PEANUT/COTTON)

242. 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 (FCIC) keep the farm identification number as the identification of the insurable unit. We recommend a more equitable average assessed of formidable yields in disaster years for consideration by the Actual Production History (APH).

All federally-backed crop insurance

programs should include a quarantine rider option.

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. All crops should be eligible for yield and equitable quality losses coverage.

We support the development and availability of revenue-based insurance programs for all commodities.

In addition, we support increasing the funds allocated to the Livestock Gross Margin Program which is managed by the United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (USDA/RMA) to allow for greater participation by livestock producers in Florida. (PEANUT/COTTON)

Trade

243. Agricultural Products from Cuba

We oppose the importation of any agricultural products from Cuba until there is an acceptable government. (TRADE)

244. Citrus Tariffs

In international trade negotiations, we support efforts to maintain U.S. tariffs on

imported fresh and processed citrus products. (CITRUS) (TRADE)

245. Export Programs

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

246. Foreign Agricultural Enterprise

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

247. Health Protocols for Trade

We support the continued development and education between the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) trade negotiators and an importing country's regulatory agency to include the most current proven technologies in health protocols for agricultural imports (i.e., "in-vitro" frozen embryos, blue tongue, etc.). (TRADE)

248. Import Relief for Perishable Products

We favor the development, enactment and timely enforcement 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.

We support the implementation and enforcement of a timely, durable and effective trade remedy to protect the

producers of domestically grown, seasonal and perishable agricultural commodities from unfair trade practices.

We support consistent enforcement of all current and future trade agreements of the United States to include improved and/or additional enforcement mechanisms.
(FRUIT/VEGETABLE) (TRADE)

249. 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., citrus, specialty crops and sugar) 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, differential chemical use, labor costs, and environmental, labor or safety standards.

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 oppose Trade Promotion Authority (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 oppose the importation of any fresh, chilled or frozen meat products from countries not free of Foot and Mouth Disease.

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

Trade relief within free trade agreements should be negotiated to protect regional producers of fresh fruits, vegetables and nursery products.

We oppose the Generalized System of Preferences (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.

We support immediate, unrestricted trade and distribution of United States approved biotech products. (TRADE)

250. Non-Tariff Barriers

We oppose non-tariff barriers which restrict or hamper the sale of U.S. agriculture products and processed agriculture products in foreign markets. Efforts should be expanded to remove non-tariff barriers in place on U.S. agriculture products going into foreign markets. (TRADE)

251. Patent Protection

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

252. Producer Export Sales

We support measures that would better protect producers who export agricultural commodities to other countries, with regard to retaliatory trade practices, grades and standards, pesticide residue regulations, microbial testing standards and provisions for prompt payment.

We support the international recognition of United States food safety standards. (FRUIT/VEGETABLE) (TRADE)

Transportation

253. Agricultural Transportation Exemptions

We support expanding exemptions for agriculture regarding commercial transportation requirements. We encourage the Florida Farm Bureau Federation (FFBF) to work with the agencies responsible for enforcing transportation laws to understand agriculture's exemptions. (OVERSIGHT)

254. Emergency Hauling Exemptions

We support exemptions or permits for agricultural commodities that would allow oversize and/or overweight shipments to be transported on highways for necessary movement under emergency conditions. (OVERSIGHT)

Water/Natural Resources

General

255. Air Quality Standards

Particulate matter from agricultural sources should be excluded from the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). 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 (CAA) 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. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

256. Conservation Programs

We continue to educate our members on state and federal cost-share opportunities. We are also seeking ways to mitigate or ease the economic burden placed on growers that participate in these programs. We support private landowners having

priority to receive available federal cost-share funds. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

257. County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES)

We support the County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) program statewide to recognize farmers and ranchers who implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on their farms and ranches. We also support coordination through the CARES program to better educate the public on how farmers protect natural resources, as well as what resources (i.e., cost-share reimbursements, BMP workshops, etc.) are available to farmers and ranchers.

(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

258. Depredating Animals

Due to the severe economic damage caused by depredating animals to the aquaculture and agriculture industry, we encourage cooperation between state and federal agencies and producers to resolve wildlife issues impacting the industry. In addition, we support the development and funding of wildlife reimbursement programs created to compensate producers for loss due to depredating animals and cost-share programs for mitigation and prevention efforts.

We encourage the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to include an Agricultural Advisor and regional representation on the Commission from across Florida. (OVERSIGHT)

259. Dipping Vats

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

260. Endangered Species Act

We believe that endangered and threatened species protection can be more effectively achieved by providing incentives to private landowners and public land users rather than by imposing land use restrictions and penalties.

We oppose rules unreasonable and harmful to agriculture concerning listed 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 listed species designation.

We oppose U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) mediation and settlement of third party litigation to list species without notice to, and participation by, all regulated stakeholders. Prior to FWS, state or local agency proposing a species be listed, we urge that a thorough investigation using sound scientific methods be made by that agency that accounts for economic impact of the new regulations upon a region. The agency should allow enhanced opportunity for public input by affected landowners.

We are adamantly opposed to introduction, re-introduction or interstate transfer of listed species that may pose any threat to humans, domestic livestock or native wildlife (i.e., cougars, panthers, wolves, etc.). We support compensation for losses experienced by farmers and ranchers related to predation by listed species or environmental management decisions driven by the protection of those species.

Any reintroduction of listed 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.
(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

261. Environmental Mandates and Restoration

Environmental mandates or any other governmental entity's regulatory management of agriculture must be based on sound, scientific data collected in accordance with recognized quality control and quality assurance procedures, not perceived anecdotal evidence. Further, we recommend that in cases where an agricultural entity and/or industry will be disproportionately affected or removed as an alleged source of pollution, that the area in question be monitored in accordance with this policy to ascertain the source of pollution and whether the proposed action will rectify 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.
(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

262. Environmental Regulatory Programs

Any mandatory environmental regulatory program must be accompanied with full funding for construction, operations and maintenance. (DAIRY)

263. Federal Environmental Self Audit

We support voluntary environmental self-audits, the incentive based program for self-policing discovery, disclosure and correction

to prevent violation of federal environmental protection laws, conducted by owners and operators. The environmental audit and documents related to an environmental self-audit, for individual farms or operations, should be confidential and exempt from Florida public records laws. We support legislation prohibiting the use of self-audit documents and reporting by third parties as a basis for citizen enforcement and nuisance suits. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

264. 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 sector plans 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. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

265. 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. Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) through federal or state cost-share programs that conserve or save water through the development or use of alternative water supplies shall not result in a loss of those

permitted quantities conserved or saved from traditional sources. 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 the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) as the lead agency in cooperation with other public/private entities. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

266. Indemnification of Losses

We support the indemnification by any federal government agency for losses in the agriculture or aquaculture industry due to quarantines, kill orders or other market interruptions. (OVERSIGHT)

267. 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 ten (10) years from severance of the mineral estate from the surficial estate in the public records.

On agricultural lands where mineral rights are being exercised, legislation should provide that surficial property owners be compensated by the mineral rights holder for all property and environmental

damages, including crop and pasture losses caused by mineral extraction or processing on the surficial owner's property.

We support science-based legislation protecting surficial landowners from any adverse effects of subterranean activity or terrestrial practices associated with oil, gas or mineral extraction.

(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

268. Single Species Management

We support an ecosystem management approach that considers the overall interrelated effects of management on all species of that system and is limited to the historical habitat area of the species based on sound historical and scientific data instead of political pressure and public perception (i.e., snail kite and Florida black bear).

We oppose the use of single species management practices that are contrary to region wide ecosystem restoration and management.

(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

269. Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Title III

The federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act (EPCRA) 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/per 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.
(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

270. Contaminant Liability

Landowners, producers or their lenders shall not be held liable for the cost of chemical contaminant cleanups, such as perchlorate and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), caused by actions over which the producer, landowner or lender had no management oversight or control of decision-making. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

Water

271. Agricultural Exemptions

We recommend the Florida Legislature require those agencies and local governments that promulgate surface water rules recognize the provisions of §373.406, Florida Statute, exempting agricultural activities. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

272. 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, but usage shall not result in a loss of permitted quantities.

We encourage appropriation of state matching funds to support alternative water supply projects.

We support water storage on private lands when the property owner is adequately compensated and held harmless from state and federal wetland and species regulations for such actions.

(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

273. 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 §187.201 (7), Florida Statute. We support water supply planning and environmental restoration, and encourage Water Management Districts (WMDs) to prioritize permitted agricultural water supply for continued use by agriculture.

We support the immediate implementation of these programs by the water management districts to avoid the need for competing water use applications.

(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

274. Everglades Restoration Programs

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, the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), the Central

Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), the Integrated Delivery Schedule and the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project (collectively, the Everglades Restoration Programs). Any changes made in the Everglades Restoration Programs must be based on sound, scientific evidence and a cost-benefit analysis.

We support balanced implementation of the Everglades Restoration Programs in a manner that provides for water-related needs of the region, including the enhancement of water supply and water quality while maintaining flood control. We oppose the further acquisition of agricultural land in the EAA for water restoration until the current Everglades Restoration Programs are completed and fully operational.

We support the continued implementation of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Best Management Practices (BMPs)* throughout the Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee watersheds to reduce nutrient loading to the lake and estuaries.

**See Best Management Practices policy title for additional language on BMPs.*
(SUGAR) (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

275. Existing Users

We support the existing statutory provisions in §373.233 (2), Florida Statute, giving preference to renewal applications and §373.171 (2 and 3), Florida Statute, 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 §373.233 (1), Florida Statute, the governing board or the department should give preference to a renewal application over a new application. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

276. Federal Clean Water Act

We encourage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continue working with the United States Department of Agriculture (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 improve water quality. We support the establishment of incentive based Best Management Practice (BMPs) programs adopted by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) pursuant to state law and further support the continuation of the Clean Water Act (CWA) exemption for agricultural non-point source discharges.

We oppose any attempt to broaden the jurisdiction of the CWA to re-define waters formerly considered isolated as Waters of the United States. We oppose EPA and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) mediation and settlement of third party litigation to implement and enforce the provisions of the

CWA without notice and participation by all regulated stakeholders.
(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

277. Fees, Fines and 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 unless approved by voter referendum.

We oppose water user fees or any self-supplied water use tax. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

278. 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 support the public investment in the maintenance, repair and replacement of drainage and flood control infrastructure in accordance with adopted plans.

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 maintain production. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

279. Gulf of Mexico Program

We support and encourage the right of states to develop a volunteer plan of action, particularly the development and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), to address the agricultural non-point source portion of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Gulf of Mexico Program. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

280. Lake Okeechobee

We support a Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule 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.

We oppose any regulatory or legislative measure that would expand the authority or require the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to regulate water based on water quality or any specific water quality criteria.

We support the use of flexibility in a Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule to allow the lake elevation to rise towards the end of the summer rainy season, to provide sufficient water for existing permitted users during the dry season, in accordance with the adopted level of service for water supply.

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

We support a Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule that provides adequate flood protection, complies with adopted minimum flows and levels and permitted water supply needs. We support the Florida Water Resources Act and the provisions thereunder. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

281. Lake Okeechobee Augmentation

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 Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

282. Local Sources First

We support the "local sources first" statute §373.223(3)(a-g), Florida Statutes, and philosophy in regional water supply planning statewide. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

283. 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 § 373.236, Florida Statute. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

284. Metering and Monitoring

We should cooperate with the water management districts to obtain accurate

water 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. We support legislation exempting water use data from individual farms or operations from disclosure under Florida public records laws.
(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

285. Minimum Flows and Levels

Understanding that a healthy aquifer, spring or stream flow and other waters of the state are important to a sufficient water supply for agriculture, we support the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and water management districts utilizing sound science and peer review in establishing and adopting Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) and recovery strategies. MFL modeling must account for accurate consumption from agricultural sources and should be reviewed with impacted agriculturalists and their consultants.
(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

286. Mobile Irrigation Labs

We support the state's network of agricultural Mobile Irrigation Labs (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. We support the expansion of the MIL network with emphasis on areas where Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) or Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) have been established. As an essential component of implementation assurance and cost-share with Best Management Practice (BMP) manuals, vigorous state funding of the MILs network and staffing is critical to agriculture's successful compliance with the regulatory program imposed as part of Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) adoption. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

287. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits for Agricultural Chemical Applications

We support legislation clarifying that no National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits are required for legally applied agricultural chemicals. (DAIRY) (FRUIT/VEGETABLE) (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

288. Payment for Environmental Services

We support voluntary payment for environmental services programs which allow for diversification and sustainability of agricultural operations and provide environmental benefits such as dispersed water storage, filtration and wildlife habitat. Contracts for these environmental services programs should contain provisions that allow the land to revert back to the original condition, without penalty, or additional state or federal permit requirements for the agricultural operation or landowner.

We support research that quantifies and evaluates the environmental and intrinsic benefit of lands used for agriculture and silviculture. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

289. 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.

(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

290. 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 consumers/workers a business serves/employs, particularly when no real threat to public safety exists. If the water source is used for agricultural production and is tested annually for food safety compliance, it should be exempt from further testing.

The rules for primary inorganic, volatile organic and other chemical sampling are so complex that there should be a burden on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the health departments to minimize sampling requirements. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

291. Total Maximum Daily Load Targets

Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) are an important part of the comprehensive sets of projects and management strategies set forth in Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) to achieve the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), but agricultural BMPs alone cannot, and were never intended to, meet the TMDL and achieve the goals of BMAPs. Agricultural BMPs are only one part of the suite of management strategies and regional projects outlined in BMAPs that must all be implemented and constructed in order to meet the adopted TMDL.

We oppose any effort to make agricultural BMPs the sole method to achieve TMDL targets. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

292. 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 §373.4595, 403.067, 576.045 and 597.004, Florida Statutes, and release from liability as provided by §576.045 (5), Florida Statute, for producers who have implemented appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) on their operation. We support continuing the self-tax on fertilizer for BMPs 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.

(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

293. 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.

(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

294. Wellhead Protection

We oppose the development of wellhead protection ordinances or rules by local governments. If, however, wellhead protection is necessary, only the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the water management districts should develop rules based on sound science and peer-reviewed criteria.

(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

Water Management Districts

295. Regional Management and District Boundaries

We support the continued regional management of water resources through the water management districts with no consolidation at the state level. We support collaboration across water management district boundaries where multidistrict resource management is required.

Without scientific and public policy justification, we oppose any change in current water management district

boundaries. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

296. 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.
(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

297. Water Management District Agriculture Teams

We support the water management districts continuing use of Ag Teams. These Ag Teams consist of water management district personnel who specialize in agricultural related permitting, water resource, flood control and environmental restoration issues.

We encourage water management district Ag Teams to serve as liaisons to the agriculture community. (WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

298. Water Management District Boards

We urge the Governor to appoint water management district board members knowledgeable and supportive of commercial agriculture, and we support continuing the process of appointments by the Governor rather than elected board members. We encourage local Farm Bureaus to educate county government staff, as well as elected and Water Management District (WMD) officials on agricultural related practices and activities.

We support the retention of basin boards of the water management districts as

described in §373.0693, Florida Statute.
(WATER/NATURAL RESOURCES)

Abbreviated Terms

ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers
AEWR	Adverse Effect Wage Rate
AFBF	American Farm Bureau Federation
AGI	Adjusted Gross Income
AITC	Ag in the Classroom
APH	Actual Production History
APHIS	Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
ARS	Agricultural Research Service
AVMA	American Veterinary Medical Association
BMAP	Basin Management Action Plan
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BQA	Beef Quality Assurance
BSL4	Bio Safety Level 4
CARES	County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship
CCC	Commodity Credit Corporation
CEPP	Central Everglades Planning Project
CERP	Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
COOL	Country of Origin Labeling
CPBM	Certified Prescribed Burn Managers
CVI	Certificate of Veterinary Inspection
CWA	Clean Water Act
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DMC	Dairy Margin Coverage
DOC	Department of Citrus

DPI	Division of Plant Industry
EAA	Everglades Agricultural Area
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAME	Florida Alligator Marketing and Education
FAWN	Florida Automated Weather Network
FCC	Florida Citrus Commission
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FDOE	Florida Department of Education
FCA	Florida Cattlemen's Association
FFBF	Florida Farm Bureau Federation
FFA	The National FFA Organization
FFS	Florida Forest Service
FSBA	Florida State Beekeepers Association
FSMA	Food Safety Modernization Act
FQPA	Food Quality Protection Act
FSA	Farm Service Agency
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
ILTA	Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts
IDC	Indirect Cost Fees

ILTA	Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRAs	Individual Retirement Accounts
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
IOS	International Organization for Standardization
LDP	Loan Deficiency Payment
LGM-Dairy	Livestock Gross Margin-Dairy
MFLs	Minimum Flows and Levels
MILs	Mobile Irrigation Labs
MUMS	Minor Use Minor Species
MVPA	Model Veterinary Practice Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service
OAWP	Office of Agriculture Water Policy
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Act
PACA	Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act
PILT	Payment in Lieu of Taxes
QBI	Qualified Business Income
RMA	Risk Management Agency
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SART	State Agricultural Response Team
TMDLs	Total Maximum Daily Loads
TPA	Trade Promotion Authority
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft Systems
UF/IFAS	University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

USMCA	United States Mexico Canada Agreement
WTO	World Trade Organization