

# **OHIO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION**

## **2009 STATE POLICIES**

**Resolutions on State Issues Adopted by the Voting Delegates  
of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation  
Annual Meeting  
December 2008**

## **NEW POLICY CODES**

In an attempt to better track Ohio Farm Bureau policy a new policy section code system has been implemented. The original section code remains the same. This is followed by a capital letter R and the year the policy was added or revised. A key and example is listed below.

- First Digits (401 – 442.79) indicate the area under which the policy is classified
- R## indicates the year the policy was added or revised

**Example:** Section 438.6 – Gasoline Tax, was a new policy section in 2006. It had language added in 2007 (revised). Therefore this section will be numbered as follows:

**Gasoline Tax**

**438.6: R07**

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**1 Ohio Farm Bureau**

**401:R08**

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The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation is an independent, voluntary organization of Ohio farmers and rural people who are members of member Farm Bureaus. Basic democratic principles are used throughout to govern the organization. Farm Bureau fosters responsible citizenship and is proud to be respected as an opinion leader throughout rural and urban Ohio.

The farm family is the backbone of the organization and the organization is strong because of the active support and involvement of its membership. The membership involves all races, ages, sexes, commodities, religious beliefs, and political interests.

We will continue to assist member Farm Bureaus in expanding their total programs as they seek solutions to local problems important to farmers and rural Ohio. We encourage counties to maximize their effort in getting more farmers to join the organization. We encourage Farm Bureau members to become more knowledgeable of issues and become more involved in their county Farm Bureaus.

We support the *Our Ohio* brand and encourage its further development by Farm Bureau and its members. We will continue to develop, implement, create and support programs that seek to improve the public perception and image of all segments of production agriculture. We will continue to support mechanisms that promote and utilize *Our Ohio* initiatives as a more prominent membership marketing tool.

The amount of dues varies from county to county. New members should be accepted in their county of residence, with the exception that absentee landowners might be accepted in the county of their farm location.

By affiliating with Farm Bureaus in 49 other states and Puerto Rico in the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), we are able to present a strong and united approach to the problems facing rural America.

The Ohio Farm Bureau Youth Program should be encouraged, supported and expanded. We should explore youth leadership development opportunities within the Ohio Farm Bureau and with like-minded groups outside the organization.

The group of members between the ages of 18 to 35 in our organization shall be referred to as “young agricultural professionals”.

We support the establishment and funding of an Ohio Farm Bureau Legal Defense Fund.

**35 Ohio Agriculture**

**402:R06**

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We support the opportunity (ies) for agriculture to continue to grow as Ohio’s number one industry. We are concerned about the quality of life in all rural communities. Therefore, we will support reasonable efforts and needed research to address local issues including, but not limited to, water quantity and quality, air quality, physical, social and electronic infrastructure, and the adoption of Best Management Practices (BMP’s) pertaining to these issues. Identifying needed research, compiling and distributing research data, and funding of these activities should be emphasized to enhance our ability to address the concerns and questions of farmers and neighbors.

The Governor and his cabinet should promote agriculture and agricultural jobs as an economic development tool for Ohio including agricultural representation in the Ohio Department of Development. Greater emphasis should be placed on promoting the agricultural industry domestically and internationally.

1 We will work with the administration to develop a positive business climate in Ohio  
2 that will be beneficial to agriculture.

3  
4 **Nationwide**

**403:R08**

5  
6 We are proud of the fact that Nationwide was founded by Farm Bureau and remains  
7 an important part of our family. We still believe the principles of a mutual company  
8 must consider the needs and wants of its policyholders as part of its corporate  
9 management.

10 We encourage continued effectiveness as partners by promoting the aims and services  
11 of our organizations among our employees, our members, our policyholders and, when  
12 appropriate, the Ohio public. Emphasis should continue in providing channels for  
13 communication between various segments of our organizations to assure maximum  
14 understanding of organizational ties.

15 We support Nationwide's effort to be the premier agricultural insurer in the country.  
16 We urge them to take an innovative and comprehensive approach that addresses the risk  
17 management needs of a changing agricultural industry.

18 We urge Ohio Farm Bureau and Nationwide to clarify the use of farm vehicles used  
19 in custom farming operations.

20 We recommend that our members avail themselves of the full line of products offered  
21 by Nationwide. In order to facilitate our members' use of these services, we recommend  
22 Nationwide continue its policy of making agents available in all 88 counties.

23 We encourage Nationwide to utilize the experience and knowledge of their agents in  
24 setting policy and procedures with the goal of benefiting both Nationwide and its  
25 policyholders.

26 Recognizing the significance of Farm Bureau members' rates for automobile and  
27 truck insurance, we encourage member Farm Bureaus to conduct at least one program per  
28 year on vehicular safety.

29 We in Farm Bureau support continuing territorial rating in pricing insurance  
30 premiums.

31 Ohio Farm Bureau should continue to work with providers to develop quality and  
32 affordable health insurance solutions for farmers and other small business owners.

33  
34 **Cooperatives**

**404:R08**

35  
36 We encourage the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and member Farm Bureaus to  
37 cultivate a good relationship with all cooperatives. We encourage cooperatives to seek  
38 ways to meet the changing needs of their members. We support increased efforts to  
39 educate farmers about the benefits of cooperative membership, leadership development  
40 and patronage.

41  
42 **The Ohio State University**

**405**

43  
44 **Agricultural Research and Education**

**405.1:R08**

45  
46 The Morrill Act of 1862 established the Land Grant colleges to promote a sound and  
47 prosperous agriculture and rural life as indispensable to national prosperity and security.  
48 We believe that The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural and

1 Environmental Sciences and the Ohio Farm Bureau should use every economic and  
2 political means to assure that The Ohio State University accomplishes its stated mission.

3 We encourage the Governor to maintain an agricultural representative on The Ohio  
4 State University Board of Trustees.

5 We support adequate funding for the College of Food, Agricultural and  
6 Environmental Sciences, the College of Education and Human Ecology, Ohio  
7 Agricultural Research and Development Center, Ohio State University Extension, and the  
8 College of Veterinary Medicine.

9 We urge Ohio research facilities to make the best use of money received by avoiding  
10 duplication of research projects.

11 We urge The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental  
12 Sciences, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, and Ohio State  
13 University Extension to re-emphasize the importance of agriculture in their teaching and  
14 research.

15 We support changes to the promotion and tenure system that currently does not credit  
16 researchers for their practical advances on behalf of production agriculture.

17 All facets of farm management education should be emphasized in adult education  
18 programs, including finance, money management, marketing, production and risk  
19 management.

20 We support incubation of training programs for alternative and developing farm  
21 businesses.

22 We support the use of producer check-off money to help finance research programs,  
23 and encourage the reinvestment of financial gains, including intellectual property rights,  
24 to the entity that funded the research.

25 We support continued funding of adult agriculture education programs throughout  
26 Ohio such as the Farm Business Planning and Analysis program. We urge a study on  
27 creating innovative ways for producers to direct funding to specific faculty at agricultural  
28 land grant institutions for specific research projects.

29 We support the Ohio Agricultural Research Fund for the purpose of matching  
30 producer dollars to fund applied agricultural research by the agriculture industry.

31 We urge state political and educational leaders to develop a positive strategy for  
32 biotechnology research, development, and consumer education, thereby broadening the  
33 markets for Ohio farmers.

34 We support research and promotion of alternate uses of agricultural products and  
35 research on cost effective nutrient handling and management.

36  
37 **Ohio State University Extension**

**405.2:R08**

38  
39 The OSU Extension Service should remain in the College of Food, Agricultural and  
40 Environmental Sciences. Extension programs should emphasize agriculture and meet the  
41 needs of agricultural producers and their families.

42 We encourage the development of an Extension program that links young farmers  
43 interested in entering agriculture with farmers wishing to keep their agricultural  
44 operations viable.

45 We support OSU Extension's efforts to reinvent itself. The Ohio State Extension  
46 Services program needs to be modified to allow for the hiring of County Extension  
47 Educators who hold a bachelors degree and are willing to earn a master's degree within a  
48 reasonable time frame. Recognizing the importance of Extension's youth and adult

1 education programs and in light of current budget challenges, we support creative and  
 2 innovative ways to fund these essential programs. We encourage a 4-H presence in every  
 3 county supervised by a full-time youth development educator.

4 We encourage greater involvement of the agricultural sector on county Extension  
 5 Advisory Committees.

6 The State of Ohio and The Ohio State University should develop a cost-effective plan  
 7 to allow OSU, specifically ATI, to efficiently use the buildings and grounds of the vacant  
 8 Apple Creek Development Center.

9  
 10 **Ohio Department of Agriculture**

**406:R06**

11  
 12 We will continue to work for appropriate funding for the Ohio Department of  
 13 Agriculture and maintain the importance of the department as a cabinet level agency  
 14 because of its role in the health and safety of all Ohioans. In any future plans for  
 15 reorganization of government, agriculture needs to maintain a strong presence.

16 We support a review of all state economic development activities to ensure consistent  
 17 funding, support and project efficiency for agriculture and rural Ohio.

18 ODA regulatory efforts for public health and safety should be a budgeted expense of  
 19 ODA and funded by the general fund.

20 All fees should be commensurate with service cost.

21  
 22 **Farm Service Agency**

**407:R06**

23  
 24 We support adequate staffing of all county Farm Service Agency offices. Staffing  
 25 levels should be established based on the total workload of each local office and we  
 26 recognize that this could result in county office consolidation. County committees should  
 27 be consulted on any proposed office change.

28 We support a viable county committee system as an integral part of administering  
 29 Farm Service Agency programs and encourage an expanded role for this valuable source  
 30 of local input.

31 We encourage the Farm Service Agency to have all county offices follow the same  
 32 procedures for consistency and accept reports from other counties and agencies.

33  
 34 **Agricultural Financing**

**408:R07**

35  
 36 We support the farmer-owned and controlled Farm Credit System and encourage our  
 37 members to utilize it.

38 We support the expansion of the State of Ohio Linked Deposit Program, especially  
 39 increasing the per applicant limit above its current level of \$100,000.

40 We encourage farm mortgage borrowers to explore, with lenders, the use of Farmer  
 41 Mac fixed rate mortgages.

42 We support the establishment of credit and/or venture capital for newly developed  
 43 producer-sponsored marketing programs.

44 We support statewide line item funding for Resource Conservation and Development  
 45 Councils for the state budget.

46 We support continued funding by the State of Ohio for the Family Farm Loan  
 47 Program, which is designed to help young farmers and first time farm purchasers.

1 We support the state allowing the non-depository Farm Credit Services to participate  
2 in all state sponsored lending programs.

3  
4 **Animal Care**

409:R08

5  
6 We support properly researched, veterinary approved and industry-tested poultry and  
7 livestock practices that provide consumers with a wholesome food supply. We recognize  
8 that animals are personal property and we oppose legislation that, unless clear abuse is  
9 evident, restricts the private ownership or use of animals or that inhibits free trade of any  
10 animal provided it meets Ohio Department of Agriculture testing and import  
11 requirements. The Ohio Department of Agriculture should administer any animal welfare  
12 laws at the state level.

13 We support a unified animal agriculture effort to educate the public concerning  
14 humane farming practices. We support an aggressive, comprehensive educational  
15 program presenting the facts of animal and poultry husbandry and production to the  
16 elected officials, agencies, allied industries, youth and the general public. We strongly  
17 oppose the use of educational materials in our public schools that discourage use of  
18 animal products.

19 We support a proactive approach to prevent legislation that defines livestock care and  
20 husbandry practices.

21 We support the education of the public about the difference between the Humane  
22 Society of the United States (HSUS) and local humane animal agencies.

23 We oppose the restrictions on the use of antibiotic drugs in farm animals for nutrition  
24 and health purposes. Such restrictions should be based only upon sound science and  
25 extensive research.

26 We are opposed to the concept of animal “rights”, the associated elevation of animal  
27 rights to those enjoyed by humans, and the expenditure of public funds to promote the  
28 concept of animal rights.

29 We oppose legislation that establishes felony penalties of first time offenders for  
30 violations of animal welfare law; and, we oppose legislation that makes crimes against  
31 animals equal to or greater than similar crimes against people.

32 We oppose privately incorporated humane societies receiving money from fines for  
33 animal cruelty convictions. We support legislation to update and revise laws pertaining  
34 to the operation of humane societies and the training of personnel. Humane officers  
35 should receive annual training on farm livestock care provided by the Ohio Department  
36 of Agriculture. The Ohio Revised Code needs to be changed to stipulate that all  
37 complaints of livestock abuse (excluding companion animals) need to be investigated and  
38 processed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

39 State as well as federal law should address break-ins, raids, and trespassing on farms  
40 and ranches, research facilities and businesses. We support swift prosecution of  
41 individuals or groups who would release or steal research animals, destroy data  
42 developed from research on animals, release or steal impounded animals and release or  
43 steal privately owned, confined animals. Persons destroying or vandalizing property in  
44 connection with such activities should be vigorously prosecuted and compelled to make  
45 restitution.

46 We support more specific regulations governing the housing, care and movement of  
47 exotic animals by private individuals.

1 Livestock producers following recognized best management practices should have  
 2 protection under the animal cruelty laws for their activities. Agricultural groups  
 3 including but not limited to commodity organization, member association, and livestock  
 4 professionals, should place a high priority on education livestock producers on best  
 5 management practices. The Ohio State University Extension in cooperation with  
 6 commodity organizations should develop a livestock best management practices  
 7 certification program and provide signage for certified producers to display their  
 8 certification on the farm.

9 We encourage the State of Ohio to develop a state program to encourage veterinary  
 10 school graduates to work with food and fiber animals in underserved areas by offering  
 11 financial and other incentives such as student loan repayment.

12 We encourage that The Ohio State University, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio  
 13 Veterinary Medical Association, Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board and OFBF to  
 14 cooperate in developing a program to increase large animal veterinarian student  
 15 enrollment.

16 We oppose legislation that restricts or prohibits a producer's ability to produce and  
 17 sell livestock that is raised according to industry accepted animal husbandry practices.  
 18

19 **Cervids, Llama and Buffalo** **409.1**  
 20

21 We support that any animal being kept under agricultural farm conditions shall be  
 22 considered farm livestock and are subject to the policies and regulations as they relate to  
 23 farm animals.

24 We support that oversight authority of any livestock be it conventional, alternative, or  
 25 exotic, rest with the Ohio Department of Agriculture.  
 26

27 **Companion Animals** **409.2**  
 28

29 We support legislation requiring appropriate vaccination for all pets. Vaccination  
 30 programs should not be mandated to be carried out by licensed veterinarians except for  
 31 rabies vaccinations. Rabies vaccinations should be performed by a licensed veterinarian.

32 We support increased education and coordination of local responses to prevent the  
 33 spread of rabies including statewide rabies vaccinations of dogs.

34 We support continued inspection and licensing of kennels and businesses engaged in  
 35 the sale of pets.

36 We oppose placing more stringent regulations on the private sale of dogs.  
 37

38 **Commodities** **410**  
 39

40 **Livestock** **410.1:R07**  
 41

42 We encourage an agricultural business climate that promotes the livestock industry  
 43 and ensures the opportunity for the livestock industry to remain viable in Ohio.

44 We encourage all producers to become more engaged in positively promoting and  
 45 creating awareness of the benefits of livestock production in Ohio.  
 46  
 47

**Dairy****410.11:R08**

**1** We support:

- 2**
- 3**
- 4** 1. The right of Farm Bureau members to market milk through any licensed dairy
- 5** processor. We will work with milk cooperatives to increase the potential for
- 6** higher milk pay prices for all Ohio milk producers.
- 7** 2. State legislation that enhances the ability of farmer cooperatives to coordinate the
- 8** efforts of agricultural producers to bargain for the price and terms of sale of their
- 9** products. This relates to bargaining with processors, dealers or manufacturers.
- 10** 3. Legislation or a voluntary pooling program that equalizes or creates equity among
- 11** and between producers of a commodity priced under market order or other state
- 12** coordination authority.
- 13** 4. A dairy policy that works with other farm groups and cooperatives to raise the
- 14** floor price and reduce price volatility.
- 15** 5. Modifications in Federal Milk Marketing Order 33 that will enhance the price of
- 16** milk received by producers.
- 17** 6. The dairy options pilot program and encourage its expansion to other Ohio
- 18** counties.
- 19** 7. Improved minimum health and food safety standards for fluid milk based on
- 20** sound science.
- 21** 8. Changing the zero tolerance to negligible risk.
- 22** 9. Research, development and economic enhancements to promote the capabilities
- 23** of Ohio's dairy industry in identifying and capturing greater export and niche
- 24** markets.

**25** We urge the Ohio Department of Agriculture and/or departments of health to

**26** effectively enforce the regulations dealing with the refrigeration of dairy products at the

**27** retail and institutional level, including schools.

**28**

**29** We encourage:

- 30** 1. Efforts to revise milk inspection regulations to make the penalties for antibiotic
- 31** contaminated milk more closely reflect the degree of the infraction. If an
- 32** infraction occurs, the sample in question must be held for seven days to allow for
- 33** further testing.
- 34** 2. All processors and haulers to establish a bar code sticker system for sample
- 35** bottles to accurately identify the producer.
- 36** 3. Ohio dairy farmers to join the Ohio Dairy Producers Association.

**37** We recommend dairy producers' proportional representation be maintained on the

**38** Milk Sanitation Board.

**39**

**40** We oppose:

- 41** 1. The concept of "pool-riding" and other pricing strategies whereby producers from
- 42** different marketing orders circumvent the intended function of the milk marketing
- 43** orders to gain an unfair pricing advantage.
- 44** 2. All forms of misleading advertising that suggest or imply an imitation product
- 45** contains a natural dairy product.
- 46** 3. The importation of milk protein concentrates, ultra-filtered milk and casein that
- 47** are not subject to dairy tariff rate quotas consistent with World Trade
- 48** Organization rules.

- 1 4. The sale of raw milk directly to consumers without proper regulations in place to  
2 ensure the highest level of food safety.

3  
4 **Equine**

410.12:R08

5  
6 Equine should continue to be defined and recognized as livestock. We encourage  
7 Ohio's equine industry to communicate with other commodity groups and to  
8 cooperatively work together.

9 We support the development and establishment of an equine promotion and  
10 marketing program for the state of Ohio. Such a program should include representation  
11 from all segments of Ohio's equine industry.

12 We urge the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Animal Industry Division to continue  
13 with its Equine Animal Health Advisory (Ad Hoc) Committee.

14 We encourage the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Statistics Service to obtain and  
15 include equine data in its annual report as it does for all other species of livestock.

16 We encourage the education of elected officials, agencies, and allied industries  
17 pertaining to equine related issues and urge an economic impact study, including a census  
18 of equine.

19 We support the increase in the number of and the quality of equestrian riding trails on  
20 state and federal land to further develop the secondary market for the equine industry.

21 We support legislation that provides additional revenue from Ohio's pari-mutuel and  
22 related gaming to keep Ohio's equine industry competitive with surrounding states. With  
23 these additional funds, we will support all aspects of the Ohio equine industry which may  
24 include but not be limited to county fairs, educational activities, recreation shows and  
25 research.

26  
27 **Aquaculture**

410.13:R08

28  
29 We encourage the Ohio Department of Agriculture to support and oversee the  
30 aquaculture industry.

31  
32 **Grain**

410.2:R08

33  
34 We encourage continuing research on management of grain diseases and pests.

35 We encourage the development of new, end-user driven seed varieties.

36  
37 **Grain Handling**

410.21:R08

38  
39 We support amending the Ohio Grain Warehousing Law to exempt from licensing  
40 written bailment agreements between producers or producers and landlords up to 50,000  
41 bushels per year.

42  
43 **Grain Indemnity**

410.22:R08

44  
45 We support legislation that keeps any funds intended for the grain indemnity fund  
46 from being diverted into state general revenue funds.

47 We support additional funding for increased inspection and compliance efforts within  
48 the grain indemnity program in times of increased risk.

1 We support the Ohio Department of Agriculture to investigate increasing the Grain  
2 Indemnity Fund.

3  
4 **Grain Grading Procedures and Grain Moisture Testing** **410.23:R08**

5  
6 We urge that a concentrated effort be made through research to find more efficient  
7 and accurate grain testing and sampling devices and procedures. We urge the continual  
8 evaluation of grain grading systems and procedures to improve the validity of the  
9 process.

10  
11 **Seed Regulation** **410.24:R08**

12  
13 We oppose any law that would require seed handlers/conditioners to register their  
14 operations and maintain samples for the purpose of seed piracy reporting and  
15 enforcement. We also oppose any law that would involve the Ohio Department of  
16 Agriculture in policing seed partner agreements.

17 We encourage American Farm Bureau to conduct a study regarding the effect of  
18 patent rights and regulations in the agricultural industry.

19  
20 **Grains and Oilseeds Marketing** **410.25:R08**

21  
22 We encourage members to utilize component pricing opportunities.

23 We encourage improvements to the delivery system to the Chicago Board of Trade  
24 (CBOT) that support a more uniform convergence of cash grain and CBOT values.

25  
26 **Grazing Lands** **410.3:R08**

27  
28 We support the Ohio Grazing Lands Initiative's efforts to build and provide support,  
29 both technical and financial, for Ohio's grazing lands. We support the USDA-ARS effort  
30 to establish a dairy grazing research farm at the North Appalachian Experimental  
31 Watershed in Coshocton, Ohio.

32 We encourage the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation to support the efforts of the Ohio  
33 Forage and Grasslands Council to represent the hay and forage industry in Ohio.

34 We encourage the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation to recognize hay and forage  
35 production as a valuable commodity for Ohio producers and encourage efforts to  
36 develop, promote and market Ohio forage.

37  
38 **Greenhouse and Specialty Crops** **410.4:R08**

39  
40 We will support and promote Ohio's specialty crops such as greenhouse, fruit and  
41 field floral, vegetables, vineyards and wineries. This should include support in lobbying,  
42 marketing, financing, and securing energy supplies and adequate research and  
43 development funds.

44 To reduce incubation of and the spread of diseases and insects and thereby reduce  
45 pesticide use and costs, we support enactment of legislation requiring removal of  
46 abandoned commercial vineyards, orchards or conifers grown for resale, and other such  
47 crops as applicable, including those located on public owned properties.

48 The definition of "agriculture" should include hydroponics.

1 We support legislation to allow for producers' associations to hold public auctions of  
 2 produce raised by members as long as the sale is conducted by a licensed auctioneer with  
 3 proper indemnification.

4  
 5 **Honey and Bees**

410.5:R08

6  
 7 We urge counties to make sure there is adequate support for county bee inspection  
 8 programs.

9 In view of the importance of crop pollination in Ohio, public awareness, educational  
 10 programs and research should be increased by The Ohio State University to improve the  
 11 population, health, and productivity of the honeybee, including breeding and other  
 12 techniques to improve resistance to mites, hive beetles, and diseases detrimental to  
 13 honeybees. Furthermore, we urge the Ohio Department of Agriculture to increase state  
 14 funding to educate farmers on beekeeping to encourage more Ohio farmers to become  
 15 involved in beekeeping and to raise awareness of colony collapse disorder.

16 We urge the Ohio Department of Agriculture to maintain an apiary section capable of  
 17 serving the needs of the industry, enforcing current code sections and addressing industry  
 18 challenges.

19 We support making changes to Ohio Revised Code to allow Ohio Department of  
 20 Agriculture to determine and assess fees for the Ohio apiary program.

21  
 22 **Maple Syrup**

410.6:R08

23  
 24 We support additional research at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development  
 25 Center and The Ohio State University on sweet tree seed and control of parasites and  
 26 disease on maple trees.

27 We support the designation of maple syrup as Ohio's official state syrup.

28  
 29 **Timber**

410.7:R08

30  
 31 We urge the development of a timber marketing information program and the usage  
 32 of Ohio's native woods.

33 Because of the advancement of numerous insects and diseases which could cause  
 34 severe economic loss to the timber industry, we recommend that there should be adequate  
 35 Ohio Department of Agriculture funding for monitoring, treatment, quarantine and  
 36 control of affected areas.

37 We encourage preventive measures be taken to stop the migration of Asian Long  
 38 Horn Beetle into Ohio. We encourage all levels of government and individuals to  
 39 cooperate in instituting an aggressive plan to slow the spread of the emerald ash borer.  
 40 We encourage all levels of government to provide additional levels of funding for  
 41 education, research and awareness regarding this matter.

42 We encourage future efforts to promote the industry as a long-term investment, and  
 43 support educational efforts to promote increased timber production in Ohio.

44 We encourage farmers and woodland owners to require timber buyers and harvesters  
 45 to incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the development and harvesting of  
 46 their woodland resources and utilize a contract of sale that follows the minimum basic  
 47 standards and rights as recommended by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
 48 Division of Forestry.

1 We encourage all timber owners to have a forest management plan. We encourage  
 2 farmers and woodland owners to utilize an operation management plan (OMP) approved  
 3 by their local Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, the technical  
 4 support of the Division of Forestry, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, other private  
 5 certified foresters, and the financial support of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in  
 6 managing their woodlands.

7 We also encourage the Loggers Standard Council and Ohio Forestry Association to  
 8 pursue more direct oversight of the master logger programs to ensure that master loggers  
 9 are following the program's specifications. We encourage landowners to include a  
 10 contractual requirement that a master logger be on site for timber harvests.

11 We support the concept of state; national and private demonstration plots to show the  
 12 necessity and desired impacts of sound silvicultural practices.

13 We recommend that the state forests stay under the management of the Ohio  
 14 Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.

15 We support the continued harvest of timber on state owned land.

16 We encourage timber and forest landowners to utilize USDA NRCS EQIP Funds.  
 17 Funds for forest land projects should be cost shared at a rate of 50 percent in order to  
 18 have more positive impact on the environment and be made available to more  
 19 landowners.

## 20 21 **Tobacco**

**410.8:R08**

22  
23 We encourage the State of Ohio Administration and General Assembly to include  
 24 provisions for tobacco farms in the current or future settlements with tobacco companies.

25 Under no circumstances should legislators support litigation allowing tobacco  
 26 producers to become a party to lawsuits aimed at recovering damages claimed due to use  
 27 of tobacco products.

28 We believe the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation  
 29 Board of Trustees should invest all funds granted them in agricultural, community  
 30 development and transition projects for the benefit of tobacco producing counties and  
 31 communities. We support continuing the funding for the Foundation.

32 Burley tobacco growers will continue to need a burley tobacco grower's co-op, which  
 33 will need to undergo a series of changes to remain viable and serve the needs of growers  
 34 who wish to continue producing tobacco.

## 35 36 **Commodity Inspection**

**411**

### 37 38 **Inspection Programs**

**411.1**

39  
40 We support an education program, internship, and/or practical life experience as  
 41 prerequisites and qualifications to certify all personnel involved in all state and federal  
 42 commodity inspection programs.

### 43 44 **State Meat Inspection**

**411.2**

45  
46 We support a state maintained meat inspection program that allows the meat to enter  
 47 interstate trade. We support the development of reciprocal agreements between states to  
 48 allow state inspected meat to cross the state lines of the states with reciprocal agreement.

1 We will support mandatory livestock identification when a practical and cost-  
 2 effective system is developed that is acceptable to the industry. This support is  
 3 contingent on the development of accurate testing procedures and reasonable tolerance  
 4 levels of residues.

5 We support changes in the specifications of state contracts for institutional purchases  
 6 to allow small packers to bid with supplies smaller than 40,000 pounds. We also urge  
 7 that state grading be accepted in lieu of federal grades.

8 We urge that the Ohio Department of Agriculture meat inspectors be trained so that  
 9 inspections will be uniform.

10 We urge the “not for sale” stamp be removed from freezer meat being sold direct  
 11 from the farm that was processed at a state inspected facility.

12  
 13 **Contracting** **412**

14  
 15 **Bargaining Contract Marketing** **412.1**

16  
 17 We support amendments to the Ohio Agricultural Contract Marketing Law to  
 18 accomplish the following:

- 19 1. A more equitable means of resolving processor-producer disputes. This type of  
 20 change should include the elimination or extension of the March 31 bargaining  
 21 deadline and provide for mediation.
- 22 2. Mandatory deductions and forwarding of agricultural association member dues  
 23 made by the processing company to which deliveries are made.
- 24 3. Increased fines for unfair bargaining practices.
- 25 4. The requirement that multi-year contracts shall deal only with a producer’s right  
 26 to grow a commodity, not quality or price.

27  
 28 **Production Contracting** **412.2**

29  
 30 Ohio Farm Bureau will promote increased industry communication, education and  
 31 other necessary actions that will improve producer/contractor cooperation and partnering.  
 32 The objective is to ensure a healthy climate for contract, cooperative and entrepreneurial  
 33 commodity production in Ohio.

34 Although we prefer national legislation, we will support reasonable agricultural  
 35 contracting legislation that provides needed producer protections without imposing  
 36 unreasonable burdens on producers and processors.

37  
 38 **Agricultural Production** **413**

39  
 40 **Crop Protectants** **413.1:R08**

41  
 42 We urge the Ohio Department of Agriculture to continue to investigate the pesticides  
 43 needed for specialty agricultural production and exercise the authority granted to states  
 44 for registration of such pesticides. We recommend increased funding by the State of  
 45 Ohio and federal government of the interregional (IR4) program to handle the numerous  
 46 requests for minor use pesticides registration approvals. Where possible, similar  
 47 crops/species should be tested, certified, and registered as a group.

1 The Ohio Department of Agriculture should exert due diligence in making sure that  
2 Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requests  
3 are filed and approved in a timely manner, as producers need to be advised of changes  
4 that would affect the ability to use minor use pesticides in agricultural production. We  
5 support the development of methyl bromide alternatives for Ohio growers.

6 We oppose legislation or regulations requiring applicators to give prior notice of  
7 proposed pesticide applications.

8 The chemical applicator, farmer, producer, and/or landowner should not be held liable  
9 when applying chemicals according to the label specifications to the proper site.

10 Handlers, farmers, and producers must be educated that leaks, spills and labeling  
11 accidents may be dangerous to the environment and human health. It is essential that all  
12 persons handling pesticides be educated of the dangers and follow all regulations dealing  
13 with proper handling and labeling procedures.

14 We support educational programs for cholinesterase testing of private and  
15 commercial applicators.

16 We oppose non-affected parties having the right to bring suit or injunction against  
17 pesticide users for possible misuse of chemicals.

18 We urge the Ohio Department of Agriculture to minimize the burden on landowners  
19 of pesticide restrictions to protect endangered species.

20 We encourage an Ohio program for the return and proper disposal of outdated and  
21 unregistered agricultural pesticides without cost or liability to the owner. We support the  
22 Ohio Department of Agriculture coordinating this program and support legislation to  
23 protect the Ohio Department of Agriculture from legal liability for providing this  
24 important service.

25 We support the further development and promotion of Integrated Pest Management  
26 (IPM) practices in Ohio. IPM is a defensible use of pesticides because it focuses use  
27 where problems have been identified.

28 We urge OARDC to conduct more intensive research into alternative and traditional  
29 methods of controlling emerging pest problems such as slugs.

30 We support continuation of the food safety telephone hotline to inform and educate  
31 the media and public regarding the need for the judicious use of pesticides, their benefits  
32 and relative safety.

33 To maintain producer access to private pesticide licensing programs, we encourage  
34 that fees be commensurate with services provided.

35 Recognizing the law now requires recording the application of restricted use  
36 pesticides, we oppose reporting of restricted pesticide use and we oppose mandatory  
37 record keeping and reporting of non-restricted use pesticide application. We encourage  
38 strict adherence by applicators, either commercial or private, in following label and  
39 application instructions to promote proper management and guard against liability.

40 We support the increased use of mini-bulk, eco-packs, and other returnable and  
41 recyclable pesticide containers in a variety of sizes.

42 We support the requirement that all people who apply chemicals or pesticides on  
43 residential, commercial, or agricultural property have appropriate applicator certification  
44 for restricted-use pesticides. We encourage chemical companies to assist in pesticide  
45 certification training.

46 We support efforts to maintain current state laws that provide some exemption for  
47 intrastate movement of agricultural production materials from U.S. Department of  
48 Transportation regulations on transportation of hazardous materials.

1 We encourage the Ohio State University to actively complete Ohio crop profiles  
 2 detailing actual pesticide use and potential economical alternatives for use by the U.S.  
 3 Environmental Protection Agency as it implements the Food Quality Protection Act.

4  
 5 **Anhydrous Ammonia**

413.2:R07

6  
 7 We encourage research and education on additives and deterrents for anhydrous  
 8 ammonia that would prevent its illegal use and recommend a program to implement the  
 9 use of such additives and deterrents.

10  
 11 **Dog Laws and Livestock Indemnity Claims**

414:R06

12  
 13 We encourage member Farm Bureaus to work with their county government to  
 14 promote better understanding and emphasize enforcement of Ohio's dog law. The law  
 15 provides for indemnity for both dog damage and coyote kills and we support the  
 16 continuation of this indemnity. We urge close cooperation between dog wardens and  
 17 wildlife officers in processing coyote indemnity claims. The indemnity should be  
 18 adequate to replace the loss with a similar commercial animal of like breeding, age, and  
 19 condition.

20 We urge livestock producers to carry adequate insurance to cover loss of unusually  
 21 valuable animals.

22 We support financial incentive programs focusing on the prevention of animal control  
 23 problems rather than their effects.

24 We support county dog wardens recognizing milk, meat, or fiber producing exotic  
 25 animals as livestock when paying indemnity claims.

26 We support the development of a mandatory credible training program for all animal  
 27 control officers that specializes in dog laws, the identification of damage inflicted by  
 28 wildlife and domestic animals to livestock, and clearly determines what constitutes  
 29 animal abuse, neglect and cruelty.

30  
 31 **Easements**

415

32  
 33 **Railroad Abandonment**

415.1

34  
 35 Many railroad lines have been abandoned with tracks and bridges already removed.  
 36 When the railroad has ceased to function, if the abandoned right-of-way had been  
 37 purchased by the railroad, it should be offered to the individual adjacent property owners  
 38 first, at a fair market price. If an agreement cannot be reached, a committee of three (one  
 39 appointed by the buyer, one by the seller, and a third member by the other two) should be  
 40 appointed to establish a fair market price. If the railroad had an easement, then the right-  
 41 of-way should revert back to the adjacent landowner.

42 Abandoned railroad crossings on township and county roads should be restored to  
 43 proper grade.

44 Abandoned railroad property should be disposed of within two years after the rails are  
 45 removed.

46 The adjacent property owners should be given the right to purchase any abandoned  
 47 right-of-way that is not currently owned by the adjacent landowner, with a condition that

1 it may be purchased or leased for a utility or rail transportation when it is needed for  
 2 either of those purposes, rather than create a new easement.

3 Land surveys should be conducted of all abandoned railroad property whenever the  
 4 real estate is transferred. The railroad company should pay cost of survey.

## 5 6 **Bicycle, Recreational Trails and Greenways**

**415.2**

7  
 8 When abandoned rail lines or other areas are converted into bicycle, recreational,  
 9 equine and greenway trails, landowners' rights should be protected. The following  
 10 concerns need to be addressed:

- 11 1. The cost of adequate fencing, if desired by the adjoining landowner, be borne by
- 12 the developer;
- 13 2. Satisfactory law enforcement and security;
- 14 3. Safety of both the users and landowners;
- 15 4. Adjoining landowner liability;
- 16 5. Local government expense, including maintenance;
- 17 6. Protection of adjoining landowners from liability to trespassers;
- 18 7. Trespassing and littering;
- 19 8. Provision for parking facilities at various locations;
- 20 9. Proper drainage is maintained.
- 21 10. Landowners maintain access via an easement when trails bisect property.

22 We oppose the development of bicycle, recreational trails and greenways when the  
 23 purpose is, in whole or part, to facilitate the annexation of additional tracts of land.

24 We oppose any legislation that denies or postpones any reversionary property rights  
 25 or interest of property owners adjacent to railroad, utility, or road right-of-ways that are  
 26 abandoned for any reason.

27 We oppose the use of state gas taxes for the construction, improvement, and  
 28 maintenance of bikeways, bike transportation facilities and walkways.

29 We encourage the use of voluntary incentive-based programs for the creation and  
 30 management of trails and greenways.

31 We support class-action litigation filed on behalf of landowners adjacent to  
 32 abandoned railroad lines against railroads that have used the railroad lines for utility  
 33 easements in contravention of the landowners' property rights.

34 We encourage the adoption of legislation that requires the trail developer to maintain  
 35 fences, provide drainage, and control weeds as required of railroads in Chapter 4549 of  
 36 the Ohio Revised Code. Between the time of abandonment of the railroad line and  
 37 construction of the trail, the adjoining landowner should be allowed to use the abandoned  
 38 railroad easement. We encourage the adoption of legislation that requires that the  
 39 integrity of the location of the railroad line be maintained during development of the trail.

40 We encourage members to become active in local organizations involved in the  
 41 planning, acquisition and management of bicycle, recreational trails and greenways.

## 42 43 **Utility Easements**

**415.3:R07**

44  
 45 In order to protect landowners' rights and preserve important farmland, we urge that  
 46 utility easements follow existing corridors whenever possible.

47 Landowners or tenants should not be liable for any damage to underground or above  
 48 ground utilities that arise from normal farming practices.

1 Utilities should be responsible for damages occurring on landowners' property  
 2 including tile. We support legislation that would require public or private utility  
 3 companies to post a monetary bond or a cash deposit with the county before they are  
 4 allowed to install underground utility lines in the county to pay for right-of-way  
 5 restoration (i.e. tile, driveways, grade, etc.). Property damaged by the utility should be  
 6 repaired to original condition.

7 We recommend that all new buried utility lines be located at a minimum depth of 5  
 8 feet, or a mutually agreed upon depth, and that the property owner be notified five days  
 9 prior to actual installation.

10 We urge open dialogue between local public utilities, community leaders, businesses,  
 11 interstate pipeline companies and government agencies to ensure the proper planning and  
 12 development of local and interstate pipeline to serve growing communities.

13 Approval by the appropriate local political subdivision should be required before a  
 14 rural utility service can assess individual property owners.

15 When a public utility plans to construct a utility and needs to procure easements  
 16 and/or utilize existing easements, said public utility shall notify the affected landowner  
 17 by certified mail no later than 30 days prior to the date of the first public hearing.

18 Any proposed pipeline project must address the real need and the real environmental  
 19 issues, including but not limited to: disturbance of watersheds, tillage, and drainage  
 20 systems; crop production loss; safety due to proximity of homes and buildings; and,  
 21 devaluation of property values. In the event the pipeline is approved, the pipeline  
 22 company should be required to follow the agricultural mitigation provisions prepared by  
 23 the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This requirement and  
 24 other restrictions should be clearly stated in an easement agreement between the pipeline  
 25 company and the landowners.

26 We oppose broader interpretation of existing right-of-way easements that allows  
 27 utilities to expand their access.

28  
 29 **Education** **416**

30  
 31 **Adult Education** **416.1**

32  
 33 We will continue to support programs to inform and assist farmers regarding  
 34 financial, retirement and estate planning.

35 In view of accelerating technological and social changes, we support the expansion of  
 36 adult retraining programs. We urge that federal and state retraining programs be  
 37 coordinated to make better use of existing facilities.

38  
 39 **Agricultural Education** **416.2**

40  
 41 We encourage the adoption and promotion of nationally recognized best practices set  
 42 forth for agricultural education programs. We recommend that all agricultural education  
 43 programs be designed to address both educational performance standards and recognized  
 44 industry standards.

45  
 46 We support:

- 47 1. Funding for agricultural education instruction to occur beyond the regular school  
 48 day, week and year.

- 1 2. The granting of science credit for agriscience program courses.
- 2 3. Comprehensive career technical planning that is designed to ensure access to
- 3 agricultural education programs for all students, regardless of school of
- 4 attendance, race, national origin, sex, religion, handicap, or age.
- 5 4. FFA as a personal and leadership development program.
- 6 5. Programs that assure farmers have access to adult agricultural education that
- 7 provides financial management, record keeping, and financial analysis instruction.
- 8 6. State funding to local schools for agricultural education and FFA.
- 9 7. Local educational systems which allow students to take college preparatory
- 10 courses and agricultural education courses.
- 11 8. The development of tech-prep programs in agricultural education that provide
- 12 coherent and efficient secondary and post secondary agricultural education
- 13 programs for students seeking employment in high technology agricultural
- 14 industry occupations.

15 We recommend expansion of the Agriculture Business Placement program in the  
16 public schools and encourage greater participation by industry and agriculture.

17 We recommend the agricultural education courses in our schools be reviewed and  
18 updated to prepare our students for today's farming challenges and to meet the needs of  
19 the agricultural students interested in agribusiness related careers.

20 We encourage the Ohio Department of Education to retain the department's  
21 agriculture education consultant position to assist the programming needs of the  
22 Agriculture Education Program.

### 23 **County Educational Service Centers** **416.3**

24 We encourage county Farm Bureaus to review their own local situations so that  
25 needed educational services are being provided as effectively and efficiently as possible.  
26 Cooperative services between neighboring counties and cities, as well as possible joint  
27 offices or even other methods of providing those services should be considered.  
28

### 29 **Drivers Education** **416.4:R06**

30 We support incorporating the National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course in  
31 the driver's education program.

32 We support programs and the use of educational materials and testing related to  
33 signage, signaling and passing agricultural equipment, and safe driving procedures on  
34 Ohio's rural roads.  
35

### 36 **Evaluation** **416.5**

### 37 **Achievement Tests** **416.51**

38 We support alignment of standards, curricula and testing.  
39 Achievement questions should be based on sound science.  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45

**1 Teacher Evaluation 416.52**

**2**

**3** We support improved method(s) of teacher evaluation, including peer review as well  
**4** as administrator evaluation to determine mastery of the subject matter and measure  
**5** teaching ability. We also support a comparable evaluation of administrators. The  
**6** evaluation results should be used in granting merit pay increases.

**7** We support increased resources for the professional development of teachers.

**8** We believe there should be continued efforts by the colleges and universities to  
**9** maintain high standards for graduating teachers.

**10** We oppose tenure for teachers and professors in public education.

**11**

**12 Higher Education 416.6:R06**

**13**

**14** We are concerned about the effect of inflation on our institutions of higher education  
**15** and urge our state funded universities to explore cost containment measures including  
**16** collaboration and consolidation. We urge the state to maintain the funding needed to  
**17** ensure a quality higher education program at all of our state supported institutions of  
**18** higher learning. Agriculture related continuing education programs should be offered at  
**19** the branch campuses and community and technical colleges.

**20** To increase enrollment in post-secondary agriculture education, the agriculture  
**21** industry and Ohio’s agricultural schools and colleges should do more to inform youth of  
**22** the diverse and attractive career opportunities available in agriculture.

**23** We are concerned that instructors that are not fluent in the English language hinder  
**24** the learning process.

**25** We oppose our state-funded universities making political or social statements through  
**26** their food purchasing practices. However, we encourage those universities adopting "buy  
**27** local" policies.

**28**

**29 Public Education 416.7:R08**

**30**

**31** We believe that education programs should give breadth, quality and maximum  
**32** opportunity in education to our citizens.

**33** We believe the state legislature should determine what is meant by a thorough and  
**34** efficient education.

**35** We support distance learning programs made possible by new technologies.

**36** We encourage more emphasis on instruction in reading, science, mathematics,  
**37** citizenship, economics, agriculture education, technology-related courses, and fine arts.

**38** We encourage the integration of agriculture and related industry in STEM (science,  
**39** technology, engineering and math) curriculum.

**40** When hiring staff, we encourage more emphasis be given to academics than athletic  
**41** coaching skills.

**42** To ensure the best educational opportunity for all Ohioans, we support the right of  
**43** our school-age children to attend their neighborhood schools.

**44** We oppose establishment by law of a minimum school district population.

**45** We recommend that academically gifted children be provided challenging  
**46** educational opportunities.

**47** We encourage school districts to accept an open enrollment policy.

1 We support a coordinated effort among agricultural groups to expand the Ag in the  
2 Classroom program.

3 We urge all organizations to work together where possible in developing positive  
4 agricultural/environmental literacy programs for youth and adults. We also encourage the  
5 development and use of materials and the necessary support to integrate basic  
6 agricultural/environmental concepts into K-12 grade instruction.

7 We oppose teaching alternative lifestyles in the public school system.

8 We support retaining industrial arts programs in public schools.

9 To ensure the well being of Ohio youth, we encourage healthy food choices for all  
10 Ohio students utilizing Ohio farm products and limiting "empty calorie" (i.e. junk food)  
11 vending machine use during school meal times.

12 We support creating the network necessary to establish farm to school food programs  
13 throughout Ohio.

14 We support Family and Consumer Science courses including personal money  
15 management at our elementary, middle and high schools.

16  
17 **School Mandates** **416.71**

18  
19 Neither the state nor the federal government should place mandates on school districts  
20 unless such mandates are fully funded for the life of the mandates.

21  
22 **School Boards** **416.72**

23  
24 Training should be required of all newly elected school board members.

25  
26 **School Funding** **416.8:R07**

27  
28 We recommend an overhaul of the state foundation formula. With any overhaul, the  
29 proportion of revenue from property taxes should decrease with a corresponding increase  
30 in revenue from other sources such as income and sales tax.

31 We oppose any increase in the 10 mill limitation on inside millage.

32 Real property tax laws should be changed to benefit schools on a more equitable  
33 basis, such as distributing increases and decreases in utility, industrial, and commercial  
34 tax revenues on a per pupil basis across the state. Ohio Farm Bureau should oppose any  
35 constitutional amendment regarding school funding that is deemed fiscally irresponsible,  
36 fails to help rural schools, and lessens the taxpayers' voice as expressed by the state  
37 legislature.

38 We oppose legislation funding public education through cuts in the funding of the  
39 Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. We further recommend that state  
40 funding monies be more equitably divided among all local school districts on a per  
41 student basis to promote equal education opportunities for all students.

42 We recommend the State of Ohio explore incentives for schools to develop long term  
43 financial plans and establish "rainy day" funds.

44 School districts should have the option to propose a credit against property tax for any  
45 income tax and sales tax approved by the voters. We support a review of the practical  
46 benefits of HB 920 for those districts at the 20-mill floor.

47 We support continued funding for county education service centers from the state  
48 education budget.

1 We support school districts being exempt from paying the state gas tax.

2 The Ohio School Facilities Commission should re-evaluate their school building  
3 funding policies in relation to sound land use planning. The department’s policies  
4 encourage abandoning existing buildings and financing only new construction which is  
5 often outside villages and in rural areas.

6 We oppose any attempts by government agencies to take or purchase areas of land for  
7 wildlife management, parks or recreation until any adverse effect to the local tax base and  
8 school funding is addressed.

9

10 **Elections** 417

11

12 **Term Limits** 417.1:R08

13

14 We support extending the term for state legislators to 12 years.

15 We support extending the term for a state representative from two years to four years.

16

17 **Political Campaigns** 417.2

18

19 We support the enforcement of existing campaign finance laws and encourage the  
20 examination of further campaign finance reform.

21 We support legislation to prohibit the solicitation of contributions at the time of  
22 gathering signatures for an initiative petition.

23 We oppose contributions to political campaigns from foreign interests.

24 We encourage political candidates to campaign on the issues and avoid negative  
25 campaigning.

26 We support full disclosure of all campaign contributions.

27

28 **Political Education** 417.3

29

30 Farmers should become better informed and seek elected office or become actively  
31 involved in politics and government at the local, state, and national levels.

32 Many candidates for public office and many issues on the ballot are deserving of  
33 farmers’ financial support. The Agriculture for Good Government Political Action  
34 Committee (AGGPAC) must rely on individual members for contributions since  
35 organization funds cannot legally be used. More funds should be generated to support or  
36 oppose issues on the ballot and to make contributions to deserving candidates who  
37 support Farm Bureau policy.

38 The Ohio Farm Bureau should:

- 39 1. Expand Agriculture Political Education Program (APEP) and make certain it is
- 40 operated on a bi-partisan basis;
- 41 2. Encourage the members to participate as individuals in political party activities
- 42 and serve in various capacities of the political party structure. More farmer
- 43 involvement in our political parties is seriously needed to strengthen and keep the
- 44 parties responsive to the best interest of agriculture and rural communities;
- 45 3. Provide an opportunity for members to voluntarily contribute to AGGPAC during
- 46 payment of membership dues;

- 1 4. Encourage member Farm Bureaus to promote or provide activities which inform
- 2 members of political issues, candidates, and public officials and to surface viable
- 3 candidates to run for office;
- 4 5. Provide profiles of statewide candidates and issues;
- 5 6. Take a more aggressive role in surfacing and assisting candidates that are friendly
- 6 to agriculture because of the effects of term limits; and
- 7 7. Encourage Farm Bureau members to take advantage of the credit against state
- 8 income tax for contributions to candidates for state political office.

9

**10 Judicial Elections****417.4:R06**

11

12 All judges should be elected in a general election, and only be appointed to fill the

13 term if a current judge cannot fulfill his/her duties.

14 The role of the court is to interpret the law and Constitution(s), rather than making

15 new law via decisions.

16

**17 Special Elections****417.5**

18

19 We oppose all special elections, except those necessary to fill office vacancies.

20

**21 Student Voting****417.6**

22

23 Students desiring to vote should be required to vote in their home community. The

24 person designated as a student should not be permitted to register to vote in the college

25 location unless he/she is a permanent resident.

26

**27 Help America Vote Act****417.7:R07**

28

29 The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) provides regulations and finances to change the

30 way Ohio votes. Administration of funds should not adversely affect local government

31 finances. Local governments should have the authority to choose election equipment and

32 program vendors.

33

**34 Right of Recall****417.8**

35

36 We support the right of recall for state, county and township officials.

37

**38 Ballot Initiatives****417.9:R08**

39

40 We support better defining the Ohio Revised Code to make it more difficult for a

41 ballot initiative.

42

**43 Eminent Domain****418:R08**

44

45 We oppose government entities taking prime farmland for public purposes, including

46 but not limited to public water supplies, public utility pipelines, highways, metropolitan

47 parks, linear parks, wildlife areas and trails. Where such facilities are needed for the

48 public welfare, the government entity should:

- 1 1. Purchase land areas from willing sellers when possible;
- 2 2. Assume all legal responsibilities and tax obligations for the property acquired by
- 3 eminent domain, for example CAUV recoupment;
- 4 3. Compensate farmers and other landowners for property taken, and right of
- 5 ways/easements, inconvenience suffered, and for damage that may occur to them
- 6 and to nearby property owners;
- 7 4. Limit wellhead protection requirements to real case scenarios --- for example,
- 8 light sandy soils;
- 9 5. Pay for capital costs caused by wellhead protection ordinances;
- 10 6. Replace water supplies at no cost to the landowner for as long as the landowner
- 11 has a need for water;
- 12 7. Mitigate adverse effects to adjoining property owners for any facility that may be
- 13 developed.

14 The condemning agency should first establish the need for the project by using  
 15 cost/benefit analysis, and availability of capital funds for the project. Funds should be  
 16 made available to the landowner for an appeal process before condemning the land. All  
 17 necessary economic impact studies and environmental impact studies, etc. should be  
 18 completed prior to initiating condemnation. Any damage occurring should be reimbursed  
 19 to the landowner.

20 When the state publicly identifies a corridor for a projected state highway project, all  
 21 the land in that corridor must be purchased within three years of identification of the  
 22 corridor or, if not, all the restrictions on the property should expire. If a proposed project  
 23 is delayed for a period of 18 months or more, the landowner should be compensated 10  
 24 percent of the fair market value of the land.

25 We believe municipalities should be limited in their use of condemnation proceedings  
 26 to secure land and facilities outside of the municipal corporation.

27 We believe government entities should compensate original landowners for loss of  
 28 use of their land and for any profits realized on resale of land taken by eminent domain.  
 29 Landowners of property taken by eminent domain should be compensated at prevailing  
 30 market rates, including best alternate uses, established before the threat of eminent  
 31 domain is publicly known.

32 Metropolitan parks and/or park districts have the power of eminent domain. We  
 33 oppose the use of eminent domain for recreational purposes. If eminent domain is to be  
 34 used outside the "base county" of the metro park and/or park district, the county  
 35 commissioners in that outside county must approve the eminent domain action.

36 We support a constitutional amendment to allow incorporated municipalities to have  
 37 the same authority as counties and townships to define a blighted area.

38 We support legislation that allows conservation easements to super cede eminent  
 39 domain.

40 Ohio's quick take statute should be amended to limit the government's right of quick  
 41 take to emergency actions only.

42

43 **Energy**

**419:R08**

44

45 Ohio Farm Bureau should provide leadership in the development of a comprehensive  
 46 state energy policy that incorporates the use of clean coal technology, nuclear and  
 47 alternative fuels such as wind, biofuels, methane, solid waste, geothermal, hydroelectric,  
 48 hydrogen, and solar, and funding for technology and research to reduce greenhouse gas

1 emissions and dependence on foreign fossil fuels. We support 25 percent of Ohio’s  
2 energy needs being met through the use of renewable energy by 2025.

3 We support legislation permitting tax credits, alternative energy grants and other  
4 incentives to develop alternative energy sources.

5 We support the development of public policies which encourage sustainable  
6 alternative and renewable energy production, especially for small and community scale,  
7 decentralized situations.

8 We support the inclusion of coal as an economical and readily accessible source for  
9 electrical generation.

10 We support the requirement to show a need for utility scale energy generation  
11 projects.

12 We encourage the development of additional connections between utility and  
13 infrastructure and transmission pipelines that could provide Ohio natural gas consumers  
14 direct access to lower cost gas supplies.

15 We encourage the utilization of installed pipelines that can be retrofitted to transport  
16 natural gas supplies. These pipelines can be used to bring more natural gas into  
17 communities needing these resources. Ohio Farm Bureau should work with the Public  
18 Utilities Commission of Ohio, all-incumbent utilities, service providers, pipeline  
19 companies, and interested community leaders to establish these systems.

20

21 **Biofuels**

**419.1:R08**

22

23 We support the research, development and use of fuel alternatives and enhancements  
24 of agricultural products such as biofuels and renewables. We encourage research  
25 regarding cellulosic ethanol production utilizing woody biomass, grasses, and agricultural  
26 residues. We encourage the production and use of biofuels and other renewable fuels for  
27 expanded use in markets, a cleaner environments and enhanced national security.

28 We support expediting the permitting process for renewable fuel plants.

29 We encourage the use of biofuels, at the highest percentage blend economically  
30 feasible, in all vehicles as distribution systems improve. We urge each Farm Bureau  
31 member to actively promote the use and marketing of ethanol enhanced gasoline and soy-  
32 biodiesel and continue support of an aggressive education campaign to promote the  
33 benefits of ethanol-blended gasoline and the differences between ethanol and methanol.

34 We support the construction of biofuel production plants in Ohio. We urge the State  
35 of Ohio to give preference to bio-based fuels in any alternative fuels program.

36 We support the use of ethanol in coal desulfurization.

37 We also encourage the placement of more infrastructure and pumps to distribute E-85  
38 and biodiesel to the public.

39 We encourage further research and development of uses of the by-products of biofuel  
40 production.

41 We encourage state and local government agencies to use alternative fuels and to  
42 purchase biofuel compliant vehicles.

43

44 **Wind**

**419.2:R08**

45

46 We encourage reasonable, landowner friendly, uniform statewide regulations and  
47 guidelines pertaining to the siting, placement, construction and operation of wind  
48 turbines.

1 We encourage legislation to expand the use of wind power in the state of Ohio.

2 We encourage the support of Ohio Farm Bureau in minimizing or preventing the  
3 delay in construction of wind turbine projects due to the concern of migratory birds, bats  
4 or other wildlife.

5

6 **Methane** **419.3:R07**

7

8 We support and promote the use of methane gas, generated from bio-digesters and  
9 landfills, as an alternative energy source.

10

11 **Climate Change** **419.4:R08**

12

13 Ohio agricultural and silvicultural industries recognize that they have an important  
14 role to play in the mitigation of greenhouse gas emission. If a state climate change policy  
15 is developed, it should incorporate the following principles:

16

1. Flexible market-based solutions such as soil carbon sequestration and carbon  
17 credit trading;

18

2. Does not put Ohio agriculture and silviculture at an economic disadvantage;

19

3. Does not increase the costs of production inputs such as fuel, fertilizers or  
20 agricultural chemicals;

21

4. Based on sound science;

22

5. Consensus based which considers the viewpoints and concerns of all stakeholders;

23

6. Participatory process involving multiple stakeholder representatives.

24

25 **Lawsuits** **420**

26

27 **Environmental** **420.1**

28

29 When lawsuits are filed on environmental and nuisance matters and the case is  
30 dropped, or fails, all court costs and attorney fees of the defendant, as well as the  
31 plaintiff, should be paid by the plaintiff.

32

33 **Tort Reform** **420.2**

34

35 We support civil litigation reform in Ohio.

36

37 **Environmental Protection** **421:R07**

38

39 We will cooperate with sound programs that will lead to an improved environment.  
40 We insist environmental regulations be scientifically sound, based on credible data,  
41 practical, realistic, and economically feasible. We will support farmers who use sound  
42 management practices in their farming operations and face harassment or legal action by  
43 their neighbors or government agencies. We support those environmental laws that  
44 embrace these principles.

45

46 We believe after an investment has been made in pollution abatement equipment and  
47 facilities, and these have been approved, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency,  
Ohio Department of Agriculture, and Natural Resources Conservation Service should not

1 require changes in such facilities due to changing or new technology as long as the  
2 current system operates as designed and meets environmental objectives.

3 We believe that any liability resulting from failure of facilities due to poor  
4 design/engineering, planning or assessment should not be the responsibility of the  
5 landowner and such failure should be repaired by the responsible engineering or  
6 government agency.

7 We support both federal and state programs to provide grants to farmers of up to 75  
8 percent cost-sharing plus tax incentives to farmers installing pollution abatement  
9 facilities.

10 We urge farmers to abide by Ohio's hazardous waste law. Information and  
11 opportunity should be provided to farmers so they can properly deal with agricultural  
12 hazardous waste.

13 We support the development of agricultural expertise within the Ohio EPA through  
14 the hiring of individuals with agricultural experience.

15 We urge farmers to remove underground fuel storage tanks. Encourage farmers to  
16 site, manage, and inspect aboveground fuel storage tanks on a routine and regular basis.

17 We recommend establishment of a new, more reasonable fire code category for above  
18 ground, private fueling sites with a combined tankage of 5,000 gallons or less.

19 Consideration should be given to proper venting, labeling and distances from  
20 important structures.

21 We commend the Ohio EPA for developing its new Voluntary Action Program  
22 (VAP) which allows individuals or businesses to voluntarily clean up contaminated  
23 properties so they can continue in, or be put into, productive use. We strongly urge the  
24 Ohio EPA to reduce the severity of the regulations that must be met to the bare minimum  
25 in order to encourage redevelopment on existing sites. We further recommend the use of  
26 peer review, based upon sound science, to confirm non-excessive clean up requirements.

27 We oppose any attempt to reduce the 2004 animal number threshold for livestock  
28 facility permitting, however, we believe the regulating agencies should adopt regulations  
29 for livestock facilities not solely based on these levels, but devise a formula considering  
30 factors such as:

- 31 a. The number of animals
- 32 b. Method of farm management (feed lot, managed grazing)
- 33 c. Water Usage (ground or surface supply)
- 34 d. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

35 We support member participation in programs utilizing voluntary, science-based,  
36 confidential self-assessment tools such as Farm\*A\*Syst, the Livestock Environmental  
37 Assurance Program (LEAP), Equine Environmental and Liability Assurance Program and  
38 the Ohio Agricultural Environmental Assurance Alliance's Environmental Self-  
39 Assessment Program.

40 We encourage the use of sound conservation practices designed to minimize the off  
41 site transport of nutrients from the application of manure. To maintain the viability of  
42 Ohio's livestock industry, we encourage the adoption of practices suitable for application  
43 on frozen and snow-covered ground to protect surface and ground water resources.

44 We believe Ohio environmental regulations should not be more stringent than federal  
45 regulations.

46 We support the farmers' right to haul manure as long as they follow proper setbacks  
47 and guidelines in Natural Resources Conservation Service Standard #633.

1 We support the development of a law to address chronic and frivolous complaints  
2 against agricultural operations.

3 We urge that members of Ohio's congressional delegation and the Governor work to  
4 ensure that NPDES delegation authority for large livestock farms is transferred from the  
5 Ohio EPA to the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

6 We support the Ohio EPA in addressing education of their permitting process,  
7 especially in the case of their asbestos abatement permit, before a violation happens.

8  
9 **Air** **421.1**

10  
11 **E-check** **421.11**

12  
13 We support elimination of the enhanced motor vehicle inspection and maintenance  
14 (E-check) program. Efforts to meet U.S. EPA air quality standards should emphasize  
15 state flexibility and control.

16  
17 **Acid Rain** **421.12**

18  
19 We will work toward a reduction of undesirable products of combustion with  
20 necessary regard to economic impacts. Fuel substitution is not a permanent viable fix  
21 and could be fatal to Ohio's coal industry. We support the efforts of the Office of Coal  
22 Development, Ohio Department of Development, and the industry to commercialize the  
23 proven clean coal technology. There should be more time given for the utility industry to  
24 update generating facilities to comply with the Clean Air Act, utilizing clean coal  
25 technology.

26 The cost of compliance with the Clean Air Act should be broader based. The law  
27 should:

- 28 1. Extend these costs to all the country;
- 29 2. Reduce requirements for sulfur dioxide emissions to more reasonable levels until  
30 the benefits of reduction are more adequately documented; and
- 31 3. Grandfather older power plants and establish the more stringent requirements for  
32 new construction.

33 We support the appropriation of more research money or provision of tax incentives  
34 for safe and clean use of high sulfur coal.

35  
36 **Clean Air** **421.13**

37  
38 The balanced implementation of the Federal Clean Air Act is important to the farmers  
39 of Ohio.

40 Any state regulations developed to implement the Federal Clean Air Act and other air  
41 quality laws should be scientifically sound, based on credible data, practical, realistic and  
42 economically feasible. Regulatory action should wait for the development of proven  
43 emission measurement technology.

44 Sufficient scientifically based representative field data regarding air quality and  
45 agricultural operations does not currently exist. We support funding for, and voluntary  
46 agreements that lead to agricultural air quality research.

47

**1 Open Burning 421.14**

**2**

**3** We support the expansion of the current open burning regulations to allow for the  
**4** disposal of storm damage debris and flood related drift wood during otherwise restricted  
**5** dates and times and oppose any effort to restrict agricultural open burning.  
**6**

**6**

**7 Outdoor Wood Fired Boilers 421.15:R08**

**8**

**9** Outdoor wood fired boilers installed according to manufacturer's recommendations  
**10** and applicable state and local codes should be grandfathered and exempted from any new  
**11** requirements established for new installations. We are opposed to new state regulations  
**12** pertaining to outdoor wood fired boilers and any rule making should be postponed to  
**13** allow enough time for the existing federal voluntary program to succeed.  
**14**

**14**

**15 Land 421.2**

**16**

**17 Bio-Solids 421.21**

**18**

**19** We support cooperation among applicators, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency,  
**20** municipalities and Soil and Water Conservation Districts to assure proper and safe  
**21** application of bio-solids.

**22**

**23** The same nutrient levels that apply in the application of agricultural nutrients to  
**24** farmland should apply to bio-solid application. We encourage farmers to utilize Best  
**25** Management Practices for the application and use of bio-solids, which includes obtaining  
**26** a complete chemical analysis performed by a qualified laboratory, of the bio-solids being  
**27** applied, including, but not limited to heavy metals, organics, and pathogens.

**27**

**28** Bio-solid generators must be held accountable for damages occurring from inaccurate  
**29** chemical analysis of heavy metals, dioxins, or other toxins. Damages resulting from  
**30** misapplication are the responsibility of the applicator.

**30**

**31** We urge the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and OARDC to conduct research  
**32** on efficient land application of bio-solids to strip-mine reclamation projects to avoid  
**33** polluting our soil and water. We are against the indiscriminate spreading of bio-solids on  
**34** any land. All bio-solids used on land should continue to be sampled and analyzed for  
**35** metals, organics, and pathogens by a qualified laboratory.  
**36**

**35**

**36 Hazardous and Solid Waste Disposal 421.22**

**37**

**38** We support legislation to remove the veto power vested in the legislative authority of  
**39** the largest municipality of each county within a solid waste management district.

**40**

**41** Ratification of the solid waste management plan, as prepared by the solid waste policy  
**42** committee, would be solely and strictly contingent upon determining that a sufficient  
**43** number of legislative authorities have approved the plan.

**43**

**44** The location of solid waste and hazardous waste facility sites should adequately  
**45** protect groundwater.

**45**

**46** We encourage the Ohio Legislature to enact laws strengthening Ohio's landfill laws  
**47** to better protect Ohio's rural environment.

**47**

**48** We recommend the establishment of regional recycling centers financed by all the  
**48** units of government in that region.

1 We support efforts aimed at reclaiming and recycling solid and hazardous wastes  
2 through energy generators, waste exchangers, and other types of energy conversion.

3 We encourage the use of agriculturally based biodegradable packaging products.

4 We urge proper enforcement of present regulations concerning the transportation and  
5 handling of hazardous material to ensure proper response in event of accidents.

6 Whenever possible, hazardous waste should be neutralized at the site of production  
7 before being transported.

8 We encourage farmers to strictly follow all recommended methods of disposal of all  
9 agricultural chemical containers.

10 We request full time inspector at all waste facilities during business hours.

11 A special fund should be established to provide for clean up of hazardous waste  
12 dumping when the violator is not known and the landowner has no control or  
13 responsibility for the illegal dumping.

14 We encourage the further development and expansion of compost technologies for  
15 household and yard wastes.

16 We support the continuation of the state-wide moratorium on construction debris and  
17 demolition (CD&D) landfills until adequate rules and regulations are in place to protect  
18 the environment. Loads going into and out of transfer stations must remain identifiable.

19

20 **Household Sewage Treatment** **421.23**

21

22 To protect the quality of our water resources and the health of rural residents, we:

- 23 1. Believe it is the responsibility of rural homeowners to ensure that their home
- 24 sewage treatment systems are managed and operated correctly and encourage
- 25 them to follow a routine and regular inspection program.
- 26 2. Urge rural homeowners to work with their local board of health to address any
- 27 identified needs associated with the proper operation and maintenance of their
- 28 home sewage treatment system.
- 29 3. Encourage alternative funding mechanisms, including but not limited to cost
- 30 sharing and low interest loans, be made available to rural homeowners to upgrade,
- 31 repair or replace existing nonfunctional home sewage treatment systems.
- 32 4. Believe that individuals who are trained in soil analysis, such as Soil and Water
- 33 Conservation District (SWCD) and Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 34 (NRCS), should have the authority to identify the soil types that will not be
- 35 appropriate for traditional home sewage treatment systems.
- 36 5. Support the installation of nontraditional home sewage treatment systems when
- 37 site conditions are not appropriate for traditional systems
- 38 6. Support a uniform inspection standard that is fair to all homeowners that utilize a
- 39 home sewage treatment system.
- 40 7. Support the proper and safe disposal of septage.
- 41 8. Homeowners should not be required to abandon their private sewage treatment
- 42 system and connect to a public sewage system when it becomes accessible to the
- 43 property, if the private sewage system is inspected and approved by a qualified
- 44 inspector.

45

**1 Waste Disposal and Recycling 421.24:R08**

**2**

**3** We support a comprehensive litter and solid waste control law that includes, but is  
**4** not limited to the following provisions:

**5**

1. A deposit on beverage cans and bottles. This deposit should be high enough to  
**6** provide an incentive for their return;

**7**

2. Adequate redemption and recycling opportunities for rural areas;

**8**

3. An incentive for manufacturers selling in Ohio to easily make recyclable  
**9** products;

**10**

4. Incentives for private industry to collect and recycle recyclable materials;

**11**

5. A financial incentive for local non-profit groups to pick up litter along highways  
**12** outside of incorporated areas;

**13**

6. An incentive to develop and use biodegradable packaging and trash bags; and

**14**

7. Research into using recycled tires.

**15**

Should waste of any type be deposited on a landowner's property unknown to the  
**16** landowner, its removal and disposal should become the responsibility of the county litter  
**17** agency, or other appropriate agency.

**18**

We urge the Ohio Division of Litter Prevention and Recycling to continue its  
**19** commendable effort to control litter and solid waste in rural areas.

**20**

Litter prevention and recycling education should be a part of Ohio's effort in  
**21** controlling solid waste.

**22**

We urge the continued research and development of economically feasible  
**23** composting programs that benefit the urban community and agriculture. This should  
**24** include, but not be limited to:

**25**

1. What products can be composted;

**26**

2. The nutrient value of compost; and

**27**

3. The economic value of composting.

**28**

We encourage utilization of composting on agricultural operations and promote  
**29** enhanced access to cost share funds for implementation and operation of composting  
**30** facilities.

**31**

We encourage local units of government to investigate and establish centralized  
**32** collection points for household hazardous waste and items to be recycled.

**33**

We support an increase in the agricultural exemption for tires on the storage  
**34** regulations that apply to feed storage (silo bunkers). The tires used for this purpose  
**35** should be cut in half so as not to retain water.

**36**

The Ohio Farm Bureau supports a civil remedy against dealers in scrap metal who  
**37** purchase large amounts of metals under circumstances where the purchaser knows, or  
**38** should know, that the metal is stolen.

**39**

**40 Water 421.3**

**41**

**42 Nonpoint Source Pollution 421.31**

**43**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil and Water Conservation  
**44** Districts, and Ohio State University Extension are developing various programs to reduce  
**45** soil loss and nonpoint source pollution from agriculture run-off and from disposal of  
**46** agricultural wastes. We support these programs and encourage the state to provide  
**47** adequate funds for agriculture pollution abatement. We will also work with these  
**48**

1 agencies, and others involved, to develop waste management and handling guidelines in  
 2 order to protect agricultural producers and processors from unreasonable and/or  
 3 inconsistent regulations.

4 We oppose any regulation or legislation that holds a producer or processor who is  
 5 making a good faith effort to control nonpoint source pollutants criminally liable.

6 Monies made available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S.  
 7 Environmental Protection Agency, and the general revenue fund of Ohio should be  
 8 promptly passed through and applied to the implementation of soil and water  
 9 conservation efforts on the land. This action has proven to be the most effective method  
 10 of reducing the phosphorus loading in Lake Erie and the reduction of agriculture  
 11 pollution of streams and rivers, as well as reducing costs of sediment removal in  
 12 agriculture areas. We support state government contribution to, and further expansion of  
 13 federal cost share programs.

14 We believe that whenever possible, all individuals disturbing the land surface should  
 15 follow recommendations set by the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment  
 16 Control (CPESC Program), Soil and Water Conservation Districts and local NRCS soil  
 17 technicians.

18 We encourage all those (including non-agricultural) applying nutrients and crop  
 19 protectant products to follow recognized management practices including the  
 20 development of nutrient management plans with soil testing.

## 21 22 **Watershed Management**

**421.32:R06**

23  
24 As responsible stewards of our land, water and air resources, we:

- 25 1. Support continued efforts of the OFBF water quality initiative and the OFBF
- 26 Strategic Vision for Water Quality;
- 27 2. Support member participation in established local watershed groups;
- 28 3. Encourage members to assess and evaluate their local water resources;
- 29 4. Encourage members to lead in the formation of local watershed groups;
- 30 5. Support adequate funding of local watershed groups for the development and
- 31 implementation of watershed management plans;
- 32 6. Encourage local political jurisdictions to partner in the development and
- 33 implementation of watershed management plans;
- 34 7. Support and encourage member involvement in the local implementation of state
- 35 water quality initiatives such as the Source Water Assessment and Protection
- 36 (SWAP) Program and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program;
- 37 8. Support the use of scientifically based and economically sound conservation
- 38 practices to protect surface and ground water resources that are delivered in a
- 39 flexible and voluntary manner;
- 40 9. Support the watershed specialists in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- 41 and the Ohio State University Extension in the implementation of the Watershed
- 42 Action Agenda;
- 43 10. Support a state income tax credit for water quality improvement projects.
- 44 11. Support monitoring the licensing and enforcement of Ohio public water systems
- 45 for agricultural, horticultural and related operations and assisting affected
- 46 members with compliance.
- 47 12. We urge continued support of North Appalachia Experimental Watershed station
- 48 in Coshocton County.

**1 Conservation and Market-Based Incentives 421.33:R07**

**2**

**3** We believe that improving the environment by enhancing the conservation, wise use  
**4** and productivity of our natural resources through private ownership, individual freedom  
**5** and market-oriented approaches is our most important conservation and environmental  
**6** goal.

**7** We support compensation at fair market value for environmental or regulatory costs  
**8** that contribute to the public good.

**9** We support the development of market-based incentives, such as pollution permit  
**10** trading as an alternative to government prescriptions.

**11** We believe that pollution permit trading is a viable approach to implement the  
**12** requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act and Federal Clean Air Act. We believe the  
**13** United States Environmental Protection Agency should outline the general guidelines of  
**14** pollution permit trading but allow local entities to determine the management system  
**15** which best fits its needs.

**16** We support further education of producers regarding the carbon credit program.

**17**

**18 Nutrient Management 421.34:R08**

**19**

**20** As a core function of agricultural production, application of lime, fertilizer and other  
**21** nutrient inputs should not require a permit.

**22** Nutrients derived from plant waste and animal manure have value, and as such should  
**23** be recognized as a commodity.

**24** We encourage livestock operations regardless of size to use science-based best  
**25** management practices when applying nutrients and manure.

**26** We support the Department of Agriculture's Livestock Environmental Permitting  
**27** Program to adopt reasonable, economically viable, scientifically based rules related to its  
**28** certified livestock manager (CLM) program. This would include, but not be limited to,  
**29** requiring a chain of responsibility regarding correct transportation, application and  
**30** monitoring of nutrients from livestock facilities.

**31**

**32 Food Quality and Safety 422:R08**

**33**

**34** Regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction over our food supply should have a  
**35** coordinated plan so they can respond quickly to give assurance that the U.S. food supply  
**36** is wholesome and nutritious. Statements and decisions by state and national government  
**37** officials should be based on scientific fact rather than emotional appeals.

**38** We object to agricultural producers being required to certify that no chemical residue  
**39** is present on food products sold at retail. The producer has no control on what happens  
**40** between the farm and the final market. We support a change from zero tolerance to  
**41** negligible risk.

**42** We will actively promote educating the public, media, retailers, food service  
**43** employees, and others to use sanitary practices in the handling and preparation of food.

**44** We support the Ohio Specialty Crop Food Safety Initiative. We recognize the need  
**45** for additional funding to continue the Good Agricultural Practices Project in Ohio.

**46** We support the development of cost effective third party fresh produce audit  
**47** verification programs to meet market place demands.

1 We support ODA maintaining a food safety regulation for honey, maple syrup and  
2 sorghum.

3  
4 **Food Labeling**

422.1:R07

5  
6 We oppose all use of false and misleading labels, promotional materials or other  
7 advertising for food products.

8 Ohio Farm Bureau should petition the Ohio Department of Agriculture to require that  
9 all food labels in the state must be able to substantiate their claims through sound  
10 scientific testing.

11  
12 **Farm Markets**

422.2:R08

13  
14 The Ohio Farm Bureau will work with the Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio  
15 Department of Health to monitor enforcement of the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code,  
16 and other food safety regulations, as they apply to farm markets, roadside stands and  
17 other farmers retailing, processing, or distributing food. If necessary, Ohio Farm Bureau  
18 will support technical corrections to the Ohio Revised Code to assure the consistent  
19 enforcement but not overregulation of the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code and other  
20 food safety regulations related to public health issues.

21 We recognize the need for Ohio Farm Bureau to work with other interested parties to  
22 address insurance, zoning and other regulatory compliance issues that impact the viability  
23 of Ohio direct agricultural marketing. We support the definition of a farm market as a  
24 market where fifty percent or more of the gross income received from the market is  
25 derived from product raised on farms owned or operated by the market operator in a  
26 normal year. We support the current exemption of farm markets from township and  
27 county zoning.

28 We strongly encourage the continued equitable government funding of the W.I.C.  
29 Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and the Senior Nutrition Program as beneficial  
30 programs for Ohio agriculture and Ohio citizens. We support expanding the Senior  
31 Coupon/Voucher program to all Ohio counties for obtaining produce from participating  
32 local farmers.

33 We support improving the ability for farmer's markets to accept electronic transaction  
34 benefit programs and food coupons.

35  
36 **Health**

423

37  
38 **Health Care**

423.1

39 We support:

- 40  
41 1. The development and implementation of a universal standardized processing  
42 system for insurance claims and medical administration.  
43 2. Insurance reform including elimination of mandates; guaranteed renewability of  
44 policies; and, creation of basic insurance plans and risk pools.  
45 3. Reform of tax policy to give taxpayers equal incentives for purchasing health  
46 insurance or for direct payment of health care needs.  
47 4. The elimination of cost shifting from Medicare, Medicaid and other programs to  
48 insured patients.

1 5. The continued use of waivers in individual health care plans.

2 We oppose mandated employer provided health insurance.

3 We encourage hospitals and medical care providers to abide by an individual's wishes  
4 regarding donation of body parts upon death as stated on organ donor cards and drivers'  
5 license designations in accord with Ohio Revised Code and as long as the body parts are  
6 medically suitable. Family consent should not be required if an organ donor card is  
7 properly completed and the individual is over the age of 18.

8

9 **Health Cost Containment**

423.2

10

11 We oppose the two-tiered medical billing system that differentiates between those  
12 who have health insurance and those who do not.

13 We are opposed to additional state mandates. Ohio law should provide for an option  
14 for private insurers to offer health insurance policies without state mandated coverage.

15 We support association health plans.

16 Hospitals that are closed should be converted to extended care facilities when such  
17 facilities are needed.

18 We encourage the medical establishment to develop medical practice parameters that  
19 could be used to place limits on liability and malpractice lawsuits if followed.

20

21 We urge all health insurance providers, including HMOs and PPOs to clearly  
22 communicate to their policyholders the different care options included in the applicable  
23 policies and assist policyholders whenever unusual circumstances are encountered.

23

24 We favor a restructuring of the Medicaid program so that it (1) covers only services  
25 mandated by federal law, (2) institutes payment caps for the necessary services and (3)  
26 provides incentives to program participants to contain costs through co-pays, tax  
27 incentives and health savings accounts (HSA's).

27

28 We favor a private health care system that provides catastrophic insurance.

28

29 **Health Service**

423.3:R07

30

31 We encourage appropriate agencies to help obtain more health care centers and  
32 medical personnel in rural Ohio.

32

33 We support the utilization of certified physician's assistants and licensed nurse  
34 practitioners under the guidance of a medical control center as health care providers in  
35 rural counties needing additional doctors.

35

36 We support community based health care services as cost effective alternatives to  
37 institutionalized care.

37

38 We support the development of more assisted living services for the citizens of rural  
39 areas.

39

40

41 **Trauma Care**

423.4:R07

42

43 We support monitoring of the statewide trauma system to evaluate effectiveness of  
44 service to rural areas.

44

45 To assure accessibility of quality trauma care, we support the actions and  
46 recommendations of the Post Critical Trauma Care Commission.

46

47 We oppose additional mandatory training requirements for volunteers of the EMS and  
48 fire departments. We support the first responder program.

48

**1 Highways**

**424:R08**

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Due to the contamination and long term effect on potable water used for drinking, livestock drinking water and irrigation, we recommend the use of alternative ice control methods such as corn by-products, sand or limestone chips, and the elimination of the use of salt and calcium chloride on federal, state, county and township highway systems in Ohio when feasible.

We support steps to get more semi trucks to use the turnpike including, for example, a review of existing load limits.

We support the Ohio turnpike's decision to lower tolls and to increase the truck speed limit to 65 mph.

We support an increase in the limits on force accounts (which a county may use with its employees) for construction, reconstruction, or repair and maintenance of roads up to \$40,000 per mile and for bridges and culverts up to \$125,000.

We support the option of three-shift labor to expedite any contracted highway construction and repair project.

The state should assume responsibility for all bridges on the state highway system, regardless of location. ODOT should make the repair and replacement of bridges, including the resizing of bridges for drainage, a priority. We support the use of properly treated wood, especially poplar, in repairing or rebuilding of bridges 40 feet or less in length.

We favor revising the qualification standards specified in the Association of State Highway and Transportation manual so Ohio counties can benefit from grants and matching funds for road construction. Current standards are inappropriate for conditions in Ohio and make the construction cost prohibitive.

We urge that existing roads and right of ways be used wherever possible for the construction of any proposed highways.

The term "highway and road purposes" as used in Ohio Department of Transportation easements should not be altered to include use for commercial advertising or cellular phone towers. We support the right of property owners to refuse the placement of Tourist Oriented Directional Signs on their property. If a property owner agrees to allow a TODS sign to be placed on highway easement, said owner should have the right to collect compensation for said sign.

We support the positioning of mailboxes and newspaper boxes according to the Federal Postal Regulations and encourage placing them on the same side of the road. This will facilitate the movement of agricultural equipment.

We support the widening of state, county, and township road berms, and the widening of overpasses during new construction or reconstruction for greater safety.

We support maintaining fog lines on the edges of all paved roads.

We support enforcement, by either the county engineer or county zoning inspector, of the minimum set back requirement where applicable for mail and paper boxes along state, county, and township roads. If there is not a set back distance, then one should be established. We propose a standard three feet from the edge of the road set back for mailboxes to facilitate the movement of large equipment.

We support a review of the current state funding formula for maintenance and repair of bridges on county roads. The state is responsible for prioritizing funding for projects (rather than the county) and the current formula penalizes counties that have a good bridge maintenance program.

1 We support a revision of the state funding formula to increase funds for townships to  
2 maintain their roads.

3 Many County Farm Bureaus support the construction, development or expansion of  
4 highways in their county and regions. We encourage County Farm Bureaus to be  
5 involved in the planning, location and development of the projects. We also encourage  
6 Ohio Farm Bureau to work with Ohio Department of Transportation to promote projects  
7 deemed worthy by local Farm Bureaus.

8 The Ohio Department of Transportation should be required to plan for the efficient  
9 transportation of agricultural commodities, supplies and equipment during periods of  
10 road construction and repair.

11 The Ohio Department of Transportation should be required to revise their standards  
12 for headwater back up so that they do not cause flooding of farmland due to wrongly  
13 sized culverts and drainage structures under roadbeds.

14 We support giving counties the authority to designate reasonable primary travel  
15 routes for licensed, heavy vehicles traveling to and from permitted livestock facilities.

16 We encourage the PUCO to regularly inspect railroad crossings for deterioration and  
17 to have crossings maintained in a timely manner.

18 We oppose the privatization of the Ohio Turnpike.

19 We support allowing manure and turf/sod to be included in the list of commodities  
20 that are allowed a 7.5 percent weight variance.

21 We support allowing a 25 percent weight variance for farm implements being  
22 towed by a licensed motorized vehicle.

23 We support allowing a 25 percent seasonal weight variance for farm equipment.

24 We encourage the State of Ohio and all contiguous states to enter into a compact to  
25 recognize each state's commercial driver's license exemption, similar to the Ohio/Indiana  
26 Agreement.

27 We support farm machinery and implements being exempt from Ohio's weight laws,  
28 except for restrictions on bridges and frost law.

29 The state of Ohio should maintain its fences along its highways, or, in the alternative,  
30 allow the landowners to remove a fence in disrepair.

31 Identification signs shall be placed on all interstate overpasses designating the  
32 crossroads.

33 Trucks hauling logs, wood chips, mulch, saw dust, coal, aggregates or farm  
34 commodities should be exempt from the axle weight law restrictions as long as the truck  
35 complies with tire weight limits and gross weight limits, plus the 71/2 percent variance  
36 allowed by the Ohio Revised Code.

37 We support revisions of the highway axle limits taking into consideration the tire size  
38 and air pressure, not just axle weight.

#### 39 **All-Terrain Vehicles**

**424.1:R07**

41  
42 We encourage law enforcement officials to recognize that all-terrain vehicles may be  
43 used as agricultural equipment, conducting normal farming activities, and that they be  
44 allowed access to roads or road right-of-way when used in farm operations.

45 We support titling, one time per owner registration, and visible identification of all-  
46 terrain vehicles.

47 We support that proof of a safety training course be required of an ATV operator.

1 We support legislation that requires one to obtain written permission from the  
 2 landowner and show proof of insurance before being allowed to operate ATVs and  
 3 snowmobiles on other than personally owned or leased property.

4  
 5 **Road Kill** 424.2  
 6

7 Road kill should be promptly removed from roadways by ODOT, county, township or  
 8 municipal road crews.

9  
 10 **License Requirement for Drivers of Buses Transporting Farm Workers** 424.3:R06  
 11

12 We support an exemption from the Commercial Drivers License requirement for  
 13 drivers of buses used to transport farm workers under the following conditions:

- 14 1. The bus is used to transport farm workers employed by that farm;
- 15 2. The bus shall not be driven on limited access highways;
- 16 3. The bus shall be limited to a short travel distance per day.

17  
 18 **Indemnification** 425  
 19

20 We support the continuation of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's indemnification  
 21 program for losses of agricultural products when products are impounded, farms are  
 22 quarantined, or movement or sales are restricted in the public's interest. Producers  
 23 should be promptly and fairly compensated. Producers should not be held responsible for  
 24 conditions beyond their control. We support that indemnification programs be fully  
 25 funded.

26 Since the indemnification fund is paid for by producers, it should only be used to  
 27 protect producer losses.

28  
 29 **Ag and Hort Labor** 426  
 30

31 **Labor Legislation** 426.1  
 32

33 We support state legislation to protect the rights of workers, farmers, and consumers  
 34 during labor disputes.

35 We support The Ohio State University Extension Ag and Hort Labor Education  
 36 Program, and encourage grower participation/cooperation.

37  
 38 **Migrant Housing** 426.2  
 39

40 We support the clarification that migrant housing is exempt from local zoning  
 41 regulations.

42 We support working with the Ohio Department of Health to obtain earlier migrant  
 43 labor camp inspections with licenses being issued for occupancy, better consistency of  
 44 inspection process, and relief from unreasonable hot water requirements.

45 We encourage the U.S. Department of Labor to approve the Ohio Department of  
 46 Health as the housing inspection agency for the H-2A program in Ohio.

1 We support the reinstatement of funding for the Ohio Migrant Labor Camp  
 2 Improvement Program, or the development of another cost sharing program to assist  
 3 migrant labor camp construction and improvements.

4  
 5 **Minimum Wage and Labor Standards for Agriculture** **426.3**  
 6

7 In no case should the Ohio minimum wage exceed the federal minimum wage. Ohio  
 8 labor standards should coincide with federal standards.

9 We support the use of proper survey methodology to obtain "prevailing wages" (as  
 10 defined by the H2A program) for temporary worker programs as required by U.S. laws  
 11 and regulations and encourage member participation.

12 We support civil rights and equal employment opportunity enforcement, however, we  
 13 oppose any legislation that promotes the use of hiring and promotion quotas, allows  
 14 punitive damage awards, or places the burden on the employer to prove his innocence.

15 We encourage agricultural representation on Ohio Department of Job and Family  
 16 Services local employment issues committees.

17  
 18 **Prevailing Wage** **426.4**  
 19

20 We support the elimination of the state and federal prevailing wage (Davis Bacon)  
 21 laws.

22  
 23 **Mid American Ag and Hort Services, Inc.** **426.5**  
 24

25 As human resource management becomes more critical to our business success, we  
 26 support the operation of a regional (Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, etc.) human resource  
 27 management education, compliance and recruiting organization. We encourage Farm  
 28 Bureau members and other organizations to participate in this organization.

29  
 30 **Unemployment Insurance** **426.6**  
 31

32 Farmers who employ fewer than 10 persons in each of 20 or more weeks, or who  
 33 have a payroll of less than \$40,000 in any calendar quarter, should not be required to pay  
 34 unemployment insurance.

35 We recommend that unemployment insurance not be paid to persons on strike, on  
 36 voluntary leave, who are retired, or who refuse to work when work is available.

37 Unemployment insurance should not be extended to occasional domestic help or  
 38 foreign workers in this country on foreign work permits.

39 We favor retention of experience rating and preserving the state responsibility to  
 40 determine eligibility and benefits.

41 We support the state law that would require minimum earnings of \$150 per qualifying  
 42 week.

43  
 44 **Workers' Compensation** **426.7:R08**  
 45

46 We support continued improvement of the Workers' Compensation program to  
 47 eliminate inefficiencies, unfair claims, and excessive settlements.

1 Ohio Farm Bureau should work to have the Worker's Compensation program in Ohio  
2 handled by private insurers.

3 We support programs or proposals that will lead to reasonable Workers'  
4 Compensation rates for farmers and other agricultural related businesses. Workers'  
5 Compensation programs have provided valuable protection for farmers and other  
6 employers by meeting the needs of injured employees. An insurance fund should be  
7 allowed to provide coverage for any intentional tort liability exposure.

8 We oppose their increase in minimum fees.

9 We recommend that employers who hire less than \$5,000 of labor per year file and  
10 report Workers' Compensation premiums on an annual basis.

11 We support the Worker's Compensation Group Rating Program. The group should  
12 be entitled to any savings on premium that is fairly earned by the group.

13 We urge better administrative auditing and legislative efforts to protect the Workers'  
14 Compensation fund.

15  
16 **New Hire Reporting** **426.8**

17  
18 We support the elimination of independent contractors in the definition of employees  
19 in Ohio's new hire reporting requirements.

20  
21 **Workforce Development** **426.9:R08**

22  
23 We support enhanced research development and programming to meet the workforce  
24 development needs in Ohio agriculture and the advanced energy sector.

25  
26 **Land Use Planning** **427:R08**

27  
28 We will work for sound land use legislation and programs. We support the  
29 establishment of a farmland preservation strategy that coordinates and guides state and  
30 local policies, programs and actions so as to avoid and minimize the unnecessary and  
31 irretrievable conversion of productive agriculture land to nonagricultural uses. We  
32 encourage the development of countywide, comprehensive land-use plans as an integral  
33 part of farmland preservation. Local control and local involvement should be  
34 emphasized.

35 We support renewing the Clean Ohio Act in order to supply funds for continuation of  
36 the Ohio Department of Agriculture purchase of development rights program.

37 We recommend that the four funds within the Clean Ohio program, brownfield  
38 redevelopment, open space, trails, and farmland preservation, be more equitably  
39 distributed to reflect the actual demand for each program.

40 We recommend programs to address the following issues:

- 41 1. Preservation of prime land (Classes I and II), and other land especially capable of
- 42 dairy, livestock, fruit, forestry, and specialty crop production;
- 43 2. Land use decisions made locally with adequate rural participation in sub-division
- 44 regulations;
- 45 3. Recognition of basic property rights of individuals. State law or regulation should
- 46 not take away the economic value of property without fair compensation;

- 1 4. Protection of land in accordance with the Farmland Preservation Act (agricultural  
2 districts). The statute helps landowners deal with water, sewer, and electric  
3 assessments, nuisance lawsuits and powers of eminent domain.
- 4 5. Research, funding, and implementation of voluntary programs to keep land in  
5 agricultural use;
- 6 6. Effective zoning to meet the needs of rural Ohio. We recognize the challenges  
7 being made to agricultural practices by zoning commissions and encourage  
8 members to fight these challenges and continue to support agriculture's  
9 exemptions from Ohio's zoning laws;
- 10 7. Promotion of orderly development of urban areas including: (a) the concentration  
11 of further development; (b) the avoidance of needless sprawl of both strip and  
12 leapfrog development; (c) the redevelopment of existing urban areas already  
13 served by infrastructure and public services; (d) the redirecting of business and  
14 industry into rehabilitated brownfields by providing appropriate incentives; and  
15 (e) support for a reduction in taxation as an incentive for people who rehabilitate  
16 old homes or build new homes on existing home sites.
- 17 8. Infrastructure repair and reinvestment rather than new infrastructure development.  
18 In the case of new development, fully allocate all costs to the land developers and  
19 purchasers. Urge passage of legislation giving clear permission for political  
20 entities to impose impact fees on new non-agriculture construction;
- 21 9. Coordination at all governmental levels, with consideration of adjoining land uses  
22 from county to county and from community to community;
- 23 10. Investigation, development and implementation of funding and tax incentive  
24 programs for the preservation of farmland through the acquisition and transfer of  
25 development rights and an impact fee paid by individuals who convert farmland  
26 to non-agricultural uses.
- 27 11. Before property in an unincorporated area is transferred, the seller or his agent  
28 should be responsible to familiarize the buyer regarding the use of property  
29 adjacent to the transfer.
- 30 12. The Ohio Department of Development should revise their program on "shovel  
31 ready" sites to give priority to infill and redevelopment of property rather than to  
32 clean sites of high acreage.

33 We encourage members to serve on zoning commissions and on boards of zoning  
34 appeals. We also encourage members to be involved in the development and  
35 implementation of countywide comprehensive land-use plans.

36 We encourage the development of educational programs to improve the  
37 understanding of farmland preservation and land-use issues.

38 We support a change in the Farmland Preservation Program rules that allow a farm  
39 that has acreage in two or more counties submit one application in the county where the  
40 homestead is located.

41 Long term highway construction right-of-way needs should be incorporated in any  
42 comprehensive land use plan. The Ohio Department of Transportation should make  
43 reasonable efforts to avoid taking prime farmland when planning a road project.

44 Those operations that meet the designation of agriculture as currently defined in Ohio  
45 law, regardless of size, production method, or business structure, should be designated  
46 agriculture, not commercial. We support a reduction of the 500 acre threshold to 100  
47 contiguous acres to enroll in an Agricultural Security Area (ASA), however, the incentive  
48 to enroll in an ASA should be higher the more acres that are enrolled.

1 When land is sold for development, an impact fee based on quality of land should be  
2 charged to the developer and used for farmland preservation.

3 We oppose zoning restrictions on timber harvesting in municipalities and other  
4 political subdivisions.

5 State and local economic development initiatives should be required to include  
6 production agriculture in their recommendations.

7 We oppose efforts to impose the installation of riparian buffers through zoning  
8 because it is a taking of private property.

9  
10 **Agriculture Districts**

**427.1:R06**

11  
12 The Agriculture District Law should be strengthened by:

- 13 1. Lowering the acreage and percentage of land taken to trigger Ohio Department of
- 14 Agriculture review of eminent domain;
- 15 2. Requiring legal service on the eminent domain action by the Ohio Department of
- 16 Agriculture;
- 17 3. Providing greater protection against nuisance lawsuits;
- 18 4. Allowing for deferred assessments for infrastructure improvements such as roads,
- 19 sidewalks and private water companies, including transportation improvement
- 20 districts.
- 21 5. Giving more protection against eminent domain.
- 22 6. We support a change in the state law, which makes the agriculture district
- 23 application process the same, whether the land is inside or outside of the city
- 24 limits.

25  
26 **Water and Sewer Rotary Fund**

**427.2**

27  
28 Under the Farmland Preservation Act, city councils must act upon agricultural  
29 districts within the city limits. City councils may disapprove them because a water and  
30 sewer assessment cannot be collected. Therefore, we strongly recommend that adequate  
31 funds be maintained in the water and sewer rotary fund for use by municipalities so they  
32 can approve agricultural districts within the city. A review of the water and sewer rotary  
33 fund should be conducted to determine its role in the farmland preservation movement.

34  
35 **Transportation Improvement Districts**

**427.3**

36  
37 We oppose TIDS in their entirety. TIDS are quasi-governmental agencies with the  
38 power of eminent domain, taxation of property, and trespassing rights over one's own  
39 private property.

40  
41 **Law Enforcement**

**428:R08**

42  
43 We are opposed to repeat offenders being released without serving an appropriate  
44 sentence. We oppose reduced recognizance bonds for repeat offenders. We urge that  
45 unused public buildings be considered for use as minimum security confinement facilities  
46 for non-violent offenders. We urge changes in federal and/or state laws that would  
47 permit this action.

1 We support the concept of guilty but mentally insane, instead of innocent by reason  
2 of insanity.

3 Since federal and state regulations and limited funds create a problem concerning the  
4 construction of adequate jail facilities, we urge that local, state and federal governments  
5 cooperate to find funding for regional jails without placing the burden on the local level  
6 such as conversion of closed military bases to detention centers or abandoned sites in  
7 urban areas for construction of prisons.

8 We feel that current guidelines for state jail construction and subsequent staffing are  
9 excessive in providing for those incarcerated and place extreme pressure on county  
10 finances. We support efforts to reform current guidelines for construction and staffing so  
11 they are more reasonable and simply provide for the basic daily needs of criminals.

12 Because of the current overcrowding and long waiting lists to serve a sentence, we  
13 support alternative sentencing practices.

14 We support the establishment of multi-county juvenile detention centers.

15 We endorse neighborhood watch programs.

16 We encourage farmers to report all fertilizer and chemical thefts and suspicious  
17 activities.

18 We recommend parental financial responsibility for full payment of vandalism by  
19 minors and for retention of minors in detention centers who are convicted of a crime.

20 Whenever possible, convicted offenders should be required to compensate victims for  
21 loss, damage or injury caused by their crime.

22 We support legislation allowing revenue from the sale of unclaimed stolen  
23 merchandise to help fund crime stopper programs.

24 Law enforcement officials should be required to facilitate the exchange of  
25 information among those involved in an accident (i.e., name, address, insurance carrier,  
26 etc.). Law enforcement officials should be required to relay information concerning  
27 property damage to the respective owner. Law enforcement officers should receive  
28 training on agricultural laws such as weight limits, etc., that will meet the requirements of  
29 Continuing Education Units for the officers.

30 We support the state department of youth services to fully fund the care and treatment  
31 of all youth felons served in their communities by local agencies.

32 We encourage increasing the penalty of theft of any precursor used to manufacture  
33 any illegal addictive substance from a misdemeanor to a felony, particularly when a  
34 minor is used to procure the substance. We also favor increasing funding for undercover  
35 investigations and drug task force agencies.

36 We encourage greater consequences and support stiffer penalties for rural crimes  
37 including theft of property and the vandalism and/or destruction of crops or livestock.

38 We favor the utilization and timely updating of state and national law enforcement  
39 databases to provide more comprehensive information on criminals and criminal activity.

40 We support the rights of individuals to keep, bear, and carry arms.

41 We support the law enforcement policy of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and  
42 local enforcement agency for anyone found guilty of intentionally damaging or  
43 destroying a public or private U.S. mailbox.

44 We support enforcing the litter laws to stop the littering of items that can be harmful  
45 to farm animals and machinery.

46 We encourage the state, rather than local governments, to cover the cost of legal  
47 procedures for those individuals arrested on drug charges or trafficking on the interstate  
48 highways.

1        Because of our concern regarding predatory lending practices, we support the  
2 evaluation of lending practices in the state of Ohio.

3  
4 **Livestock and Poultry Diseases**

429:R08

5  
6        We support the establishment and implementation of a voluntary national animal  
7 identification system capable of providing support for animal disease control and  
8 eradication. Collection of information and record keeping should stay private and not be  
9 held by government. A cost-effective system of livestock identification, with adequate  
10 cost-share among government, industry and producers should be established. Any such  
11 program must protect producers from liability for acts of others after livestock leaves the  
12 producer's hands. The program should ensure the security of producer information and  
13 respect the privacy of producers by only collecting data necessary to establish a trace  
14 back system.

15        We support the Ohio Department of Agriculture having the authority and funding  
16 necessary to rapidly respond to animal diseases or bioterrorism.

17        We recommend continued support for the Ohio Department of Agriculture in its  
18 brucellosis, tuberculosis, pseudorabies, Johnes disease and sheep scrapies eradication or  
19 control programs and its current emphasis on virology capability that is vital to Ohio's  
20 livestock industry and purebred livestock export program. We recommend the continued  
21 use of current Scrapie ID System for sheep and goats for the National Animal  
22 Identification System. We recommend the State of Ohio take appropriate action to  
23 prevent the spread of the West Nile Virus, and to prevent exotic diseases such as Foot  
24 and Mouth, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Chronic Wasting Disease, Newcastle,  
25 African Swine Fever, Classic Swine Fever and avian influenza from gaining access.

26        We support animal health requirements appropriate for wild animal propagators for  
27 the protection of domesticated livestock.

28        We encourage the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio sheep and wool  
29 organizations, and other industry officials to monitor the scrapie problem and to continue  
30 appropriate monitoring and eradication programs in light of federal programs. In the  
31 interim, all segments of the sheep and lamb industry should meet to develop marketing  
32 alternatives for producers.

33        We support the Ohio Department of Agriculture's cull sow and boar blood testing  
34 program.

35        We support the continued use of approved vaccines for prevention of brucellosis in  
36 cattle.

37        We recommend that adequate staff or contracted services be maintained at the  
38 Department of Agriculture diagnostic lab to meet the requirements of accreditation.

39        We believe there is potential for superior animal diagnostic work and cost savings if  
40 the Ohio Department of Agriculture would collaboratively expand diagnostic work with  
41 The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

42        We oppose reclassifying certain commonly used animal health products as  
43 prescription and/or controlled drugs.

44        We support a producer education program to encourage proper administration of  
45 medications and feed additives.

46        We continue to support additional research in animal health.

1 We support current controls on the sales and movement of privately owned deer, elk,  
2 etc. as a means of controlling the spread of chronic wasting disease and tuberculosis to  
3 domestic livestock.

#### 4 5 **Local Government**

430:R08

6  
7 As a cost savings measure, we support the evaluation of increased efficiencies in local  
8 government.

9 We support state legislation to provide a larger percentage of available funding for  
10 local governments.

11 We oppose the imposition of auditing fees and requirements that can burden local  
12 governments with excessive costs.

13 We encourage more accountability to the general public by members of boards and  
14 commissions. The general public should elect members of park districts. Members of  
15 other boards, commissions (i.e. planning commission, zoning commission), water  
16 districts and sanitary districts should be appointed by the Board of County  
17 Commissioners or Board of Township Trustees. Any public entity that receives public  
18 tax money should be held accountable for the funds by audit available to the public. We  
19 support legislation that restructures the boards of conservancy districts to include  
20 stakeholder representation (i.e. agricultural community, soil and water conservation  
21 districts, residents).

22 While conservancy district flood control programs are recognized as important and  
23 necessary, we oppose attempts to physically expand conservancy districts into additional  
24 jurisdictions, and we also oppose their attempts to expand their mission and authority  
25 beyond their legislated purpose. We support county commissioners' approval before a  
26 county outside the original conservancy district is included in any conservancy sub-  
27 district. There also needs to be a method for a county to remove itself from a sub-district.

28 The process and protections found in O.R.C. 6101.03 for the formation of a  
29 conservancy district should be included in O.R.C. 6101.39 for the amendment of a  
30 conservancy district plan.

31 We support changes to conservancy districts to provide checks and balances of their  
32 operation and give residents a voice.

33 The board members of conservancy districts should either be appointed by county  
34 commissioners or elected by the public. Laws governing conservancy districts should be  
35 amended to require the process to be more transparent.

36 We support the current judicial organizations based upon county elected judges. We  
37 oppose district judicial areas that combine several counties with one elected judge and  
38 several appointed magistrates. Court systems need to live within their budgets as set by  
39 the county commissioners. We support limitations on judges and prosecutors for the  
40 purpose of bypassing the appropriations process.

41 The Ohio Revised Code specifies that after an elected public official has neglected his  
42 office for 90 days, the office shall be deemed vacant. We believe this is too lax and  
43 should be re-evaluated.

44 We oppose any expansion of a municipality's right to require the approval of a plat  
45 beyond the three-mile radius found in current law.

46 We support legislation to establish control over octane ratings of petroleum products  
47 to prevent Ohio from becoming a dumping ground for poor quality fuel.

48 We support statewide legislation implementing a fuel quality-testing program.

1 County engineers should possess a civil or construction engineering qualification and  
2 not be required to be a certified surveyor.

3 Township trustees should be granted the authority to offer a reward for information  
4 leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals vandalizing township properties. The  
5 limit on Force Accounts should be raised to \$100,000.

6 County and township force accounts should be allowed annual escalator increases  
7 based on cost of living or other adjustment.

8 We support the County Auditors Association and Ohio Department of Agriculture in  
9 having Ohio use the county auditors to test fuels for both quantity and quality.

10  
11 **Annexation** **430.1**

12  
13 Ohio Farm Bureau will continue to support the annexation reforms passed by the  
14 124<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

15 We continue to oppose balloon annexation whereby a narrow corridor leads to the  
16 annexation of large tracts.

17  
18 **Boards of Health/Health Districts** **430.2**

19  
20 We oppose local Boards of Health/Health Districts having authority over the  
21 placement of line fences.

22 We oppose local Boards of Health/Health Districts having the authority to regulate  
23 livestock, including the siting of facilities.

24 We support local legislative oversight for Boards of Health/Health Districts.

25  
26 **Mandates** **430.3:R07**

27  
28 Neither the state nor federal government should place mandates without providing  
29 funds for the life of the mandate.

30  
31 **Public Library Services** **430.4**

32  
33 We support high quality public library services that promote continued learning by all  
34 citizens.

35  
36 **Marketing and Promotion** **431:R07**

37  
38 Ohio Farm Bureau should work with the Ohio Grocers Association to ensure that  
39 consumers have access to a reasonable variety of food products and that the producer  
40 members of Ohio Farm Bureau have a market for products that are scientifically proven  
41 to be safe.

42  
43 **Commodity Promotion** **431.1:R08**

44  
45 We support the commodity organizations in their promotion efforts and continued  
46 check off funding. Commodity check-off programs should be approved by producer  
47 referendum prior to implementation or change of a program and allow producers the right  
48 of refund.

1 We support the Ohio Proud Program and its efforts to educate consumers in buying  
2 Ohio agricultural products.

3  
4 **Livestock Marketing** **431.2:R08**

5  
6 We support new marketing concepts, including those employing electronic  
7 technology that would enhance producer income.

8 We urge livestock marketing agencies to initiate pilot projects to improve marketing  
9 methods for feeder calves, cull cows, sheep, equine, sows, and boars.

10 We urge state government to work closely with local groups to establish harvest and  
11 meat packing facilities in Ohio communities.

12  
13 **Marketing and Risk Management** **431.3:R07**

14  
15 Effective marketing is a major key to profitable commercial farming. We will  
16 continue to research, develop, sponsor, and encourage programs that provide producers  
17 with pertinent marketing and risk management alternatives. We encourage members to  
18 take advantage of the marketing and informational opportunities offered by companies  
19 broadcasting on the satellite network and via the Internet.

20 Farm Bureau should take the lead in bringing together producers, commodity  
21 organizations, processors, marketing organizations, colleges and Ohio State University  
22 Extension to broaden agricultural markets and develop and enhance awareness of risk  
23 management tools.

24 We support Heartland Agdeavor in its mission to identify and develop producer  
25 owned businesses that will produce value-added products from agricultural commodities.  
26 We also support alternative methods of commodity marketing that take advantage of  
27 innovative techniques.

28 We support the creation of value-added agricultural facilities.

29 We support the rights of farmers to gain access to markets through equity ownership  
30 of processing plants and other marketing opportunities.

31 We strongly encourage the continued state funding of the Ohio Association of Second  
32 Harvest Foodbank and Ohio Agriculture Surplus Production Alliance to utilize surplus  
33 Ohio farm products to feed needy Ohioans.

34 If a major retailer attempts to close a market to the producer members of the Ohio  
35 Farm Bureau, violating sound science or yielding to special interest, Ohio Farm Bureau  
36 should immediately intervene on behalf of its producer members to assist in negotiation  
37 for fair compensation to producers.

38  
39 **Agritourism** **431.31:R07**

40  
41 We urge OFBF to conduct a study to determine how agritourism liability is handled  
42 in other states, including the feasibility of obtaining reduced group insurance premiums  
43 through a certification safety program.

44  
45 **New Uses for Agricultural Products** **431.4:R08**

46  
47 We support expanding the funding of research and development of alternative uses of  
48 agricultural commodities for sources of energy, medical supplies, building supplies,

1 polymers, etc.

2 We support the proposed BioHio Ag Research Park and the development of Food and  
3 Agricultural Technology Commercialization and Economic Development Program  
4 (ATECH), AgBioscience Innovation Grant Program (ABIGP) and Research  
5 Enhancement Competitive Grant Program (RECGP).

6 The BioHio Ag Research Park should be located on currently owned state or county  
7 land.

8 We support creating a “Green Ohio” purchasing program. This program charges the  
9 Ohio Department of Administrative Services to conduct a study into suitable  
10 manufacturers of green products that can be purchased by the state.

## 11 **Ohio Fairs**

**431.5:R07**

12 We support exempting agricultural societies and historical societies from amusement  
13 taxes levied by municipalities.

14 We encourage fair boards to place more emphasis on agriculture and agricultural  
15 youth activities at their respective fairs.

16 We encourage local Fair Boards to evaluate their current infrastructure and support  
17 state funds being made available to update facilities to prevent the spread of human  
18 health threatening pathogens.

19 We support the continued efforts for promotion of farm products, including new and  
20 specialized products, featured at the Ohio State Fair. Such farm products should be  
21 attractively displayed to attract and educate the public.

22 We support additional funding for local junior fairs as administered through the Ohio  
23 Department of Agriculture budget.

24 We support strong measures by 4-H, FFA, Fair Boards and the Ohio Department of  
25 Agriculture to prevent and discourage livestock tampering and promote good animal  
26 husbandry at livestock shows, provide quality assurance training for market animal youth  
27 exhibitors, and refocus these programs on their original educational purpose. This should  
28 also include development and communication of a strong code of ethics.

29 We endorse the Ohio Farm Animal Care Commission Code of Practices as adopted  
30 by the Ohio Livestock Coalition. This code of practices serves as a mandatory rule for  
31 livestock exhibitors at all county fairs, state fair, and independent fairs in Ohio.

32 We support legislation that would prevent a board of county commissioners from  
33 reducing or diminishing any interest of a county or independent agricultural society  
34 without the consent of the affected agricultural society.

35 We ask that the Ohio Department of Agriculture, not the State of Ohio Auditor’s  
36 office, do the auditing of county fair boards.

## 37 **Mineral Development**

**432**

### 38 **Longwall Mining**

**432.1:R08**

39 We support a longwall mining policy which:

- 40 1. Before mining, mining companies be required to post a bond to cover surface and  
41 subsurface damages to structures and infrastructures.
- 42 2. Before mining, mining companies should take steps to keep all residences,  
43 agricultural buildings, land and equipment functional and structurally safe. To

- 1           reduce subsidence and damage, mining companies should be required to use the
- 2           backfill method of mining. If damage occurs, mining companies should be
- 3           required to return all land, buildings, equipment to pre-mining conditions, using a
- 4           contractor of the land owner’s choice.
- 5           3. Requires water restoration to pre-mining quantities and quality.
- 6           4. Repairs damage to property and adequately compensates the owner for
- 7           inconvenience and lost use.
- 8           5. Compensates for damages to any agricultural or natural resource enterprise.
- 9           6. Opposes longwall mining under National Landmarks and property eligible for, or
- 10          listed to, the National Register of Historic Places.
- 11          7. Provides state regulations or laws to have homes tested for radon before
- 12          underground mining as well as during and after mining.

13          We support the Ohio EPA continuing to regulate slurry ponds at mining operations.

14          Any landowner with a producing oil or gas well shall be compensated for any and all

15          losses or damages incurred due to longwall mining. A plan shall be submitted to the

16          Ohio Department of Natural Resources validating the true economic reason it should be

17          longwall mined instead of block and pillared.

18          We urge the Department of Natural Resources to develop a brochure explaining the

19          impacts of longwall mining on surface owners. The brochure should include the rights a

20          landowner has to compensation for damages and water replacement.

21          Coal companies not owning land, upon which longwall and underground mines are

22          located, should be required by law to furnish a cash bond to ensure the payment for any

23          surface or subsurface damages to the property, structures or infrastructures.

24          We encourage research to determine the economic loss of coal resources above the

25          Pittsburgh #8 coal seam due to longwall mining.

26

27          **Reclamation of Strip Mined Land** **432.2:R08**

28

29          We recommend that state and/or federal reclamation laws be amended so that lands

30          important to the agricultural economy of eastern Ohio, but not necessarily meeting the

31          current definition of prime farmland, can be reclaimed with sufficient subsoil layers in

32          addition to the currently required restoration of topsoil.

33          We urge a change in the reclamation law to permit more gentle slopes when it would

34          be better than returning the slope to within five degrees of the original. We are opposed

35          to increasing the grade to more than a one-degree increase from the original.

36          We will work to effect change in the federal and state reclamation laws to allow coal

37          companies to gain complete bond release on reclaimed land no longer than three years

38          following the meeting of reclamation standards.

39          We support the concept of federal legislation to extend the severance tax on coal for

40          the purpose of reclaiming abandoned mine lands. Such severance taxes should be fully

41          allocated to strip mine reclamation programs. As an alternative to federal legislation, we

42          support a state severance tax in a like amount to be used for reclamation of abandoned

43          mine lands. We encourage more timely evaluation of forage yield on reclaimed lands so

44          as not to impede the harvest of quality forage.

45          We urge Farm Bureau and concerned farmers to become involved in helping to

46          establish a realistic method of obtaining pre-mining and post mining crop yield data on

47          surface mined land. We also urge the establishment of more realistic crop yield levels for

1 obtaining bond release. Both of these changes in statute and rule would enable farmer-  
2 owners to gain earlier control of their land.

3 We support an expanded program of planting trees in stripmine reclamation as long  
4 as current standards for soil replacement and water quality are maintained and as long as  
5 farmers have the right to dictate reclamation of their land for cropping, forestry or  
6 grazing.

7 We support ODNR Division of Mineral Resource Management applying the  
8 Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative in strip mine reclamation as long as it has  
9 the support of the landowner.

10 We encourage demonstration projects on converting unreclaimed stripmine land for  
11 agricultural use.

12 Funding from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund should be restored to 100  
13 percent in order to implement reclamation as authorized by the Surface Mining Control  
14 and Reclamation Act (P.L. 95-87.)

15 We urge the Ohio Department of Reclamation to collect bonds high enough to  
16 reclaim stripmined lands in the event coal companies go bankrupt.

17 We support research on and encourage use of coal combustion by-products.  
18

### 19 **Landowners Rights in Mineral Development** **432.3:R08**

20

21 We support legislation that will protect the rights and interests of landowners who are  
22 affected by industrial mineral operations. Such legislation should allow for public  
23 comment in the area affected by such mineral operations and assure that hydrologic  
24 damage issues are addressed before a permit is granted.

25 We support legislation that will protect the rights and interests of landowners by  
26 assuring that all mineral separation deeds are recorded promptly within 10 days to the  
27 landowner's real estate deed in order to be valid.

28 We support legislation requiring coal strip mine owner/operators to supplement their  
29 surface damage indemnification to the landowner when strip mining is conducted 25  
30 years or more after the original purchase of coal to reflect the value of the surface damage  
31 at the time of mining.

32 Oil and gas permits issued before coal mining permits should supersede the coal  
33 mining. The mining company should be required to compensate landowners for their loss  
34 or drill a new oil and gas well.

35 We support legislation that provides ownership of coal bed methane to the surface  
36 landowner.

37

### 38 **Natural Resources** **433:R06**

39

40 Farmers have a major interest in the utilization and conservation of our natural  
41 resources. It is primarily on farmland and in rural Ohio that the natural resource needs of  
42 the state must be met.

43 We encourage our members to support and cooperate with the local Soil and Water  
44 Conservation District in developing soil conservation, animal waste, water quality, air  
45 quality, and composting plans that follow sound conservation management practices on  
46 the farm.

1 We believe that all municipal water and sewer projects extending beyond city limits  
2 should be publicly developed giving due consideration for alternatives with input from  
3 affected landowners.

4 We support conservancy district authority to develop storm water management plans.  
5 We continue to support the small watershed programs developed under P.L. 566.

6 We urge the adoption of legislation that before land is purchased or management  
7 agreement is signed for state parks and other state owned land, the Department of Natural  
8 Resources should be required to have a master plan, time schedule, and necessary funds  
9 for the development and continued maintenance of such lands. This plan should include  
10 control of nuisances such as mosquitoes, and noxious weeds, deer or other wildlife.

11 A maintenance fund should be established and funded to provide the Ohio  
12 Department of Natural Resources the funds necessary for maintenance on state-owned  
13 land. The funds should come from existing ODNR revenues. Money from the fund  
14 should also be used to indemnify adjoining landowners for damage caused by failure of  
15 ODNR to maintain the state-owned land.

16 ODNR should be required to get legislative approval to purchase additional land.

17 We recommend that Ohio provide Soil and Water Conservation Districts with the  
18 authority to supervise the reclamation of the land following the installation of water,  
19 sewer, oil, and gas lines.

20 We believe that local, state and national forests and wildlife areas should be required  
21 to properly identify and maintain all property lines and their share of fences, and, upon  
22 request of adjoining landowners, cut back trees and brush. We encourage individual  
23 private landowners to follow similar guidelines.

24 We recommend that divisions of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources be  
25 required to develop land use plans evidencing responsible stewardship of the land under  
26 their management or ownership. We recommend further that noxious plant species such  
27 as multiflora rose, autumn olive, Johnsongrass, thistles, etc., be prohibited in plant plans.

28 We believe when declaring a piece of land a wetland appropriate compensation for  
29 the landowner should be made either through tax forgiveness, purchase at the option of  
30 the owner, payment for wildlife habitat, or other means acceptable to the landowner. We  
31 support the use of income tax credit for enhancement or development of wetlands.

32 We oppose legislation to change the designation of any state forest to that of state  
33 park. We support the use of Best Management Practices based on recommendations of  
34 our state foresters, as opposed to recommendations proposed by an advisory council.

## 35 36 **Oil and Gas**

**433.1:R08**

37  
38 We support legislation, which will require oil and gas companies that purchase oil  
39 and gas to pay landowners directly for their share of oil and gas produced.

40 Landowners should not be charged for transportation of oil and gas through producer  
41 owned lines.

42 Landowners should have access to producer owned gas meters. The landowner  
43 should also have the right to check the orifice plate with the chart. To assist the  
44 landowner in understanding the meter and the production through it, the producing  
45 company should supply the landowner with a master list to assist in reading the chart.

46 We urge oil and gas producers to use readable meters that can be more easily understood  
47 by royalty owners. We support a meter inspection program to assure correct metering of  
48 natural gas.

1 We recommend that the law be changed for restoration of oil and gas well sites to  
 2 permit the Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management to promulgate rules  
 3 that will provide for a sod cover, restore productive capacity, and prevent erosion around  
 4 well sites and on access roads during the productive life of the well and after the well is  
 5 plugged and abandoned. We urge the Division of Mineral Resources Management to  
 6 uniformly enforce plugging regulations. Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
 7 should be given authority to approve the location of access roads and to supervise  
 8 reclamation of well sites and access roads by approving a conservation plan for the area  
 9 prior to a permit being issued. A portion of the permit fees should go back to the local  
 10 Soil and Water Conservation District office.

11 The laws and regulations dealing with the unitizing of land areas on which oil and gas  
 12 wells will be drilled need to be reviewed to make certain the landowner understands the  
 13 unitizing plan before signing a lease. We further support limiting unitization to a surface  
 14 area equivalent to the subsurface area from which oil and gas could be extracted. This  
 15 would prevent land being pooled for the sole purpose of holding a land area for the  
 16 producer without the delay rental being paid.

17 We support lease agreements that return to the landowner the acreage in a lease or  
 18 provide delay rental for those drilling units or oil bearing formations that are not drilled  
 19 or produced in an agreed time.

20 Oil and gas companies not owning land upon which wells are located should be  
 21 required by law to furnish a cash bond to assure the payment for any damages to the  
 22 farm.

23 Oil and gas producers should be required to maintain oil and gas well sites by  
 24 mowing vegetation and painting equipment and tanks. All lines should be buried below  
 25 the frost line.

26 We support requiring companies to cap non-productive, non-operating wells and  
 27 forfeit the leasehold back to the landowner.

28 We support the county recorder’s using only one assignment per instrument number  
 29 for oil and gas leases.

30 We support legislation that gives the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division  
 31 of Mineral Resources Management the authority to enforce complaints concerning the  
 32 care, maintenance and upkeep of gas well “feeder lines” and assist in capping orphaned  
 33 oil or gas wells.

34 We support legislation that requires entities with oil and gas leases to re-file those  
 35 leases every 10 years, or the lease will expire.

36 We urge the adoption of pipeline construction, repair and remediation standards  
 37 recommended by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts as the  
 38 standard for land reclamation after construction.

39 We oppose the policy of oil and gas well permits being denied in townships where  
 40 coal has been owned or leased but not mined.

41  
 42 **Soil and Water Conservation Districts** **433.2**  
 43

44 We support an adequate source of program funding for soil and water conservation  
 45 districts.

46 In addition to existing cost-sharing programs for conservation practices, we support  
 47 additional state funded incentives to encourage implementation of these practices.

1 We support incentive based rather than regulatory means to meet the goals and  
2 objectives of SWCD.

3 We encourage more farmer participation and involvement on SWCD boards.

4  
5 **Stormwater District**

433.3

6  
7 We support legislation allowing the formation of Stormwater Districts under the  
8 jurisdiction of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to solve drainage problems in areas  
9 where the ditch law is not effective. Such a law should permit:

- 10 1. County commissioners, municipalities or township trustees to initiate action to
- 11 establish such a district;
- 12 2. District board control of stormwater management;
- 13 3. District taxing authority;
- 14 4. Collection of user fees;
- 15 5. Protection of agriculture from unfair assessment.
- 16 6. Districts to follow watershed boundaries not political boundaries.
- 17 7. Fees and assessments collected shall be commensurate with services provided.

18 Adequate credit shall be given for absorption capacity and water management  
19 practices on agricultural lands when Storm Water Phase II assessments are established.  
20 Assessments should not be placed on a per area, per average impervious surface unit (e.g.  
21 equivalent residential unit), or any other basis that would place an undue burden on  
22 agriculture.

23  
24 **Water**

433.4:R06

25  
26 Ohio’s groundwater is a valuable resource. Ohio currently operates under a  
27 reasonable use standard. Farm Bureau will review other states’ water use laws to  
28 determine if Ohio should consider groundwater rights legislation.

29 If the pumping or sale of groundwater by a public or private water company adversely  
30 affects private water supplies, the company responsible should provide water by a tap-in  
31 to a water line or a new well at no cost to the affected party.

32 We recognize the need of major metropolitan cities to obtain an adequate and safe  
33 supply of water. We recommend that any and all studies of water supply alternatives  
34 should present proposals which have the least negative impact on our natural resources,  
35 and the least socio-economic impact on agriculture, especially the taking of prime  
36 farmland. We believe governments should address:

- 37 1. Increasing their water conservation practices;
- 38 2. Water reuse and recycling potential;
- 39 3. Current water line losses;
- 40 4. Economics as a basis for water conservation (i.e., ascending block water rates);
- 41 5. The socio-economic impact on surrounding communities;
- 42 6. The right to use water as a property right which should not be taken from an
- 43 owner without due process of law and just compensation; and,
- 44 7. Local community’s right to use an organized regional water planning concept to
- 45 provide water for all communities in the region.

46 We support monitoring the licensing and enforcement of Ohio public water systems  
47 for agricultural operations and assisting affected members with compliance.

1 We believe the authority to monitor drinking water sources for pesticides and nitrates  
2 belong with the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

3 We support the use of Best Management Practices (BMP) to reduce the potential  
4 impact of pesticide and nutrient contamination of ground and surface water.

5 We encourage agricultural input in establishing preventative measures if pollution  
6 levels exceed EPA standards, based on a rolling annual average.

7 We will oppose wellhead protection legislation that:

- 8 1. Requires private well owners to test for any contaminates other than Coliform
- 9 bacteria;
- 10 2. Regulates the use of pesticides of fertilizers on fields under cultivation; or,
- 11 3. Charges farmers new fees for any purpose related to well head protection.

12 Farm Bureau will monitor any studies and programs being developed by the Ohio  
13 Environmental Protection Agency or other state agencies as they may relate to pesticide  
14 and fertilizer use and the siting of animal feedlots and animal waste facilities.

15 We are supportive of efforts to prevent contamination of surface and ground water  
16 supplies from solid waste and hazardous waste landfills, leaking underground storage  
17 tanks, salt brine disposal, or any other activities that may endanger the ground water  
18 supply.

19 We support a well distance regulation on new housing which would force developers  
20 to place wells at least 100 feet from property lines adjacent to agriculturally zoned land.

21 We support legislation that relieves farmers from liability for water contamination  
22 when approved farming methods are used and label directions are followed while using  
23 crop protection chemicals.

24 We support the education of surface users, urban and agricultural; to adequately  
25 protect ground water supplies.

26 We support funding of a Watershed Specialist under the supervision of the local Soil  
27 and Water Conservation Districts. We support funding for watershed assessment and  
28 monitoring to be conducted by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. We support  
29 the efforts of the Water Resources Council.

30 We encourage the state to maintain their reservoirs, retain ownership and not turn  
31 them over to the local village or township.

32  
33 **Out-of-Basin Transfer of Water** **433.41**

34  
35 Fresh water is increasingly being recognized as a valuable natural resource.  
36 Protecting Ohio’s water basins from withdrawals to other regions of North America is  
37 necessary to maintain healthy ecosystems.

38 We believe:

- 39 1. Water used for food and fiber production and/or products is in the public interest,
- 40 is a reasonable use of water and should not be considered a diversion.
- 41 2. Ohio agriculture maintains open spaces for aquifer recharge and preserves
- 42 wildlife habitat.
- 43 3. Regulation of agricultural water use is not necessary to protect, conserve, restore
- 44 and improve the waters and water dependent natural resources of Ohio.

45 We support:

- 46 1. Efforts which will provide a high priority status to agricultural water use.
- 47 2. Research and education to increase the efficiency of agricultural water use.

- 1 3. The development of a study of agricultural water use in Ohio and associated
- 2 ecological benefits.
- 3 We oppose:
- 4 1. The expansion of Ohio’s Water Withdrawal Facility Registration Program into a
- 5 water use-permitting program.
- 6 2. Legislation that would adversely affect Ohio agriculture.
- 7 3. The diversion of water in its natural state from one major river basin (two digit
- 8 hydrological unit) in Ohio to another.

9  
 10 **Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers and Creeks** **433.5**  
 11

12 We urge the Department of Natural Resources to be very selective and to proceed  
 13 very slowly in its program of designating additional wild, scenic and recreational rivers.  
 14 Before any river is designated, the department should be in a position to enforce the  
 15 trespassing laws on private property. The use of eminent domain for the purpose of  
 16 gaining public access to such rivers and creeks should rarely be applied.

17 We urge farmers to volunteer to serve and to take an active part on scenic river  
 18 advisory boards.

19 If the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is considering designating any stream as  
 20 a scenic river, landowners along the stream should be notified by mail of this procedure.

21 We believe farmers have a right to remedy drainage problems along scenic rivers if  
 22 the river adversely affects cropland.

23  
 24 **Property Ownership Responsibility** **434**  
 25

26 Public landowners of real property including ODNR and other state government  
 27 agencies should be held to the same responsibilities, rules and laws as private  
 28 landowners.

29 We encourage the development and distribution of educational materials regarding  
 30 the responsibilities of property owners relative to line fences, surface and sub-surface  
 31 drainage, CAUV, Agriculture Districts, farm odors, dust, noise, use of roadway by farm  
 32 equipment and other good rural neighbor policies and customs. Such materials should be  
 33 distributed to all property buyers in cooperation with local realtors, lenders, county  
 34 recorder’s office and the Farm Bureau.

35  
 36 **Drainage** **434.1:R07**  
 37

38 We support Ohio’s drainage law and will work with the local Soil and Water  
 39 Conservation Districts to inform farmers of its benefits. We urge county governments to  
 40 keep agricultural interests at the forefront in considering any drainage projects, and to  
 41 consider the economic loss to farmers when drainage ditches are not cleaned and  
 42 maintained.

43 We believe it is a fundamental right of all farmers to improve their lands for crop  
 44 production. In order to ensure that this right is not taken away, we recommend that the  
 45 current drainage law be comprehensively reviewed and amended to address the following  
 46 concerns:

- 1** 1. Require county government to clean or establish a drainageway system to ensure
- 2** roadway waters and their associated pollutants and biohazards are directed away
- 3** from agricultural commodities that may be affected.
- 4** 2. Require a neighboring property owner, public utility or highway to provide access
- 5** to subsurface drainage outlets in accordance with Natural Resources Conservation
- 6** Service (NRCS) recommendations.
- 7** 3. Require governmental authorities granting building permits and private entities
- 8** developing land should analyze the impact on neighboring property owners.
- 9** 4. Require the installation of drainage facilities which meet Natural Resources
- 10** Conservation Service guidelines and which minimize the adverse impact on
- 11** neighboring property.
- 12** 5. Provide the opportunity for property owners to collect compensation (plus
- 13** attorney fees and costs of the lawsuit) for damages caused by an increase in the
- 14** flow of surface water or a change in the drainage pattern from a neighboring
- 15** property.
- 16** 6. Prohibit all development (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.) and any
- 17** developers from adding more flow to agricultural land drainage systems without
- 18** paying for needed improvements and long-term maintenance fees.
- 19** 7. Protects and prevents the destruction of existing underground drainage systems
- 20** and requires those responsible for the damage of tile lines to repair lines and pay
- 21** damages.
- 22** 8. Establishes a program to mark/record tile placement.
- 23** 9. Enable county subdivision regulations to require drainage access for new lot
- 24** splits.

**25** We recommend farmers use cooperative agreements on ditches whenever possible.  
**26** Any easement taken for drainage improvements shall be strictly limited to drainage  
**27** improvements and maintenance and no other purposes.

**28** When a majority of landowners agree to a drainage improvement, whether voluntary  
**29** or statutory, we oppose county commissioners, county engineers, soil and water districts,  
**30** or any other agency from securing or obtaining permanent easements to be placed over  
**31** drainage systems when doing conservation works or improvements.

**32** We believe that a ditch survey, conducted by the Soil and Water Conservation  
**33** District or the county engineer, should be accepted by either party in the event a ditch  
**34** project moves from one jurisdiction to the other, whether a cooperative or petition ditch.

**35** Cost sharing should be available for all open and subsurface drainage practices when  
**36** such practices will control soil erosion.

**37** We encourage state, county, and municipal engineers to work with property owners  
**38** and soil and water conservation people where road drainage ties in with farm drainage.

**39** We recommend that all units of government be required to maintain ditches and tile  
**40** on their property, which drains the land of adjacent property owners.

**41** We support establishing a universally recognized sign to mark tiles at road crossings  
**42** and property boundaries. Placement of signs would be at the landowner's expense and  
**43** option.

**44** Landowners should be notified when maintained drainageway maintenance is going  
**45** to occur. We encourage landowners to mark tile outlets in ditches to avoid damage by  
**46** mowers. Individuals, utilities, and/or government agencies responsible for destroying  
**47** marked tiles would be liable for restoration under National Resources Conservation  
**48** Service supervision.

1 We recommend that programs be developed to educate landowners about drainage  
2 laws through real estate transactions.

3 Whenever the state or county highway departments replace a culvert or small bridge  
4 over a dry run, the subsurface farm drainage tile that crosses under the highway at the  
5 same location should also be included in the project. Such tile should be replaced with  
6 highway grade tubing or concrete culvert. The length of the replacement should be the  
7 greater of the highway right of way or the project area.

8 All maintained drainageways, county maintained or otherwise, should be classified as  
9 “modified” or “historically channelized” maintained drainageways to retain their purpose  
10 of farm drainage and not be considered a navigable waterway subject to biological and  
11 recreational use designations.

12 We strongly encourage every county government to timely adopt effective  
13 countywide drainage regulations.

14 We support the ODNR Division of Soil and Water in its efforts to meet Ohio's rural  
15 drainage challenges. This is an organized effort which consists of two parts: (1)  
16 Analyzing Ohio's drainage infrastructure needs and solutions, and (2) Development of  
17 "Maintained Drainageway" Best Management Practice (BMP) Manual for maintenance  
18 and construction.

19 We support increased adoption of innovative ditch geometry practices and the  
20 provision of incentives to adopt such practices.

21 We recommend that the State of Ohio establish a task force to study the assessment  
22 process used in determining the necessity of a maintained drainageway and to have the  
23 task force recommend to the legislature a better method to quantify the costs and benefits  
24 of a maintained drainageway in the petition ditch law.

25 Ohio has an aging rural drainage infrastructure that is in need of repair. To address  
26 this need, we support the establishment of a county drainage rotary loan fund to provide  
27 counties the opportunity to manage drainage improvement projects. The initial  
28 capitalization of the drainage rotary fund should be based upon an assessment of 50 cents  
29 (\$.50) per acre enrolled in CAUV. Funds collected would be used to offset the cost of  
30 constructing the drainage improvement project and providing environmental  
31 improvement.

### 32 **Watercourse Differentiation**

**434.11:R07**

34 We encourage the adoption of definitions to differentiate the types of watercourses  
35 found in a watershed based on the following concepts.

- 36 1. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency should designate water courses based on  
37 their numerical scores (ICI), fish (IBI) and habitat (QHEI) at the time of testing  
38 and not on a perceived improvement potential.
- 39 2. Due to confusion caused by labeling all watercourses as streams, we believe  
40 definitions should be adopted to differentiate the types of watercourses found in a  
41 watershed. Some examples are the following:  
42
  - 43 a. Watercourse-Any concentrated flow of water.
  - 44 b. Stream-A watercourse that existed historically and has a steady flow of water.
  - 45 c. Modified Stream-A watercourse that existed historically, has a steady flow of  
46 water but has been altered by man at some time in the past to better serve  
47 other uses.

- 1 d. Channel-A watercourse that existed historically and has periods of  
 2 intermittent or no water flow.  
 3 e. Modified Channel - A watercourse that existed historically, has periods of  
 4 intermittent or no water flow, but has been altered by man at some time in the  
 5 past to better serve other uses.  
 6 f. Man-Made Channel-A watercourse that did not exist historically and has  
 7 periods of intermittent or no water flow (also known as a Ditch).  
 8 g. Maintained Man-Made Channel-A watercourse that did not exist historically,  
 9 has periods of intermittent or no water flow and is maintained under an  
 10 authorized government program.
- 11 3. The "LRW or limited resource water" designation used by the Ohio  
 12 Environmental Protection Agency has a three (3) square mile or less drainage area  
 13 requirement, which should be removed. Many man-made and maintained man-  
 14 made channels have drainage areas over (3) square miles with intermittent or no  
 15 flow periods, but are given designations higher than LRW because of drainage  
 16 area.
- 17 4. IBI (fish) and ICI (bug) scores should not apply to watercourses with intermittent  
 18 or no water flow.

19 We support a new use designation by Ohio EPA for agricultural drainage ditches that  
 20 protects their use and maintenance for removal of excess water. They should not be  
 21 assigned recreational uses.

22

### 23 **Adverse Possession**

**434.2:R08**

24

25 We support a change in the Ohio Revised Code that would require a person claiming  
 26 land by adverse possession to prove that he/she paid the taxes on the disputed property  
 27 during the time that he/she claims to have possessed the land adversely. This would be in  
 28 addition to all other elements of title by adverse possession as required by law.

29 We support legislation that would more clearly define what constitutes adverse  
 30 possession of land. We believe utilization of land across boundary lines for profit should  
 31 not constitute adverse possession.

32

### 33 **Trespassing**

**434.3:R08**

34

35 We will support legislation to increase criminal penalties and establish a mandatory  
 36 fine and full restitution of property damaged by individuals found guilty of trespassing.

37 We support legislation to clearly spell out landowners' rights as they relate to  
 38 trespassers and provide landowners immunity from civil liability in connection with  
 39 injury, death or loss to trespassers.

40 We encourage local law enforcement to prosecute trespassers.

41 We support legislation that may provide for seizure of implements used in trespass,  
 42 such as all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, and vehicles and for an allowance of the  
 43 collection of damages that would be multiplied for remuneration.

44 We support legislation that strengthens "attractive nuisance laws" so as not to put  
 45 landowners at risk for unreasonable lawsuits.

46 We support an Ohio Farm Bureau Federation reward for information leading to the  
 47 arrest and conviction of individuals who have committed arson against member farm  
 48 buildings in the amount of \$3,000.

<b>1</b>	<b>Cemeteries</b>	<b>434.4</b>
<b>2</b>		
<b>3</b>	We support and encourage our members to continue preserving our agricultural	
<b>4</b>	heritage by respecting on farm cemeteries. We support the real property laws now in	
<b>5</b>	place, which keep a closed private cemetery where there have been no burials in 75 years	
<b>6</b>	the size and status it is today.	
<b>7</b>	We urge passage of laws in Ohio to caution visitors to cemeteries concerning the	
<b>8</b>	dangers related to such visits.	
<b>9</b>		
<b>10</b>	<b>Homeland Security</b>	<b>434.5</b>
<b>11</b>		
<b>12</b>	We support the protection of individual rights and property rights when affected by	
<b>13</b>	Homeland Security issues.	
<b>14</b>	We oppose the mandatory use of social security numbers as a means of identification	
<b>15</b>	unless authorized under the Right to Privacy Act of 1974.	
<b>16</b>		
<b>17</b>	<b>Regional Issues</b>	<b>435</b>
<b>18</b>		
<b>19</b>	<b>Darby Watershed</b>	<b>435.1:R07</b>
<b>20</b>		
<b>21</b>	We support the actions of the agricultural community and their involvement in the	
<b>22</b>	development of the Darby Watershed Joint Board action plan and its implementation.	
<b>23</b>		
<b>24</b>	<b>Scioto River Watershed</b>	<b>435.2</b>
<b>25</b>		
<b>26</b>	We support the continued funding of a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	
<b>27</b>	(CREP) in the Scioto River Watershed. CREP is a local, state, federal and private	
<b>28</b>	partnership which is beneficial to individual farmers putting conservation practices on	
<b>29</b>	land to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in the Scioto River and its watersheds.	
<b>30</b>		
<b>31</b>	<b>Wayne National Forest</b>	<b>435.3</b>
<b>32</b>		
<b>33</b>	We encourage Wayne National Forest to stay with the most recent 10-year plan	
<b>34</b>	regarding the harvesting of timber.	
<b>35</b>	We encourage Wayne National Forest to utilize funds for the development of	
<b>36</b>	recreational facilities instead of the acquisition of additional land.	
<b>37</b>	Wayne National Forest should maintain line fences with adjoining property owners	
<b>38</b>	who are engaged in agricultural practices. If real estate taxes are not paid to local	
<b>39</b>	counties in the Wayne National Forest area, the payments in lieu paid to counties should	
<b>40</b>	be comparable to the income that would have been collected from real estate taxes.	
<b>41</b>	We support legislation that withdraws Ohio's consent for the purchase of additional	
<b>42</b>	land for the Wayne National Forest.	
<b>43</b>	All revenues generated from commercial activities related to the forest shall be	
<b>44</b>	returned to the U.S. Treasury to be appropriated at the discretion of Congress.	
<b>45</b>		

**1 Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) 435.4:R07**

**2**

**3** The MWCD should provide a detailed plan of work before collecting any assessment.

**4** We recommend that the MWCD thoroughly study the plan of work before enacting  
**5** any assessments.

**6** We oppose the MWCD assessment being enacted without a prior vote of the people.

**7** Any assessment of the landowners by the MWCD needs to be fair and equitable.

**8** The board of the MWCD should be expanded by either the appointment of members  
**9** by the county commissioners of each respective county, or by election by the general  
**10** public.

**11** The MWCD should focus on its original purpose of water quality, flood control and  
**12** conservation.

**13** The MWCD needs to return a portion of any assessment collected back to the county  
**14** where collected for conservancy district maintenance projects in that county.

**15** We oppose the use of MWCD assessment monies for dredging reservoir basins when  
**16** the dredging is for recreational use and not flood control.

**17** The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District should place a notice of meetings  
**18** in the daily newspaper in each county affected at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

**19** The MWCD should reimburse county auditors and treasurers for the costs of the  
**20** additional work performed as a result of collecting the MWCD assessment.

**21**

**22 Great Lakes Water Resources 435.5:R07**

**23**

**24** The Great Lakes are one of America's most important natural public treasures.  
**25** Together, the Great Lakes account for 90 percent of the United State's surface fresh  
**26** water resources. The Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces serve as stewards of this  
**27** resource and have a shared duty to protect, conserve and manage these renewable but  
**28** finite waters. As a result we believe:

**29** 1. The authority to control, protect, and conserve the Great Lakes from diversion lies  
**30** with the Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces.

**31** 2. Water resources should be regulated at the state level, not the federal level,  
**32** reducing the chance that water resources could be exploited by other states.

**33** 3. In order to protect Great Lakes water resources, we urge the Ohio legislature to  
**34** ratify the Great Lakes Compact with the stipulation that Ohio does not surrender  
**35** its legislative authority to govern the waters of Ohio to other outside  
**36** governmental entities.

**37** 4. The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation should monitor and actively participate in the  
**38** implementation of the Great Lakes Compact to ensure that agricultural interests  
**39** are represented and concerns addressed.  
**40**

**41**

**41 Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Action Plan 435.6:R07**

**42**

**43** We support the rights of states to develop programs that are scientifically based,  
**44** economically sound and to the maximum extent possible, delivered in a flexible and  
**45** voluntary manner to address the agricultural nonpoint source portion of the Gulf of  
**46** Mexico Hypoxia Action Plan (Action Plan). We believe that strategies to implement the  
**47** goals and objectives of the Action Plan must be developed and administered at local  
**48** level. Any policies made regarding implementation of the Action Plan must be based on

1 sound scientific data and must give proper consideration to the sustainability of a viable  
2 agbioresource industry in the state of Ohio.

3  
4 **Regulatory Reform**

436:R07

5  
6 We support the use of sound science and economic feasibility in the development and  
7 establishment of regulations applied to agriculture. We oppose the use of the  
8 precautionary principle in identifying rationale for new regulations.

9 We oppose the concept of “mission creep” whereby any agency extends its authority  
10 beyond the original intent of rules and regulation.

11 We support the actions being undertaken by state government to initiate broad  
12 regulatory reform through the establishment of guidance, standards and principles for the  
13 adoption and administration of regulations. We believe that this process needs to  
14 incorporate the following principles:

- 15 1. Recognition of property rights as the foundation for resource production;
- 16 2. The regulations are based upon sound scientific data which has been subject to  
17 replication and peer review;
- 18 3. A risk assessment analysis should be conducted prior to the promulgation of a  
19 regulation;
- 20 4. An estimate of the costs and benefits associated with public and private sector  
21 compliance with the regulation must be conducted prior to promulgation of the  
22 regulations;
- 23 5. Regulations should allow for flexibility of rules and regulations to fit varying  
24 local conditions;
- 25 6. The regulations have been subject to independent analysis and public scrutiny;
- 26 7. Alternatives to regulation have been considered, especially the provision of  
27 market-based incentives;
- 28 8. The regulations respect the practicalities of doing business in the industry being  
29 regulated;
- 30 9. The presumption of innocence as opposed to the current presumption of guilt  
31 should be strengthened, and
- 32 10. The adoption of tools that measure the cumulative impact of regulations affecting  
33 production agriculture and believe this measurement should be completed prior to  
34 the implementation of any regulation impacting agriculture.

35 We support limiting the ability to intervene in regulatory actions against landowners  
36 for environmental problems to adjoining landowners, neighbors, or those directly affected  
37 by the alleged violation.

38  
39 **Safety**

437:R07

40  
41 The high accident rate on the farm, in the home, and on the highway necessitates a  
42 continuing safety program by the organization to keep our members safety conscious.

43 We support the establishment of an educational program that targets security and  
44 storage issues associated with farm fertilizers.

45 Convenient certification and re-certification training should be made available for  
46 emergency medical technicians, fire fighters, and other safety volunteers.

47 We favor more reasonable regulation of EMT transportation, including a review of  
48 mandatory requirements.

1 We support legislation and cooperation from businesses that would make it easier for  
2 people to be volunteer firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT’s).

3 Since many chemicals when burned may emit toxic fumes, we urge the use of easily  
4 recognized emblems to be posted where chemicals are stored to ensure the safety of our  
5 firefighters and urge members to store chemicals in a separate building.

6 We encourage utilities to place warning sheaths on guy wires in crop fields.

7 We encourage ear protection symbols be installed on any equipment that will emit  
8 sounds greater than 85 decibels.

9 We encourage local residents to display reflective house numbering signs in an effort  
10 to reduce the response time for emergency vehicles.

11 We encourage all farmers to use ROPS (Roll Over Protection Structures) and seat  
12 belts when operating farm tractors.

13 We support the improvement of all railroad crossing approach ramp grades to allow  
14 for the safe crossing of large farm equipment and highway vehicles.

15  
16 **Motor Vehicle/Road Safety**

**437.1:R08**

17  
18 We support:

- 19 1. Stop ahead signs, rumble strips or blinkers at dangerous intersections. We  
20 encourage the Ohio Department of Transportation to consider local input and give  
21 more emphasis to installation of traffic lights at dangerous rural intersections.
- 22 2. Red and white stripes on all truck beds, semi-trucks and trailers, and amber tape  
23 on farm equipment so they are more visible in hazy and foggy conditions.
- 24 3. Keeping highway white lines painted and installing more surface reflectors at  
25 intersections and on hills and curves.
- 26 4. Replacing all old-style farm machinery caution signs with the newer signs that  
27 include the SMV sign.
- 28 5. The development and use of educational materials promoting safe driving  
29 behavior on roads where farm equipment travels.
- 30 6. The idea that car lights should be on when windshield wipers are in use and that  
31 all newly manufactured cars be equipped with daytime front & rear running lamps  
32 to ensure driver safety.
- 33 7. Legislation requiring the proper use of additional accessory highway lights that  
34 are typically mounted below the standard headlights. These unfocused high  
35 intensity lights should be used to provide additional wide range illumination only  
36 when the high beams are in use.
- 37 8. Farm machinery should be allowed to be moved on four-lane, unlimited access  
38 highways.
- 39 9. More liberal use of reduced speed limits on rural roads where road topography  
40 warrants such speed limit reduction.

41 We encourage the proper use of safety belts and child restraint seats.

42 We encourage the use of hands-free communication devices when operating a motor  
43 vehicle.

44 We recommend that the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles clearly display the county  
45 names on all Ohio license plates.

46 We encourage the placement of reflective tape on all stop sign posts.

47 The Ohio Department of Transportation should place solar-powered flashing stop  
48 signs at dangerous rural intersections of state routes.

1 We support the standards required to install traffic safety improvements being based  
2 on accident/incident rates.

3 We support the use of yellow "Prepare to Stop When Flashing" signs to warn of  
4 upcoming traffic lights on high-speed highways or dangerous intersections.

5 We urge the mowing of roadways prior to June 1 and periodically through the  
6 summer to control noxious weeds and improve safety. We support mowing and other  
7 maintenance to sustain a clear line of vision on the highway right-of-way for a distance of  
8 500 feet from any intersection. All mowing vehicles should display a slow moving  
9 vehicle (SMV) insignia and other safety devices, as required by law.

10 We urge the limiting of planting of trees and shrubs at interchanges and along  
11 interstate highway right-of-ways in rural areas. As this flora grows, it obstructs driver  
12 visibility as well as provides cover for wildlife within short darting distance to lanes of  
13 traffic.

14 We support the use of helmets by riders of motorcycles, bicycles, mopeds,  
15 snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles, as required under current state laws.

16 We support strict enforcement of traffic laws.

17 We support joggers, pedestrians, and cyclists wearing some kind of reflective cloth  
18 after night or evening while on all roads and streets.

19 We recommend flashing yellow lights on frequently stopping vehicles for use during  
20 predawn and early evening hours.

21 We recommend strict enforcement of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) laws. We  
22 recommend rescinding or refusing a license to drivers under 21 years-of-age who are  
23 convicted of DWI or DUI.

24 We support the use of strobe lights on school buses at all times during morning and  
25 afternoon runs when there is inclement weather.

26 We encourage the implementation of "easy to see" colors on state roadway vehicles.  
27 White roadway vehicles are hazardous on winter days.

28 We strongly encourage the Ohio Department of Motor Vehicles to allow options for  
29 renewing vehicle registration for commercial vehicles and farm trucks to be conducted  
30 via U.S. Mail or the internet.

31 During overpass widening projects, access roads should remain open and maintained  
32 until the project is complete.

33 We support property owners being notified when vehicular accidents occur along  
34 roadway and property damage is involved.

### 35 36 **Railroads and Crossing Safety**

**437.2:R08**

37  
38 All railroad crossings should have adequate lights, warning mechanisms or stop signs  
39 installed, and all brush, weeds, and railroad cars parked on sidings that obstruct the view  
40 at railroad crossings should be removed. All railroad cars should have reflective  
41 Department of Transportation tape placed on both sides of the cars.

42 We encourage regular inspection of railroad crossings for potholes and other  
43 problems. Any problems should be repaired in a timely manner.

44 We support amending the Ohio Revised Code to allow state, county, township and  
45 municipal highway departments to erect stop signs at unlighted and non-gated railroad  
46 crossings.

47 We support that railroads should be required to pay 50 percent of safety  
48 improvements, instead of the current 10 percent.

1 We support improvement of railroad crossing approach ramps and road width  
2 allowances to allow for the safe crossing of large farm equipment and highway vehicles.

3 We believe the responsibility for maintaining line fences on existing railroads and  
4 along abandoned right-of-ways should be enforced, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code  
5 Section 4959.02 (A), even when the railroad property is sold or transferred.

### 7 **Slow Moving Vehicles (SMVs)**

**437.3:R07**

9 Moving of large equipment on today's highways is becoming more of a safety  
10 problem. The operators of such equipment should extend common courtesy to the  
11 general public.

12 We recognize the slow moving vehicle emblem (SMV) as the only nationally  
13 accepted safety symbol for SMV highway identification and support its use on all SMVs.  
14 The SMV law should be enforced.

15 SMV signs should not be used for non-SMV purposes, such as driveway markers.

16 We encourage the use of safety lights and official SMV emblems as required in the  
17 Ohio Revised Code and approved by ASAE (American Society of Agricultural Engineers)  
18 on farm machinery, including all horse drawn vehicles used on public roadways.

19 We encourage proper use of the SIS (Speed Indicator Symbol) for farm equipment  
20 designed to travel faster than 25 miles per hour.

21 We recommend Ohio State University and ASAE conduct a study to determine the  
22 most effective color for use in the SMV sign.

### 24 **Taxes (State and Local)**

**438:R07**

26 To stay within the state budget, we strongly encourage our state legislators to make  
27 every effort to find cost savings measures, including continuing Medicaid reform, before  
28 raising taxes

29 When a government agency promulgates restrictions, we support the establishment of  
30 a tax relief and/or easement program that would provide income to landowners while  
31 allowing state agencies to implement preservation policies.

32 We support legislation to permit local governments to levy an admission tax on  
33 special events to pay for expenses of controlling and policing such events.

34 We encourage both state and national tax exemption on interest income from savings  
35 accounts and investments.

36 We support exempting capital gains from Ohio taxable income as long as the real  
37 property is held for more than five years.

38 We support eliminating the estate tax in Ohio or the exemption level should be at  
39 least as high as the federal level.

40 We oppose any excessive and unfair taxes. While we are opposed to gross revenue  
41 taxes (Commercial Activity Tax), we also recognize that increases in income tax rates,  
42 increases in property tax rates, loss of CAUV, and/or loss of sales tax exemptions are  
43 equally unacceptable. We also oppose any rate increases in the current Commercial  
44 Activity Tax (CAT), as well as any increases in the administrative fee. We recommend  
45 the administrative fee threshold be raised to \$500,000. We support exempting all farms  
46 from the CAT that are required to pay the Ohio Income Tax.

47 We encourage a revision to the CAT to treat all grain handlers fairly and equitably.

48

1 We believe in fiscal responsibility in state government. If the CAT generates revenue  
 2 beyond the estimated total of \$1.594 billion per biennium, we support the current  
 3 provision in law that places half of the excess funds into a rainy day fund and half applied  
 4 to an overall rate reduction.

5 We oppose all state voter referendums that propose bond issues, unless the  
 6 referendum includes the state tax increase needed to pay off the bond (principle and  
 7 interest).

8 We oppose the use of excessive fees as a substitute for taxes.

9 Income received from fees and assessments from an agency or program shall not be  
 10 returned to general purpose or general revenue funds.

11 We support tax credits for energy generated on the farm.

12 We support the increase of the threshold to relieve an estate from full probate  
 13 administration to \$70,000.

14 Taxes on intrastate transmission lines should be taxed at the same rate as distribution  
 15 lines. Interstate transmission lines should continue to be taxed at the higher rate.

17 **CAUV and Property Taxes**

**438.1:R08**

18  
 19 Some non-profit groups and organizations [501(c)(3)] maintain land or other property  
 20 that are used only for investment or money raising. If such properties are not a part of  
 21 their primary mission and location, we support legislation requiring them to pay property  
 22 taxes on those holdings.

23 We continue to support that the land under permanent farm markets and greenhouses  
 24 be eligible for Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV). Eligibility should require at  
 25 least 50 percent owner-produced commodities. This eligibility would be consistent with  
 26 land under other agricultural structures. We support changing the CAUV sign-up period  
 27 to once every five years to coincide with the Agricultural District sign-up period.

28 We oppose any additional obligation (except in voter approved rate increases) on real  
 29 property taxes to fund local or any other level of government, including schools.

30 We favor maintaining the 10 percent and 2-1/2 percent property tax rollback, the rate  
 31 adjustment factor, the 10 mill limitation on inside millage, and the present Current  
 32 Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) formula. We support maintaining the minimum acreage  
 33 requirement to qualify for CAUV at 10 acres, or a minimum of \$2,500 gross agricultural  
 34 income.

35 We support the same CAUV law interpretation in all counties. We support  
 36 legislation giving counties the permissive authority to increase CAUV recoupment to five  
 37 years, with the last two years of recoupment to fund local voluntary farmland  
 38 preservation programs.

39 We encourage the inclusion of equine and equine activities as a qualifying use for the  
 40 CAUV program.

41 We support the inclusion of land using conservation practices (buffer strips, filter  
 42 strips, grass waterway, permanent cover crops, expiration of federal land retirement or  
 43 conservation program, etc.) in the CAUV program.

44 Real property tax reappraisals and triennial updates should be done in a manner that  
 45 accurately reflects the true value of home sites, buildings, and land. We support  
 46 legislation that would change the meaning of the county auditors' definition "true market  
 47 value" or "market value." These terms should mean the current purchase price of the

1 land, even if it is sold by auction. We encourage Farm Bureau members to review their  
2 tax bills and property tax cards to determine the accuracy of the assigned value.

3 We urge the legislature to modify H.B. 920 so tax on new construction would add to  
4 current receipts and not adjust existing real estate taxes.

5 We support property tax relief for landowners who use best management practices  
6 along waterways.

7 We should eliminate the state's forestry tax and combine it with CAUV. CAUV  
8 would then apply to forestland.

9 We support legislation that would require woodlands to have a simple forest  
10 management plan to qualify for CAUV. The plans need to be written by a state forester or  
11 private lands forester. We oppose the requirement of a "master logger" to harvest timber  
12 as it applies to CAUV program requirements. For CAUV purposes, we request no  
13 management plan be required for forest land if forest acreage is 25 percent or less of  
14 property acreage.

15 We encourage that the CAUV formula be thoroughly reviewed to ensure that data  
16 used in the calculation is recent, relevant, and reflective of Ohio's agricultural economy.

17 We support updating the crop yields per acre used in the formula from the 1984 Farm  
18 Service Agency base currently used.

19 We oppose including the value of government payments or subsidies to be used in the  
20 calculation of CAUV.

21 We encourage that a study be done to more accurately reflect woodland values in  
22 CAUV.

23 We encourage that a study be done to determine whether the capitalization rate used  
24 in the CAUV formula is accurate.

25

## 26 **Public Property**

**438.2**

27

28 We urge that state or federal tax exempt agencies be required to pay real property tax  
29 on properties from which income is being derived.

30 In order to compensate local governmental units, including school districts, for  
31 revenue loss due to publicly owned land and facilities, we urge the State of Ohio to  
32 consider establishing user fees, admissions, tuition, licensing, etc., to reimburse these  
33 local units.

34 We support legislation that requires the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to pay  
35 taxes on all land and real estate owned by the department for recreational or  
36 environmental purposes. Such taxes should be paid to local governmental subdivisions  
37 and school districts at the same rate and value as paid by private property owners.

38

## 39 **Income Tax**

**438.3:R08**

40

41 Additional revenue, if needed, should come primarily from the personal income tax  
42 and, under some circumstances, from an increase in sales and use tax rates, rather than  
43 from eliminating exemptions.

44 We support use of the optional local school district income tax in preference to  
45 property tax.

46 We support legislation to eliminate the requirement of quarterly filing for city income  
47 taxes for those reporting agricultural incomes.

1 We support and encourage a change in state tax laws that will eliminate the penalty  
2 for couples filing joint tax returns.

3 If land is taken by eminent domain, we support legislation that would create a state  
4 income tax credit for all capital gains taxes.

5 We encourage the state legislature to increase the dollar amount for accelerated  
6 depreciation for businesses and farms to match the federal tax regulations.

7  
8 **Sales Tax**

**438.4:R08**

9  
10 We support the continuation of the agricultural sales tax exemption.

11 We oppose taxes on food at the wholesale or retail levels.

12 We support the use of a statewide sales tax and/or income tax to fund education in  
13 place of increases in real property tax.

14 We support the replacement of property taxes with the revenue from additional  
15 statewide sales tax, thus creating a reduction in property tax.

16 We support the concept of an Internet sales tax; however current Ohio sales tax  
17 exemptions should apply.

18 We support requiring that all state agencies accept "postmarked by" instead of  
19 "received by" for paperwork filings.

20 We do not support Ohio participating in a stream line sales tax project if they  
21 mandate destination. We support businesses that have switched to destination to return  
22 back to origin based.

23 We support legislation that uses the common definition of agriculture for determining  
24 the sales tax exemption for all-purpose off-highway vehicles.

25  
26 **Tax Abatements**

**438.5**

27  
28 We feel the use of tax abatements and tax incentives give a false sense of growth.

29 We encourage the State of Ohio to conduct a study to determine if tax abatements  
30 actually pay for themselves and are a valid way to encourage business growth.

31 When tax abatements are granted for industry, there should be guidelines that require  
32 the new industry to meet certain standards. We encourage tax abatements for business  
33 locating on an abandoned site, rather than on prime farmland. If businesses given tax  
34 abatements leave before, or immediately at the end of an abatement period, they should  
35 pay a tax recoupment penalty of a high percentage of their years of agreement. The  
36 government subdivision granting the tax abatement for industry should reimburse the  
37 affected school district and other affected local governmental units for lost property tax  
38 revenue.

39 County commissioners should have the opportunity to review all requested property  
40 tax abatements.

41  
42 **Gasoline Tax**

**438.6:R07**

43  
44 The current proposals to reduce gasoline taxes to address the public outcry about the  
45 cost of fuel would directly reduce the funds available to county engineers. These taxes  
46 should only be reduced if funding for local projects would not be impacted.

47 We support a tax credit for the end-users of renewable fuels.  
48

**1 Gas Tax Refund 438.7**

**2**

**3** We urge Ohio to refund the annual gas tax from off road use gasoline as a tax credit  
**4** on the state income tax form.

**5**

**6 Motor Vehicle License and Highway Use Tax 438.8:R07**

**7**

**8** We oppose the removal of front license plates on motor vehicles.

**9** We urge the State of Ohio to enforce and assure compliance with the current system  
**10** of individual auto liability insurance coverage. The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles  
**11** should be required to notify an individual if his/her driver's license is suspended. We  
**12** support increasing the property damage and bodily injury state minimum insurance levels  
**13** for mandatory auto liability insurance. Current levels are too low to cover accident  
**14** expenses in many cases according to today's costs.

**15** We urge that the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles require that the county name be  
**16** displayed at the bottom of both front and rear license plates.

**17** Wagons subject to slow moving vehicle regulation should continue to be exempt from  
**18** licensing fees.

**19** Currently, vehicle license tags cannot be transferred at the end of a lease contract  
**20** when the lessee purchases the vehicle. This can result in virtual double taxation for the  
**21** same owner/operator. A simple fee for transferring the license from the lease company to  
**22** the owner should be available.

**23** We oppose the use of fuel and highway use taxes for any purpose other than highway  
**24** construction and repair.

**25** We oppose the titling and licensing of farm machinery.

**26** When additional state highway funds are available through an increase in the motor  
**27** fuel tax, an adequate portion of that tax should be allocated for rural roads and bridges.

**28** We urge that the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles put the word "farm" back on farm  
**29** plated vehicles.

**30** We support a license plate that would promote agriculture, Ohio's number one  
**31** industry. The monetary proceeds should be used to promote agriculture highway safety  
**32** awareness and to increase agricultural awareness with the general public.

**33** We encourage the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles to allow the option of renewing  
**34** commercial vehicle and farm truck registrations via U.S. mail and/or the internet.

**35**

**36 Utilities 439**

**37**

**38 Electric Service 439.1:R07**

**39**

**40** We recommend rate schedules be established to promote energy conservation, daily  
**41** off-peak usage and off-peak seasonal usage in agriculture without the penalty of  
**42** unreasonably high demand charges and minimum monthly bills. Farm rates should  
**43** match or never exceed the residential rate.

**44** The State of Ohio in cooperation with electric utilities should establish an educational  
**45** program to shift energy use to non-peak times and to mitigate energy charge increases  
**46** that may result from rate restructuring.

1 We oppose electric companies asking any rate increase to compensate for the loss of  
 2 income (referred to as delta revenue) from reduced rates given industries, schools, and  
 3 municipalities.

4 We support legislation that will require municipal power companies to pay the same  
 5 taxes as other electric companies (gross receipt tax and property tax).

6 We recommend power companies work with customers to locate and resolve  
 7 problems with stray voltage.

8 Rural Electric Co-ops should not be PUCO regulated.

9 We believe that certain safeguards should guide the transition to deregulation.

10 These include:

11 1. Quality service should continue to be provided to all customers.

12 2. Cost shifting should not occur between classes of customers.

13 3. There should be retention of exclusive electric distribution service areas.

14 We support a change in the law to make it economically feasible to sell energy from  
 15 alternative sources to the electric grid including rural electric cooperatives

16 We are concerned about the possible impact that abrupt electric rate increases would  
 17 have on Ohio's farm households, business, and local economies. We support energy  
 18 policies and regulations that maintain stabilized electric rates and we encourage Ohio's  
 19 leaders to move together to solved these issues. We encourage the PUCO to use the tools  
 20 it already has to ensure Ohio's electric consumers have access to reliable service and  
 21 reasonable prices.

## 22 **Natural Gas**

**439.2**

23 We will continue to support and provide access to self-help gas for agricultural  
 24 producers, processors and handlers. We will support efforts that increase competition in  
 25 the gas transportation industry.

26 We will monitor the transition of the gas transportation industry into non-regulated  
 27 competition to ensure that rural landowners are protected. We support participation in  
 28 residential and small commercial gas transportation programs.

## 29 **Public Utilities**

**439.3**

30 Stockholders, rather than consumers, should pay those costs of service that can be  
 31 identified as the result of poor management decisions.

32 Utility companies should be required to maintain their utility cables or lines at an  
 33 adequate height or depth to avoid damage by agriculture equipment, including entrances  
 34 into fields.

35 Maintenance should include clearing of impediments in right-of-ways to maintain  
 36 integrity of utility services.

37 As cable companies expand services, they should be under the regulatory review of  
 38 the PUCO.

**1 Telephone Service 439.4**

2

3

We recommend:

4

1. Every telephone company cooperate in providing Extended Area Service (EAS) to contiguous exchanges and that EAS be made available to the county seat where subscribers express interest.

5

6

7

2. Minimum service requirements for the telephone industry include publishing in each directory all emergency and county governmental office numbers.

8

9

3. That rural communities apply for extended local calling or similar type service where it is to the advantage of subscribers.

10

11

4. Rural subscribers receive the same quality of service (including access to Internet, long distance carriers, and any other services).

12

13

5. All subscribers be able to call county seat, local school, closest hospital, and attending fire protection toll free.

14

15

We believe that certain safeguards and protection should remain in place under deregulation of the telephone industry, including:

16

17

1. Required universal service or payment into a subsidy fund

18

2. New entrants create local calling areas of equal to or greater size than those currently in place.

19

20

3. New entrants should respect current EAS agreements.

21

4. The integrity of 911 services should be maintained and upgraded by granting county commissioners discretionary authority to add a monthly charge to telephone bills.

22

23

5. Directory assistance and written directories should be in a standardized format.

24

25

We oppose the collection of zone charges by local telephone companies.

26

We support increased wireless service in rural areas. We support enhanced 911 services for cell phones, and the additional monthly charge to pay for the new technology.

27

28

29

We support methods of controlling telemarketing that include:

30

1. Individuals listed on the state do not call list should have the option of excluding calls from political organizations and/or candidates.

31

2. Prohibiting a telemarketer from blocking his/her name and number from caller ID.

32

33

**34 Water Supply 439.5**

35

A landowner should not be mandated to use a particular water supply.

36

37

**38 Rural Broadband 439.6:R05**

39

We encourage increased access to high speed Internet connections in rural areas, including wireless. We support rural broadband initiatives in Ohio and recognize the increased economic development opportunities that come to rural areas with increased access. We support local government, education and business aggregation to increase demand for rural areas.

40

41

42

43

44

45

**1 Weed and Pest Control****440:R07****2****3**

**4** We support enforcement of the law that requires highway departments, public  
**5** utilities, governmental bodies, private citizens, and corporations that own or lease land to  
**6** control noxious weeds, pests and nuisances on their properties. We encourage the  
**7** establishment of a state task force responsible for developing a more effective noxious  
**8** weed law. We encourage farmers to mow noxious weeds in time to prevent their  
**9** seeding.

**9**

**10** We support control of multiflora rose, autumn olive, Johnsongrass, Canada thistle,  
**11** and shattercane and will continue to seek adequate funding for research and control  
**12** programs. We further support the addition of Autumn Olive, Apple of Peru, Kochia  
**13** Amur (Bush) Honeysuckle, Ailanthus and Garlic Mustard to the list of noxious weeds by  
**14** the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

**14**

**15** We support the practice of reseeded roadsides to provide wildflowers or  
**16** grass/legume cover and enforcing the eradication of multiflora rose on state, federal,  
**17** county, and township roadsides.

**17**

**18** We support monitoring of the federal executive order regarding non-native invasive  
**19** species as to its impact on agriculture.

**19**

**20** We support the removal of abandoned orchards and vineyards through enforcement  
**21** of current law and passage of additional legislation for control of pests and diseases that  
**22** may be generated from these properties.

**22**

**23** We believe landowners should have the right to determine the frequency and timing  
**24** of mowing CRP enrolled land.

**24****25****25 Wetlands****441****26****27**

**28** We support incentives for voluntary development of wetlands from private and public  
**29** sources providing that the programs conform to national regulations.

**29**

**30** We support incentives for the development of wetlands for the treatment of milk  
**31** house waste and manure. We encourage the Ohio EPA to relax discharge standards from  
**32** these wetlands. Such artificial wetlands should be counted as wetlands in wetland goals.

**32**

**33** All wetland determinations should be made in the field by Natural Resources  
**34** Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel or trained and certified technical service  
**35** providers under NRCS oversight.

**35**

**36** We encourage the proper design and management of wetlands to achieve a natural  
**37** balance and control of mosquitoes. We advocate research into the habitat and control of  
**38** those mosquito species carrying the West Nile Virus.

**38****39****39 Wildlife Management****442****40****41****41 Endangered Species****442.1****42****43**

**44** Species thriving in another state should not be listed as endangered or threatened in  
**45** Ohio.

**45**

**46** Land use should not be restricted based on the presence of an endangered species, or  
**47** its habitat, without proper compensation to the landowner.

**47**

**1 Hunting, Fishing and Trapping****442.2:R07****2****3**

**4** We encourage those landowners that oppose Sunday hunting to exercise their right to  
**5** prohibit hunting on their property. When future wildlife regulations are developed we  
**6** suggest the Ohio Division of Wildlife consider the following:

**7**

**8** 1. Crop damage;

**9**

**10** 2. Wildlife population;

**11**

**12** 3. Private property rights and input from landowners; and

**13**

**14** 4. Highway safety.

**15**

**16** We will work toward a program that will provide a practical means for landowners to  
**17** lease their land for hunting privileges and will support legislation that limits liability for  
**18** landowners.

**19**

**20** Ohio's Recreational User Statute should be expanded to protect landowners that  
**21** permit hunters on their property from liability for injuries or damages caused by the  
**22** hunters.

**23**

**24** We urge the Division of Wildlife to schedule fish and game hearings for smaller  
**25** geographical areas and to hold at least one meeting on a day other than Sunday.

**26**

**27** We encourage stronger enforcement of game laws (i.e., shooting across or from a  
**28** road and poaching) with mandatory fines and/or sentences.

**29**

**30** We oppose any further restrictions of current trapping methods.

**31**

**32** We encourage landowners to allow hunting and trapping on their property to help in  
**33** the control of wildlife populations.

**34**

**35** We support the reinstatement of hunting license display on the backs of all hunters  
**36** that are required to have a license.

**37**

**38** We encourage the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife to  
**39** work with public and private landowners to develop and increase public hunting access  
**40** areas in metropolitan and urbanized areas.

**41**

**42** We encourage the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to increase efforts to  
**43** promote the sport of hunting with Ohio's young people.

**44**

**45** We support a constitutional amendment that insures the right to hunt, trap and fish in  
**46** the State of Ohio.

**47**

**48** We oppose the elimination of commercial fishing.

**49**

**50** We encourage landowners to give permission for hunters to follow wounded game  
**51** onto their property. We believe landowners should be allowed to hunt on their own land  
**52** without permits and also their children, grandchildren, siblings and parents to have the  
**53** same reciprocal access.

**54****55 Wildlife Introduction****442.3:R08****56**

**57** We encourage the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to work with landowners  
**58** and hold at least one public hearing in proposed areas of native wildlife introduction.

**59**

**60** We encourage that before the Ohio Department of Natural Resources or other agency  
**61** introduces a new plant or animal species as wildlife, or as predator, plans for monitoring  
**62** and control must be in place.

**63**

**64** We oppose the further reintroduction of predators into Ohio i.e. wolves, bobcats,  
**65** cougars and bears.

**66**

**67** We encourage the Division of Wildlife to limit the relocation of wildlife in and  
**68** around the state of Ohio.

**1 Wildlife Violations 442.4**

**2**

**3** We support the enforcement of wildlife laws and the establishment of criminal  
**4** penalties. We are opposed to civil penalties that make unreasonable charges for fish and  
**5** animal loss due to accidental kills.

**6**

**7 Wildlife Control 442.5:R08**

**8**

**9** We encourage farmers to contact their wildlife officer or wildlife specialists to report  
**10** damage. We also encourage farmers to maintain good relationships with wildlife officers  
**11** and wildlife specialists to help solve wildlife problems.

**12** We encourage all active members to seek and use permits from the Ohio Department  
**13** of Natural Resources to control damage from wildlife on their property.

**14** We urge the Division of Wildlife to make depredation permits with fewer restrictions  
**15** more available to producers experiencing damage year round.

**16** We encourage the development of wildlife habitat on private property that will reduce  
**17** the need to purchase land for state development of habitat.

**18** We encourage communication and cooperation between property owners and the  
**19** Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife, for the purpose of wildlife  
**20** control.

**21** There is a need for both the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Ohio  
**22** Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to focus on wildlife damage in the state. We  
**23** recommend the establishment of a wildlife animal damage control advisory committee.  
**24** The committee should be comprised of a representative of the ODA, the ODNR, Ohio  
**25** State University Extension wildlife specialist, and an appropriate number of farmers and  
**26** sportsmen.

**27** The Ohio Department of Natural Resources should conduct a land use analysis prior  
**28** to the purchase of land for wildlife use.

**29** We support the continuation of the wildlife specialist program in cooperation with  
**30** soil and water conservation districts with at least a 50 percent annual match for the  
**31** wildlife specialist.

**32** We require that ODNR officers have probable cause before entering private property.

**33**

**34 Animal Damage Control and Wildlife Damage Fund 442.6:R07**

**35**

**36** We support additional animal damage control personnel to assist farmers in reducing  
**37** damage. The Ohio Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Agriculture  
**38** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) should expand their cooperative  
**39** agreement to improve services to farmers. We recommend that the ODNR notify local  
**40** residents if they plan to release new species of animals or plants in their area.

**41** We oppose the relocation of nuisance wildlife into the rural area. We support the  
**42** discretionary euthanasia of nuisance wildlife when trapped by a licensed nuisance  
**43** wildlife trapper.

**44** We support research and the utilization of wildlife population control methods in  
**45** addition to hunting and trapping.

**46** We will oppose the establishment of a hunter habitat stamp, the revenue from which  
**47** would be used to purchase land for hunting opportunities. We support such a program to  
**48** lease private land or compensate farmers for maintaining wildlife habitats.

1 We support the establishment of a cost-shared wildlife damage abatement program,  
 2 which includes labor, funded through a combination of license fees, hunting fines and  
 3 general revenue funds to account for wildlife related losses, including livestock disease  
 4 such as Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD).

5 We fully support an amendment to Ohio's Public Records Law that would prevent the  
 6 release of confidential information, such as name, address, etc. of farmers who participate  
 7 in lethal predator control programs.

8  
 9 **Crop Damaging Birds and Animals**

442.7:R07

10  
 11 We urge the Ohio Division of Wildlife to take a more active role in helping reduce  
 12 the population of blackbirds and other crop damaging birds and animals. We will support  
 13 efforts to establish a year round open season on crows to reduce the overpopulation in  
 14 Ohio.

15 We support research to verify the amount of crop damage from wildlife. We  
 16 encourage more liberal distribution of wildlife nuisance permits by the Ohio Division of  
 17 Wildlife.

18 We encourage expanding the labeled use of current avian repellents to include wild  
 19 turkey

20 We encourage agribusiness personnel to assist farmers in identifying wildlife damage.

21  
 22 **Geese**

442.71

23  
 24 We strongly urge the Division of Wildlife to take steps to control the goose  
 25 population in problem areas until it is no longer an economic problem for agriculture.  
 26 Furthermore, we encourage the State of Ohio to petition the federal government to  
 27 remove Canadian Geese from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1916.

28 The Division of Wildlife and other parties should be required to move geese  
 29 populations to another area should they decide to abandon any existing feeding programs.  
 30 Failure to relocate the geese causes an economic hardship for area farmers. We condemn  
 31 the practice of abandoning wild geese previously relocated for a Division of Wildlife  
 32 goose preserve in Ohio.

33 We support a statewide resident nuisance goose season and increased bag limits.

34  
 35 **Turkey**

442.72

36  
 37 We encourage the Division of Wildlife to continue a fall wild turkey season, allow a  
 38 hunter to be able to take two birds per permit, and allow the taking of hens in areas where  
 39 turkeys are a problem. Establish a turkey hunting permit that can be used for the spring  
 40 or fall season.

41 We oppose the stocking of wild turkeys in areas currently unpopulated by wild  
 42 turkey.

43  
 44 **Beaver**

442.73

45  
 46 Because of damage caused by an increase in beaver population, we recommend the  
 47 Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife develop better methods of control.

**1 Coyote****442.74:R08****2****3**

**4** We urge approval for “livestock protection collars, M-44 bait stations” and collarum  
**5** snare for coyote control in the state of Ohio. We recommend that Ohio Farm Bureau  
**6** continue to work with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of  
**7** Agriculture, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Ohio General Assembly in  
**8** protecting Ohio’s flocks and herds from coyote and coydog depredation.

**9**

**10** We support a permanent state indemnity fund to reimburse farmers at replacement  
**11** cost levels for livestock kills by coyotes and coydogs. This fund should be administered  
**12** through the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

**13****14 Deer****442.75:R08****15**

**16** We urge Ohio farmers and sportsmen to cooperate in an effort to hunt in Ohio and  
**17** thus help reduce the state’s overpopulation of deer. Great economic damage is being  
**18** done to crops in Ohio and an undue highway safety hazard exists due to increasing  
**19** numbers of deer. It is obvious that there are too many deer in Ohio. The Division of  
**20** Wildlife should go on an aggressive campaign to reduce the number of deer. The  
**21** Division of Wildlife should:

**22**

**23** 1. Encourage research on repellents that would give growers additional protection;

**24**

**25** 2. Allow hunters in overpopulated deer areas to take seven deer, six of which must  
**26** be antlerless;

**27**

**28** 3. Expand the early primitive weapon season for deer to include increased hunting  
**29** areas, later dates to accommodate crop harvest, and increase number of days;

**30**

**31** 4. Decrease the cost of deer permits and successive permits for deer should not  
**32** require additional fees;

**33**

**34** 5. Make nuisance permits more available and consistent across all counties, and  
**35** make improvements by removing the restriction that hunters must live in the  
**36** county or contiguous county; making the permits available to control the damage  
**37** prior to the damage being severe; and making the number of permits available to a  
**38** landowner commensurate with the damage incurred and land acreage affected;

**39**

**40** 6. Exclude agricultural crop land as a component in the equation determining deer  
**41** range carrying capacity;

**42**

**43** 7. Establish a target population level on a county-by-county basis and allow deer to  
**44** be harvested until that number is achieved;

**45**

**46** 8. Allow bow hunters to hunt an additional one-half hour in the evening; and

**47**

**48** 9. Expand the Turn in a Poacher, Inc. (TIP) program to include more educational  
**49** television spot commercials encouraging hunting with permission.

**50**

**51** We encourage the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife to use  
**52** a two tier license which would set hunting tag fees; for example, antler (buck) tag \$40;  
**53** antlerless deer tag, \$5.

**54**

**55** We support the reintroduction of in-season nuisance permits for does.

**56**

**57** We support a regulated bow-hunting season within the state and metro park systems.

**58**

**59** The term “deer” as it pertains to the Division of Wildlife should be defined as wild  
**60** white tail deer.

**61**

**62** We support any legislation in conjunction with the Division of Wildlife to allow the  
**63** first day of gun season to be on Sunday to give private landowners only the first chance  
**64** of exercising their right to hunt on their own property, and following all current hunting  
**65**

1 rules and regulations while protecting their property rights, thus giving them an  
2 opportunity to take immediate family members and children hunting with less risk of  
3 harm and no educational days missed.

4 We support a university research project that will compare wildlife damage to crops  
5 (including hay) to controlled crop areas.

6 We encourage legislation to reduce the deer population in Ohio to 250,000. We  
7 encourage landowners to facilitate this goal by allowing hunters on their property.

8 To achieve the 250,000 population ODNR should consider any or all of the following  
9 suggestions:

- 10 1. We encourage having a doe-only season and a three-day muzzle loaded deer  
11 season the last week of October.
- 12 2. We support an open season from September to April on antlerless deer until the  
13 population reaches a desired level.
- 14 3. Professional outfitters should be allowed additional deer tags to issue to clients to  
15 encourage more hunting and increase income opportunities to landowners.
- 16 4. We support a longer hunting season or a special two-week season for farmers and  
17 property owners.

18 We support efforts to work with the Division of Wildlife to develop and implement a  
19 program whereby deer killed may be donated to food banks across the state.

20 ODNR needs to develop a crop indemnity program to compensate landowners for  
21 loss and damage.

22  
23 **Ground Hog** **442.76**

24  
25 Because of damage to crops, building, and machinery, we recommend the Ohio  
26 Department of Natural Resources find methods to greatly reduce the ground hog  
27 population.

28 We support the discretionary use of lethal devices for the control of ground hogs.

29  
30 **Raccoon** **442.77**

31  
32 We support year-round hunting season on raccoon until the population is at an  
33 appropriate level.

34 We support classifying raccoons and muskrats as a pest.

35  
36 **Black Vultures** **442.78:R08**

37  
38 We support programs to reduce black vultures.

39 We oppose the \$100 permit fee to kill black vultures.

40 Farmers experiencing black vulture related livestock losses in one year should be  
41 allowed to apply for a control permit prior to the next calving and lambing season.

42 We recommend that Ohio wildlife officers be authorized to issue damage control  
43 permits for black vultures instead of the federal fish and game officials in order to  
44 expedite the permitting process.

45

**1 Feral Swine**

**442.79:R07**

**2**

**3** We urge the State of Ohio to take actions necessary to eradicate the feral hog  
**4** population.

**5** We support making it illegal to import, maintain or hunt wild/feral hogs at private  
**6** hunting preserves and/or releasing hogs to roam at-large.

