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1 **FORWARD**

2 The family farm is the cornerstone of our state’s policy as well as the basis for a
3 strong American society. The Utah Farmers Union (www.utahfarmersunion.com) is
4 formed for the purpose of strengthening the family farm through dissemination of
5 information important to the viability of production agriculture and the consumers we
6 serve. To carry out the basic objectives of this association of Utah farmers and ranchers
7 and to secure value for production, we work to:

- 8 1) Improve the methods of safe and ethical production and distribution of
9 farm products from agricultural producers both large and small.
- 10 2) Provide family farms the opportunity to earn a profit through
11 individual effort and the use of sound management practices.
- 12 3) To achieve positive public recognition and economic security for
13 families in production agriculture.

14
15
16 **INTRODUCTION**

17
18 We believe that the public is interested in learning more about where and how
19 their food is produced. Utah Farmers Union is committed through its policies and
20 programs to improve the social and economic status of the family farmer and our
21 relationship with the consumer through education, legislation and cooperation.

22
23 Secretary Vilsak’s support of agriculture:
24 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjYVTLOJCxo>

25
26 The Utah Farmers Union believes the family farm system of agriculture is the
27 most efficient producer of food and fiber this nation and the world has ever known. This
28 system has produced for the needs of our nation in addition to contributing large amounts
29 of food and fiber to feed and clothe the world. In performing this essential service for
30 mankind, producing farmers should be provided, by law, the authority to regulate
31 production and to promote consumption to meet demand, while insuring cost of
32 production prices, for an adequate return on investment. Throughout this great nation’s
33 history, family owned and operated agriculture has provided firm ground upon which our
34 democracy’s foundations are built. This ground must remain intact and firm for America
35 to remain free, strong and self-sustaining.

36
37 The number of persons making a full-time living on farm and ranch operations,
38 less than 1 percent of the population in the United States, has been declining drastically
39 for the past several generations. We recognize that many factors have contributed to the
40 decline of those making a living in America’s most necessary industry. Some of the
41 reasons for the decline of American family farms include

- 42 1. Lack of profitability or return on investment
- 43 2. Input costs such as fuel, fertilizer, seed, equipment, feed and labor
- 44 3. Market manipulation – Corporate consolidation
- 45 4. New Technology
- 46 5. Restrictive Government Regulations
- 47 6. Urban Growth

49 **Utah Farmers Union is Committed to Help Our Consumers Understand That**

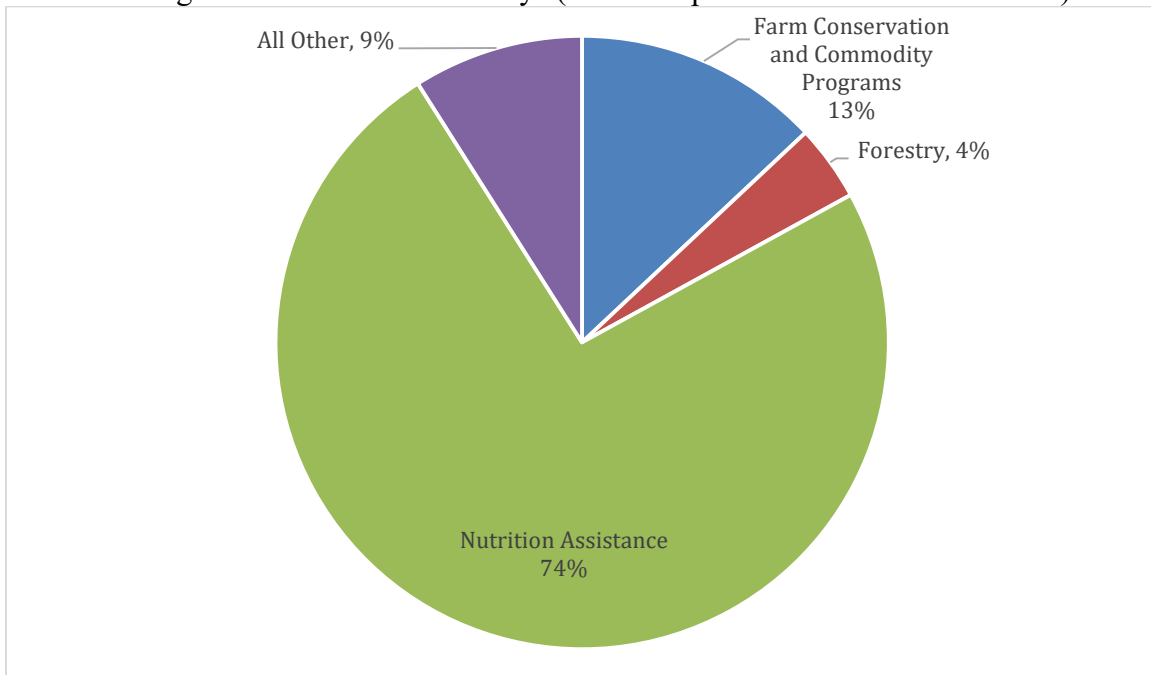
50

- 51 1. Consumers spend approximately 10% of their disposable income on food, the
52 lowest of any nation. Only a small portion of what the consumer spends on food
53 actually reaches the farmer.
- 54 2. The family farmer is a major consumer of goods. Farm production is an annually
55 renewable resource that stimulates the entire economy. When family farm
56 income approaches par with the non-farm sector, farm purchases create millions
57 of jobs.
- 58 3. Family farm agriculture is a major producer of new wealth and economic growth
59 derived from farm products.
- 60 4. International farm trade is critical to the U.S. balance of trade since farm exports
61 have a major positive impact on our growing trade imbalance.
- 62 5. The average age of the family farmer (63 years) continues to increase, while entry
63 into farming by young families as their chosen profession is declining due to high
64 capital investment and low rates of return on investment.

65

66

Figure 1. 2022 USDA Outlays (Amount spent from each USDA dollar)



67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75


76

77

78

Source: USDA Budget Summary
















The Farmers Share of the Food Dollar


National Farmers Union

 Visit nfu.org to learn more
UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

The Farmer's Share

Did you know that farmers and ranchers receive only 14.3* cents of every food dollar that consumers spend? According to the USDA, off farm costs including marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing account for more than 80 cents of every food dollar spent in the United States.

Bacon 1 lb.  Retail: \$6.49 Farmer: \$1.07	Top Sirloin Steak 1 lb.  Retail: \$10.49 Farmer: \$1.98	Bread 2 lbs.  Retail: \$3.99 Farmer: \$0.19	Fresh Carrots 5 lbs.  Retail: \$3.99 Farmer: \$2.10	Beer 6-pack cans  Retail: \$9.99 Farmer: \$0.05
Cereal 18 oz. box  Retail: \$4.99 Farmer: \$0.12	Tomatoes 1 lb.  Retail: \$2.99 Farmer: \$0.43	Eggs 1 dozen  Retail: \$2.19 Farmer: \$0.90	Flour King Arthur, 5 lbs.  Retail: \$3.49 Farmer: \$0.60	Boneless Ham 1 lb.  Retail: \$12.28 Farmer: \$1.07
Lettuce 1 lb.  Retail: \$2.99 Farmer: \$0.19	Milk 1 gallon, fat free  Retail: \$3.79 Farmer: \$1.55	Fresh Apples 1 lb.  Retail: \$1.50 Farmer: \$0.76	Fresh Potatoes Russet, 5 lbs.  Retail: \$6.99 Farmer: \$1.30	Soda 2 liters  Retail: \$0.99 Farmer: \$0.08

Farmer's share derived from USDA, NASS "Agricultural Prices," 2021. | Prices based on October 2021 data. Retail prices based on Seaway (SE) brand except where noted. | *Figure according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service

November 30, 2021

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 n f u . o r g / t o p i c s / b l o g

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86 **ORGANIZATION**

87 **The Utah Farmers Union recognizes that only through a strong cooperation**
88 **between farm organizations and consumers can we achieve the objectives set forth**
89 **in annual policy. We encourage all members and officers of the organization to**
90 **promote growth in an effort to increase the effectiveness of the state and national**
91 **organization. The directors should hold annual drives to increase membership and**
92 **educate people to the benefits of belonging to Utah Farmers Union. All members**
93 **should use National Farmers Union Insurance Companies for their insurance needs.**
94

95
96 **INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP**

97 The Utah Farmers Union favors the concept of a unified influence on legislation
98 affecting agricultural policies. Leadership of all major general farm organizations must
99 work together on specific issues to solve economic problems facing today’s farmers and
100 ranchers. These organizations should unite for a unified, nation-wide farm voice and
101 support bargaining and marketing associations, allowing agriculture to better compete
102 with other segments of the economy to obtain a fair price for their commodities.
103

104 None of the farm organizations need lose their identity. They all have one thing
105 in common, all farm groups work for family farmers and ranchers. The time has come
106 for agricultural industry leaders to formulate a positive plan of action.
107
108

109 **UTAH FARMERS UNION CURRENT CONCERNS AND ISSUES**

110 **Animal and Plant Patents**

111 The Utah Farmers Union is opposed to laws allowing payments of patent royalties
112 for existing plant and animal gene pools. Farmers and ranchers have, through
113 generations of good management, developed gene pools of quality plants and animals.
114 While continuing private and University research into plant and animal improvements, if
115 new genetic breakthroughs are discovered, we believe the higher cost should be at the
116 time of purchase of the patent and not in following generations. We believe the results
117 from research conducted using public funds should become public domain.
118

119 **Biotechnology**

120 New technology is being developed through biotechnology to help return
121 profitability to farmers, ranchers and a safe food supply to the consumer. We support the
122 Utah State Legislature’s continued funding and support of the Utah Agriculture
123 Experiment Station. We further recommend that any genetically modified product be
124 prevented from being marketed until Food and Drug Administration (FDA) studies
125 confirm the health and safety of the product and approves such a change.
126

127 **Crop Insurance**

128 We support the continuation of federal crop insurance program and recommend it
129 be available for all crops to all producers.
130

131 The federal crop insurance law providing for expanded coverage throughout the
132 nation needs to be fully understood by producers. We encourage farmers to report annual
133 production yields.

134 **Energy**

135 Utah Farmers Union recognizes the importance of domestic energy production
136 and promotes the increased use of renewable and sustainable energy resources.

137
138 We favor federal policies that assure farmers and ranchers full energy needs for
139 agricultural production at fair and reasonable prices.

140 **Environment**

141
142 Farmers and ranchers are true environmentalists having to derive their living from
143 the earth. Prior to passage of any environmental or pollution control measure, a
144 reasonable analysis of beneficial impacts must be considered so standards are not set
145 which are unreasonable as to their costs to producers and society. Federal environmental
146 agency rules should be consistent with congressional intent.

147
148 We support individual state control of agricultural environmental standards. Due
149 to differences in soils, climate, water, etc., it is inappropriate for rigid environmental
150 standards to be set without consideration to geographical difference.

151
152 We support continued funding of environmental incentive programs, and
153 commend those who continue to make these funds available. We also feel farmers
154 should be recognized for their contributions to a better environment. This policy must
155 recognize that the cost of conserving our natural resources is a social cost.

156 **Farm Service Agency-United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

157
158 The Utah Farmers Union believes it is necessary to have a long-term farm
159 program with incentives for food producers to encourage their participation. Stable
160 policies must be used to sustain America's family farms and ranches. See pages 1 and 2
161 (on USDA Outlays and Figure 1 on USDA budget). Currently, 17 percent (USDA) of
162 funds from the farm bill support production agriculture. We support education that will
163 inform the public and help them understand the funding of social programs associated
164 with the farm bill. Benefits from farm legislation and programs should be directed
165 towards maintaining a financially healthy family agriculture and an associated prosperous
166 rural community.

167
168 We maintain our belief that the administration of farm programs should be in the
169 hands of local county elected farmers to the greatest extent possible.

170
171 The Farm Bill should provide a timely mechanism to stabilize the farm industry
172 and the rural economy. To meet the needs of agriculture, farm legislation must have its
173 focal point of improving net farm income. A better safety net needs to be addressed for
174 actual agriculture producers. The full body of Congress needs to be educated of the need
175 to stabilize production now. Congress must be willing to revisit and revise the farm bill
176 when the need is apparent.

179 County and state FSA Committees should be given flexibility in the application of
180 any National Farm programs to make those programs applicable to the local areas. Utah
181 Farmers Union supports State and County Committees to continue on the local level, as
182 currently functioning.

183
184 Utah Farmers Union calls for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to
185 provide timely and adequate assistance programs for family farm operations, including:
186 loan guarantees, adequate funding, flexible loan repayment authority and other programs
187 that may be necessary under current economic conditions.

188 **Farm Loan Programs**

189 We urge FSA to continue to provide direct lending to beginning farmers and
190 guarantee programs to existing farmers. FSA should play a central role in providing loan
191 funds to enable previous owners to exercise their rights of first refusal and help beginning
192 and restarting farmers to buy land.

193
194
195 There needs to be a streamlining of the time and paper work at the local county
196 offices, with county loan officers providing timely filing and notification of loan status.
197 We encourage the implementation of electronic correspondence. Farm lenders should
198 provide beginning and underserved farmers access to low interest monies. The Federal
199 government should provide agricultural lenders with low interest funds to help provide an
200 incentive to producers in times of extreme economic hardship.

201
202 Agricultural lenders should have access to funding programs available to
203 businesses and similar to municipal bonds, which incur low interest costs. The Utah
204 Farmers Union urges the Federal government to provide incentives to lenders to help
205 agriculture succeed. We oppose any effort to extend farm credit system lending authority
206 to foreign enterprises.

207 **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

208 Utah Farmers Union favors continuing the CRP program. FSA requires a
209 maintenance operation to be done at least twice during the life of the contract. The four
210 recommended methods are burning, mechanical clipping, light disking or managed
211 grazing. The first three options can be detrimental to wildlife and their habitat.
212 Therefore, we support the use of managed grazing as a preferred option for maintenance
213 under the direction of FSA and NRCS for CRP contracts in Utah.

214 **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

215
216 The Food Stamp Program is a way for qualifying Americans to receive a
217 wholesome food diet. We urge continuation as enacted by Congress with proper
218 distribution and supervision. We recommend that practices relating to production
219 agriculture be separated from the USDA food assistance programs. See Figure 1 on
220 USDA vs Production Agriculture and other USDA Programs on pages 1 and 2.

221 **Trade Agreements**

222
223 As our national leaders pursue more Free Trade Agreements, Utah Farmers Union insists
224 that no agreement be considered that will have negative financial implications to any
225 segment of production agriculture.
226

227
228 We support fair trade as long as all trading partners play by the same rules -
229 including labor, environmental, health, safety and currency standards.

230
231 We recommend a responsible monitoring program be on line as a result of all free
232 trade agreements to avoid an adverse effect on family farms.

233
234 1. Exports Because of the expanding imbalance of trade deficits, major policy
235 considerations must be explored to regain and expand our agricultural exports.
236 We encourage the federal government to ship U.S. produced agricultural
237 commodities to developing nations rather than dollars. This will provide support
238 to countries and individuals in need, while enabling family farms to remain
239 profitable. We support measures to initiate a fair-trade policy with our trading
240 partners to improve farm income rather than depress it.

241
242 2. Imports: Fair trade agreements should level the playing field with America's
243 trading partners. America's family farmers and ranchers should not have to
244 compete with cheap, lower quality imports from countries that pay little or no
245 attention to environmental and labor standards, and who manipulate currency to
246 benefit trading arrangements.

247
248 3. World Trade Organization(WTO): The Utah Farmers Union supports the efforts
249 of National Farmers Union to be involved in WTO negotiations. However, Utah
250 Farmers Union opposes actions by the WTO that erodes the right of our nation to
251 negotiate our position to establish domestic farm policies or impose fees, taxes or
252 fines.

253
254 4. Trade Deficit Imbalance: The Utah Farmers Union requests that the President of
255 the United States use his executive authority and provide leadership in policy
256 direction to bring about a more equitable balance of trade for the U.S.

257
258 Trade should be conducted on fair market value. The balance of trade deficit
259 should be considered with the federal deficit as a top national priority. The use of
260 agricultural commodities in international trade would be a major item in bringing
261 into balance the trade deficit. However, commodity prices should not be
262 sacrificed for the sake of export volume. The Utah Farmers Union believes
263 stimulating farm sales and income from this renewable resource will provide new
264 jobs and help balance trade.

265 266 **Right to Bear Arms**

267 We support and defend the right of each law-abiding citizen to keep and bear
268 arms as guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States. We also support any
269 educational programs, such as the Utah Hunters Safety Program and other programs that
270 teach gun safety and the right to keep and bear arms responsibly. We encourage all gun
271 owners to be diligent with the safety of their firearms at all times.

272

273 **Rural Health Care**

274 The Utah Farmers Union is concerned about the health care system in rural Utah.
275 The ability to maintain and recruit rural health care providers is important. We support:

- 276
- 277 1) Financial recruitment of rural health care providers
 - 278 2) Student loan repayments for health care providers locating in rural
279 communities.
 - 280 3) State sponsored grants for those contracting to locate in rural
281 communities and/or other methods of strengthening rural health care
282 services.
- 283

284 Medical insurance costs have become a major cost of farming and ranching
285 families. With increasing premium costs, we believe these expenses should be 100% tax
286 deductible for self-employed farmers and ranchers.

287

288 **School Lunch Program**

289 We support the School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and ask Congress to
290 provide adequate funds and encourage all school districts to participate and use milk and
291 “real” dairy products, including flavored milk. We also advocate real meat products and
292 100% U.S. produced products in the school lunch program.

293

294 **Domestic Food Products**

295 We support the exclusive use of domestic grown food for our service men and
296 women as well as other government agencies and programs, whenever and wherever
297 possible.

298

299 **Social Security**

300 The Utah Farmers Union supports the National Farmers Union in its efforts to
301 protect social security for retired farmers and ranchers. We further propose the
302 following:

303

- 304 a. We oppose the diversion of Social Security funds to other federal budget
305 items.
 - 306 b. That all contributions made into Social Security Trust Fund be invested at
307 prevailing interest rates.
 - 308 c. That every contributor to Social Security has an individual accounting of
309 contributions with interest during productive years.
 - 310 d. That benefits be indexed directly to contributions made with interest earned
311 and that minimum benefits not be withheld.
 - 312 e. That Social Security is used for the purpose it was intended.
 - 313 f. We recommend that all employed persons in any segment of our economy pay
314 into the Social Security Program.
- 315

316 We support the use of individual retirement accounts and believe the KEOGH and
317 IRA plans should not be subjected to an income tax. The rate of withdrawal should be at
318 the option of the individual concerned.

319

320 **Soil & Water Conservation**

321 We support State and Federal soil and water conservation programs designed to
322 promote watershed health and protect our soil and water resources from erosion,
323 contamination and encroachment from development and municipalities. We support
324 expanded efforts such as the Grazing Improvement Program, Water Optimization Grant,
325 Utah Partners for Conservation Development and those of local conservation districts,
326 which has created incentives to ranchers and farmers, to promote conservation practices.
327 We favor low interest loan programs be made available at the state level which could be
328 used for conservation programs. In addition, we support the expansion of the Utah
329 Association of Conservation Districts.

330

331 We encourage Congress to maintain its commitment to conservation by funding
332 the Natural Resource Conservation Service at adequate levels so NRCS can continue its
333 vital efforts. We support the Conservation Reserve Program and Conservation Security
334 Program and recommend increased funding for Agriculture Environmental Programs.

335

336 **Utilities (Public & Private)**

337 We support research into all other sources of renewable energy and that it is
338 developed as quickly as possible. Utility companies are encouraged to develop and use
339 “Green” power at equitable rates, including bioenergy produced from agricultural waste.
340 State and Federal governments should provide an environment for encouraging
341 alternative energy to the same degree as existing energy producing companies have
342 participated in. This is including but not limited to, loans, loan guarantees, grants, carbon
343 credits, investment credits and depletion allowance.

344

345 We believe that every effort should be made to keep the agriculture utility rates as
346 low as possible. Utility costs, as a part of the cost of production, are jeopardizing the
347 economic survival of food producers because rate increases are impossible for farmers to
348 pass on to the consumer. Profit margins for agriculture are lower than other industries.

349

350 We support the concept of elected members of the Public Service Commission
351 elected from representative districts to better reflect the needs of the people. A
352 commission member needs to represent Agricultural needs.

353

354 We are opposed to a foreign corporation owning and controlling our public
355 utilities.

356

357 We support the extension of broadband service to underserved, rural
358 communities.

359

360 **Rural Utilities Service**

361 Farmers Union has always supported the farm community in their endeavors for
362 better living conditions and has supported electric, telephone and broadband cooperatives
363 for the great service they perform for the people of rural America.

364

365 The Utah Farmers Union favors continuation of the existing Rural Utilities
366 Service (RUS) programs. Relatively inaccessible areas should be electrified and received
367 telephone and broadband communications service at a reasonable cost. The established

368 right of rural electric cooperatives to serve patrons other than farmers and rancher must
369 be fully protected from encroachment by private power companies.

370
371 Since 1906, Congress has repeatedly decreed by statute that non-profit
372 cooperative and public bodies, many of which serve small communities and sparsely
373 populated rural areas, be granted preference in the sale of federal power so that:

- 374
375 1. They will have a reliable source of power at affordable cost.
376 2. The benefits of federal power will flow directly to consumers.
377 3. Federal power will constitute a competitive force in the retail energy market.

378
379 Federal courts as a lawful exercise of congressional power have repeatedly upheld
380 this preference in the sale of federal power to public bodies and cooperatives.

381
382 We strongly support the preference principle of federal power marketing.
383 Proposals to turn over public power resources to private utilities are counter-productive to
384 the public good. We are opposed to turning hydroelectric generation systems that have
385 been paid for by water and power users to the private utilities.

386
387

388 **STATE & NATIONAL ISSUES**

389 **Animal Husbandry**

390 Sound animal husbandry practices by producers are essential to maintain safe, and
391 proper management of livestock, including adequate food, shelter, handling, and care.

392
393 Utah Farmers Union will oppose any effort to mandate unreasonable livestock
394 production management practices. UFU opposes further restrictive regulations from
395 counties on legally permitted Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) and Concentrated
396 Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO).

397
398 We support the use of animals in public and private research institutions as a
399 method of improving human health.

400

401 **Education**

402 We favor federal assistance to education with a minimum of federal control.
403 Authority should be assumed by state and local school districts.

404

405 We are opposed to further cuts in the Vocational Education budgets including
406 High School Vocational Agriculture programs, especially cuts that will reduce the
407 effectiveness of the Agricultural Extension Service and Agricultural Research budgets.
408 These programs are vital to ensure that agriculture remain productive and profitable.

409

410 We believe that we should provide our children with a good education. It is not
411 realistic to provide major increases from raising property taxes and sales taxes on
412 production items and equipment, which places an unfair burden on agriculture. We
413 believe additional use should be made of the income tax to fund education and support

414 revision of the family deduction in higher income levels so larger families with adequate
415 income can help pay more of the cost.

416
417 We are concerned that the present system for federally funded student aid
418 programs discriminate against farm families because of farm assets. We believe student
419 aid should look at net income to be fair.

420
421 We support the Ag in the Classroom program and advocate all subjects presented
422 be valid examples of production agriculture.

423
424 We endorse the adoption of English as the official language of the State of Utah
425 and the United States of America. All public services, including primary education,
426 should be conducted in English.

427

428 **Extension & Research**

429 Utah Farmers Union supports continued funding of the Extension program. The
430 objective of future extension and research must be to provide programs that improve the
431 net income of producers while continuing to be a resource for the general public.
432 Research and Extension must concentrate on new technology, marketing, production of
433 better-quality commodities while maintaining and improving the environment.

434

435 **Young Farmers & Ranchers Education**

436 Agriculture is the backbone of our society and this industry can only remain vital
437 through the entry of more young farmers. We urge the State and National Farmers Union
438 to support Young Farmer and Rancher Education programs through 4-H and FFA
439 programs. We support a closer working relationship with 4-H clubs and FFA chapters to
440 encourage agricultural education, scholarships and proficiency. The Utah Farmers Union
441 strives to improve its youth education programs within the organization.

442

443 **Flood Control**

444

445 We believe that local, state and federal agencies must work together to

- 446
- 447 • develop and maintain a long-term flood control plan.
 - 448 • develop water resource management.
 - 449 • support upstream control of excess water.

449

450 These changes will benefit agricultural producers as well as other industry and citizens
451 for the future growth in our state.

452

453 As urban growth causes excess water run-off, cities and counties should be
454 responsible for maintaining drainage facilities so that farm ground and canal systems are
455 not damaged. We support legislation that will protect farmers and private canal
456 companies from significant liability and high costs of improvements in the event of
457 development encroachment in or around existing irrigation systems. Mandated
458 improvements on water systems must mitigate expenses to agricultural stockholders.

459

460 **Immigration**

461 Farmers need a guest worker program that is legal, simple, fair, and preserves the
462 dignity of the worker.

463
464 Immigrant labor has historically been a part of agriculture. This need is even
465 greater today. The current political impasse creates a hardship for our farmers as well as
466 immigrant employees.

467
468 We are in support of securing our national borders, and recognize the need for
469 legislation on both sides of the issue (enforcement and guest worker program).

470
471 Economic growth, continued urbanization, demographic and cultural changes, and
472 other factors have limited the traditional pool of labor for agriculture in America. At the
473 same time, a broken immigration system and excessive red tape make it difficult to obtain
474 legal immigrant workers.

475
476 The only way to address the immigration issues is to implement real, comprehensive
477 national immigration reform that provides a way for farmers and other employers to find
478 the workers they need legally **We demand that the Federal government pass**
479 **legislation on comprehensive immigration reform.**

480
481 **Media**

482 We support the constitution of the United States and its First Amendment
483 guarantee of freedom of speech. However, the Utah Farmers Union demands responsible
484 reporting and journalism based on fact, not sensationalism. Our food supply, the highest
485 quality and most abundant in the world today, is too important to be victimized by
486 irresponsibility.

487
488 We encourage Farmers Union members, and other agricultural organizations to
489 use the media, including social media, and other resources to educate the public of the
490 importance of agriculture.

491
492 **Noxious Weeds**

493 The Utah Farmers Union supports state and county weed laws and the
494 enforcement of such laws to help control a growing problem. We recommend that our
495 members strive to maintain all farms free from noxious weeds and work with local and
496 county weed committees to identify and resolve problems.

497
498 State, federal, railroad, utility rights of way, highway systems and other
499 landowners must comply with the same laws as farmers and ranchers in weed control
500 programs to help control the spread of noxious weeds.

501
502 We recommend that the owners of land in the CRP program control the weeds.
503 The state and federal government should control and eliminate all noxious weeds on their
504 lands. We also believe that money should be appropriated to Utah State University to
505 further research the possibility of creating the rust that will eradicate dyers woad. Any
506 areas that are declared wetlands should be kept noxious weed free. We also support

507 efforts to eradicate tamarisk, Russian olive, phragmites, rush skeletonweed, Medusahead
508 rye as well as and other invasive and noxious plants.

509

510 **Predator Control**

511 Since the 1931, Animal Damage Control Act mandated that the federal
512 government shall protect the livestock industry from predatory loss, we recommend this
513 historical intent be carried out through adequate funding and agency commitment.
514 Stockmen are under severe stress because of predator loss and limitations on control
515 measures.

516

517 We oppose the introduction of wolf populations in the State We favor the use of
518 aerial gunning in winter; trapping and other control measures and believe they must be
519 continued on state, federal and with permission on private lands to control coyotes, and
520 other predators. This will protect the livestock industry and guarantee an abundance of
521 food and fiber for Americans.

522

523 We urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture and EPA to maintain other control
524 measures now available. If adequate commitment to a workable Animal Damage Control
525 (ADC) program is not available to stockmen, we recommend that a federally financed
526 indemnity program be instituted to reimburse stockmen for losses at one hundred percent
527 of full value.

528

529 **Wildlife Damage**

530 We support indemnity programs that will compensate farmers and ranchers for
531 economic losses caused by wildlife to crops, range land, and livestock.

532

533 The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, charged with managing the wildlife
534 population, must be more receptive to local input. In recent years, wildlife populations
535 have increased, putting greater pressure on private property. Herd size needs to be based
536 on winter range carrying capacity. Rangeland should be included with farmland in
537 depredation and the \$2,000 limit should be removed. We support the Utah Wildlife
538 board, as it is now established with both farmers and ranchers on the board. We are
539 opposed to any non-consumptive group serving on either committee.

540

541 Farmers and ranchers are good stewards of the land and have considerable
542 knowledge about wildlife management, habitat, economics and the natural resources of
543 our state and private lands.

544

545 **Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)**

546 Utah Farmers Union supports the DWR continued management of wildlife in
547 Utah. Whereas DWR is the most active government agency in Utah purchasing private
548 lands, Utah Farmers Union requests that the legislature conduct trend studies to
549 determine if the purpose of the acquisition of these private lands have been fulfilled and
550 to determine if these lands would be more viable being placed in private ownership with
551 conservation easements in place.

552

553 We also believe that the Utah Department of Natural Resources has the
554 responsibility to control game animals or compensate stockmen and farmers for their
555 losses.

556

557 **Endangered Species**

558 Utah Farmers Union supports protection of endangered species. But in all cases
559 the federal government should first allow local working groups and state plans to work
560 before federal restrictions are levied. Any recovery plan should not restrict or curtail
561 resource use and the local economies that depend on the land to support their livelihoods.
562 Federal actions over the past 30-years under ESA have not shown much progress. The
563 federal government should trust in its citizens to do the right thing without federal
564 intervention. Environmental groups who protest ESA actions should not be allowed to
565 collect any revenue from the federal government by using the Equal Access to Justice
566 statutes unless they can prove harm to species by actions implemented by federal
567 agencies. The designation of critical habitat "provides little real conservation benefit, and
568 is driven by litigation rather than biology, it forces designations to be made before
569 complete scientific information is available" and "imposes huge social and economic
570 costs on the government and on occasion private property owners. Critical habitat should
571 not be designated unless endangered species are present in the area on either private or
572 public lands. Private property owners should be compensated for the loss of the habitat
573 they provide for endangered species recovery. No species should be designated unless
574 clear proof of need is demonstrated and a plan for restoration is present. Listing should
575 be dropped and state control of the species should be enacted as soon the rehabilitation
576 criteria are met.

577

578 Predator control must be considered when implementing programs for threatened
579 or endangered species populations.

580

581 **Public Lands**

582 We believe that public lands must remain open to fulfill the concept of multiple
583 use. Many range operators are required to travel by motor vehicle to maintain a viable
584 ranching operation. If access is limited, the multiple-use concept is adversely impacted.
585 Administrative access and maintenance of range improvements shall be allowed on all
586 grazing allotments by administrative use including WSA's (Wilderness Study Areas).
587 We firmly believe that the dollar value of federal grazing permits be recognized equally
588 by all federal agencies. We recognize the increased number of wild horses and burros on
589 public lands are competing for limited grazing resources and encourage prudent
590 management.

591

592 Utah Farmers Union recommends that Congress continues to support the Public
593 Rangeland Improvement Act fee formula enacted in 1978, which reflects fair market
594 value of the permit through indexes and equitably compensates the federal government
595 for use of the public lands. We further believe that when the public lands grazing fees are
596 discussed and evaluated, the total cost of grazing should be used, including; herding, lost
597 animal, transportation, salting, labor costs, and watering not just the cash fee collected by
598 the government.

599

600 We believe Taylor Grazing funds, along with other state and federal range
601 improvement funds, should be designated for on-site improvements to improve grazing
602 areas for domestic livestock. Minimal expense should be used for administration of these
603 funds.

604
605 We believe that any cost incurred because of a change of use of property should
606 be the responsibility of the new owner.

607
608 We believe the state, federal and private landowners should work closely in
609 improving rangelands as a vital renewable resource. We support the Utah Agricultural
610 Resource Development Loan Program and further recommend a portion of the state
611 mineral lease funds be appropriated specifically for this use.

612
613 Public lands being sold at auctions should allow priority to individuals receiving a
614 majority of their income from farming. Privatization of some public lands is a viable
615 alternative but should be handled at the state level with permittee guaranteed the first
616 right of refusal to buy saleable land. Proceeds from these sales should remain at the state
617 and local levels.

618
619 Utah Farmers Union believes that before consideration is given to blocking of
620 public lands, protection and assurances must be given to the multiple-use concept and the
621 right of public land users. A comprehensive plan coordinated with county land use
622 management plans must be worked out with the input of local public land users to
623 guarantee the rights of livestock operators are protected. We believe all lands not
624 designated as wilderness by Congress should be managed under the multiple-use concept.

625
626 We are opposed to the designation of anymore wilderness in the State of Utah due
627 to the detrimental impact it has on ranching, rural communities, and the overall economy.

628
629 We are opposed to the designation of more monuments in the State of Utah.
630 Farmers Union supports the use of Congressional intervention of the use of the
631 Antiquities Act by the President. Any change of land use on public lands should stand
632 the scrutiny of NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) analysis.

633
634 User fees should be applied to other users of the public lands including
635 backpackers, recreationalists, wood harvesters, etc. We encourage State and Federal land
636 managers to reseed burned lands, to prevent encroachment by noxious weeds, prevent
637 flooding, and provide erosion control and to maintain viable grazing lands.

638
639 **Insect Control**

640 Concerning recent infestations of insects into the State of Utah and considering a
641 majority of the insects hatch on and migrate from federally owned lands, the Utah
642 Farmers Union believes it is imperative that the state and federal government coordinate
643 efforts. In order for grasshopper control to be successful, we support continued
644 commitment to the Rangeland Grasshopper Control Program utilizing a 50% cost sharing
645 formula on private and state lands while the federal government maintains responsibility
646 for the public lands it manages. Utah Farmers Union supports commitment to
647 grasshopper, Mormon crickets, black grass bug and other invasive species control.

648 Insect infestations should be treated as a natural disaster similar to floods,
649 hurricanes, etc. and federal assistance should be available in the form of grants.

650

651 **Transportation**

652 **We oppose the requirement for a MCS90 federal filings for farm vehicles, the**
653 **exemption for agriculture should be reinstated.**

654

655 The Utah Farmers Union encourages the State of Utah to accept the federal
656 guidelines and recommends that all states follow these guidelines to provide a uniform
657 national standard.

658

659 We are opposed to the law mandating commercial driver's licenses (CDL) for the
660 use of operating farm trucks used for private agriculture purposes, but encourage all
661 drivers to obtain a CDL.

662

663 Those trucks entering the United States from foreign countries should meet the
664 same safety inspection requirements and regulations that are required in the United
665 States.

666

667 **Water Policy**

668 Water plays a vital role in Utah's economy. We urge the State of Utah to
669 establish a sound water policy that is beneficial for the needs of agriculture and the
670 environment.

671

672 The Utah Farmers Union opposes any attempt by the federal government to claim
673 un-appropriated water originating on the federal lands or any lands acquired in the future
674 by the Federal Government.

675

676 The Great Salt Lake is in need of replenishment. ALL sectors of the economy
677 must contribute to the conservation measures to help replenish the lake.

678

679 We believe the water allocating methods in the State of Utah to control water
680 should not be altered.

681

682 Existing water user rights must be protected. Future and current water systems
683 must take into consideration the existing rights of water users.

684

685 We support the management and preservation of water levels within an aquifer to
686 prevent depletion of a primary water resource.

687

688 When the federal government builds projects requiring water originating within
689 the boundaries of the State of Utah, they should abide by the same laws as other water
690 users.

691

692 We recognize that water must be used for beneficial purposes with priorities for
693 the production of food and fiber. Utah Farmers Union supports State statutes that allow
694 grazing permittees to hold stock watering rights on federal lands.

694

695 Farmers Union believes state law should allow an exemption for the loss of water
696 rights for non-usage when land is placed in conservation programs such as the
697 Conservation Reserve Program or other production management programs. Water rights
698 must not be forfeited due to natural disaster or drought. We support the banking of
699 agricultural water.

700

701 We support the investigation of more water storage throughout the State as well
702 as any application or action that would enhance water storage and delivery.

703

704 We recognize the need for water development in the State of Utah. State and
705 Federal Agencies or private entities must compensate the landowner for agricultural land
706 that will be taken out of production, including land destroyed through a higher water
707 table. Just compensation should be provided to those forced to relocate, including
708 purchase of the entire operation if it is no longer economically feasible to operate,
709 including severance and relocation costs.

710

711 **Riparian Areas**

712 Utah Farmers Union believes management of riparian areas on public lands must
713 be consistent with the multiple-use concept. Congress has mandated that the public lands
714 be managed for multiple-use, and we believe any consideration to change Congressional
715 intent must first consider impacts on permittees, including permit cancellation, stock
716 limitation, fencing riparian areas, water development, and etc.

717

718 **Wetlands**

719 Government actions to protect or enhance wetlands should not encroach upon
720 private property rights.

721

722 We believe those private property owners and local Governments should have
723 greater control in the wetland issues. Any disagreement on interpretation of law must be
724 afforded all rights under law. Where any determination concerning wetlands conflicts
725 with private property rights, such determination must be with just compensation to the
726 property owner.

727

728 **Land & Natural Resource Ownership**

729 We believe that established agricultural enterprises must be protected from civil
730 harassment and nuisance suits.

731

732 Utah Farmers Union recommends all county and city councils adopt local
733 ordinances to allow landowners to file for Agricultural Protection Areas designated under
734 the current state law. We support and encourage strengthening State statutes that protect
735 responsible agricultural practices (Right to Farm).

736

737 We believe that the intrusion of non-farm, corporate enterprises into U.S. and
738 Utah agriculture is not in the best interest of the rural communities, family farmers and
739 consumers of our nation.

740

741 We must maintain viable family agriculture in rural America to produce sufficient
742 food and fiber.

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Families that own and control their land best protect the nation’s resources. In addition, government programs should enhance the interest of family farmers who are the primary stewards of the land.

Land use planning is the responsibility of the local government and not the state or federal government.

The rights of those affected by land zoning decisions must be fully protected at all levels of the decision-making process. The destruction of farm units should be avoided where possible. Agricultural districts could be formed in rural areas to help provide farmers with greater input into matters affecting land use.

We favor laws allowing agricultural land to be taxed according to agriculture use and not on speculative value.

County land use planning commissions should have at least one farmer or rancher member to provide agricultural input.

We oppose any efforts to create conservation easements without the consent and education of the private property owner.

We feel the use of eminent domain has and is abused by private companies. We hold that the proper use of eminent domain should be used only by local, state and federal government for those purposes outlined in the Constitution. Compensation made for eminent domain should not be taxable.

Farmland Assessment Act

We support the Farmland Assessment Act for the valuation of farmland for agricultural production and not for speculative purposes as presently in Utah law. We favor forgiveness of the rollback tax when farmland is taken through eminent domain. We oppose any changes to the greenbelt tax.

Mediation

We support the agricultural mediation program that has been set up through the Utah State Department of Agriculture and Food and urge its continuation. Mediation on matters concerning agriculture (private or public) should have at least one active producer as well as representation from concerned commodity groups.

Organic Production

Utah Farmers Union supports the production of certified organic crops and livestock on family farms.

The organic farm or ranch must be certified by an accredited state, national or international organization, with certification standards equal to or higher than national standards.

790 The State Department of Agriculture and Utah Farmers Union supports strong
791 legal action if fraud is discovered in the sale of crops and livestock products that are
792 misrepresented as organic or natural.

793
794 We recommend that the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food provide a full-
795 time Organic Certifier to oversee organic production in the State.

796 797 **Severance Tax**

798 We support state severance taxes on non-renewable natural resources, including
799 electricity, exported out of state. We also support a portion of those funds be used for
800 renewable resource improvement and development programs to be administered by the
801 Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

802 803 **Trespass**

804 The Utah Farmers Union believes the key to better landowners/sportsmen
805 relations is a strong and enforceable trespass law. We support the law that land must be
806 posted as accessible before it can be accessed. The Division of Wildlife must educate
807 hunters and enforce private property rights.

808
809 We urge the protection of landowners' private property rights. We believe a
810 small number of hunters do not respect an individual's right to post land for no hunting.
811 Illegal entry and damage reflecting on all sportsmen.

812
813 Posting of private property is a burden to the owners. Farmers and ranchers
814 should not be held liable for accidents to persons trespassing on private property, whether
815 posted or not.

816
817 Restitution and punitive fines should be required for destruction of private
818 property.

819 820 **Fencing**

821 The county legislative body of any county is authorized through State ordinance
822 to declare and enforce a general policy within the county for the fencing of farms,
823 subdivisions, or other private property, to allow domestic animals to graze without
824 trespassing on farms, subdivisions, or other private property. If such an ordinance is
825 adopted, the county legislative body shall through ordinance declare and specify what
826 constitutes a lawful fence. Such fence must be adequate for reasonable containment of
827 livestock. In all cases, responsible livestock owners should be committed to managing
828 their livestock. State regulations regarding strays and trespassing animals should be
829 complied with.

830 831 **Governor's Utah Agricultural Advisory Board**

832 We support the Utah Agriculture Advisory Board in its efforts to seek unity of
833 action among agricultural interests in seeking better economic conditions and legislation
834 conducive to the improvement of agriculture in Utah. Efforts should be made to include
835 all agricultural organizations.

836

837 **Utah Department of Agriculture & Food (UDAF)**

838 We urge the UDAF to implement legislation to promote the best interests of
839 family agriculture in our state. We applaud the UDAF's efforts to support agriculture
840 and their efforts to promote and facilitate marketing of "Utah's Own" farm commodities,
841 locally, nationally and internationally. We support the continuation and enhancement of
842 the Utah Market News Report.

843

844 **FINANCE**

845 **Federal Reserve**

846 We believe that all Federal Reserve appointments be limited to one five-year term
847 and urge that half of the appointees represent various segments of the economy, including
848 one bona-fide farmer, in addition to banking.

849

850 **TAXATION ISSUES**

851 We support sales tax and income tax as the proper method of financing
852 government. We oppose any increase in farm property taxes either through mill levies or
853 increased valuation.

854

855 Additional tax burdens on agricultural property without consideration of income
856 or profit derived from farm enterprises will jeopardize the ability of farm families to
857 survive in an already depressed farm economy.

858

859 Any additional school funding should not come from a property tax.

860

861 We support the investment tax credit, income averaging, and capital gain
862 provisions for agriculture and the ability to deduct state and federal taxes paid. We
863 recommend that an exemption be provided to agriculture on the mandatory state and
864 federal withholding tax. We support legislation that would extend the time period of
865 income tax liability and accelerated depreciation of breeding livestock and machinery.

866

867 **Estate and Inheritance Taxes**

868 We urge the federal government and states to abolish the estate and inheritance
869 taxes on family farms and small businesses where a direct family member continues the
870 operation of that farm or business.

871

872 **Sales Tax/VAT**

873 We are opposed to a national value added tax. We support a reasonable sales tax
874 on foods. We support the collection of sales tax on retail items purchased through
875 Internet sales and the partial remittance of revenues to the county or municipality where
876 the purchase was made.

877

878 **COOPERATIVES**

879 **Cooperatives**

880 We urge all of our members to wholeheartedly support Farmers Union affiliated
881 and farmer owned cooperatives in Utah. The cooperative is an extension of the farmers
882 business and should be treated as such in the administration of farm programs.

883 Therefore, the policy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture should be to give bonafide
884 farmer-owned cooperatives the key role in assembling and handling farm commodities
885 for foreign markets.

886

887 The farm cooperative is an effective method for producers to reduce their cost of
888 production, maintain a reliable source of inputs, and efficiently market and process their
889 products.

890

891 **Expansion of Cooperatives**

892 The promotion and encouragement of farm cooperatives should be given top
893 priority as an effective means of increasing farmers bargaining power.

894

895 Consistent with the long-established cooperative principles, voting rights should
896 be rigidly restricted to one vote for each member. Farmers Union cooperatives, and
897 others supported by our members, are urged to maintain their goals and operating policies
898 consistent with the income improvement ideals of Farmers Union. We urge our members
899 to get involved with local supply co-op and maintain input on local boards. We are
900 opposed to any legislation, which would weaken the present cooperative laws as set forth
901 in the Capper-Volstead Act. To accomplish this goal, the voting right provision should
902 be in compliance with Capper-Volstead and the dissenter's rights provision should be
903 amended out.

904

905 Expansion and consolidation of farmer-owned supply, service and marketing
906 cooperatives should be undertaken where such action allows co-ops to provide additional
907 service for patrons. Legislation should be enacted allowing cooperatives to develop
908 greater marketing power. We urge steps be taken to clarify statutory rights of co-ops in
909 regards to contracts involving the purchasing and marketing of farm commodities.

910

911 We believe that cooperatives are an extension of a farmer's business and are a
912 non-profit entity. As such, unresolved patronage dividends, refunds, etc., should not be
913 collected under the state's Unclaimed Property Act. We support efforts to amend this
914 law to allow those funds to remain in the farmer's co-ops to work for its members.

915

916 **Teamwork of Cooperatives & Farmers Union**

917 We urge the maximum use of cooperatives in handling reserves of farm
918 commodities for the nation's domestic food, fiber and energy needs and in implementing
919 the Food for Peace Program and in foreign trade. Farmer cooperatives have historically
920 shown their efficiency and effectiveness in assembling and distributing agricultural
921 production and supplies.

922

923 Mutual advantages and benefits accrue to Farmers Union membership and the
924 cooperative when we maintain a strong educational program on behalf of co-ops and
925 when co-ops in turn contribute educational funds to Farmers Union, as well as fostering
926 membership through a dues check off. We commend those cooperatives doing so and
927 urge our members to give their loyalty and patronage to those institutions.

928

929 We support the efforts of the Utah Council of Farm Cooperatives on behalf of
930 cooperative members through annual dues participation.

931

932 **COMMODITY GROUP ISSUES**

933 **Alfalfa**

934 The Utah Farmers Union believes that the amount of hay produced in Utah and
935 shipped out of state leaves farmers at risk for fraud from brokers. The State of Utah
936 should require a bond on all hay brokers equal to the dollar volume of hay purchased
937 yearly.

938

939 We support the state's efforts to develop and maintain an electronic hay market
940 reporting and listing service and encourage buyers and sellers to support the service.

941

942 We support the use of Round-up Ready alfalfa. We believe that the State should
943 have ongoing research with Utah State University (USU) to find alfalfa that is resistant to
944 disease and pests.

945

946 The State should also check into the cereal leaf beetle problem and try to work out
947 a solution with California to keep the market open. We believe that Utah Farmers Union,
948 with help of USU Extension, should develop programs to educate farmers on the control
949 of cereal leaf beetle.

950

951 **Beans**

952 We favor a loan program on all dry edible beans similar to the wheat loan
953 program with non-recourse loans.

954

955 **Animal Cell Culture**

956 Utah Farmers Union opposes the use of animal cell culture products to be labeled
957 and marketed as animal meat.

958

959 **Bees, Honey and Pollination**

960 Utah Farmers Union recognizes it is essential to support and accelerate research
961 on Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Utah Farmers Union supports the implementation,
962 management and development of honey- and pollinator-bee colonies.

963

964 **Beef**

965 We recommend that livestock entering our national borders on the hoof and meat
966 purchased from foreign sources should be included as part of the meat import quotas
967 allocated to foreign countries. We request that all foreign meat imported into the United
968 States be required to meet the same quality, sanitary and production requirements,
969 including drug residue, which apply to domestically produced meats.

970

971 We support the national, state and local beef councils and a reasonable increase in
972 federal check-off program including imported on the hoof and boxed beef or the industry
973 to obtain funds to use in their beef promotion activities. We believe this check-off should
974 be mandatory for all cattlemen to pay their fair share. The beef council should continue
975 to publish an annual financial report to assure producers that the money is being spent in
976 the promotion and selling of 100 percent real beef.

977

978 Utah Farmers Union supports efforts to control imports of Mexican and Canadian
979 cattle into the United States.

980

981 **Chickens and Turkeys**

982 We support state and national marketing orders managed and controlled by
983 Commodity groups whenever necessary to improve the economic position of that group.

984

985 We believe that a supply-management program should be initiated by vote of all
986 producers and only with the full and positive support of USDA in administration of the
987 program. Transfer of marketing allotments from one producer to another should be
988 limited to the state or producer/handler area where the allotment originated. We oppose
989 the transfer of allotments, which would replace or reduce the family-owned type of
990 operation.

991

992 We support poultry being under the Packers and Stockyards Act.

993

994 We support the Utah State 4-H and FFA Turkey Show Program.

995

996 **Dairy**

997 Given the nutritive and health benefits of one of nature's most perfect foods, we
998 encourage programs that help to maintain a strong and viable dairy industry. These
999 programs should be designed to allow producers to earn their cost of production plus a
1000 reasonable profit from the marketplace. It should provide a high quality, stable supply of
1001 dairy products to consumers, while at the same time providing a safety net for family
1002 dairy farmers in times of low prices.

1003

1004 We support full funding of the school milk program with emphasis on quality and
1005 choice, including flavored milk. Efforts should be increased to ensure that the milk is
1006 served cold. We support the use of re-sealable plastic containers in the school lunch
1007 program.

1008

1009 We contend that the only way to protect family dairy farmers' long term is an
1010 effective supply management program. We support full funding of dairy products in
1011 international assistance programs.

1012

1013 We support national mandatory price discovery of dairy product sales and
1014 inventory at manufacturing plants throughout the country and the use of this data in milk
1015 pricing. We encourage the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain and audit this
1016 information as to accuracy, and to provide severe penalties and compensation to
1017 producers if fraud is discovered.

1018

1019 We support efforts to distinguish between natural, imitation and substitute dairy
1020 products. We oppose any efforts that allow the use of dairy terms (i.e. milk, cream,
1021 cheese, cheddar, etc.) in labeling of imitation and substitute dairy products. We oppose
1022 the attempts of processors to change the identity standards of milk and cheese. The use
1023 of these terms is deceptive to consumers. We support the use of the "Real Seal" on all
1024 milk and dairy products.

1025

1026 We urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the FDA to require dairy product
1027 imports into the United States be produced and manufactured under the same quality
1028 standards as are required by domestic producers and that the cost of such inspections be
1029 born by the exporter or exporting country. All imported dairy products must be assessed
1030 an equitable amount for promotion. Imported dairy products should be required to have
1031 country of origin labeling.

1032
1033 We applaud the efforts of our national promotion boards to combine their efforts
1034 to avoid duplication and waste. We also ask that our promotion groups maintain their
1035 advertising of dairy products at high levels to increase commercial consumption and to
1036 help to maintain a stable market.

1037
1038 We support the national Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) program and
1039 encourage all producers to participate.

1040
1041 **Farmers Markets**

1042 Utah Farmers Union supports local farmers markets. These markets provide an
1043 excellent opportunity for local growers to market the produce they raise to people in their
1044 communities. Utah Farmers Union supports Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's
1045 "Utah's Own" program and USU Extension's Small Farms program that help and educate
1046 local growers and artisans provide plentiful, safe and healthy produce and prepared foods
1047 to the public.

1048
1049 **Fruits and Vegetables (Perishable)**

1050 Adequate funding should be provided to USU to continue frost forecasting,
1051 climatologically, insect and disease research essential to agriculture.

1052
1053 We support and encourage an aggressive fruit processing co-op and marketing
1054 program in the state.

1055
1056 We support and encourage the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food in its
1057 efforts to control the Apple and Cherry Maggot and the Gypsy Moth. We believe foreign
1058 imports must meet domestic quality standards.

1059
1060 **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)**

1061 We support GAP and other crop certification programs that ensure wholesome
1062 and safe products for the consumer. Producer education is needed to help producers
1063 become certified. We support USU Extension in its efforts to train producers and help
1064 them become certified. UFU supports cooperation with the National Farmers Union on
1065 funding and training for educational programs.

1066
1067 We support and encourage participation in UDAF's Agriculture Voluntary
1068 Incentive Program (AgVIP).

1069
1070 **Green House Industry**

1071 We believe Utah Farmers Union should help promote the Horticulture and
1072 Greenhouse Industry in Utah.

1073

1074 **Production Hemp**

1075 We support further research and education on the production and marketing of
1076 hemp in Utah.

1077

1078

1079

1080 **Meat Packer Concentration**

1081 Increasing market control into the hands of fewer and fewer packing firms has
1082 traditionally been viewed as damaging to the interests of both producers and consumers.
1083 In recent years, meat packer concentration has flourished under lax enforcement of anti-
1084 trust laws. Today, the four largest packers control in excess of 80 percent of the slaughter
1085 market. Federal Antitrust laws, the Packers and Stockyards Act and state laws should be
1086 enforced and strengthened to break up the monopoly that is currently controlled by three
1087 multinational conglomerates.

1088

1089 All food products coming into the United States must be subject to the same
1090 USDA inspections and regulations as similar food products grown in the United States.

1091

1092 More market information should be reported by packers to assist in the live cattle
1093 price discovery process. The industry's price discovery system/procedures must be
1094 mandatory, verifiable and auditable with substantial penalties if fraud is discovered.
1095 Producers should work to have appropriate government agencies redefine captive
1096 supplies from 14 day to 7 day limits between obligating cattle and the date when
1097 shipment occurs, and to restrict the ability of packers to feed cattle.

1098

1099 **Pork**

1100 We recommend a strong support for family owned and operated pork operations
1101 in Utah. We believe in seeking cooperative solutions to marketing, processing and value-
1102 added programs.

1103 We oppose vertical integration and CAFOs being cited in Utah without complete
1104 evaluation as to the impact to any pre-existing family farming operation.

1105

1106 We support the health testing of all swine coming into Utah. We support the
1107 concept that all Junior Livestock Swine Shows be terminal.

1108

1109 We furthermore call to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to uphold
1110 their stated mission of, "...promote the economic well being of Utah and her rural
1111 citizens by adding value to *our* agriculture products." (Emphasis added)

1112

1113 **Potatoes**

1114 We support the National Potato Promotion and Research Act. Legislation should
1115 be enacted which forbids processors of potatoes from the production of such
1116 commodities. We object to the practice of processors producing and processing
1117 agricultural commodities to manipulate and monopolize a specific commodity.

1118

1119 **Sheep and Wool**

1120 We support continued efforts to permanently reenact the Wool Act into the Farm
1121 Bill, with incentive levels based on parity or cost of production. Funds collected for this

1122 program are collected from tariffs on wool imports and are not a tax on the general public
1123 so these funds should go directly to the producer.

1124
1125 The Federal Government should continue to charge tariffs and enforce quotas on
1126 lamb imports in light of the fact modern transportation has forced domestic sheep
1127 producers to compete with wool producers receiving government support for their
1128 products.

1129
1130 Any government lamb purchased for institutional, military or any other use should
1131 be American produced lamb with purchases made during the high production season.

1132
1133 Lamb grading should be kept on an optional basis for either cutability or quality
1134 grading, but under no circumstances should the sheep industry be subjected to a
1135 combination of the two systems on the same carcass.

1136
1137 We support the promotional efforts of lamb and wool being done by the American
1138 Sheep Producers Council and the "Make it Yourself with Wool" contest.

1139
1140 We support the continued efforts of the American Sheep Industry to include lamb
1141 and mutton in efforts to require labeling and inspection of all red meats imported in the
1142 U.S. Legislation should require that 100 percent of all red meat imported in the U.S.
1143 must meet the same sanitary and production standards as required of American
1144 producers. Labeling requirements should include such information as country of origin
1145 and date of kill, including all U.S. produced lamb.

1146
1147 **Wheat and Feed Grains**

1148 The Utah Farmers Union believes a program should be established to manage our
1149 abundance through producer referendum. This would involve using actual yields with
1150 bases in units of production to improve farm income and to reduce government costs
1151 through higher market prices with targeted benefits.

1152
1153 To maintain a reasonable income for farmers, commodity target and loan rates
1154 should be set at 95% of the cost of production. Congress is responsible to ensure that the
1155 breadbasket for the United States is maintained for the benefit of all its citizens and
1156 generations to come.

1157
1158 We recommend that a producer may enroll up to 20 percent of normal crop base
1159 into soil restoring crop rotation program for up to three years. The Secretary of
1160 Agriculture shall make payments during enrollment based on fair rental value. We
1161 further support the \$125,000 deficiency payment limitation. Malting barley should be a
1162 separate item and considered in the pricing formula.

1163
1164 Utah Farmers Union supports a program that establishes a fair and level playing
1165 field for all agricultural products. We support the limitation of imports of grain coming
1166 into the U.S. It is imperative that Congress senses the urgency and needs of farmers and
1167 ranchers to begin immediately to address these needs through some realistic new
1168 legislation.

1169

1170 **ANIMAL HEALTH**

1171 **Brucellosis**

1172 The federal brucellosis program has implemented standards by which the State
1173 qualifies for a brucellosis free classification. It is essential that dairy and beef herds have
1174 clearance for movement across the state lines and for national and international markets.
1175 We believe a brucellosis free status is paramount for the State of Utah.

1176
1177 We still favor mandatory brucellosis vaccination and testing programs for dairy,
1178 beef and domesticated wild animals. We support state law and department regulations
1179 providing a mandatory program and stronger import restrictions to minimize the chance
1180 of importing the disease from other states. We favor continuance of the federal
1181 indemnity program and adequate funding to carry on an effective eradication program.

1182
1183 We support limited number of certified technicians monitored by the state
1184 departments of agriculture to provide vaccination services to outlying herds. We feel this
1185 will not adversely impact veterinarians and would increase the level of compliance.

1186
1187 Because the State of Utah manages buffalo herds and buffalo can transmit this
1188 communicable disease, we urge the state to maintain these herds with a brucellosis free
1189 status.

1190
1191 State and federal inspectors may carry the disease, so we urge them to maintain
1192 the highest sanitary practices.

1193

1194 **Trichomoniasis**

1195 We support mandatory Trichomoniasis testing for all bulls of breeding age. We
1196 also encourage continued research to improve testing accuracy.

1197

1198 **Large Animal Veterinary Education**

1199 Given the shortage of large animal veterinarians in many rural parts of Utah and
1200 the Intermountain West, we support Utah State University's joint veterinary program
1201 with Washington State University. Utah Farmers Union requests USU continue support
1202 and funding of the Agriculture Diagnostic Laboratory to support agricultural producers.