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WOMEN INVOLVED IN FARM ECONOMICS (WIFE)

WIFE was organized in December 1976 at Sidney, Nebraska as a non-profit agricultural association and quickly emerged as one of the most respected and viable agricultural organizations in the nation. The WIFE organization is what it is today due to the nurturing, attention and undying determination on the part of each and every member throughout the country.

Red is the official color of WIFE.

WIFE is:

A Grassroots Organization open to anyone involved or interested in agriculture

An Independent Entity of its own with a national structure composed of state associations and local chapters

Energetic, pursuing its objectives and purposes in a positive manner and promoting all agricultural commodities

Policy oriented and non-partisan

Dedicated to improving profitability in production agriculture through educational, legislative, communicative and cooperative efforts.

WIFE will continue to work as a catalyst to bring about cooperation between farm organizations.

COALITION MEMBERSHIPS *(WIFE belongs to the following coalitions or alliances)*

Americans for Secure Retirement (ASR)
Coalition for Consumers Choice (C4CC)
Coalition for a Prosperous America
Dairy Trade Coalition
Family Farm Alliance
Hands That Feed US
25 by '25 Energy Alliance
Wind Energy Works!

WIFE POLICY SUMMARIES

GENERAL

1. WIFE believes it is the right of every farm family to improve their financial situation, standard of living or status in life, through their own investments, management decisions, determination and dedication. Profit is necessary if the farm is to succeed from generation to generation.
2. WIFE recommends that Congress, the USDA, and all other federal agencies adopt the following comprehensive definition of a family farm. "A family farm is a form of business enterprise in which the management decisions are made by a family engaged in the production of food, fuel, and fiber for profit, which is intended to provide the major source of income and capital for investment." WIFE strongly opposes the use of "gross" income as a measure of size or wealth.
3. Parity is a ratio of what producers sell in relationship to the goods producers purchase. WIFE supports 100% of parity for all agricultural commodities, to be received from the market place, not from government payments. WIFE promotes parity for the American producer in order to keep our agricultural economy strong and ensure a safe, reliable source of food, fuel, and fiber for our nation and urges all members to join together to promote parity.
4. The President of the United States should be urged to implement the emergency parity provisions of the 1933 Agricultural Adjustment Act developed by the Franklin Roosevelt Administration.
5. WIFE holds accountable all public officials to honor all provisions of the Constitution of the United States. WIFE expects governments to protect "we the people" from all enemies both domestic and foreign, for government to honor the separation of powers and equal footings doctrine, and all provisions of the Constitution. (2007)
6. The United States of America was founded on the premise of individual human rights and the ownership and management of private property by those individuals. WIFE believes all branches of government should enforce the protection of human rights and private property rights.
7. WIFE supports discretionary use of the Presidential Executive Order. Its use should be limited to true emergencies and not used to circumvent the wishes of Congress.
8. WIFE believes in the sovereign right of the United States to set its own agricultural policy and is opposed to any agreements or treaties, which would give up sovereign right.

9. WIFE believes that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) should return its emphasis to the purpose of representing American producers rather than consumers.
10. WIFE supports the following steps to achieve a competitive marketplace for farmers and ranchers:
 - 1.) Implement an immediate moratorium on mergers among companies that will result in more than 20% of national market share.
 - 2.) Require USDA to collect and publish concentration information and the effect of concentration on prices for producers.
 - 3.) Require information on joint ventures and alliances between firms which result in a combined national market share greater than 20%.
11. WIFE opposes the establishment of an emergency food reserve until other countries indicate their willingness to contribute and a reliable distribution system is established.
12. WIFE believes in building networks with other agriculture groups and nonagricultural groups when policy allows.
13. Most measures of determining agricultural efficiency are based on profit and loss only. WIFE believes that family operated farms are structured in such a way as to concentrate on practices which will ensure for the long term productivity of the land and that all determining measures such as soil stewardship, water management, environmental concerns, grain quality, tax base and rural stability shall be factored in when evaluating agriculture efficiency.
14. An Undersecretary for Agricultural Affairs should be appointed in the State Department to be an advocate for agriculture and a watchdog for fair trade practices.
15. WIFE shall urge the United States Justice Department to utilize its full authority to enforce the Anti-Trust Laws.
16. WIFE will only support provisions of the agriculture section of the Balanced Budget Bill when accompanied by meaningful regulatory relief and beneficial tax reform for farms, ranches and small business.
17. WIFE opposes the banking system imposing bank fees on both the payee and payer involving insufficiently funded checks.
18. WIFE supports the ownership of agricultural land by family farm and ranch operations. (2009)
19. WIFE supports the continuation of Rural Free Delivery of mail.
20. WIFE urges all university agricultural research funded by public dollars remain in the public, not the private domain.
21. WIFE believes the news media should not announce any balloting results until all of the election polls are closed in that area or across the nation, depending on the office or issue.

22. WIFE recommends immediate producer review referenda on all existing national commodity check-off programs in order to increase the accountability of these programs and to protect these valuable self-help programs from constitutional challenges. Such referenda shall extend to new commodities and new classes with each commodity or class. Following the initial review referenda, periodic review referenda shall be held on all national check-off programs no less than once every five (5) years.

23. WIFE encourages the implementation of the following rules before the commodity check-offs are allowed to continue:

1.) Make the check-offs voluntary. 2.) Allow producers to vote for members of all check-off boards—one vote per producer.

3.) Limit tenure on the boards. 4.) Allocation of check-off funds shall be directed at point of collection to a national commodity organization of the producer's choice. 5.) No producer funds should be used to educate the producers within six months preceding the periodic referendum. 6.) The payment of mandatory commodity check-off must not constitute membership in a producer organization. 7.) Producer-funded research should remain the property of the producers. Patents granted as a result of the research should also belong to the producers.

24. WIFE supports federal legislation to exempt producers from patent laws except for egregious cases concerning "patented life" with all cases to be held in a legally recognized local judicial district court where the alleged infringement occurred. (2007)

25. WIFE supports legislation that would provide rights, protection, and bargaining obligations for agricultural producers and member controlled cooperatives entering into contract considerations.

26. WIFE urges the proper display and respect of the United States flag and supports the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America (U.S.A.) as currently written.

27. WIFE opposes foreign outsourcing of American jobs and the continued preferential federal tax advantages for those companies guilty of outsourcing and moving overseas to avoid tax liabilities. (2007)

28. WIFE supports legislation where illegal immigrants and their children should not be eligible for any government benefits until they are U.S. citizens.

29. WIFE supports no amnesty for immigrants who entered the U.S.A. illegally.

30. WIFE supports English as the official language of the U.S.A..

31. WIFE opposes the REAL-ID system or any similar electronic national identification for American citizens. (2008)

32. WIFE opposes the formation of a North American Union which would combine Canada, United States and Mexico similar to the European Union. (2007)

33. WIFE opposes unfair regulations that hold agriculture liable for damages which occur to air, water, soil, or animals if all labels and regulations are properly observed.
34. WIFE requests when any rules and regulations are imposed upon individual states to implement federal government programs, funds to carry out all aspects of those programs shall be provided by the federal government.
35. WIFE opposes any actions which add costs to the agricultural industry, directly or indirectly.
36. WIFE urges farm implement manufacturers to manufacture and sell Class Four (4) combines in the United States. (2009)
37. WIFE supports requiring Congressional Legislation to be in its final form at least twenty-four hours before a vote can be taken. (2009)
38. WIFE believes Congress needs more oversight and must take action to prevent misuse of the Equal Access to Justice Act. (2010)
39. WIFE supports the Capper Volstead Act which allows associations of producers to legally join and market as one.
40. Certain duties and responsibilities have been reserved for the states and WIFE demands that the Federal Government follow the intent of the Constitution and leave these areas to the states. (2010)
41. WIFE opposes regulations which negatively affect producers, direct marketers, and farmers markets. (2010)
42. WIFE demands the President of the United States and the Secretary of Homeland Security stop declaring that our southern border is more secure than it has ever been. (2010)
43. WIFE demands immediate action be taken by the U.S. armed forces to take back America from the Mexican Cartels and protect American Citizens living in what has been designated by the U.S. Government as “the corridor” and all areas north of the U.S./Mexico border. (2010)
44. WIFE opposes any semblance of Immigration Reform legislation until such time as our borders are completely secure. (2010)
45. WIFE demands that U.S. judicial and law enforcement systems recognize and apply an enforcement mechanism that provides for the prosecution of illegally crossing into the U.S. over the Border, for the first time, as a felony barring any person from ever working or receiving residency visa status in the U.S. No exceptions. (2010)
46. WIFE will aggressively promote the placement of Forward Operating Bases (FOB) on the U.S. borders (suggest at least one FOB every 12 miles). (2010)

FARM PROGRAM

1. WIFE supports consistent farm programs for producers and agribusiness to allow long term management planning.
2. WIFE believes penalties for non-compliance of conservation plans should be proportional to the degree of violation.
3. WIFE firmly believes regional needs and circumstances vary widely; therefore programs should avoid imposing a rigid solution.
4. WIFE strongly recommends that USDA monitor rules and regulations of the Payment Limitation Program and certify that maximum payment limits set by Congress are not exceeded.
5. A spouse is a separate person and should have the same rights as any other person to qualify for a separate payment limitation. WIFE will continue to monitor the “person status” implementation for eligible farm women under farm program payments.
6. WIFE supports farm program payment limits be tracked per individual person.
7. WIFE supports non-recourse marketing assistance.
8. WIFE supports the concept of the 1938 and 1949 farm bills in the event that efforts fail to pass a future farm bill.
9. WIFE supports Livestock Environmental Assistance Program (LEAP) but recommends limits of \$3,500 per year or a maximum of \$35,000 per contract.
10. WIFE opposes any “means” or “assets” test for farm program payments.
11. WIFE supports long term agricultural policy based on management of supplies that allows adequate inventories to meet domestic and export needs.
12. WIFE requests the USDA accurately report crops held by Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and that all crops on hand be referred to as inventories rather than surpluses. WIFE encourages the USDA to accurately report inventories to farmers and government officials. An adequate inventory is crucial to national security.

13. WIFE supports legislation, which would establish a revolving fund in the USDA with which to implement the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan programs; thereby, creating a self-supporting fund and a more accurate accounting of actual commodity programs. WIFE requests compensating producers (paying interest) when CCC payments are late.
14. WIFE supports the extension of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan to 24 months.
15. WIFE believes Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) warehouse supplies and fresh farm products should be substituted for food stamps and food distribution programs when possible.
16. WIFE proposes Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) redeemed grain be processed into alcohol to be used in government vehicles or stored for emergency use.
17. WIFE supports maintaining an adequate inventory through a Farmer Owned Reserve, allowing immediate entry. (2009)
18. WIFE supports producers having the option of updating their crop yields to be used in future farm programs.
19. WIFE believes in increased funding for farm income enhancement in order for the U.S. to have a continuous supply of safe affordable food and fiber and fuel.
20. WIFE supports offering producers payment for land diversion for conservation practices, especially those idling highly erodible land or undertaking practices to protect water quality.
21. WIFE believes payments made by the federal government for storing grain should be the same for producers and commercial operators.
22. WIFE urges the USDA to strengthen the inspection of all commercially stored grains. WIFE believes all imported grains should comply with all USDA specifications.
23. WIFE believes the United States should vigorously pursue export and market promotion programs and these should be funded at the maximum appropriation level allowed.
24. WIFE proposes that farmers be given the choice of entering into the nine month loan program first, or go directly into the three year reserve with no interest for the first year, and that the government pay storage annually.
25. WIFE supports participation in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and continued compliance by farmers and landlords for the life of their contracts. WIFE encourages congressional leaders to request the USDA fulfill these long-term CRP contracts.

26. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has generated landmark soil, water, and wildlife conservation benefits while it has increased farm income and saved taxpayers and the Federal Government money. WIFE supports the continuation of the CRP with: (1) voluntary renewal of contracts; (2) funding for this program will not be shifted from other farm program payments. Organizations or agencies cooperating in the funding of the CRP must diligently respect private property rights. (3) NRCS cooperation with producers who put land back into production (4) Renewed contracts must have enforceable provisions for pest and weed control and fire prevention. (5) Haying and grazing of CRP acres, now allowed under disaster conditions, will be utilized only by the landowner and not be used for resale. (6) Bids for CRP will reflect the yearly cash leases currently being paid in the locality of the land. (7) CRP timber contracts should be extended until the trees reach a marketable size. (8) Base acres should be protected. (9) Landowner rights would be preserved and state's laws regarding tenant's rights should apply.

27. WIFE supports an income protection plan for U.S. commodities that would provide cost of production, free up government stocks and allow for a profit opportunity for farmers. (2007)

28. WIFE supports further scientific based evaluation of carbon sequestration and further supports implementation of carbon sequestration (currently referred to as credits) which first benefits agricultural producers.

29. WIFE opposes any new national identification or driver's license that refers to a North American Union. (2007)

30. WIFE urges the inclusion of a Competition Title* in federal legislation. *Explanation for Competition Title:

WIFE supports the following regarding competition legislation: (1) mandatory Country Of Origin Labeling for agricultural products used for human consumption, including, but not limited to, meat with a born, raised, and processed definition; (2) provide farmers with a crucial disclosures of information about contracts; (3) prohibit confidential contracts and allow farmers ample time to seek advice before entering into contracts; (4) allow farmers the right to choose whether to utilize arbitration, mediation or civil litigation to resolve disputes; (5) urge USDA to establish an office of Special Counsel on Competition and allow that office to have the authority to review mergers in the food and agriculture sector, in addition to having jurisdiction over marketing practices that eliminate competition; (6) provides for the appointment of an outside counsel, who is not an employee of the federal government, for actions arising from the Packers and Stockyards Act, (7) ban packer ownership of livestock; (8) restrict captive supplies of cattle, hogs and sheep; (9) protect a producer from liability or new regulatory requirements of any commodity, unless they are processors that also produce.

31. WIFE supports the allocation of funds to increase the baseline for hiring full-time employees (FTE) in local Farm Service Agencies (FSA) offices to process heavy workloads.

32. WIFE supports Federal Crop Insurance that: (1) is less complex and more easily understood and that benefits the producer; (2) will reflect a producer's cost of production (fixed and variable costs); (3) accurately uses a producer's most current yields and guarantees yields would go no lower than historic county averages; (4) may be purchased at affordable premium rates; (5) provides coverage based on units of production (bushels or pounds); (6) does not discriminate against location, farming practices, or number of land units; (7) is voluntary; (8) issues timely payments; (9) includes non-traditional crops.

33. WIFE supports an increased crop insurance program that would cover all crops as long as such crops are feasible for the area and have a history of being successful in the geographical area.

34. WIFE supports the following items concerning crop insurance: (1) Encourage Risk Management Agency to harmonize standards in crop insurance to adequately cover quality losses. (2) When production is impacted because of natural disasters, actual production history should be maintained without those lower numbers. (3) Programs are initiated that recognize and accommodate the unique production, price, and actuarial experience of producers of specialty crops, including certified organic commodities.

35. WIFE strongly supports the continuation of local elected committees for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). WIFE will encourage its members to seek positions on these committees.

36. WIFE urges USDA to change regulations to allow qualified persons to serve on Farm Service Agency county committees for three, three year terms, without discrimination to those who serve in general farm organizations at the national level, or on any other local boards.

37. WIFE strongly supports the continuation of the locally elected Farm Service Agency County Committee and opposes allowing the Secretary of Agriculture to politicize committees by appointing voting members to the committee.

38. WIFE supports retaining the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Department of Agriculture, in such a way that all rules and regulations be consistent, in order to maintain a service center for agriculture producers for the purpose of consistency in all rules and regulations including technical assistance, financial accountability and guidance by locally elected and/or appointed committees.

39. WIFE urges optional coverage for acts of terrorism, bio-terrorism, and third party vandalism be included on federal crop and livestock insurance.

40. WIFE urges synchronization of acreage reporting dates for Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

41. WIFE opposes the closure of FSA offices without quality assessment of work load, number of producers served and convenience for the most producers before closing FSA offices or reducing staff, and that all USDA offices be closed in that county should the FSA office close.

ALL GRAIN

1. WIFE favors the concept of the historical relationship between farm income support programs and agricultural production.

2. WIFE encourages U.S. grain standards be set to equal or surpass the standards of our worldwide competitors. WIFE supports the pricing of grain according to quality when sold by producers at the first marketing point.

3. WIFE urges the USDA to develop a 24-hour reporting system for all imported grains that includes class, quality, price, and destination. These statistics should be updated weekly.

4. WIFE opposes any imported grain from being included or participating in any U.S. government marketing and/or agricultural programs.

5. WIFE supports regulations to allow adequate amounts of water to be applied to harvested grains for safety purposes; yet limiting the amount to maintain the quality.

6. WIFE supports additional funding in a subsequent Farm Bill to research Value-Enhanced Grain (VEG) as a method of increasing income for family farmers and ranchers.

7. WIFE opposes the use and licensing of Terminator gene technology.

8. WIFE supports legislation that encourages state and federally funded research of all grain commodities and for the development of efficient processing techniques of all grain and grain by-products and toward developing seeds for specific qualities. (2009)

9. WIFE urges a renewed mandate to use public section resources to serve the needs of our farmers and ranchers and the public interest. Because our food security is at stake, it is of utmost importance to maintain private individual capacity to breed plants and animals for the future of the agricultural system.

BARLEY

1. WIFE requests the USDA, for program purposes, to recognize two distinct classes of barley, malt and feed, with a price differential. In the event the Agriculture Marketing Transition Act (AMTA) of 1996 be revisited, the target price and deficiency payments be calculated separately on these two crops.

CORN

1. WIFE supports the development and processing of environmentally safe products made from raw agricultural products including biodegradable products, sources of energy which are renewable, and products for feed and human consumption.

2. WIFE supports raising the loan rates on all feed grain commodities to cover cost of production.

MILO

1. WIFE believes milo seed should be labeled to the exact percentage of foreign material.

RICE

1. WIFE supports striving to obtain competitive world markets.

WHEAT

1. WIFE advocates an accurate and standard system for grading grain and measuring protein levels.

2. WIFE opposes any action by the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) to reclassify Winter and Spring Wheat into one class Hard Wheat.

LIVESTOCK

1. WIFE recommends the livestock industry formulate a program to identify meat and meat products born, produced, and processed in the United States, develop a logo to distinguish this superior product to the consumer, and initiate an advertising program to promote domestically produced meat products.

2. WIFE urges Congress to lift the unfair market restrictions imposed on state inspected meat and poultry processors, by amending the Federal Meat Inspection Act of 1967 and the Poultry Products Inspection Act of 1968 to permit interstate shipment of state inspected meat and poultry.

3. WIFE supports humane animal treatment but opposes legislation granting human rights to animals.

4. WIFE urges that the Packer and Stockyard Act be strictly enforced to stop market monopoly and/or market price control.

5. WIFE actively supports a ban on packer ownership of livestock and opposes the use of captive supply except for small processors that control less than 10% of the market.
6. WIFE supports intervention by the Packers and Stockyards Administration to restore competition by: (1) disallowing direct packer feeding; (2) disallowing private treaty formula pricing for forward contracted slaughter; (3) requiring packers to make forward contracts for slaughter supplies on a firm bid basis and to offer such contracts in an open and public manner.
7. WIFE recommends meat inspection services at processing plants and border inspection points remain uninterrupted, even during economic cuts, to insure safe consistent product supplies.
8. WIFE requests that the red meat inspection stay within the USDA.
9. WIFE supports a reorganization of the meat inspection program with retention of a sufficient number of USDA field inspectors and fewer desk personnel. WIFE reiterates our support for strict meat inspection procedures.
10. WIFE supports mandatory labeling as U.S. meat only if that product has been born, raised and processed in the United States; furthermore WIFE opposes the use of the USDA stamp on any product not born, raised and, processed in the United States. (2009)
11. WIFE opposes mandatory animal identification. (2010)
12. WIFE stresses that the use of proprietary animal identification information must remain confidential and the producer must control his/her own data.
13. WIFE recommends the first step in any US identification program must be to give all imported animals a permanent identification mark.
14. WIFE recommends that federal and state agencies be required to implement proper preventive programs to prevent transfer of diseases and/or pestilence from wild animals to domestic herds.
15. WIFE supports legislation that would penalize persons or groups who damage persons, livestock facilities or research beneficial to livestock. (2009)
16. WIFE believes that grazing fee formulas for true leases on true public lands be set, taking into account cost of production and market price. Allotment owners should be fully and fairly informed as to ownership rights in their fee lands and these be treated according to law.

17. WIFE supports and recommends a producer friendly livestock grazing act.
18. Animal identification may be a best management practice for an operation. WIFE opposes a mandated individual animal identification program like the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) or any other mandated program. Existing methods, such as the hot iron brand and Bangs vaccinations are now recorded data and could be more fully utilized. Any program to improve animal trace back for disease control, should be under individual state veterinary jurisdiction. The burden of the cost should not be funded by producers. (2007)
19. No producer shall be denied the right to market their livestock for lack of participation or compliance in any government imposed animal identification system and/or any government imposed premises identification registration that is attached to a specific point of land, as this may potentially create a covenant or cloud upon the title to that land which could constitute a “takings”. (2007)
20. No one shall be prevented from participation in 4-H or FFA programs and any public events for failure to comply or participate in any government imposed livestock identification programs and/or premises identification registration program. (2007)
21. WIFE urges check-off overseeing boards deal directly with vendors.
22. WIFE opposes increasing the beef check-off.
23. WIFE recommends the Federation of State Beef Councils be a stand alone entity.
24. WIFE supports the humane treatment and disposition of all animals including horses in the U.S. (2007)
25. WIFE supports amending the Beef Research and Promotion Act to allow promotion of beef born, and raised exclusively in the United States and establishes a referendum and requirements that allow for additional contractors. (2009)
26. WIFE encourages the implementation of the following rules before livestock check-offs are allowed to continue: 1.) Make the check-offs voluntary. 2.) Allow producers to vote for members of all check-off boards-one vote per producer. 3.) Limit tenure on the boards. 4.) Allocation of check-off funds shall be directed at point of collection to a national commodity organization of the producer’s choice. 5.) The assessment shall also be collected at slaughter from those producers who are currently exempt by virtue of being in a vertically integrated operation. 6.) No producer funds should be used to educate the producers within six months preceding the periodic referendum. (continued next page)

7.) The payment of mandatory commodity check-off must not constitute membership in a producer organization. 8.) Producer-funded research should remain the property of the producers. Patents granted as a result of the research should also belong to the producers. (2007)

27. WIFE urges core funding restoration and maintenance at the current Plum Island Animal Disease Center location. (2008)

28. WIFE supports the status of horses be returned to livestock from companion animals. (2008)

29. WIFE believes the former horse slaughter plants should be reopened or new ones opened and markets pursued for the horse flesh and byproducts. (2008)

30. WIFE advocates science based industry guidelines regarding animal husbandry and animal welfare, i.e., transportation, branding, and housing. (2008)

31. WIFE supports legislation providing the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) with administrative enforcement and civil penalty authority, and providing fair practices in contractual negotiations between the farmers and the processors and handlers of agricultural products. This being a self-help tool for improving farm income without excessive or burdensome government involvement. (2009)

32. WIFE urges every state to create and maintain a database centralizing all the available forms of animal identification. (2009)

33. WIFE urges prohibiting the importation of livestock from any country that experiences outbreaks of serious zoonotic diseases, including pests, until scientific evidence demonstrates the disease and/or pests have been eradicated or fully controlled and there is no know risk of further spread. (2009)

34. Congress and USDA must substantially reform the current hands off inspection system for meat known as Hazards Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP). As part of the HACCP reform, Congress should implement a requirement that meat sold at retail and food service establishments be traceable back to the slaughterhouse that processes the meat from live animals and would enable investigations to determine and address the actual source of meat contamination. (2009)

35. WIFE opposes any legislation that would restrict the use of antibiotics for food producing animals. (2010)

36. WIFE believes ionophores should not be classified as antibiotics. (2010)

BEEF

1. WIFE opposes a total ban on using growth implants on U.S. animals for the beef industry.
2. WIFE recommends domestically produced red meat be required in all school lunch programs. (2009)
3. WIFE insists all meat from game animals be required to meet the same strict standards as U.S. beef.
4. WIFE feels the cattle futures market has failed as a price forecasting system and a marketing tool. WIFE will work for the discontinuation of the livestock futures market or major revamping of trading policies.
5. WIFE supports state boards and federal agencies in prevention of Brucellosis-infected animals from entering any state, in compliance of state laws.
6. WIFE supports the movement of livestock between states and countries with Brucellosis Class-Free and Canadian provinces, as permitted by state and governmental agencies.
7. In the event that check-off monies are collected from U.S. producers, WIFE supports the use of those funds to promote U.S. beef. (2007)

PORK

1. WIFE supports funding Pseudo Rabies Virus (PRV) control program.
2. WIFE supports funding for research of Porcine Respiratory Syndrome (PRS) and other swine diseases as well as availability of research information to producers.
3. WIFE strongly recommends state records detailing areas where swine disease or herd health problems exist, be available to the public and be kept current, as is done for Pseudo Rabies Virus (PRV).
4. WIFE supports enforcement of swine health certification as hogs are transported from one area to another.
5. WIFE urges USDA to continue to make more purchases of USA pork for the school lunch programs. (2009)

SHEEP

1. WIFE supports field and scientific testing of safe, effective population control of predators such as coyotes, and requests trapping and/or aerial hunting of predator animals not be banned.

2. WIFE opposes any legislation that would allow for the introduction of the gray wolf or any other wolf species into any federal lands.

3. Due to wolves naturally migrating into the United States, WIFE opposes the reintroduction of already naturally occurring species.

DAIRY

1. WIFE supports the work of the Dairy Coalition in its efforts to promote international trade policies that serve to keep the market in the United States strong and viable to preserve the American family farm.

2. WIFE supports the Quality Cheese Act.

3. WIFE recommends that any food containing the term cheese on the label be made from fluid, not dried, dairy products.

4. WIFE opposes deregulation of the dairy industry and recommends continuing the Federal Milk Market Order System, with stricter limits on pooling and de-pooling of milk..

5. WIFE supports a fair pricing formula ensuring integrity and yielding the highest price to the producer through the Federal Milk Marketing Order System. (2009)

6. WIFE requests there be constant refrigeration of school milk, and that larger containers of milk be available for junior and senior high schools.

7. WIFE insists food products advertised with pictures of cows actually contain dairy products and imitation dairy products be displayed separately in refrigerated areas and be fairly labeled.

8. WIFE urges that milk solids in drinking milk be increased to California standards and that whole milk be clearly labeled 3.25%.

9. WIFE recommends that all plastic containers for milk be pigmented.

10. WIFE recommends no government monies be spent to purchase imitation dairy products for the school lunch program. (2009)

11. WIFE recommends all federal milk-marketing orders have Compact Capability.

12. WIFE strongly opposes any change whatsoever to the definition of milk. Milk Protein Concentrates (MPC's) would change the nutritional value and high quality of fluid milk. Ultra filtered milk is not nutritionally equivalent because the vitamins, minerals, enzymes and lactose are removed during this process.

13. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should be required, through legislation and other means, to make a timely determination as to whether a dairy product proposed to be imported meets the sanitary and bio-security standards of this country. The determination should be made directly by FDA's direct inspection of individual dairy plants and dairy farms, or upon its finding that a foreign country's dairy inspection system is equivalent to that of the United State. The cost of FDA inspections must be paid entirely by the foreign plants and farms subject to inspection.

14. WIFE supports a continuing investigation by the Government Accounting Office (GAO) of the United States pricing system and an accurate account of imported dairy products.

15. WIFE recommends no changes be made to the present ice cream standards.

16. WIFE urges the U.S. Congress to protect the competitiveness of the United States specialty cheese industry for the benefit of agricultural producers, United States cheese makers, consumers, and related businesses.

17. WIFE supports the extension of Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program. (2009)

18. WIFE opposes the use of the word milk for products that are not dairy based and recommends they be called beverage; e.g., soy milk should be called soy beverage.

19. WIFE supports the Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) Program as being beneficial to all dairy producers. (2009)

ALL OTHER CROPS

1. WIFE supports efforts to assure minor use crop producers will have pesticides necessary to produce their crops.

2. WIFE will oppose legislation that repeals the Perishable Agriculture Commodities Act and removes the dispute authority from the United States Department of Agriculture.

3. WIFE will work with other organizations to resolve concerns regarding the cost of administering the Perishable Agriculture Commodities Act.

4. WIFE recommends that the standards for the National Organics Program (NOP) be maintained at current levels, and that WIFE opposes any changes that would weaken the integrity or standards of the NOP.

5. WIFE supports organic and direct marketing programs, and WIFE will continue to emphasize the necessity of bulk commodity production in order to feed an increasing world population. (2009)

COTTON

1. WIFE favors expanding the current law to include the point of origin of the raw cotton spun into all imported apparel and textiles.
2. WIFE supports the cotton impact clause to be triggered on the carryover inventory instead of the price.
3. WIFE encourages the use and promotion of cotton, wool and natural blend fibers.
4. WIFE opposes any and all expenditures of Cotton Incorporated to research, assist, or do any form of technology for foreign producers, foreign mills, foreign cotton buyers, or the governments thereof.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

1. WIFE opposes any program that places a program commodity in competition against a non-program commodity and believes that an agricultural impact statement should be made before a new program is instituted.
2. WIFE encourages the awareness and monitoring of legislation that could adversely affect dry edible beans.

HAY

1. WIFE supports a standardized “noxious weed seed free” certification program.

PEANUTS

1. WIFE supports a quota pound system that balances production with domestic consumption at an equitable profit level for all segments of the industry.
2. The support price for quota peanuts is based on cost of production; therefore, WIFE urges the USDA to use the same formula for determining cost of production during the length of the program and statistics from a dependable source or research.
3. Peanuts not contracted with shellers must go in the loan at a low support price. Additional peanuts are for export and their price is based on world market price, which is below the U.S. cost of production. Quota peanuts and domestic markets are far more valuable to producers. WIFE urges that promotion and research directed at domestic markets is given priority.
4. WIFE encourages research for the prevention of Aflatoxin.
5. WIFE supports a change in contract date in present legislation to allow producers to contract peanuts at any time during the year.

SOYBEANS

1. WIFE supports labeling on packages so the consumer can readily identify and understand the various oils in products.
2. WIFE supports the National Soybean Promotion and Research Check-off (SPARC).

SUGAR AND CORN SWEETENER

1. WIFE supports the U.S. Sugar Loan Program mandated by Congress to assure stable sugar supplies and prices for American consumers
2. WIFE recommends that the U.S. Sugar Program be maintained and that the administration manage it as Congress intended.
3. WIFE supports sugar be part of America's ethanol strategy and urges Congress to adopt a plan to transform sugar surpluses into a fuel, furthering the country's energy goal while keeping the sugar market balanced in the face of unneeded imports. (2007)

TOBACCO

1. WIFE recommends the current tobacco program be continued, as the program is self-supporting.
2. WIFE recommends government grading be uniform throughout the tobacco marketing area.
3. WIFE supports research and development of alternative uses for tobacco.

TOPICS OF CONCERN

EDUCATION

1. WIFE supports consumer education of proper food handling in the food industry.
2. WIFE supports Vocational Agriculture Education and its continued funding.
3. WIFE supports efforts of land grant colleges and universities to focus on research and marketing to help solve economic problems of the family farm.
4. WIFE supports the change in the regulations for eligibility of student loans, taking into account only the net income and liquid assets of the parents. Gross income and fixed assets are falsely interpreted in regard to the student's need for financial help.
5. WIFE opposes public funding for issues concerning animal rights.
6. WIFE supports local control, whenever possible, over curriculum, consolidation, and legislation affecting our tax dollars and the rural way of life. WIFE opposes the utilization of public funding of educational programs developed and promoted by groups or organizations that portray agriculture in a negative manner.
7. WIFE supports the "Agriculture in the Classroom" project.
8. WIFE will promote the importance of agriculture to all Americans, and American consumers will be given the verifiable facts concerning agriculture.
9. WIFE advocates dietary information given by government agencies be fairly and fully presented to the public.
10. WIFE supports providing nutrition education through existing agencies for those participating in food programs.
11. WIFE will continue to promote education regarding low cost, high quality, nutritious, farm fresh foods.
12. WIFE opposes all animal, environmental and non-governmental organizational groups that are detrimental to agriculture and promote their agendas in schools. (2009)

ENERGY

1. WIFE requests Congress assure production agriculture an affordable and reliable energy supply from all sources. (2007)
2. WIFE supports a Comprehensive National Energy Bill that includes domestic renewable sources of energy. (2007)

3. WIFE urges Congress to retain the Federal Power Marketing Administration (PMA) while working to improve the efficiency of federal power operations, preserve their competitive stance, and resist unjustifiable increases in electric rates to the ultimate consumer.
4. WIFE believes the states be allowed to choose when, or if, they restructure the electric industry and to develop their own restructuring plan without any federally imposed date or certain language. (2007)
5. WIFE opposes any action that would place farmers and rural Americans at a competitive disadvantage through the restructuring of the electric power industry. (2007)
6. WIFE renews its dedication to continue the renewable fuels awareness campaign, and urges WIFE members to request renewable fuels at their individual stations.
7. WIFE urges Congress to support a dedicated renewable energy pipeline to supplement the existing petroleum pipeline. (2007)
8. WIFE supports the extension of tax and other incentives for fuels produced from domestic crops only. (2007)
9. WIFE supports extending the tax incentives that are allowed to ethanol to also include the product Ethyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (ETBE).
10. WIFE urges the utilization of distillers' dried grains in order to meet the nutritional needs in the diets of the people of the world.
11. WIFE supports policies that will aid in developing and increasing the use of alternative fuels.
12. WIFE supports the development and increased use of alternative fuels. (2007)
13. WIFE supports and promotes the use of bio-diesel, an oxygenated renewable fuel derived from domestic products.
14. WIFE supports the continuation of federally funded research and development of crops for production of renewable energy products, urging the initial focus be on land in government set-aside programs, such as Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
15. WIFE supports a Strategic Energy Grain Reserve to ensure a diverse, decentralized, and renewable fuel source utilizing domestic grain.
16. WIFE supports the fair and equitable implementation of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

17. WIFE supports upgrading and increasing the carrying capacity of the National Grid in order to transmit additional electric power produced by wind turbines or other renewable sources.
18. WIFE promotes and supports the use of wind energy and other renewable resources.
19. WIFE supports implementing a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) backstop provision on “congested lines” to allow mediation when an agreement between landowners and states has not been achieved after a two year timeframe has lapsed.
20. WIFE supports a fair and equitable Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) which would include all renewable energy sources.
21. WIFE encourages tax incentives for increasing the capacity of the National Grid and upgrading lines. (2007)
22. WIFE supports a Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) provision to increase ethanol production and usage. (2007)
23. WIFE supports the continuation of production tax credits for renewable energy production and encourages the inclusion of shell corn as a renewable energy source.
24. WIFE endorses the “25 x ‘25 Alliance” and concurs with the vision statement that U.S. agriculture will provide 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States by 2025 while continuing to produce abundant, safe and affordable food and fiber.
25. WIFE supports utilizing existing power line infrastructure, among other transmission vehicles, to provide new and innovative broadband services to rural residents at a fair and affordable price.
26. WIFE opposes any energy bill that would interfere with the profitability of agriculture. (2009)

FARM FINANCE

1. WIFE opposes the sale of any part of the Farm Credit Service to a foreign financial institute.
2. WIFE urges that all USDA farm loan repayments be an offset against the actual cost of the program.
3. WIFE supports policy that allows the landowner who has lost his land through foreclosure, the right of first refusal to rent or purchase the property back.
4. WIFE request an immediate Government Accounting Office (GAO) study of the ramifications of the NAFTA, CAFTA and FTA’s. (2009)

5. WIFE urges the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee initiate the removal of the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code of 1986 that prohibits the use of Aggie Bonds for the intra-family transfer of farms.

6. WIFE strongly supports the free enterprise system and objects to the financing, encouragement, and offering of benefits to collective farms in the U.S. by the Department of Agriculture and Department of Labor.

7. WIFE urges Congress and the Administration take positive steps to strengthen agriculture and agri-business agencies to insure that the credit needs of agriculture be adequately met with the lowest possible interest rates for all agricultural agencies.

8. WIFE opposes any Internal Revenue Service requirements that require agricultural producers to file more undue paperwork: specifically the requirements that businesses must issue a Form 1099 to incorporated businesses and goods-providers. (2010)

TAXES

1. WIFE requests the reinstatement of the capital gains deduction, investment tax credit, and income averaging for farmers and ranchers.

2. WIFE supports a \$250,000 lifetime capital gains exemption per person, for property used in a trade or business in which the individual or spouse has actively participated.

3. WIFE supports a reduction in capital gains tax rate for small business and family farms.

4. WIFE opposes any effort to enact a capital gains tax upon death. (2009)

5. WIFE supports a tax reform that would allow sales of property between relatives at an interest rate to be determined by the parties involved.

6. WIFE supports a change in the tax law to make an installment sale of personal property taxed in the year the installment payments are received.

7. WIFE supports the use of deferred contracts to postpone receipts from commodity sales, in order to implement risk management practices. These payments should not be subject to Alternative Minimum Tax.

8. WIFE supports the ability to maintain an office in your home and that the cost of maintaining that portion of your home be allowed as a business expense on both federal and state income taxes.

9. WIFE supports the deduction of personal interest and sales taxes when itemizing deductions on both federal and state income taxes.

10. WIFE believes "payment in lieu of taxes" payments should equal regular taxation.
11. WIFE supports legislation that would provide 100% deduction for health insurance premiums for those who pay their own premiums.
12. WIFE opposes the effort to increase governmental funding by imposing hidden taxes in the guise of fees, licenses and other mandatory obligations.
13. There is a movement to have global government, under the command of United Nations officers, which would not recognize the United States government. WIFE opposes any plan (such as the Charter for Global Democracy) to turn U.S. Federal Government into any part of a global government that would be under the control and direction of the United Nations.
14. WIFE supports allowing farmers to invest, at the time of a dispersal sale, before taxes, farm sale income into tax-deferred accounts, such as IRA's, to be used for their retirement.
15. WIFE advocates that Internal Revenue Service (IRS) treatment of tax exempt organizations shall not be changed to adversely affect these organizations.
16. WIFE supports raising the estate tax exemption to \$5 million per person, \$10 million per couple indexed to inflation, reducing the estate tax rate, and retaining in full the new basis at death rate. (stepped-up basis)

FOOD

1. WIFE endorses legislation to inspect foreign food commensurate with domestic inspection standards, and labeled as to point of origin. This is a matter of national security. (2007)
2. WIFE supports a country of origin labeling that will readily identify grown and processed in the U.S., allowing the U.S. consumer to support U.S. agriculture.
3. WIFE urges the USDA to ban the processing, blending and shipment to another entity any products from an animal that has been tested for BSE until negative results are available to the appropriate parties.
4. WIFE supports legislation that declares irradiation of food is a process not an additive, and supports efforts authorizing additional research and development of the process.
5. WIFE believes all nutrition programs financed by USDA should use U.S. grown agricultural products before products from foreign countries.

6. WIFE recognizes the health, nutrition, economic and environmental benefits of biotechnology. We support continued research using validated scientific data to ensure the development of beneficial and safe products.

7. WIFE supports the promotion of balanced meals and nutritional food snacks to be served in our schools.

8. WIFE recommends the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) maintain U.S. health and food safety standards so we do not become a global dumping ground for substandard foods.

HAZARDOUS & TOXIC WASTES

1. WIFE strongly opposes building hazardous and/or nuclear waste repository sites in agricultural and/or water resource areas.

2. WIFE believes that anyone using toxic materials is responsible for their actions. Landowners/lessees, however, should not be financially liable for actions by previous owners who have left that site.

3. WIFE believes all users of chemicals and fertilizers should be subject to the same standards that are applied to farm use.(2009)

4. WIFE says normal animal expulsion of methane gas should not be regulated, legislated or taxed. (2009)

LABOR

1. WIFE opposes legislation requiring farmers to provide housing for migratory or seasonal labor.

2. WIFE requests public and private entities that receive funding to serve migrant workers cooperate, and duplication of services be eliminated. These entities must be held accountable for all reserves and expenditures and an independent audit be conducted annually.

3. Parents or guardians should be required to pay any penalties assessed for minor children performing migrant labor in the fields.

4. WIFE supports a Temporary Agricultural Workers Program to assure the availability of an adequate labor force for labor intensive agriculture commodities.

5. WIFE supports core labor standards/international labor standards for all laborers in the U.S. and our trading partners. These labor standards include but are not limited to: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining (the right to form a union); the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor; limited child labor; and the elimination of discrimination in respect to employment and occupation.

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. WIFE urges any enforcement of clean air standards should not be at a level that creates negative economic impact on agriculture or hinders normal farming practices.
2. WIFE opposes the Kyoto Protocol Treaty unless undeveloped countries are forced to adhere to all rules and regulations as developed countries.
3. WIFE is concerned that the consideration of Global Warming is not based on sound science. Any consideration in this area must not adversely affect the competitiveness of United States agriculture.
4. WIFE urges all railroad and highway departments make weed control a top priority, as transportation is believed to be the largest spreader of weeds.
5. WIFE vigorously supports continued research in biological weed and insect control, as well as efforts in increased herbicide degradation (biodegradable) research.
6. WIFE requests the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) be permitted to remove a farm chemical from the market only after positive proof has been established that there is a health hazard when used as labeled. WIFE suggests a review panel of qualified agriculturalists be appointed to EPA hearing panels considering questions affecting farm chemicals.
7. WIFE believes agriculture, timber, mining and oil production are all dependent upon the wise use of our natural resources. These industries are the source of new wealth generated in our economy. WIFE opposes the adoption of any action which imposes unnecessary or burdensome obligations on a major industry, resulting in the decline of jobs and revenues.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. WIFE urges all regulatory agencies affected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to develop a national policy to treat species as endangered only after they have been approved for listing.
2. WIFE believes Congress should withdraw financial support for threatened and endangered species from various federal agencies until a new Endangered Species Act (ESA) is authorized. The current act, enacted in 1973 and expired in 1993, continues to be funded through agencies.
3. WIFE supports legislation that would strengthen Executive Order 12630, which was signed by President Ronald Reagan on March 15, 1988, and requires federal agencies to conduct "takings impact assessments" and to reduce, and to compensate property owners for takings, which result from federal regulatory actions.

4. WIFE believes agriculture, timber, mining and oil production are all dependent upon the wise use of our natural resources, and these four industries are the source of new wealth generated in our economy. WIFE shall undertake a campaign to amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to include economic and social impact studies that will determine the extent of adverse impacts that listing of various threatened or endangered species of plants or animals will have on agriculture, mining, timber, and oil production.
5. WIFE believes human need for water, food, and energy should have priority over the protection of endangered species. The reintroduction of certain species should be carefully monitored.
6. WIFE urges human and private property rights be considered first and foremost when establishing protection priorities for the Endangered Species Act.
7. WIFE supports complete locally conducted studies of social and economic impacts of proposed changes in the management of sensitive and threatened habitats. Those studies must be conducted in the affected areas, with public comment, relative to the management changes and prior to consideration by the governing agency. The agency conducting these studies must address all concerns raised during public comment.
8. WIFE supports a non-regulatory, incentive-based, approach for conservation of wildlife and habitat.

LAND USE

1. WIFE supports any "right to farm" legislation to protect existing agricultural lands and activities from governmental zoning, annexation, and/or nuisance ordinances. (2009)
2. WIFE opposes the conversion of private productive lands to the public domain by governmental or other non-taxpaying entity, which results in a net loss of private property.
3. WIFE opposes the concept of the American Heritage Act and the use of the American Heritage Trust Fund to purchase private land.
4. WIFE opposes the government taking farmland through taxes and regulation. WIFE believes the government must offer full compensation to private property owners for all regulations that reduce the value of farmland or the income of farmers. WIFE also requests that before instituting any new rule affecting farmers, the government analyze the benefits as compared to jobs lost, food production capacity eliminated, and damage to farmers.
5. WIFE supports revising laws pertaining to eminent domain, eliminating the liability of landowners when public utilities cross their land.

6. Since the proposed system used by governing bodies to classify plants as either native or invasive is inadequate when establishing weed management programs; WIFE supports expanded plant classification and supports control of noxious weeds on public and private land, with the landowners consent.

7. WIFE requests that if a federal land sale is pending, that vested property right owners on federal land will be fully and fairly informed of adverse impact to property, and will be guaranteed due process and just compensation at highest and best use.

8. WIFE requests Congress take appropriate measures to protect and defend the ownership of property by 1.) narrowly limiting and defining those purposes that truly are for the public good, 2.) develop a method to insure that one class of society does not gain financial or other benefits by having property of another condemned under eminent domain, and 3.) under condemnation, the valuation is based on the Federal Yellow Book appraisal for highest and best use. WIFE also requests that when property is either de-valued by regulatory and/or partial physical taking or actual physical takings, either through eminent domain or various laws, the injured party shall be immediately and automatically fully compensated based on the appraisal for highest and best use as well as any and all associated legal costs.

9. WIFE supports the protection of private property rights against government takings by any agency, department, organization or non-governmental organization. (2009)

10. WFE supports the gifting or selling of public lands to any ag producer but does not support it for conservational, environmental organizations or non-governmental organizations. (2009)

11. WIFE opposes consideration of indirect land use to determine the carbon footprint of renewable fuels. (2009)

12. WIFE opposes the use of the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate large geographic features as natural parks and conservation land. (2010)

WATER

1. WIFE recognizes the goals of a Clean Water Act (CWA) and supports reasonable means to prevent degradation of surface and ground water.

2. WIFE opposes expansion of the jurisdictional reach of the Clean Water Act. (2008)

3. WIFE supports limiting federal Clean Water Act authority to navigable streams and flowing waterways that have a continuous flow. (2008)

4. WIFE supports a moratorium on new wilderness designations until the ruling, reserving water originating in wilderness areas for use in wilderness areas, is resolved. WIFE supports full and fair disclosure of savings provisions in the Wilderness Act and demands acknowledgement, respect, and protection of vested water rights and the Doctrine of Prior Appropriations.

5. WIFE opposes the implementation of the Public Trust Doctrine.

6. WIFE supports the development and construction of feasible water storage facilities, and the rehabilitation of existing storage facilities when necessary. WIFE urges criteria for development/construction of such facilities take into consideration reasonable pay back periods and the benefit/cost ratio to the economy.

7. WIFE opposes the change of direction by the Bureau of Reclamation to the detriment of the Federal Reclamation Projects and the assessments of charges or fees to the projects for services and/or water that are contrary to the original purpose of the projects and the Bureau of Reclamation.

8. WIFE opposes the federal government's action to circumvent, by any means, a State's right to allocate and regulate waters within their boundaries.

9. WIFE opposes any loss of water rights, including water arising, or claimed on, federal lands without specific procedures of due process of law and just compensation (as provided in the V and XIV amendments of the U.S. Constitution). WIFE demands acknowledgement, respect, and protection of Prior Appropriations Doctrine on water rights and recognition of "fee land ownership." WIFE supports automatic immediate compensation at appraised value for highest and best use for a loss of water rights.

10. WIFE maintains that all branches and levels of government should acknowledge and respect the individual land owner's right of free choice in management practices in water use, development and conservation. WIFE supports programs that encourage landowners/ water users to use voluntary best management practices which are efficient, and environmentally and economically feasible, to prevent degradation of surface and ground water. Any regulation, if imposed, must be based on scientific fact, which includes recognizing naturally occurring elements.

11. WIFE urges that any request to transfer water from an agriculture use requires a study of all impacts of that water use change.

12. WIFE opposes the expansion of the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act".

13. WIFE supports the words "navigable bodies of water" remain in any water legislation. (2009)

WETLANDS

1. WIFE supports a cooperative approach to the wetlands issues that will provide mutual benefits to those that feel a more comprehensive plan be adopted, emphasizing management and flexibility. Farmers should be represented on any state or federal appointed study or advisory commission.
2. WIFE believes prior converted lands and wetlands created by any man-made structures, facilities, irrigation, or drainage activities should not be subject to regulations.
3. All wetlands and Section 404 determinations and regulatory authority on farmland should rest with USDA agencies, especially giving more control through local soil conservation districts.
4. Wetland protection programs should emphasize economic incentives to farmers and ranchers and not acquisition and perpetual easements.
5. WIFE urges USDA to include the farmer in the decision making regarding the designation of wetlands, on property on which the farmer has control or authority.
6. WIFE believes wetlands or temporary bodies of water in areas of one acre or less should not be under the jurisdiction of state or federal agencies.

RURAL LIFE

FARM SAFETY

1. WIFE believes all railroad cars should have reflector dots, strips or stickers on them for safety purposes.
2. WIFE urges all those who sell plants that have parts that are poisonous place a sticker, marker or description with them to designate which parts are dangerous. (2009)
3. WIFE believes basic first aid and Cardio-Coronary Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) should be taught in elementary and high schools.

RURAL HEALTH

1. WIFE is concerned about the high malpractice premiums the medical field must carry. These premiums are rapidly causing reduced service, especially obstetrical care, to our rural areas. WIFE urges other organizations, including health care organizations, to promote legislation to ensure obstetrical care be provided in rural America and legislators and insurance companies to revise claim limits and costs of malpractice insurance.

2. WIFE supports an accessible and affordable health care plan, offered by private insurers that will guarantee basic health care to everyone, this basic plan to include hospitalization, outpatient services, long-term care, preventative health care services, mental health and substance abuse and home health care. It should utilize all levels of health care providers with equitable reimbursement for services rendered regardless of population density.
3. WIFE supports legislation providing costs incurred for home health care, institutional care, medical and dental expenses be fully deductible when utilizing itemized deductions on state and federal taxes.
4. WIFE urges revision of Medicaid and/or Medicare reimbursements to provide equal reimbursement for health care regardless of population density.
5. WIFE urges insurance companies to accept the standardized Health Care Finance Administration (HCFA) forms and return a standardized explanation of benefits form to providers of services.
6. WIFE supports educational programs that encourage rural students to enter the varied medical professions and then return to rural communities to practice.
7. WIFE strongly supports the Agribility Project sponsored by the Easter Seals Society to ensure disabled farmers and ranchers remain on the land as active producers through modifications to traditional machinery and accessibility.
8. WIFE opposes any mandated national health insurance.(2007)

TRADE

1. WIFE calls for a ban on all meat and feed imports from countries that have not implemented and enforced a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban. (2007)
2. WIFE encourages the continuation of the Export Enhancement Program (EEP) with utilization of domestic supplies.
3. WIFE supports action to effectively deal with the negative impact that foreign imports have on profitability in our agriculture industries.
4. WIFE urges the United States to impose and enforce trade regulations no less stringent than those of the various exporting countries with which we do business. WIFE insists all future trade agreements must not be limited to regulating domestic support levels, export subsidies and market access but every future trade agreement must address differences in labor standards, environmental standards, health standards and trade-distorting effect of currency manipulation and cartelization of agriculture markets. (2007)

5. WIFE supports qualified border inspection be strictly enforced on a twenty-four (24) hour basis at all international borders.
6. WIFE recommends representation from agriculture producers in all trade negotiations. (2007)
7. WIFE promotes producer's value-added industries; thereby adding value to agriculture commodities while aiding the reversal of economic decay rural communities experience, including loss of jobs and population. (2007)
8. WIFE believes agriculture products and medicines should not be included in any government-imposed sanctions. In the event that sanctions are imposed on agricultural products, WIFE requests that all products and technology be sanctioned and steps taken to ensure that American products do not reach the sanctioned nation through a third party.
9. WIFE believes compensation should be provided to all U.S. agricultural producers in cases when commodities are used as weapons in setting foreign policy. (2007)
10. WIFE urges that a commodity should not be imported when the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) has a commodity in storage.
11. WIFE believes trade agreements must now address differences in labor, environment, and health standards while also seeking transparency with regard to currency, cartels, domestic support, export subsidies, and market access while urging expeditious dispute resolution. (2007)
12. WIFE urges Congress to regain authority to ratify each item in trade treaties and place the interests of family farmers and ranchers as a priority in trade agreements.
13. WIFE believes in fair world-wide export-import regulations and the same strict standards imposed on all imported food products as on U.S. food products and that inspection procedures be no less strict. (2007)
14. WIFE supports the identification of chemicals being used in the production/protection of agriculture products imported in the U.S. (2007)
15. WIFE believes imported food products should be withheld from the market until they are tested and found to comply with USDA and FDA standards.
16. WIFE supports and promotes the implementation of end-use certificates and recommends there be some physical identification (e.g. food grade dye) of foreign grain for the purpose of tracking this grain to its final destination.

17. WIFE supports the negotiation and implementation of an international grain agreement between exporting countries, which includes production levels, and minimum prices for grains.
18. WIFE supports increasing the funding for the Food and Drug Administration and APHIS to inspect all food imported into the United States. (2007)
19. WIFE supports the naming of an agriculture expert in the international trade office.
20. WIFE urges Congress to address the additional cost to U.S. producers from higher corporate pricing for fertilizer, chemical, and seed in relation to pricing in other countries, when discussing expansion of trade agreements.
21. WIFE shall urge Congress to ascertain that the World Trade Organization (WTO) ensure that approval of genetically modified organisms, product labeling and food safety requirements are based on internationally accepted science and are consistent with international trade obligations.
22. WIFE supports implementation of Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) by requiring labeling of all imported products before the point of importation, and self-certification for all US grown and produced commodities.
23. WIFE encourages legislation that requires the amount of imported meat and live animals intended for slaughter be reported weekly by the USDA.
24. WIFE supports the use of only domestically grown products for PL 480 and all other foreign aid programs.
25. WIFE supports chemical harmonization that includes equalization of chemical use regulations and chemical costs between the United States and foreign nations.
26. WIFE opposes the United States entering into any trade agreements unless those agreements are equitable in their treatment of U.S. farmers and ranchers and contribute to a more balanced trade position.
27. WIFE urges the United States Trade Representative negotiate for special rules for cattle and beef as perishable and cyclical products.
28. WIFE urges the removal of livestock from the J-List (the list of exceptions to the general rule that all import products be identified with a mark of origin.)

29. WIFE urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) retract the rule designating Canada as a minimal risk country. Explanation: “minimal risk” designation may set a precedent for other countries with native Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) to petition for access to the U.S. market. Currently there are several countries banned from importing cattle and beef into the U.S., either because BSE exists in those countries or because those countries have inadequate import standards against BSE. The “minimal risk” designation is not recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE.) (2009)

30. WIFE urges the U.S. Congress to protect the agricultural trade competitiveness of producers and consumers of the United States by:

(a) withholding Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status from the countries who are not truly underdeveloped economies,

(b) supporting programs and legislation aimed at decreasing market concentration in agriculture and call on our trade negotiators to demand this when negotiating for free trade agreements,

(c) opposing giving the European Union, and other countries, the exclusive rights to trade names that have been used in the United States for many years and that are used to denote generic products, and

(d) directing the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and the USDA to (1) investigate the trade distorting impact of new global business relationships, and (2) suspend or amend any U.S. regulation(s) (e.g., import regulations) that may unintentionally facilitate trade distorting practices by other countries.

(e) assuring that all promotion programs are carefully structured to avoid conflicts with any current or future trade policies in order to minimize WTO legal challenges to all U.S. promotion programs. (2007)

31. WIFE urges the U.S. Congress to protect American agriculture and American consumers by supporting programs and legislation aimed at decreasing market concentration by foreign interests in American agriculture and calls on our trade negotiators to keep this in mind when negotiating free trade agreements. (2007)

32. WIFE directs the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to investigate the trade distorting impact of new global business relationships (e.g., mergers, acquisitions, etc.) by foreign owned companies in the United States that favor large foreign owned operations to the detriment of America’s producers, consumers, and American owned companies. (2007)

33. WIFE opposes the use of melamine in any product designated for consumption by humans and/or animals regardless of the source of the product. (2008)

34. WIFE urges legislation to include border adjustments, such as taxes and tariffs, on all imports when the same strict standards that apply in the U.S. are not applied to the exporting country. (2009)

35. WIFE supports the development of a national comprehensive, long-term trade strategy designed to bolster U.S. manufacturing, preserve national security, and level the playing fields for U.S. exports. (2010)

TRANSPORTATION

1. WIFE urges the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to ensure fair and equitable treatment for all shippers (elevators, etc.), especially those who have reasonable access to only one railroad. WIFE further urges the STB take into consideration the effect of their decisions on rural America.

2. WIFE urges that rail car supply be equitable.

3. WIFE opposes any transportation action that might adversely affect export markets.

4. WIFE believes that any vehicle fuel taxes should be used only for the improvement of highways and bridges.

5. WIFE supports continued maintenance of waterways in order to provide efficient, competitive, fuel-efficient transportation.

6. WIFE supports rules that ensure clean shipping containers for the transportation of our food supply.

7. WIFE urges that U.S. federal trucking and highway regulations apply to all foreign trucking under North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

8. WIFE supports allowing transportation of American produced commodities and goods by the most economical means. To facilitate competitive pricing and to keep transportation costs low, WIFE supports reforming the Jones Act, which was written during the 1930's, to protect U.S. ships from competition for shipping between U.S. ports.

9. WIFE supports empowerment of local authorities to study, plan and deny additional railroad crossing closing until such time as there are acceptable alternatives for individuals to travel reasonably from place to place.