



# **UTAH FARM BUREAU POLICIES**

**2018**

**Adopted by the  
House of Voting Delegates at  
the 101<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
Utah Farm Bureau Federation**



**November 17, 2017  
Layton, Utah**



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# **MISSION STATEMENT**

Inspire all Utah families to connect, succeed and grow through the miracle of agriculture.

# **VISION STATEMENT**

We bring value to every citizen and community through love of God, family, country and the land. We work for those who work to feed and clothe the world.

# **FOREWORD**

The Utah Farm Bureau is a federation of 28 county Farm Bureaus. Farm Bureau is the largest general farm organization in Utah and the United States.

Numerous legislative, educational, and service-to-member programs are provided for the benefit of Farm Bureau members.

The policies presented herein have been developed through the democratic processes of discussion and debate in local, county and state Farm Bureau meetings.

Activities of the Utah Farm Bureau Federation in 2018 will be based on the policies outlined in these resolutions adopted by the official voting delegates except as they may be modified or supplanted by later resolutions.

Leaders and members are asked to support these policies in a united effort to improve the social and economic condition of farmers and ranchers.

*Adopted by the UFBF Voting Delegates*  
November 17, 2017

## **PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU**

Farm Bureau is an independent, nongovernmental, non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-secret and voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of addressing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, county, state, national and international in its scope and influence. Farm Bureau is the voice of agricultural producers at all levels.

## **FARM BUREAU BELIEFS**

America's unparalleled progress is based on freedom and dignity of the individual, sustained by basic moral and religious concepts.

Economic progress, cultural advancement, ethical and religious principles flourish best where people are free, responsible individuals.

Individual freedom and opportunity must not be sacrificed in a quest for guaranteed security.

We believe in government by legislative and constitutional law, impartially administered, without special privilege.

We believe in the representative form of government—a republic—as provided in the Constitution; in limitations upon government power; in maintenance of equal opportunity; in the right of each individual to practice freedom of worship, speech, press, and peaceful assembly.

Individuals have a moral responsibility to help preserve freedom for future generations by participating in public affairs and by helping to elect candidates who share their fundamental beliefs and principles.

People have the right and the responsibility to speak for themselves individually or through organizations of their choice without coercion or government intervention.

Government affairs should not be secretive except as actually essential to national security.

Property rights are among the human rights essential to the preservation of individual freedom.

We believe in being good stewards of the land. We reaffirm our position to do our part to be good neighbors and to protect and enhance the image of the agricultural industry. We recognize the need to extend ourselves in the communities in which we live and assisting our neighbors and the general public in comprehending the benefits and positive impacts agriculture has on society and understand our responsibilities therein.

We believe in the right of every person to choose an occupation to be rewarded according to his or her contribution to society; to save, invest, spend, and to convey his or her property to heirs. Each person has the responsibility to meet financial obligations incurred.

We believe that legislation and regulation favorable to all sectors of agriculture should be aggressively developed in cooperation with allied groups possessing common goals.

We support the right of private organizations to require membership as a prerequisite for services.

Congress, the President, government agencies and their employees

should be subject to the same laws and regulations as the other people of the United States.

We believe the words "In God We Trust" should be displayed in a prominent position on all U.S. currency. We also believe the words "One Nation Under God" should remain in the Pledge of Allegiance.

We support the traditional American ideals of standing, saluting and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem regularly and teaching and practicing flag etiquette.

We believe political parties should be open, inclusive, and allow any qualified voter to participate in any political party's candidate selection process.

## **AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM**

We support:

- 1) permanent funding for agriculture in the classroom programs in all public schools to improve student understanding of agriculture's importance in our economy and as the source of our food and fiber. This funding should not be redirected to fund general education programs.
- 2) educational emphasis on the proper care of animals and the multiple use of public lands.
- 3) increased broad-based Agricultural Education programs in secondary schools.
- 4) the educational emphasis of private property rights as they relate to agriculture.

## **AGRITOURISM**

We support:

- 1) limiting liability for agritourism.
- 2) the following definition of agritourism: "Agritourism activity" means any activity which allows members of the general public, for recreational, entertainment or educational purposes, to view or enjoy agricultural related activities, including, but not limited to, farming activities, ranching activities or historic, cultural or natural attractions. An activity may be an agritourism activity whether or not the participant pays to participate in the activity. An activity is not an agritourism activity if the participant is paid to participate in the activity.
- 3) incentives and removing barriers for agritourism.

## **ANIMAL HEALTH**

We support:

- 1) maximum enforcement of animal health laws and regulations, including restrictions on importation of foreign livestock into the U.S.
- 2) state or federal assistance in the form of low interest loans, grants, or other disaster relief if losses or health hazards

attributed to serious animal diseases confront livestock operators in Utah.

- 3) livestock, poultry and aquaculture producers following reasonable and prudent measures in preventing the spread of infectious diseases.
- 4) testing for diseases transmittable to livestock and humans on all transplantable big game.
- 5) the continued use of antibiotics and sulfonamides in agriculture.
- 6) scientific and economic studies before removing any antibiotics from use in agriculture.
- 7) expanding state law to allow any person to teach or perform nonsurgical bovine, ovine, and/or porcine artificial insemination and pregnancy diagnosis
- 8) maintaining a veterinary diagnostic laboratory in southern Utah.
- 9) the certification of the Utah Veterinarian and Diagnostic Laboratories.
- 10) recruitment and retention of food animal veterinarians, particularly in rural areas.

**Brucellosis Vaccination** - We support:

- 1) Utah's brucellosis vaccination program be administered by rule through Utah's State Veterinarian and Utah's Department of Agriculture and Food.
- 2) mandatory calthood vaccination for all females entering the beef and dairy breeding herds.
- 3) evidence of tattoos, or blood test, as the necessary requirement for breeding animals entering the State of Utah.
- 4) revaccination of calf-hood vaccinates, if the science supports it.

**Chronic Wasting Disease** – We support:

- 1) the use of government funds to research Chronic Wasting Disease, its cause, transmissibility, and prevention in cervids. We support increased funding to the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to do extensive testing of wildlife to determine if CWD exists in cervids.

**Epididymitis Disease** – We support:

- 1) adequate funding and research to help eradicate epididymitis disease.

**Johne's Disease** – We support:

- 1) efforts of the Utah Johne's Disease Advisory Committee, along with state funding to develop improved methods for detecting and controlling Johne's disease.
- 2) building a nationally legislated fund to slaughter Johne's positive cows by using USDA market loss funds.

**Scrapies** – We support:

- 1) continued priority funding for scrapie research until the disease is controlled through the ongoing testing regimen.

**Swine Health Regulations - We support:**

- 1) strict enforcement of applicable blood testing requirements on all hogs shipped across state lines.
- 2) a mandatory blood test for all hogs not going to harvest from stock shows.

**Trichomoniasis – We support:**

- 1) state regulations for bulls testing positive for trichomoniasis foetus.
- 2) allowing a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test to differentiate between venereal and intestinal forms of trichomoniasis. Bulls carrying intestinal forms of trichomoniasis should not be sent to terminal markets or otherwise restricted.
- 3) penalties for livestock owners who fail to test for trichomoniasis.
- 4) a continued research program that leads to a more reliable trichomoniasis test.
- 5) the State of Utah using a better quality ear tag.
- 6) the testing of all dairy and rodeo bulls for trichomoniasis.

**ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

We support:

- 1) the right of farmers to raise and transport livestock in accordance with commonly accepted agricultural practices.
- 2) adequate agriculture representation on any local, regional, or state boards or organizations that deal with livestock husbandry.
- 3) the development of a livestock husbandry board under the authority of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

We oppose:

- 1) efforts to classify animals of husbandry as companion animals and elevating the well-being of animals to a similar status as the rights of people.

**AQUACULTURE**

**Commercial Fee Fishing - We support:**

- 1) commercial fee fishing operations on privately stocked natural streams and lakes which are on private lands; and
- 2) exempting private ponds that do not naturally enter public water from regulation and inspection by the DWR or the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF).

**Disease Testing - We support:**

- 1) a state funded aquaculture indemnification program at 75% of market value for private aquaculturalists required to eradicate diseased fish.
- 2) national "minor use for minor species" legislation to make drugs more readily available to treat diseased fish.
- 3) a legislative appropriation to establish a fish section at the

Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.

- 4) Utah's Division of Wildlife Resources being required to conduct fish disease testing through outside certified labs similar to the private sector.
- 5) scientific studies that would evaluate the financial and economic impacts to both the public and private aquaculture industries.
- 6) legislation action that would level the playing field allowing for private fisheries to market and sell fish to urban fisheries under the Trout Enhancement Program.

We oppose:

- 1) use of new, more sensitive tests for fish diseases that are above the standards set in the American Fisheries Society (AFS) Blue Book.

Fish suspected of carrying whirling disease, or any other prohibited pathogen or aquatic invasive species, may be stocked only in waters known to be infected with Whirling Disease or any other prohibited pathogen or aquatic invasive species. If a private or public aquaculture producer is shown to be positive for Whirling Disease, or any other prohibited pathogen, following a confirmatory test, a second test by a separate, certified lab should be required in order to verify that the disease is present. If these tests are not in agreement, a third test at another certified lab should be required. These tests should be completed within six months. Furthermore, efforts to control Whirling Disease, or any other prohibited pathogen, should be consistent and equal for both private and public fisheries.

**Federal Assistance** - We support:

- 1) state or federal assistance in the form of low interest loans or other disaster relief for fish farmers who must remodel or go out of business due to whirling disease or any other prohibited pathogen or aquatic invasive species.

**Fish Stocking** – We support:

- 1) purchase of fish for public fisheries by the DWR from certified private sources on a bid basis in lieu of expanding the state-owned hatchery system;
- 2) bid invitations being issued at least 12 months in advance of purchases; and
- 3) stocking of fish not smaller than ten fish per pound in any waters where whirling disease has been found.

**Funding**– We support:

- 1) a legislative appropriation that would meet expenses incurred by the Utah Fish Health Policy Board.

**Institutional Aquaculture** – We support:

- 1) limiting production of fish at institutional production facilities to 2,000 lbs. annually and marketing such fish on the same basis as private aquaculture.
- 2) limiting live fish transplants from closed institutional aquaculture systems to permitted ponds only under the authority of the original fish supplier's certificate of health.

## **BRAND INSPECTION**

We support:

- 1) strict enforcement of brand inspections for livestock at the point of sale and at all harvest facilities.
- 2) reciprocal brand inspection agreements with neighboring states, especially to avoid duplicate brand inspections when livestock are sent to auction.
- 3) a fee waiver for brand inspections of livestock that routinely move between pastures within neighboring states.
- 4) brand inspectors who are familiar with livestock producers they serve.
- 5) training of local and state law enforcement personnel on brand inspection laws and procedures in order to curtail illegal hauling of livestock.
- 6) training brand inspectors on how best to read earmarks in sheep.
- 7) a fiscally responsible brand inspection department which is funded through a combination of the user fees and department budgets with any increase in user fees being approved only through the direction of the State Brand Board and Legislature.

## **CHILD CARE**

We oppose:

- 1) expansion of publicly financed child care programs. We prefer tax credits to low-income working families for child care instead of direct subsidies.

## **DAIRY**

**Check-Off Promotion-** We support:

- 1) check-off requirements on domestic products. This should be applicable to all agriculture imports.

**Federal Dairy Deregulation -** We support:

- 1) a phase-in period of five years for any deregulation of the dairy industry.

**Federal Milk Marketing Order -** We support:

- 1) modifications in the Federal Milk Marketing Order that will enhance the price of milk received by producers. These modifications would include, but not be limited to:
  - a) removing the make allowance on class III milk and,
  - b) the opportunity for producers to vote on amendments to the FMMO rather than just an up or down on the whole order.
- 2) regulatory reform efforts to strengthen the price correlation between physical commodity trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange contracts meant to represent those commodities.

**Marketing - We support:**

- 1) a supply management program administered by the dairy producers.
- 2) continued emphasis by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to develop markets for dairy product exports.
- 3) funding for research and development of dairy ingredients.
- 4) increased funding for the U.S. Dairy Export Council.
- 5) a state milk marketing order and other revenue enhancing programs.
- 6) generic promotion of dairy products and displaying the "real" seal on products produced and processed in the USA.
- 7) institution of regional dairy marketing opportunities such as compacts and marketing agencies.
- 8) a voluntary statewide dairy producer 1 cent/cwt dairy check-off program directed to the Dairy Producers of Utah.
- 9) serving milk; including flavored milk, in the school's lunch program.

**We oppose:**

- 1) the FDA memorandum calling for the USA to give "grade A" status to foreign milk.

**National Fluid Milk Standard - We support:**

- 1) a national fluid milk standard consistent with the California standard.

**Raw Milk -** Food safety, in both perception and reality is important to producers and consumers. Because of the risk inherent in the consumption of raw milk we propose the following:

We support the transportation and sale of raw milk packaged for retail sale so long as the producer follows the following requirements:

- 1) retain ownership of the milk until final sale to the consumer.
- 2) have a current Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP).
- 3) increase frequency of milk testing:
  - a) producer/processor handler required to bear the expense of additional testing.
  - b) maintain current UDAF Bacteria and Pathogen Tests including antibiotic residue testing
- 4) meet labeling requirements such as, but not limited to:
  - a) use by/sell by date (maximum of 9 days from production to final sale)
  - b) health risk label informing raw milk consumer of health risks associated with consumption of raw milk,
  - c) raw milk handling label that educates consumers on how to handle raw milk at home to maintain and preserve quality and to avoid contamination/spoilage leading to health risks associated with unpasteurized milk
- 5) milk processing facilities should meet the same health and sanitation requirements and standards required for restaurants including:



- a) certifiable, reviewable, milk testing lab and technician.
- 6) have and follow strict retail quality control protocols and standards:
  - a) mandatory 3<sup>rd</sup> party milk testing of every batch bottled and prepared for retail (Milk will be held off store shelves until batch tests come back and are clean)
  - b) all raw milk sold must have been handled and maintained at a specific temperature requirement and is subject to regular and random milk cooler checks.
  - c) maintain a database of all raw milk sales
- 7) raw milk sold at the dairy farmer's owned off premise retail location.
- 8) the sale of raw and pasteurized milk at the same retail location provided the raw milk is produced and sold at the farmer's owned, on-farm, retail location; is displayed and sold from separate coolers than pasteurized milk and there are distinctly different labels for the raw and pasteurized milk.
- 9) UDAF increasing enforcement and penalties for the illegal sales and distribution of raw milk up to \$2,000 for a first offense, \$5,000 for a second offense and up to \$10,000 for a third offense.

We oppose:

- 1) the sale of raw dairy products, with the exception of cheese, at Farmers Markets.
- 2) a cow share program in any form.

## DEFINITIONS

**Agriculture**--Agricultural operations which meet the criteria for regulation under one specific set of rules should not automatically fall under jurisdiction of others. We recognize the importance and inherent value of small farms and ranches involvement in the agricultural industry.

We support:

- 1) standardizing the definition of agriculture as it is used within state code.
- 2) efforts to define a farm. The definition should be developed with strong producer input and should be consistent for all agencies.

**Pollutants**--Pollutant or contaminant should not include any substances, including byproducts or constituent elements thereof, produced through natural biological processes of agricultural operations, such as farms, ranches, and all livestock and other operations where animals are confined and/or maintained for use or profit.

Byproducts or constituent elements thereof, produced through natural biological processes of agricultural operations shall not be considered an agricultural waste when it is returned to the soil as fertilizers or soil conditioners or used in agricultural or industrial processes and it shall not be considered a discarded material.

Agriculture should be regulated based on sound science and technical characterizations that best represent the process and emissions from the particular operation/entity.

## **EDUCATION**

**Higher Education**--We support:

- 1) the Land Grant University system, specifically the Utah State University research, teaching and Extension mission, and USU should:
  - a) expand its distance learning programs.
  - b) teach both lower and upper division courses on Extension campuses.
  - c) assure Gubernatorial appointment of at least two bona-fide agriculture industry representatives to both the Utah Board of Regents and the USU Board of Trustees.
  - d) allow out-of-state students residency status after one year of continuous Utah residency.
  - e) offer elementary education degrees at each distance learning site in Utah.
  - f) be adaptable and responsive to the changing needs of agriculture, including but not limited to, air, environmental and water issues.
- 2) requiring an agricultural appreciation and awareness course for all undergraduate degrees.
- 3) expanding farm business management education and benchmarking.

### **Public Education**

We support:

- 1) the repeal of the No Child Left Behind Act and other federal mandated curriculum programs. We support local and state developed curriculum.
- 2) merit pay for teachers, requiring a direct relationship between student achievement, parent input, and higher teacher compensation. Students with learning disabilities and other special needs should have alternative educational opportunities.
- 3) an improved education delivery system which will:
  - a) ensure mastery of competencies,
  - b) allow greater individual flexibility in educational goals,
  - c) create partnerships with business, and
  - d) instill students with attributes of responsibility and discipline.
- 4) curriculum revision of high school agriculture science classes to ensure they qualify as science credits for graduation and at universities.
- 5) increased oversight of approved school instructional materials to ensure they accurately portray agriculture.
- 6) increased aptitude orientation and occupation related training

in high school.

- 7) Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in public schools and specific state funding to ensure these programs continue. This funding should not be redirected to fund Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) or general educational programs.
- 8) an annual state-wide, activities-based audit on public schools to determine expenditures on core curriculum versus other activities.
- 9) charter schools being required to meet the same standards, criteria, funding, testing and teacher certification as public schools.
- 10) creating the ability for industry professionals, including retirees, to teach classes at high school and at colleges.
- 11) granting local school boards the flexibility to meet a 990-hour school year requirement without regard to the 180-day minimum.
- 12) maintaining drivers education in the public state education system.
- 13) hearings for the selection of textbooks be properly advertised allowing concerned citizens opportunities to attend and offer input.
- 14) the U.S. Constitution and the basic principles of Americanism, with emphasis upon freedom, dignity and the responsibility of the individual, and our private competitive enterprise system, be required topics of study for elementary schools, charter schools, middle schools, junior high and high school students in the public education system.

We oppose:

- 1) a tuition tax credit unless it holds harmless rural school districts and vocational agriculture education.
- 2) any legislative action to move current Career and Technical Education (CTE) state funding from the Utah State Board of Education, which is a secondary education board, to the Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT) Board, which is a post-secondary education board.

#### **EMINENT DOMAIN AND IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY**

Agencies and utilities, with condemnation powers, should be required to:

- 1) only use eminent domain as narrowly as possible.
- 2) cross federal and state-owned lands before going across private property.
- 3) attempt to purchase property for just compensation before announcing plans to condemn it.
- 4) inform property owners about the Private Property Ombudsman, even prior to condemnation or threatening condemnation when land sales are being negotiated.

- 5) notify citizens potentially affected by projects in which eminent domain will be utilized to allow for feedback and input.
- 6) give certified written notice and obtain permission from the property owner before entering property to survey.
- 7) provide appraisal upon request to the property owners within ten days. When choosing to request an appraisal from the state Property Rights Ombudsman, the private property owner shall be involved in the selection of the appraiser. The state Property Rights Ombudsman may provide an appraisal at the owner's request.
- 8) oral presentations made by any agency representative in the negotiation phase should be reduced to written form and considered binding.
- 9) return property to the condemnee at not more than the original compensation price when not utilized for the purpose for which it was condemned.
- 10) strict adherence to the principle of due process and just compensation for the taking of any land or property rights.

Private companies acting as public utilities should be required to meet the same guidelines for crossing privately owned land as those required to cross federal and state-owned lands. Such companies should also be required to perform environmental assessments and environmental impact statements, etc.

If a landowner refuses entrance onto private property, a court order shall be required before surveyors are allowed to enter the property.

We oppose:

- 1) counties, cities, political subdivisions and other governmental entities condemning agricultural water rights inside or outside their jurisdiction.
- 2) eminent domain as a means to acquire water rights.
- 3) the use of eminent domain for recreational purposes, private economic development, or to expand the land holdings of wildlife agencies.
- 4) granting the power of eminent domain to the Utah Lake Commission.
- 5) the use of state, federal, local or county taxes to fund any organization and its developmental programs and projects which, are specifically intended for private development and condemnation purposes.

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

We support the elimination of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and propose that a new ESA be enacted that allows for meaningful participation from all affected people, agencies and affected groups with standing to decide if a given species warrants listing for protection under a new ESA. However, until the act is repealed, we support the following:

- 1) transferring to the general public any costs incurred by landowners attributed to the ESA.

- 2) incentive based conservation and management of candidate, threatened and endangered species by the private sector.
- 3) policies and laws that protect landowners engaged in voluntary conservation actions to conserve and manage sensitive, candidate, threatened and endangered species.
- 4) all local, county, state and federal officials promptly notifying landowners and public land users of the potential of listing any species.
- 5) mandatory public meeting(s), town hall meeting(s), and other meetings of a similar nature with applicable local, county, state and federal representation within local geographical areas regarding the status and potential of listing any species to hear input and concerns of local residents regarding potential listings and critical habitat designations.
- 6) the creation of an Endangered Species Council (ESC) with credible individuals of standing representing local landowners, county state and federal officials to recommend actions or the lack thereof to federal officials regarding the potential listing or designation of critical habitat for any species of concern.
- 7) listings based on current endangerment instead of any rarity, using sound, peer reviewed science and reliable confirmation of the genetics that is readily available to landowners and their representatives and which considers all populations of a species, including those in other countries of the world.
- 8) the prompt delisting of any species that have reached their original target population goals, unless there are mutual agreed upon reasons (decided by all affected people, agencies and affected groups with standing) why the species should not be listed. Delisting of any species should not be determined solely on the basis of total population numbers.
- 9) an amendment to the Endangered Species Act, that would allow for locally affected individuals of standing and local and state agencies, a majority control in the listing and delisting of species.
- 10) biological opinions being made available for public comment.
- 11) withdrawal of lands designated as critical habitat if the species has not been sighted in two years in that same area.
- 12) the right of any state to reject any proposed or existing critical habitat designation, recovery plan or introduction/reintroduction of any species.
- 13) the recognition of species that are considered sensitive versus candidate versus threatened versus endangered to be a factor in determining the feasibility of development projects both public and private.
- 14) the efforts to initiate programs for the restriction and monitoring of species of concern and their habitat based on sound scientific data.
- 15) the Utah partners to annually report population and habitat

benefits of species conservation and management actions to the appropriate Federal agencies and the public.

We oppose:

- 1) listing any additional species for protection by any federal or state entity or the designation of additional critical habitat until the ESA is rewritten and authorized by Congress.
- 2) fines and penalties as a method of establishing and/or maintaining control of private landowners and public land users in developing core conservation areas for restoring currently protected species associated with the ESA.
- 3) endangered, threatened, candidate and sensitive species taking priority over previously established private property rights, water rights, and grazing rights on public and private lands.
- 4) the use and interpretation of the Endangered Species Act to guide and manage land-use practices and policies.
- 5) using the ESA as a means to implement policy that restricts lawful chemical/pesticide use on farms and ranches.
- 6) using the ESA as a means to implement climate change policy and law.

**Species of Concern – We support:**

- 1) prompt notification of impacted agricultural producers, operators and owners that may be directly affected or have the potential to affect by a species of concern (SOC) designation on public and/or private land.
- 2) producers, operators and owners that have the potential of an impact on operations and management of their enterprise shall have the legal right to interject comments, documentation and be active in the SOC process.
- 3) any relevant findings, documentation and other applicable information by private entities, public agencies or other non-government organizations (NGO's) shall be made publicly available and be used to mitigate any decision(s) in performance of the SOC analysis.

## **ENERGY**

We support:

- 1) policies and practices that promote reliable and affordable electricity supply.
- 2) reprocessing nuclear waste as a way to generate additional energy.
- 3) exempting electrical cooperatives from mandatory purchases of renewable energy.
- 4) the development of all sources of energy in the state including within all National Monuments.
- 5) the immediate expansion of natural gas as a fuel source for vehicles including the necessary infrastructure.
- 6) careful planning for energy development that utilizes scarce water resources in the most beneficial way, as to not harm

- rural communities nor agricultural water right holders.
- 7) temporary or permanent low-level radioactive waste storage.
  - 8) off-shore drilling, drilling on federal lands and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).
  - 9) the Keystone Pipeline Project.
  - 10) building additional refineries in the United States.
  - 11) a careful, in-depth cost benefit analysis, by an independent source, resulting in the possible impacts of Utah joining the California Independent System Operator (ISO), including cost impacts, grid reliability and governance that will impact all Utah rate payers.

We oppose:

- 1) federal subsidies for corn ethanol.
- 2) mandatory use of renewable energy sources.

**Renewable Energy** – We support:

- 1) the responsible development and use of cost effective renewable energy resources, including careful evaluation of any subsidies.
- 2) retail net metering policies that are inclusive to all electric customers.
- 3) free-market principles determining renewable resource integration.
- 4) limiting government subsidies, credits and programs that create winners and losers.
- 5) renewable energy sources, accessing the transmission grid, pay their fair and equitable share of maintenance to the Utility provider.
- 6) market driven policies for the development of ethanol and biofuels.
- 7) the development of agricultural commodities for fuel sources.
- 8) the construction of hydropower electric generating plants on existing dams and water ways as a form of renewable alternative energy.

We oppose:

- 1) government mandates that limit or dictate energy choices.
- 2) renewable energy policies that rely on uncertain, future technological advancements.

**Global Warming and Climate Change**—There is scientific consensus that simply implementing carbon reduction strategies will not have a significant impact on reducing global temperatures, especially recognizing industrializing countries like China, India and Russia are greatly expanding their carbon footprints.

We oppose:

- 1) any regulations based on global warming and climate change.

**Surface and Mineral Rights** – We support:

- 1) the State Private Property Ombudsman provide education to landowners on their rights in negotiating leases. The Utah Private Property Ombudsman office should expand their focus

to include education and assistance for surface and mineral rights issues.

- 2) legislative efforts to define the surface estate rights in balancing development of the sub-surface estate.
- 3) exploration and extraction on all eligible private, state and federal lands.
- 4) a simplified method for removal of property encumbrances from past and void leases.
- 5) private property owners to seek professional assistance when negotiating contracts with development companies.
- 6) cities, towns and counties addressing challenges associated with split estates by amending General Use Plans and passing ordinances.
- 7) establishing surface owner protections when a split estate exists.
- 8) surface owners having equivalent negotiating authority as mineral right holders.
- 9) fair and competitive pricing of petroleum products.
- 10) the State of Utah providing information regarding water which is gathered when oil and gas wells are drilled or require oil and gas companies to provide the information to the state.
- 11) compensation to grazers when AUM's are lost due to oil and gas exploration and development.
- 12) consideration of surface owners and users in allowing input into the planning, exploration and development of mineral rights to minimize the impact on agricultural operations. Just and fair compensation should be rendered to landowners when there is an adverse impact to the surface owner or user.
- 13) technology that allows for directional drilling being adopted to minimize impacts to surface users.

We oppose:

- 1) oil and gas companies placing wells on productive agriculture lands.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**Air Quality – Odor** - We support:

- 1) development of state voluntary and incentive based guidelines to assist local officials in establishing air quality ordinances and regulations input from agriculture.
- 2) development of technologies that reduce negative environmental impacts to air as well as water.
- 3) agriculture being exempted from CERCLA and EPCRA reporting requirements.
- 4) additional studies that evaluate measurement methods when making air quality determinations.
- 5) action, legal if necessary, by the State of Utah to reverse EPA's decision to designate Box Elder County and other Wasatch Front neighboring counties as a 2.5 PM non-attainment area.



- 6) the exemption of ammonia from agriculture emissions standards.

We oppose:

- 1) government regulations mandating animal and odor control unless:
  - a) justified by sound scientific research,
  - b) technology exists to accurately quantify odor emissions, and
  - c) the regulation requires consideration of economic feasibility.
- 2) overemphasis on agriculture's relative contribution to regional, state, and local air quality.
- 3) government regulations mandating air quality control over dust and emissions from farm machinery and equipment, including all-terrain vehicles.
- 4) an overreaching and unaccountable Environmental Protection Agency.

## **EQUINE**

We support:

- 1) the Utah horse industry and resources that are necessary for its protection and endorsement, and recognize the economic contributions of the horse industry in the State of Utah.
- 2) voluntary horse ID for the purpose of tracking ownership.
- 3) the Utah State University Extension ADVS and Equine programs as the premier and leading equine education tool in the state of Utah.
- 4) the state statute defining horses/equine as livestock/animals of husbandry.
- 5) and encourage resuming harvesting horses in the U.S. through federally inspected plants.
- 6) continuation of intra/interstate transportation and exportation of horses for harvest.
- 7) efforts to keep open the Canadian and Mexican borders for the export of U.S. horses.
- 8) the Federal Government provide a means for horses to be harvested to solve the ever increasing problem of the public abandoning horses onto private and public properties.
- 9) a resolution from the legislature to the Governor outlining the problem with abandoned horses and calling for a resumption of harvesting of horses.

## **FAMILY AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY**

We support:

- 1) all efforts to eliminate pornography.
- 2) prompt action by Congress and/or the courts to prohibit by regulation and/or law the broadcasting of pornographic materials by any electronic device.

- 3) the right of parents to train, discipline and determine the care of their children.

We oppose:

- 1) abortion including tax-funded abortions, except for recipients who are victims of rape, incest, or where the life of the mother is endangered by the pregnancy.
- 2) homosexual or gay studies in schools.
- 3) recognizing same sex marriages with the same legal benefits that are given to heterosexual marriages.

## **FARM SAFETY/RURAL HEALTH**

We support:

- 1) an active farm safety/rural health program.
- 2) all rural emergency service organizations obtaining Farmedic training in their county.

## **FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

We support:

- 1) protecting the quality of the Colorado River water by implementing the approved Colorado River Salinity Control Environmental Impact Study (EIS) as soon as possible.
- 2) designating the salinity areas in the Colorado River Salinity Control EIS as priority areas for Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) funding.
- 3) the continuation of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control program in its original form and purpose. Control should remain with the local working committees.
- 4) irrigated farms assigned dry land yields in the 1985 Farm Bill being updated to irrigated yields for direct Commodity Credit Corporation payments.
- 5) U.S. Department of Agriculture soliciting and considering agricultural input on proposed regulations and procedures early in the rule drafting process.
- 6) using the previous year's AUM's, a difference in average weights, or other loss figures to document permittees actual losses for qualification for disaster relief.
- 7) efforts to streamline USDA-FSA as long as such efforts consider:
  - a) achieving savings through eliminating administrative inefficiencies at the Federal, State and local levels.
  - b) provide high quality, professional services to producers within a reasonable distance.
  - c) simplifying crop insurance purchasing requirements to enable farm program eligibility.
  - d) adjusting acreage yield estimates to reflect recent productivity data on a county by county basis.
  - e) giving the FSA state committee the flexibility to establish area specific crop insurance purchase requirements.

## **FENCING**

We support:

- 1) current Utah law that grants authority to county legislative bodies to declare and enforce general policies on fencing within their own jurisdictions. We favor a fence out policy on traditional open range areas of all counties.
- 2) prompt notification to landowners of damages to property caused by accidents or other incidents. This notification should come from local law enforcement agencies in an effort to mitigate further damages.
- 3) county, municipal and city ordinances that would require an individual and/or developer who changes the use of agricultural land(s) to adequately fence the property that is adjacent to irrigation facilities and land currently in greenbelt or agricultural production.
- 4) fences (on public lands) destroyed by fire (prescribed or natural ignited / let burn) should be rebuilt (materials and labor) by the appropriate land management agency.
- 5) just compensation and restitution to landowners when damages are incurred to a fence and/or property.
- 6) public and SITLA lands in historic open range that are sold to private entities (who no longer want to continue open range use) being fenced, or include a fencing requirement as a condition of the sale.
- 7) UDOT being responsible for all fence construction and maintenance, including materials and labor, along state highway rights-of-ways.
- 8) fencing open ranges, adjacent to public roadways, under the following conditions, terms and requirements:
  - a) upgraded, widened or paved roads that lead to increased traffic and speeds.
  - b) the public entity responsible for the road shall take responsibility for securing funding from appropriate public sources and overseeing the construction and maintenance of the fence.
  - c) fences shall be constructed to appropriate specifications to prevent livestock from entering the roadway.
  - d) liability to the livestock owner remains the same as open range.
  - e) proper signage alerting motorists of the possibility of livestock on roadways even though there are fences.

## **FOOD QUALITY, SAFETY, REGULATORY ASSURANCE AND INSURANCE**

We support:

- 1) all participants in the food chain, from producers to consumers, working towards safe food, including but not limited to education, research and programs designed to

ensure food safety.

- 2) producer vertical integration, direct to consumer sales, processing and product value-adding that secures the sustainability, market stability and safety of the entire food chain, with consideration to risk.
- 3) food handler permits.
- 4) sufficient time for producers to adjust to cancellation of traditional management tools.
- 5) access to critical pesticides used for crop and livestock production, along with increased funding for research on alternative crop and livestock protection tools.
- 6) practical, feasible, and economical use of pesticides and livestock treatments in accordance with label directions, along with reasonable, economical, and feasible record keeping of such uses.
- 7) delaying the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) restrictions on juice processors regarding hazard analysis and critical control point ruling until the restrictions can be scientifically justified.
- 8) irradiation of meat, poultry, fruit and vegetables.
- 9) promoting the livestock and dairy quality assurance programs, including the beef injection site recommendations.
- 10) annual calibration, inspection and certification of wholesaler single component feed calibration equipment ( i.e. moisture testing, protein percentage) by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food compliance officers.
- 11) proper insurance coverage for grain crops and straw considering the increased value of such commodities.
- 12) certified-testing labs offering the California Hay Test (TDN) as well as relative feed value test.

We oppose:

- 1) removing regulations that ensures the safety of food: For example, the Food Freedom Act.

## **FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS**

We support:

- 1) a requirement for parties whose claims are denied and found to be frivolous to pay court costs and damages.
- 2) efforts to eliminate frivolous lawsuits designed to block grazing on public lands.
- 3) efforts to limit awards for malpractice lawsuits.
- 4) state appropriations to defend agricultural interests from environmental lawsuits.
- 5) awards being made on the basis of the percentage of liability and not on joint and several liabilities.

We oppose:

- 1) the American taxpayer paying for frivolous lawsuits. We call on Congress to report on the payments made through the

## **FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

We support:

- 1) a national fruit promotion program.
- 2) adoption of a USDA marketing order for fruit and vegetable growers.
- 3) removing restrictions on fruit, specifically apples and all vegetable sales to Mexico.
- 4) timely implementation of laws and regulations regarding control of fruit tree and vegetable diseases and pests.
- 5) efforts to protect the continued use of crop protection tools and pesticides.
- 6) full funding for the pest diagnostic lab at Utah State University.

## **GOVERNMENT**

**Capitalism – Private Competitive Enterprise** - We believe:

- 1) efficiency and high per capita production are primary elements in achieving high standards of living.
- 2) in the American capitalistic, private, competitive enterprise system.
- 3) government operation of commercial business in competition with private enterprise should be terminated.
- 4) funding government programs by the general public when the service or product benefits the general economy or public health and safety.

**Constitution** - The Constitution of the United States is well designed to secure individual liberty by a division of authority among the legislative, executive and judicial branches and the diffusion of government powers through retention by the states and the people of those powers not specifically delegated to the federal government.

The Constitution is the law of the land. Changes in long-established interpretations should be made only through constitutional amendments. We accept the U.S. Constitution as a divinely inspired document subject to changes through the amendment process. We support a Convention of the States and oppose calling a Constitutional Convention.

**Federal Government** - Federal programs should not be used as vehicles to force state and local governments to conform to federal authority.

We support federal legislation be made available to the public at least 72 business hours prior to the time it is proposed for vote on the House or Senate floors.

We are encouraged by the progress made by other countries in establishing democratic governments. We urge the federal government to support these efforts in a careful and prudent manner.

**Government by Initiative** - We support:

- 1) the republic, representative form of government. We support the initiative process only when the following guidelines are in place:

- a) Those soliciting signatures must disclose whether they are being paid to collect signatures and who is paying for the signatures.
- b) The main points of the effort must be disclosed when each signature is collected.
- c) Anyone signing petitions must be allowed 3 business days after the county clerk filing to request that their signature be removed, with a no requirement of notary public acknowledgement.
- d) Those soliciting signatures cannot register voters at the same time as collecting petition signatures.

We oppose:

- 1) the use of the initiative process to establish new taxes or tax increases.

**Executive Branch** - We recommend that the executive branch:

- 1) exercise restraint in seeking broad, discretionary powers from the legislative branch.
- 2) avoid interpreting laws beyond the scope specifically spelled out by the legislative branch.

**Legislative Branch** - We urge Congress and the State Legislature to safeguard their legislative prerogatives by:

- 1) insisting that federal and state expenditures be legislatively approved annually.
- 2) avoiding delegation of broad, discretionary powers to the executive branch, including the appointment of czars.
- 3) enacting corrective or conforming legislation when a court or agency has invaded the legislative arena.
- 4) government regulation should be subject to scrutiny and review through the legislative process.

Legislative bodies should adopt a code of ethics which clearly delineates the conduct and activities that govern their members.

We support a Utah legislature that is part-time, convenes annually for 45 consecutive days and begins as early in the calendar year as possible.

We favor an amendment to the state Constitution to guarantee the fundamental right to determine apportionment of one house of the legislature on some basis other than population.

**Judiciary** - We believe in an independent judiciary, impartial administration of law without special privilege, and government by law wisely administered according to constitutional principles.

Neither the federal or state courts should perform functions reserved to the legislative branch.

Courts should not overlook the rights of crime victims in an over-zealous effort to protect the civil rights of the accused and the convicted.

**Socialism and Communism** - We reaffirm our opposition to all socialistic and communistic economic systems and encourage the cooperation of other nations in this endeavor.

Apathy and apparent lack of responsibility on the part of individual citizens is allowing the socialization of America through the centralization of

power and authority in the federal government threatening our republic and our system of private competitive enterprise.

**States' Rights** - The powers not specifically delegated to the federal government by the Constitution are reserved to the states or to the people.

States should have the right to nullify any rules passed and administered by Federal Agencies until Congress ratifies the rule(s).

The maintenance of strong, independent and responsible state and local government is imperative to the preservation of self-government and individual freedoms.

Public functions should be performed by the qualified unit of government closest to the people, without coercion by legislatures and administrative agencies of higher units of governments.

We favor retention of the Electoral College for presidential elections, but electors should be required to vote for the candidates on the ballots to which they were pledged.

We favor a caucus system that allows local representation to elect candidates to the primary ballot.

To save money and insure better voter participation, special bond elections should only be held in conjunction with primary or general elections.

## **GUN CONTROL**

We support:

- 1) the constitutional right to own and to bear arms.
- 2) rigid enforcement of laws controlling the use of firearms and particularly when the user of a firearm is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

We oppose:

- 1) legislation that would limit the rights of citizens of the United States to purchase, possess or sell firearms (except fully automatic weapons) through registration, licensing or taxation of firearms, ammunition or reloading equipment and supplies:  
and
- 2) more stringent gun control laws. Any new commitment in gun control should be made by the strict enforcement of current laws.

## **HEALTH CARE**

We support:

- 1) caution in establishing new mandates on health care insurance.
- 2) tort reform that limits liability payments to plaintiffs and their attorneys' fees in cases of malpractice suits against health care providers.
- 3) continued health care research directed towards improved health care in the future.
- 4) full deductibility of health insurance premiums for self-employed taxpayers.
- 5) living wills that give patients the right to have life support

devices discontinued.

## **LABELING**

We support:

- 1) legislation that makes it illegal to put commodities in improperly labeled containers. (i.e. packaging low quality fruit in a box labeled for high quality fruit).
- 2) reuse of containers when the label accurately reflects the contents.
- 3) country of origin labeling of imported food products identifiable to the consumer at the point of sales.
- 4) voluntary country of origin labeling for sheep, poultry, pork and beef.
- 5) USDA approved market based certification programs which identify production practices used to produce such food.

We oppose:

- 1) false, misleading, or deceptive marketing and promotion and/or label claims, including the use of absence claims on food labels, when compared to other products not bearing such claims, unless sufficient scientific evidence exists to substantiate the claim.

**Animal Identification** – We support the establishment and implementation of a coordinated state and national animal identification system that incorporates the following principles:

- 1) is capable of providing support for animal disease control and eradication, as well as enhancing food safety.
- 2) is voluntary and is economically motivated and driven.
- 3) gives the producer flexibility to use electronic devices, and includes current permanent forms of identification such as brands and tattoos.

**Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) Labeling**—Agricultural products that are produced using approved biotechnology should not be required to designate individual inputs or specific technologies on the product label. All voluntary labels should be approved by UDAF, USDA and/or the FDA ensuring scientific accuracy and truthfulness in labeling.

## **LABOR**

We support:

- 1) an economical and effective federal guest worker program. In the absence of a federal guest worker program, a statewide guest worker program that will allow foreign workers with appropriate identification to work in the U.S.
- 2) adoption of the H-2A labor reform program to:
  - a) reconfigure wage rates based on prevailing local averages,
  - b) streamline the application process,
  - c) allow for a one-time adjustment of status for current immigrant laborers,



- d) not monetarily penalize the producer if a laborer did not fulfill contract agreements, and
  - e) relocate and/or deport laborers who fail to fulfill their contract.
- 3) standardizing the H-2A program by allowing all non-seasonal H-2A workers the ability to stay in the United States for a minimum of 3 years.
  - 4) amending child labor laws to allow family-owned farm corporations and partnerships the same requirements and privileges as accorded to sole proprietorships.
  - 5) children and family members, under the age of 18, lawfully working on farms and ranches.
  - 6) agriculture employers being required to submit a New Hire Registry Reporting Form for each employee to the Department of Workforce Services only after the employee has worked for at least three months for the employer.

We oppose:

- 1) enforcement of e-verify until a functional guest worker program is implemented.

**Homeland Security** – We support:

- 1) proactive measures against any form of agricultural terrorism. Perpetrators of such terrorist activities should be subject to felony conviction and maximum penalties including loss of their tax-exempt status if applicable.
- 2) a secure United States border.

We oppose:

- 1) driver's licenses for illegal aliens.
- 2) allowing illegal aliens to vote, and access to government programs.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

We support:

- 1) the rights of crime victims as well as the accused.
- 2) administration of justice through fair and timely trials with sentences appropriate to the crime.
- 3) restitution by money and/or labor to victims by juvenile or adult perpetrators of crimes against persons or property. Parental responsibility in the case of juveniles should not be ignored.
- 4) capital punishment or life imprisonment without parole upon conviction of first-degree murder.
- 5) strict enforcement of drug laws.
- 6) enforcement and penalties for drivers who fail to carry automobile insurance.
- 7) inmates working to help provide for their keep.
- 8) public lands agencies contracting with the local county for law enforcement services on federal lands rather than organizing their own law enforcement.
- 9) the authority of the County Sheriff as the primary law

enforcement in a county.

- 10) a reasonable distance for which individuals may discharge firearms from agricultural structures, farm equipment, wells and engines. We further support expanding the definition of such a structure to include structures used to hold, feed, and work livestock.

## **LIVESTOCK THEFT AND DESTRUCTION**

We support:

- 1) maximum penalties for livestock theft and mutilation or imposition of felony convictions involving livestock.
- 2) imposing the same penalty for illegal killing of livestock, as for the poaching of big game.
- 3) assistance by the DWR in investigating illegal livestock killing.
- 4) payment of treble damage fines by those convicted of theft, mutilation or other crimes against livestock.
- 5) payment of treble damage fines and severe punishment for those convicted of unauthorized release of farm and research animals or sabotage at farms, product processing or research facilities.
- 6) funding for additional livestock theft investigators.

## **LIVESTOCK TRAIL RIGHTS**

We support historic livestock trail rights-of-way remaining open through developed areas and on federal and state lands.

## **LOTTERY**

We oppose a state lottery or any form of legalized gambling.

## **OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION**

The property rights of landowners must be protected. Those who own or lease land should have the responsibility for its management. The right to sell and manage land must remain in the hands of those who own or lease it. These beliefs can best be accomplished by supporting the following concepts:

**Agriculture Protection Areas** - We support:

- 1) full statutory protection of agricultural land within an "Agriculture Protection Area" (APA) until it is voluntarily withdrawn by the landowner.
- 2) additional incentives to farmers for placing lands in agricultural protection areas for the full 20-year term.

We oppose:

- 1) amending the APA statute in any way that would erode current protections granted to landowners, including the requirement of a governmental entity to obtain approval from a local APA advisory board before the governmental entity can acquire protected land by eminent domain.

If roadways that affect (APA's) are to be projected, planned or

designed their route should be such that it minimizes the impacts to production on agricultural land.

Legitimate, valid and justifiable consideration should be given to the types of agricultural lands to be affected by any proposed roadways. Data and information should be collected through the Annual Report developed and provided through Utah State University in conjunction with the Utah State Tax Commission Farmland Assessment Advisory Committee.

Agricultural Protection Areas should not be partitioned, divided or segregated by proposed routes. Preference and partiality should be given to routes that utilize the edges of farm and ranch land and minimize disruption to agricultural operations.

**Coordinated Resource Management - We support:**

- 1) coordinated resource management plans and inclusion of locally elected Conservation Districts in the local planning process.

**Funding Sources -** Agricultural land preservation projects funded by government should not disrupt private, competitive market forces.

**Incentive-Based Solutions - We support:**

- 1) assessed valuation in line with productive capacity of farmland.
- 2) investment by private entities and local government in agricultural enterprise profitability.
- 3) marketable tax credits from donated development rights.
- 4) tax credits against state inheritance and federal estate tax.
- 5) density bonuses to encourage greater density in specific areas.
- 6) counties and municipalities using the criteria “the protection and preservation of properties used for agricultural purposes” when creating and amending planning and zoning processes.
- 7) voluntary incentive-based programs that keep farms and ranches in production.
- 8) efforts of the Quality Growth Commission – LeRay McCallister Fund to focus on the preservation of agricultural lands in the state. Education related to conservation easements is needed to assist those who have an interest in this method of preservation.
- 9) the concepts associated with urban farming based on county options. However, qualifying lands must have special tax status separate from the Farmland Assessment Act (Greenbelt) and must be managed as a profitable agricultural business.

**Liability - We support:**

- 1) protecting landowners from any liability created by governmental efforts to preserve open space where such efforts include the landowner’s property.

**Purchase of Development Rights or Conservation Easements -**

We support:

- 1) purchase of development rights or conservation easements on a willing seller, willing buyer basis with emphasis on acquisition by the private sector.
- 2) no expansion of condemnation powers of government to preserve agricultural lands or open space.
- 3) permanent or specified term conservation easements.
- 4) transferable development rights.
- 5) legislation which provides for special districts to assess taxes to purchase conservation easements or development rights for agricultural land or open spaces.

Sale of government lands that are encumbered by conservation easements or other management restrictions should not be counted as “no net loss” transactions.

## **PEST CONTROL**

We support:

- 1) increased funding for each infested county, by state and federal governments, to combat infestation of crickets, Japanese beetle, grasshoppers, meadow voles, pocket gophers, and other pests.
- 2) control measures on state and federal lands adjacent to private property.
- 3) early monitoring to determine location of insect, and/or rodent infestation and maximization of resource allocation.
- 4) the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) leaving pesticides available until an equal and more effective product becomes available.
- 5) government agencies who administer wildlife refuges or wetland areas be required to participate in the control of mosquito populations.
- 6) an aggressive program to prevent the spread of the West Nile virus and urge the use of whatever methods necessary to control mosquitoes which are vectors on private and public lands.

## **PLANNING COMMISSIONS**

We support:

- 1) appointment of agricultural representatives on planning and zoning commissions.
- 2) protection of private property rights, especially regarding subdivision ordinances, as a priority for planning commissions. Landowners should not be encumbered by any governmental entity in exercising their right to buy or sell property. Furthermore, there should be no net loss of private lands within counties/cities.
- 3) property owners only being required to install improvements proportionate to the impact of development. We oppose property owners bearing the disproportionate cost of creating

amenities for the public interest.

- 4) including government agencies, school districts and charter schools in local planning and zoning or permit requirements for construction projects, with the exception of Military Installation Defense Authority(MIDA) zones.

**Land Use Plans - We support:**

- 1) local development of county/city by county/city land-use plans.
- 2) county, state, and federal governments adhering to county/city plans without government interference.
- 3) the creation of a state land use plan so long as it is made up only as a compilation of the county/city land use plans, including updates of county/city plans, and not as a separate plan.
- 4) continued funding and technical assistance to aid counties/cities in developing, adopting, and updating county/city plans.
- 5) county governments be given authority to amend Congressional approved county land-use plans subject to a local, public review process.
- 6) the development and mapping of livestock driveways and waterways as part of a county's/city's transportation plan revision.

**We oppose:**

- 1) land being designated as "sensitive land" for its agricultural, ecological or archeological value.

**PORK**

**Marketing - We support:**

- 1) the development of local, regional, and global markets.

**Pork Check-off - We support:**

- 1) a vote to continue the check-off, provided there is a full annual accounting of how the money is used.
- 2) applying the pork check-off collection to U.S. and imported slaughter hogs.
- 3) the exemption of feeder pigs and breeding animals from the check-off.

**POSTAL SERVICE**

**We support:**

- 1) programs to provide efficient essential mail service to rural America.

**We oppose:**

- 1) closing rural post offices without a public hearing.

**PREDATOR CONTROL**

**We support:**

- 1) all current predator control methods and practices, including the judicious use of approved pesticides by qualified persons.

- 2) funding for additional predator control research coupled with information dissemination to appropriate parties including farmers and ranchers.
- 3) implementation of approved and effective predator control measures by authorized agencies, trappers, farmers and ranchers without interference from animal advocacy groups or others.
- 4) federal agencies controlling depredation from threatened or endangered species and disposing of predators which drift into Utah or are illegally introduced to protect private property rights associated with livestock grazing rights, crops or other private property damage.
- 5) increased efforts to control ravens/crows, skunks and raccoons.
- 6) removing wolves from the endangered species list.  
Supervision and control of the wolves should be at the state level.
- 7) improved and increased predator control for wildlife on public lands to prevent depredation that occurs when predators drive wildlife onto private lands.
- 8) the USFWS issuing timely harassment and relocation permits for eagles in critical livestock grazing areas particularly in advance of calving and lambing seasons.
- 9) when necessary, the United States Fish and Wildlife Agency issuing eagle take permits to WS and licensed eagle falconers based on excessive populations of adolescent eagles.
- 10) bobcat permits being available throughout the trapping season wherever trapping licenses are sold.
- 11) greater input to the state predator control program.
- 12) return of predator control assessments to the area collected when WS cannot provide adequate predator control.
- 13) UDAF establishing an enforceable policy for collecting animal damage control assessments from livestock producers.
- 14) a portion of the cost of every big game hunting license be dedicated to predator control and be directed to WS.

We oppose:

- 1) governmental agencies disclosing private and personal information to the public regarding wildlife damage control activities.

## **PRIVATE FOREST PRACTICES**

We support:

- 1) the training of private forest landowners in sound forest management practices, including proper logging, by USU Extension Service and the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands in cooperation with the Utah Farm Bureau Federation.
- 2) requiring commercial logging contractors to notify the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands of any logging plans on

private forest lands.

- 3) a voluntary program wherein a private forest landowner may contact the Division of Forestry, Fire and State lands prior to a timber sale for assistance in protecting his resources.
- 4) reforestation as qualified projects for Agricultural Resource Development Loan (ARDL) moneys.
- 5) tax incentives to preserve private forest lands.
- 6) the formation of a statewide forestry association.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS - We support:**

- 1) the sanctity and protection of private property rights without government interference.
- 2) state and county leaders resolving Tribal jurisdiction issues and protecting the rights of non-tribal citizens who live on or own real estate assets such as land, water and mineral rights within reservation boundaries.
- 3) efforts to strengthen surface owner rights in a split estate.
- 4) stronger recognition of the right to compensation for regulatory takings by government.
- 5) changes in state code that would prevent a public right of way by dedication, when private land is being accessed or utilized by the public.
- 6) private property owners rights to close their land to public access.
- 7) Utah's Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) being subject to the same laws governing access to private lands as the public and law enforcement agencies.
- 8) reducing the requirements of private landowners to post and fence private property to prevent public access and prescriptive easements.
- 9) the practice of conservation pools, parking areas and campground facilities associated with privately constructed reservoirs on publicly owned lands as long as they be financed and maintained by the agency managing the lands.
- 10) giving the office of the Private Property Ombudsman authority and budgetary resources to provide information that assists private interests and local governments in protecting private property rights.
- 11) the responsible and safe use of Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (SUAS) (Drones) for agricultural operations as a tool to manage and enhance an agricultural enterprise with modern technologies.

**We oppose:**

- 1) government zoning of private property without the consent of the landowner.
- 2) the practice of government agencies requiring a rental fee on lands inundated by reservoirs.
- 3) the use of SUAS (Drones) for activities that would endanger

personal and public safety, violate private property, and personal privacy rights, including but not limited to equipment, livestock, crops, etc. and interfere with public safety operations.

- 4) extending public trust doctrine to any private property rights established prior to statehood.

**Environmental Impact Statements** - We support:

- 1) preparing environmental impact statements (EIS's) in harmony with long-established scientific and economic principles, with social and local customs being considered, and with the ultimate goal of improving the resource rather than restricting multiple use.
- 2) permittees having greater input in the EIS preparation.
- 3) continuing normal range improvements during the EIS process.
- 4) timely completion of EIS's.

**Preserving Private Property Rights through Market-Oriented Solutions** - We support:

- 1) market oriented solutions to transfer land or other property rights.
- 2) the market place as the best determinant of the value society places on land and water resources.

**Recreational Access** – We support:

- 1) defining workable recreational water access on private property while recreational access is being litigated.
- 2) the allowance of portage structures at the discretion of the adjoining private landowner and within the boundary of the public easement. Furthermore, landowners should not be responsible for any damages or injury while the public is utilizing the water and not responsible for the portage structure installation, maintenance, cost and/or liability.
- 3) private properties that border stream beds should be indemnified and protected from lawsuits originating from public users of state waters.
- 4) a penalty of permanently revoking a fishing and hunting license for those who have been convicted of destroying or damaging private property while utilizing a recreational easement.

**PUBLIC LANDS**

**Base Property** - We support:

- 1) preserving base property requirements.
- 2) transferring grazing permits without transfer of base property or livestock if the new permittee has base property and livestock to service the permit.
- 3) long-term leases of base property and livestock handling facilities with lease tenancies at least equal to the term of the grazing permit.



- 4) requiring permittees to own livestock and abide by the terms of the Taylor Grazing Act.

**Burning, Logging and Grazing** - We support:

- 1) continued use of fire, grazing and logging as a management tool on public and private lands.
- 2) prescribed burns contained within USFS Forest Plans to include standards that allow for the harvesting of marketable timber before such burns are initiated.
- 3) reduced grazing fees or other concessions for permittees whose grazing practices help prevent fires.
- 4) allowing harvest of wood in areas where tree mortality has occurred.
- 5) pressuring federal agencies to utilize the beetle infested trees by prescribed burns, harvesting and other tools in order to help protect our forests.

**Multiple Use** - We support:

- 1) promotion of multiple use concepts in management of natural resources on public lands by local, state and federal management agencies.
- 2) government agencies working in a coordinated effort to promote and enhance livestock grazing as an integral part of multiple use and management of natural resources, as outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA).
- 3) the creation of a council (on an as needed basis) which consists of all individuals, agencies or other non-governmental organizations (NGO) with standing to discuss concerns, ideas and possible solutions to wildlife and wild horse conflict with domestic livestock on public land. The council shall include landowners and/or grazing permit holders in impacted areas, as well as agency and/or NGO personnel.

**Antiquities Act** – We support rewriting the Antiquities Act to revoke the executive's branch's ability to designate national monuments. Congress, in association with the executive branch, with the approval of state and local governments, should be the body to designate national monuments.

**National and State Monuments and Parks** - We oppose the creation of new National and State Monuments. If Monuments exist, we support:

- 1) congressional review and evaluation to determine the necessity of all national monument designations using the NEPA process.
- 2) multiple-use in National Monuments, including livestock grazing, hunting, fishing, trapping, timber harvesting, watershed management, recreation, and mining.
- 3) removal of land or change of boundaries of the monument to facilitate extraction and utilization of natural resources, including oil, gas and coal.

- 4) the timely completion of grazing management plans in all National Monuments that protect current and historic grazing. Grazing management plans should allow vegetative treatments for purposes of reducing pinion juniper and other regrowth.
- 5) providing sanitary restroom facilities in National Parks and Monuments.
- 6) state and/or county governments assuming control of national parks immediately after any federal government shut down.
- 7) the control of vector borne diseases and noxious weeds by allowing the spraying of mosquitoes and noxious weeds within restricted areas such as national monuments, parks and other public lands
- 8) requiring the National Park Service to pay the full cost of emergency services and equipment provided by local government to national park areas.
- 9) requiring the National Park Service to pay the full cost of emergency services and equipment provided by local government to national park areas.

We oppose:

- 1) the concept of “view sheds” as a land use restriction.
- 2) enlarging the boundaries of National Parks and monuments in Utah. We oppose restricting public access to national parks and monuments. Instead, we encourage the construction of more roads and public trails within national parks to accommodate visitors. We also oppose buffer zones around national parks and monuments.
- 3) designating National Monuments as National Parks.
- 4) the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS).

**Private Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative** - We support:

- 1) the private grazing lands conservation initiative.

**Public Ownership of Land** – We support:

- 1) no net loss of privately owned property in Utah.
- 2) the transfer of public lands from federal management to state and local governments, including some privatization. Lands transferred to state and local control should be administered under multiple-use management.
- 3) simplification and streamlining of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and process to reduce delays in necessary land management practices.
- 4) federal land management agencies strict conformance with the legislation in question when drafting regulations.
- 5) the federal government honoring the state Enabling Act and releasing public lands. The revenues generated from the sales of public lands should be used to reduce the national debt, fund education and transportation infrastructure.
- 6) increased federal payments in-lieu of taxes on public lands and increased sharing of rent and royalty revenues, with in-

lieu payments that reflect current values paid by other taxpayers as reflected in the Action Plan for Public Lands and Education (APPLE) Initiative.

We oppose:

- 1) Utah's Division of Wildlife Resources purchasing private agriculture or range ground and/or grazing permits resulting in a tax base decrease.
- 2) the expansion and/or creation of new State Parks, unless impacted permittees and local governments are supportive.
- 3) Utah DWR acquiring or leasing public or private land, range land or grazing permits.

**Rangeland Management**—We support:

- 1) use of a portion of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) grazing fees for rangeland improvement.
- 2) a public accounting of income and disbursement of grazing fees.
- 3) active vegetative management for watershed and grazing enhancement on public lands.
- 4) restricting use of grazing fee funds used for fire rehabilitation projects to those lands that have been and will continue to be used to graze domestic livestock.
- 5) investment in the Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) Grazing Improvement Program, the Department of Natural Resources Water Shed Initiative, and the LeRay McCallister Fund.
- 6) treble damages to permittees whose improvements are altered or removed by any government agency.
- 7) permittee ownership of any improvements financed and/or built wholly or in part by the permittee.
- 8) open access to permitted lands for permittees consistent with the intent of their permit, including but not restricted to maintenance of reservoirs, water conveyances, fence structures and/or other handling facilities.
- 9) open access across public land by private inholders to their property.
- 10) elimination of any trail permit fee.
- 11) mediation or arbitration, as opposed to court action, to determine the cost to the permittee of easements or rights of way across public lands.
- 12) sub-leasing of unused AUM's on a short-term basis, especially during droughts.
- 13) the reallocation of retired or unused grazing allotments to permittees by agencies that appear to be circumventing the law, including the chiefly valuable for grazing mandate of the Taylor Grazing Act.
- 14) long-term range monitoring that includes range trends, utilization data, actual use, and climatic patterns.

- 15) no reduction in grazing until monitoring clearly demonstrates a downward trend in range carrying capacity.
- 16) establishment of a federally funded program to compensate financial losses to public land permittees when they are required to forfeit or reduce grazing due to drought, wildlife conflict, fire damage, endangered species, or other causes. Where feasible, the federal agency should offer an allotment in another area to the affected permittee.
- 17) permittee notification of and an invitation to participate on range tours and surveys which may affect range use.
- 18) legislation that removes court decreed restrictions on grazing.
- 19) permit renewals being negotiated solely between the permittee and the corresponding federal agency. "Affected party" filers should be restricted from intervening in these renewals.
- 20) the State Taylor Grazing Board structure proposed by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.
- 21) the strict adherence to the Taylor Grazing Act by appropriate government agencies.
- 22) the Range Specialist position at Southern Utah University funded by Southern Utah University and Utah State University.
- 23) chaining and other forage enhancement activities.
- 24) continued livestock grazing and other surface uses and no restriction on permit transfer, if and when the federal government expands the U.S. Army's Dugway Proving Ground – Utah Test and Training Range.

We oppose:

- 1) any government agency removing or destroying improvements financed wholly or in part by permittees.
- 2) permittees who make improvements on public lands being liable for the cost of environmental studies.
- 3) designating allotments or partial allotments for wildlife only.
- 4) designating large tracts of lands as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). ACECs should be small in size and allow continued grazing and should be consistent with the county master plan.
- 5) any buyout of grazing permits, whether initiated by the federal government or other organizations.
- 6) Wild and Scenic Rivers on intermittent streams and dry washes and those which do not meet the eligibility of the Act and measures taken by agencies, that administer Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- 7) any changes in federal range management until range data demonstrates there is a cause to change management practices and/or fees charged for use of range resources.

**Recreation** - We support:

- 1) recreation, including but not limited to, off-road and recreational vehicle use and rest area facilities on public

lands.

- 2) designated off-road and recreational vehicle areas, and recommend that private property owners cooperate with organized recreational associations in leasing land for such use.
- 3) strict enforcement of laws to prevent damage to public and private lands used for off-road and recreational use.
- 4) public land agencies implementing educational programs for ATV users to help protect the land resources from degradation.
- 5) user and access fees to cover costs of all off-road and recreational activities (i.e. hunting, camping, hiking, biking, fishing, ATV training, etc.).

**Recreational Areas** --We support:

- 1) livestock grazing in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area with the local BLM field office responsible for developing and implementing grazing management plans with input from affected private landowners and livestock operators.

**Riparian Areas** - We support

- 1) the eradication of Tamarisk and Russian Olive in waterways.

**Roads** - We support:

- 1) no right-of-way purchase requirements by state or federal land management agencies for local governments to establish or improve access-ways.
- 2) the option of cost sharing of maintenance and improvement by all agencies for roads they use.
- 3) Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) reviewing their road closure criteria to allow access for removal of dead fall and other multiple use activities. Irrigation companies should also be allowed access to maintain their respective canals and storage structures.
- 4) advertisement and public comment of any road closure proposal on federal or state lands.
- 5) roads and trails on federal or state lands remaining open for administrative or multiple use.
- 6) prevention of new trails and roads on federal and state lands where they interfere with permitted grazing practices.
- 7) local government involvement in the road inventory on public lands along with support from the Utah Association of Counties.
- 8) maintaining roaded areas on Forest Service and BLM land from being designated as roadless or receiving a backcountry designation.
- 9) increased signage and designation for open range.

**Timber Harvest** - We support:

- 1) logging on government managed lands and encourage the U.S. Forest Service to be more aggressive in defending sound silvicultural activities.

- 2) increased funding for multiple use of forestlands that is otherwise minimized due to restrictive management strategies on surrounding areas.
- 3) responsible harvesting of timber on federal, state and private lands including roads for access.

**Wetlands – Army Corps of Engineers** - We support:

- 1) wetlands as a vital resource for the environment.
- 2) an acre for acre exchange rate in purchases of private land by public entities for wetland mitigation.
- 3) allowing winter grazing on private property wetland mitigation sites.

We oppose The Corps of Engineers' authority to regulate:

- 1) non-navigable waterways and their tributaries. State and local governments should have jurisdiction of non-navigable waterways and their tributaries.
- 2) river channels that it does not maintain or on which it does not have authority to compensate landowners for flood damage.
- 3) canals, ditches and other man-made conveyances, including man-made still water reservoirs, holding ponds and their seepages used for irrigation.
- 4) farmland, including land that has been irrigated by any man-made facility.
- 5) use of adjudicated water rights it does not own to create or maintain wetlands.
- 6) inclusion of private property owners and local governments in wetland issues and decisions.

**Wild Horses and Burros**- We support the repeal of the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Until the act is repealed, we support:

- 1) acknowledging that wild horses and burros are feral animals;
- 2) managing wild horses and burro populations in compliance with agency resource management plans and maintaining a thriving natural ecological balance on the range for all multiple uses;
- 3) the effective and efficient fertility control including sterilizations to minimize population growth and reduce the cost of gathers;
- 4) utilizing any ethical method of removing excess wild horses and burros from the range including, but not limited to, the use of helicopters, bait and traps and lethal control;
- 5) transferring title of wild horses immediately upon adoption;
- 6) wild horses and burros that have been held in government captivity for more than six months and are deemed unsuitable for adoption be ethically euthanized or marketed;
- 7) wild horses and burros be treated as a commodity, and a system be developed to take advantage of economic opportunities
- 8) the testing for diseases; and
- 9) proportional reduction in wild horses and burro numbers in the event livestock numbers have to be reduced for any reason.

We oppose:

- 1) reduction or elimination of livestock grazing rights due to misuse of federal lands by wild horses or burros;
- 2) any new or expanded wild horse and burro territories being established on public land or imposed on private land;
- 3) using taxpayer funds for marketing campaigns; and
- 4) designating horse or burro herds as treasured or other special classifications.

**Wilderness Areas** - We support:

- 1) the elimination of Wilderness Study Areas. However, until WSA's are eliminated we support the following:
  - a) state and county approval for wilderness designation in states with greater than 25 percent public land ownership. Any wilderness designation should take into consideration local economies, property rights and water rights.
  - b) disqualifying any area from wilderness designation that has RS2477 roads or other access roads or established rights-of-way.
  - c) managing wilderness study areas (WSAs) according to multiple use, sustained yield principles.
  - d) release of WSAs not designated wilderness after five years.
  - e) hunting and horse use in wilderness and primitive areas.
  - f) use of motorized or mechanical equipment to repair water or livestock care facilities.
  - g) control of noxious weeds by motorized or mechanical means.
  - h) use of helicopters for search and rescue operations in WSAs and wilderness areas.
  - i) continued grazing in WSAs and wilderness areas under the same terms and conditions as prior to its designation.
  - j) continued predator control in WSAs and wilderness areas.
  - k) hard release language in any wilderness law.
  - l) lapsing of all pending WSA's.

We oppose:

- 1) buffer zones around WSAs or wilderness areas or withdrawal of multiple use on any federal or state land as defacto buffer zones.
- 2) use of cherry-stemming as a means for qualifying an area for wilderness designation when roads and other access already exists.

## **PUBLIC PRAYER**

We support the right to public prayer and discussion of religious themes in public forums, including schools, and support a modification of the

Utah Constitution, if necessary, to guarantee this right.

## **PUBLIC UTILITIES**

We support:

- 1) exempting non-profit utilities from annual public utility right-of-way fees imposed by the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT).
- 2) informing all entities desiring an easement within a right-of-way that they must obtain an easement from the property owner as well as the right-of-way owner.
- 3) incentives, for both private and public developers, installing utility infrastructure in underserved or unserved areas.
- 4) low-interests government loans available for developing utility infrastructure.
- 5) regulating utility companies so competitive bidding can occur for both new or expanding utility infrastructure.
- 6) the independent advocacy role of the Committee of Consumer Services in the regulation of Utah's public utilities.

## **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Utah State University (USU) Cooperative Extension and Agriculture Experiment Station are essential to the welfare of the agriculture industry and all Utahns.

We support:

- 1) the state legislature appropriating funds to Utah State University (USU) for further research, education and extension services. This threefold mission should emphasize:
  - a) farm efficiency,
  - b) profitability,
  - c) innovative marketing techniques,
  - d) new uses for products,
  - e) alternative crops suitable to Utah,
  - f) beneficial and economical uses of crop residue,
  - g) biotechnology, including a consumer education program
- 2) changing the funding paths and legislative oversight of USU Extension and Agriculture Experiment Station from the legislature's Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee to the Natural Resource Appropriations Subcommittee.
- 3) Utah Agriculture Experiment Station pursuing federal funding for fur industry research.
- 4) an annual review by agricultural commodity interests to help establish research, extension and education priorities at USU.
- 5) state marketing orders designed to provide for orderly marketing and an even flow of high quality products to consumers.
- 6) state marketing orders, by industry vote, for purposes of promotion, education, research and orderly marketing. State marketing orders should be administered by the Agriculture



and Food, Marketing and Development Rule found within the rules of Utah's Department of Agriculture and Food.

- 7) the beef check-off, as administered by the 1985 Act.
- 8) expediting the approval process of biotechnology products by government agencies.
- 9) USU providing Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) testing in the State of Utah.
- 10) the continued use of animals in medical research in order to insure medical advances that lead to enriched quality of life in humans as well as animals.
- 11) continued legislative appropriations for the fruit research farm in Utah County.
- 12) USU Extension "Children at Risk" program.
- 13) the continued improvement, development and approval of crop and livestock technologies.

We oppose:

- 1) cuts in budgets that would reduce or eliminate beneficial programs in extension.

## **RIGHT TO FARM**

We support:

- 1) responsible actions designed to allow and protect the rights of farmers and ranchers to produce without undue or unreasonable restrictions, regulations or harassment from government entities and /or public or private sectors.
- 2) actions to ensure that farmers be protected from undue liability and nuisance suits and harassments when carrying out normal production practices.
- 3) basic right to farm, right to harvest, right to access roads and highway policies designed to secure legislation defending 100 percent of the owner's interest in agricultural development of rural land.
- 4) further steps to educate law enforcement on agricultural laws and practices.
- 5) protecting irrigated agriculture land from the abuse associated with oil and gas development.
- 6) agricultural operations that are consistent with sound agricultural practices are presumed to be reasonable and do not constitute a public nuisance.
- 7) the use of by-products as fertilizer and soil amendments including but not limited to manure, compost, bio solids, etc.

## **SCHOOL AND INSTITUTIONAL TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION (SITLA)**

**Development** – We support:

- 1) cooperation between state agencies in the development of SITLA lands and adjacent private lands.
- 2) fewer restrictions on development of SITLA lands, especially

those imposed by archaeological clearances.

- 3) use of public funds rather than private or SITLA revenues to cover costs associated with archeological clearance surveys conducted on SITLA properties that are sold for development.
- 4) timely reclamation of disturbed SITLA sites from oil, gas, mining or other extractive industry activities.
- 5) sale at market value of SITLA lands planned for residential development rather than lease of these lands.
- 6) multiple-use, sustained-yield management of SITLA lands.
- 7) the exchange of SITLA land in Wilderness Study Areas to acquire BLM land.
- 8) converting SITLA lands under grazing permits to cultivated cropland or other higher use only when the following conditions are met:
  - a) The conversion will not increase soil erosion.
  - b) The current lessee is allowed the right of first refusal.
  - c) The current lessee is protected from adverse financial impact by conversion.
- 9) archaeological assessments required for development of state lands be financed by a government agency. The NRCS should be authorized to perform such assessments.

**Funding** - We support:

- 1) removing the cap on interest money from the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) Fund that goes to the schools of the state.

**Grazing Permits** – We support:

- 1) a preference renewal system similar to that of the Forest Service or BLM for leasing SITLA property.
- 2) maintaining the current 15-year lease arrangement for grazing.
- 3) grazing fees that are based on forage productivity and/or services.
- 4) a grazing fee formula for Utah Trust Lands that reflects indexed changes in future private, non-irrigated pasture grazing lease rates as reported annually by USDA Ag Statistics.
- 5) SITLA considering the impacts on permittees, the local public and private economies if lands are sold.
- 6) SITLA compensating permittees, after the sale of the property, for improvements the permittee made to the land and the value of the fair-market value of the permit.
- 7) a Grazing Protection Act that protects grazing on state and federal lands.
- 8) SITLA in conjunction with permittees developing a long-range master biological (wildlife) management plan that is mutually beneficial.
- 9) studying and evaluating the social impacts as well as the economic impacts on current permittees by selling the Tabby

Mountain block.

- 10) under competitive bidding practices consideration of the economic impacts on current permittees and the local economy, as well as the past performance record of the current permittee before awarding a permit to the highest bidder.
- 11) under competitive bidding requiring a new permittee, who does not hold an adjacent BLM or USFS grazing permit or causes an unauthorized trespass problem, to fence the boundary of the SITLA permit.

We oppose:

- 1) competitive bidding to establish grazing permits.
- 2) attempts by the School and Institutional Trust Lands (SITLA) to acquire or reclaim lands for mineral right exploration that have been legally sold and/or transferred.

### **SCHOOL LUNCHES**

Federal funding for school programs such as Title I should not be tied to the schools' level of participation in the free lunch or breakfast program.

We oppose an evening meal program associated with the school lunch program.

### **SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICTS**

We support:

- 1) the process of appointing board members to local, regional and statewide special service districts by elected officials provided that any proposed tax increase be subject to the approval of the appointing elected official.

We oppose:

- 1) special service districts collecting fees when no services are rendered.

### **TAX**

We support:

- 1) a balanced tax policy for Utah that includes property tax, income tax, sales tax and user fees.
- 2) a simplified tax code.
- 3) exempting private stock water companies from property tax.
- 4) exempting farming operations from impact fees/assessments as a result of irrigation water coming off farms and into storm drain systems or drainage detention basins.
- 5) motor fuel taxes expressly for construction and maintenance of Utah's highways and a system that will minimize interest costs.
- 6) income tax reform with consideration to converting the federal income tax to a retail sales tax.
- 7) reinstating income averaging in all tax years.
- 8) the repeal of state and federal estate taxes.

- 9) retaining all sales tax exemptions available to Utah agriculture.
- 10) fuel tax credits for agricultural vehicles and implements of husbandry used for off highway use and only incidentally on the highway, regardless of whether the vehicle is required to be registered with the state.
- 11) all farm products and other related products used for transporting, selling, producing, and or installing should remain with a tax exempt status and be protected against all sales tax and/or personal property tax.  
The term farm product is defined as any products requiring one or more of the following processes: a) Breeding b) Planting c) Fertilizer d) Watering e) Cultivating or f) Harvesting.
- 12) property valuations for agricultural lands that reflect current agricultural productivity values. Taxable value, however, should not exceed market value.
- 13) all licensed vehicles pay state and federal road taxes.
- 14) elimination of state and federal taxes on capital gains.
- 15) bonding to finance government capital facilities under some circumstances. Bonding to finance non-capital items should be minimized.
- 16) equalizing the food tax to the state sales and use tax rate.

We oppose:

- 1) a tax on ticket sales when entering county fairs, rodeos, etc.
- 2) a value added tax.
- 3) a county or municipality imposed fuel tax.

**Farmland Assessment Act (Greenbelt) - We support:**

- 1) County Assessors enforcing Greenbelt qualification requirements to prevent abuses.
- 2) the Farmland Assessment Act (FAA)
- 3) the rollback provision of the FAA as reasonable and necessary to preserve fairness and integrity of the law.
- 4) counties ensuring the Constitutional mandate for statewide uniformity in property assessment is met.

We oppose:

- 1) the removal of agricultural lands from Greenbelt designation due to oil and gas development.
- 2) expanding its strict focus on agriculture to include private lands that are managed specifically for public wildlife purposes.
- 3) assessing agritourism or related agricultural activities as anything other than agriculture.

## **TIME**

We support Mountain Daylight Savings Time with time changes in the spring and fall.

## **TRADE & COMPETITION**

We support:

- 1) competitive livestock markets to assure fair market prices.
- 2) allowing packer buyers to purchase cattle for other feeders in addition to their employer.
- 3) continued appropriations for UDAF's Market Reporting Service and information gathering techniques that ensure accurately reported data.
- 4) independent producers forming alliances and other strategic business arrangements that will help them survive the changing structure of agriculture.
- 5) increasing the upper limit of bonding requirements for agricultural dealers and processors.
- 6) increased authority and flexibility for the Commissioner of Agriculture to require audits and financial reports from dealers to help determine proper bond levels.
- 7) sellers of agricultural products being protected by product lien laws.

We oppose:

- 1) unfair subsidies to group farming projects such as the Navajo Ag Product Industry in New Mexico and the Ute Farms in Colorado.
- 2) European Union attempts at inward processing to increase exports in excess of WTO rules.
- 3) proposals to limit packer ownership of livestock to 14 days.
- 4) the opening of the Canadian Border to cattle over the age of 30 months.
- 5) bonding provisions governing the sale of commodities farmer to farmer.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

We support:

- 1) funding of transportation needs in rural Utah.
- 2) funding for non-contractual noxious weed control along Utah's Department of Transportation rights-of-way.
- 3) UDOT planning for highway construction that will preserve viable farming operations.
- 4) county residents and landowners to be given access to a fee waiver when accessing roads and highways through national and state parks.
- 5) local government's statutory authority to issue and enforce permits to groups that use state highways or local roads for organized events, provided that these events will not interfere with community or agricultural transportation needs.
- 6) a local option by individual counties to take over maintenance of selected state roads.
- 7) the Utah "Adopt a Highway" program. However, sponsors should not be allowed to display political statements on signs used in the program.
- 8) sufficient road shoulders that may serve as an emergency

lane on state highways as traffic loads increase.

- 9) the extension of I-70 West.
- 10) the construction, expansion and maintenance of Utah highways and roads through Utah's counties with an emphasis on minimizing the loss of productive cropland.
- 11) a four-lane roadway from the intersection of Interstate 15 to the intersection of Interstate 70 (Highway 6).
- 12) uncontroverted evidence of an interruption or closure of a road, even for a short period of time, is adequate and sufficient for the ten-year public right of way period to recommence.
- 13) all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), with implement of husbandry stickers, being allowed to operate on public lands with permitted approval where OHV's are not allowed.

We oppose

- 1) Interstate 15, as well as other Interstate systems, being designated as "Toll Roads."
- 2) public access to adjacent private lands when road easements across private lands are granted to oil companies or other non-public entities. Public access on these roads should be by written permission of the affected landowners.

**Class D Roads**—We support:

- 1) limiting counties ability to claim jurisdiction over and designate privately constructed roads on private land as Class D roads unless a public right has been obtained by:
  - a) gift,
  - b) prescriptive easement,
  - c) eminent domain proceedings,
  - d) purchase, or
  - e) prior written permission from landowner.
- 2) counties abandoning public interest in all class D roads on private property not obtained utilizing one or more of the above five conditions.
- 3) counties vacating class D roads on private property if there has been 10 years of continuous non-use if requested by the landowner.

**Traffic Related Laws**—We support:

- 1) amending Utah law to align with surrounding states' laws which allow for increasing tandem weight limits as long as such increases do not exceed the allowable gross weight limit of a vehicle.
- 2) consistency in interstate trucking weight limits.
- 3) adoption by Utah Motor Carrier Division of exempting hauling of agricultural supplies or commodities from the 70-hour work week limitation during the planting and harvest season.
- 4) exempting drivers licensing requirements for OHV use on implements of husbandry on private and public lands.
- 5) vehicles of husbandry operating on public highways.

- 6) the current statute exempting agriculture from “Track Out” regulations on public and private thoroughfares.
- 7) an agricultural exemption related to the parking of implements of husbandry within city and county limits.
- 8) exempting intrastate, in-field loaded weight overages when transporting raw agricultural products.

We oppose:

- 1) mandatory electronic onboard recording devices on commercial vehicles.
- 2) federal and state regulations that require all drivers of articulated agricultural vehicles with 10,001 or more GVW ratings to have a medical card.
- 3) the requirement that all vehicles hauling livestock stop at ports of entry.

**Vehicle Inspections**—We support:

- 1) on farm (on site) vehicle safety and I/M inspection, when required by the state.
- 2) safety inspections being made valid for one year from date of inspection regardless of change in ownership.

## **TRESPASS**

We support:

- 1) strengthening the criminal trespass code and its enforcement by:
  - a) considering private property closed unless one has permission to enter.
  - b) aggressive ticketing and mandatory fines of individuals on private property without permission or discharging a firearm or other device into private property from adjacent property without permission.
  - c) prohibiting “hot pursuit” of injured wildlife as a waiver of the trespass law.
  - d) exempting landowners from liability for injuries or deaths that occur to trespassers as a result of their trespassing actions.
  - e) property owners receiving full compensation for damages caused by trespassers.
  - f) having DWR amend their trespass rules to follow state statute.
- 2) requiring government employees to obtain permission from the landowner prior to entering private property.
- 3) just the penalties for trespassers.
- 4) restricting hunting privileges for those hunters who are convicted of trespassing on private lands.

## **TURF GRASS**

We support:

- 1) research, education, development and marketing of drought

and heat tolerant varieties of turf grass and other ornamental plants, in order to better manage Utah's scarce water resources.

- 2) the definitions of "xeriscape", "water conserving landscape", and "water efficient landscape" as a landscape that includes but is not limited to: the water conserving principles of planning and design, soil improvements, appropriate plant selection, practical turf areas, efficient water distribution and scheduling, mulching, and appropriate maintenance.

We oppose:

- 1) any provisions or ordinances limiting the use of turf grass or other ornamental plants in public or private spaces.

## **UTAH CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

We support assessing the cost of prosecuting and defending inmates at state correctional facilities to the state of Utah rather than the county in which the facility is located.

## **UTAH STATE FAIR**

We support:

- 1) the expansion and upgrading of the Utah State Fair Park through state appropriations, provided that increased emphasis is given to agriculture education and interactive displays in the exhibits and facilities during the State Fair. The Utah State Fair should be a showcase for agriculture and refocus on that mission.

We oppose:

- 1) moving the state Fair Park to another location.

## **WATER**

**Beneficial Use** – All water rights, including underground water rights, are property rights that should not be taken from the owner without due process and just compensation. However, the right must be used for beneficial purposes. Beneficial use for irrigated agriculture is the consumptive use plus reasonable and necessary losses to deliver that use.

We support:

- 1) efforts to maintain water on farm lands.
- 2) an adequate supply of high quality water for agriculture at economically feasible prices.

We oppose:

- 1) expanding the definition of beneficial use to include recreation.

**Federal Water Rights** – The federal government should:

- 1) be regarded the same as any individual with respect to appropriated and un-appropriated water rights.
- 2) adhere to state water laws.
- 3) not claim ownership of water developed on federal land by federal permit holders, or ownership of water solely because it originates on federal lands.
- 4) not claim federal reserved water rights such as those



proposed in the rangeland reform.

- 5) manage water storage projects to maximize hydroelectric power and agricultural use of water.
- 6) allow rebuilding or repairing of structures destroyed or damaged by natural disasters and vandalism.
- 7) not require an NPDES permit for interbasin water transfers or require water treatment on interbasin transfers.
- 8) not allow draining of Lake Powell or any other Bureau of Reclamation water storage projects.
- 9) not require relinquishment of existing water rights as a condition of access or for maintenance and repair of water works.
- 10) not change the definition of the Clean Water Act from “navigable waters” to “waters of the United States” and should oppose further efforts to expand the authority and responsibilities of federal agencies regarding these waters.

We oppose:

- 1) federal claims for 1861 storage rights, including those in the Uintah Basin.

**Flood Plain Management** – We support proper management and control of flood plains and necessary emergency actions that may supersede current governmental regulations. The Corps of Engineers should allow counties, cities and private land-owners to make repairs and clean in a timely manner before emergencies exist.

**Groundwater Management** – Natural stream flows and catch basins for surface water provide recharge for underground aquifers. Preservation of the recharge system is paramount in the protection of water rights. The state should manage ground water supplies to ensure the greatest benefit to agriculture both in the short-term and in the long-term.

We support:

- 1) a legislatively-funded in-depth study of state ground water management policy, including impacts on agriculture and related industries prior to any legislative action to change state water management policy.
- 2) agriculture as an industry and believe it should be given the utmost priority in groundwater management.
- 3) a state groundwater management plan based on the following fundamental principles:
  - a) sound scientific data as it relates to determination of safe yield and groundwater basin levels.
  - b) the longstanding water law principle of First in Time, First in Right. The principle of senior water rights priority remain intact.
  - c) the doctrine of prior appropriation should remain a foundation of Utah water law.
  - d) non-use of water rights for purposes of aquifer restoration should be allowed as a means of conservation. Conservation and aquifer restoration

efforts should not lead to forfeiture of water rights.

- e) the state engineer should be authorized to investigate the interaction between surface water and underground water in each groundwater basin and use this information in any water management decisions.
- 4) continued recognition of groundwater rights as property rights.
- 5) the consideration and development of private voluntary groundwater management plans in coordination with the state's safe yield policy.
- 6) state buyout of water rights in over-appropriated basins as a means to attain safe yield as determined by a groundwater management plan.
- 7) participation by local water users in development of groundwater management plans.
- 8) further protection by the State of Utah against taking of water from Utah groundwater basins for use in other states.
- 9) legislation to change how underground water over-use penalties are accessed.

Southern Nevada Water Authority- Artificial withdrawal or transport of groundwater from Utah to Nevada must be authorized by the Governor and Legislature of Utah. The Eastern Nevada Groundwater Project should not be allowed to proceed if it affects Utah water unless up to date empirical studies clearly show that water can be withdrawn and exported to Nevada without adverse effects on Utah agriculture. We favor specific abandonment of segments 7 & 8 of the proposed Eastern Nevada Groundwater Project. We support binding arbitration for the West Desert water pumping issue

**High Hazard Dam Safety** - The State Division of Water Resources should assume 95% rather than the 80% of the costs of repairing irrigation dams to meet state standards.

Access should be allowed to reservoirs located within restricted travel areas for repairs and maintenance. If access is denied, reservoir owners or water right holders should not be liable for damages from reservoir failure.

**Interstate Compact Water** - Utah's water allocated under interstate compacts should be developed for use in Utah. However, until this water can be economically developed in Utah, we support:

- 1) long-term leasing with no permanent sale of water outside of Utah.
- 2) priority of lease funds to be used for water development in the Colorado River, Bear River and Virgin River drainage areas.
- 3) the continued development of Utah's share of the Colorado River.

Furthermore, we support:

- 1) the maintenance of storage rights in reservoirs and natural lakes.
- 2) the current law prescribing the appointment of the Bear River Compact Commission.
- 3) the state of Utah applying for a general permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow property owners adjoining

Bear Lake recreation lands to control undesirable vegetation and insects.

**Irrigation Canals And Ditches – Liability** - We support:

- 1) holding harmless private ditch and canal owners and irrigation companies when other entities use their delivery systems for uses other than what they were originally intended.  
Municipalities, industrial entities, developers and private individuals should assume responsibility for disposing of drainage from their property.
- 2) legislation to significantly limit irrigation canal and ditch company liability.
- 3) conditional use permits for new developments that have the potential of being impacted by canal or ditch failure.
- 4) flood insurance as a condition in obtaining a building permit for homes located within the flood plain of a reservoir, irrigation canal or ditch.
- 5) the state paying for any safety regulations imposed by statute on irrigation canals and ditches.
- 6) the recognition of prescriptive easements for conveyance of water as well as other agriculture uses to or from agricultural lands and the right for maintenance of the same.
- 7) that before disturbances along a ditch or canal can occur, the entity's board of directors must give written permission.
- 8) prohibiting the public from accessing canals and ditches for recreational purposes without written permission from the canal board of directors.
- 9) changes to pipelines, ditches, canals or other water conveyance easements or rights of ways, being handled as encroachments.
- 10) providing a method in which water companies can voluntarily abandon a canal easement.
- 11) exemption of ditches and canals from designation as a jurisdictional stream for which stream alteration permits are required.
- 12) irrigation ditches used as storm drains, the cities, counties and developers must accept responsibility for damage to ditches and other property, and should be required to provide and maintain adequate facilities to handle drainage and runoff.
- 13) allowing agriculture producers to use herbicides according to label instructions for moss and plant control in canals and ditches without having to obtain a permit, other than a pesticide applicator's license.

Canals and ditches owned by canal and irrigation companies and by private individuals are not to be considered streams and are not open to the public.

**Partial Forfeiture** - The general application of partial forfeiture in the administration of water law is consistent with the long-standing beneficial use principle.

We support:

- 1) water users being given notice to protect their water rights within the principles of beneficial use and any other legal limitations of their water rights.
- 2) such a declaration not being made retroactive.
- 3) expansion of the definition for reasonable causes for agricultural non-use under the Utah water rights forfeiture statute.
- 4) allowing a shareholder to file a non-use application on his proportionate share of the company water right if the shareholder:
  - a) notifies the company,
  - b) bears all costs, including the cost of the proof of resumption of use, and
  - c) continues to pay all assessments on the shares.

**State Water Rights - We support:**

- 1) state control of water rights.
- 2) protecting water rights based on seniority and continued recognition of the high priority for agriculture use.
- 3) stock-watering rights issued to individual permittees when they construct water developments on public lands.
- 4) the state engineer giving greater emphasis to recognizing and vigorously protecting existing private water rights on private and public lands.
- 5) prohibiting changes in points of diversion, water right transfers and new well permits until the impact on prior existing water rights and surrounding drainage areas has been determined.
- 6) recognizing water quality, within the state engineer's statutory authority, as an essential component of existing water rights which must be considered and compensated for when approving additional diversions or transfers.
- 7) normal filing and the adjudication process for any expansion of original irrigated acreage.
- 8) common description of the generally affected property and notification of the surface property owner when publishing water filing notifications.
- 9) protecting and preserving agricultural water rights with use of secondary irrigation systems and/or other methods appropriate for local conditions.
- 10) increased appropriations from the General Fund to complete the pending water rights general adjudications in Utah.
- 11) protecting rights associated with diversion systems that are destroyed due to floods or other destructive forces.
- 12) careful planning by municipalities, public water suppliers and governmental agencies when acquiring water rights or water stock and when developing new water sources and systems in order to reduce adverse impacts on agricultural and other water users.

- 13) legislation granting shareholders in irrigation companies standing to intervene when water rights or facilities of mutual irrigation companies are taken by condemnation or threat of condemnation so that shareholders can protect their private property interests.
- 14) compensation for water right users if the state takes back the water right.
- 15) water disputes being settled on a local water basin basis, if possible.
- 16) granting the State Engineer sufficient authority to enforce Utah water law, including consideration of historic water use and/or approving or rejecting change applications.

We oppose:

- 1) the issuing of new appropriations by the state engineer in areas of full appropriation.
- 2) encroachment by government agencies on private water rights.
- 3) blanket water filings in the state. Government entities, Non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and other non-agricultural interests should not be given preferential treatment in regards to new water filings.
- 4) allowing shareholders the ability to transfer water rights outside the water basin that the water was originally intended to serve, unless;
  - a) water rights remain in the name of the water company,
  - b) the viability of the company remains intact, and
  - c) all costs incurred are compensated by the shareholder in perpetuity.

**Instream Flows – We support:**

- 1) granting automatic access to individuals who attempt to utilize bodies of water solely on the basis of a granted instream flow through private surface. In these cases, trespass laws apply.
- 2) using instream water rights to turn seasonably dry riverbeds into a continuously flowing stream.
- 3) the leasing of water for instream flows so long as:
  - a) other water rights will not and could not be adversely affected.
  - b) Utah does not lose water to other states.
  - c) all assessments are retained on the respective rights.
  - d) instream flow rights are not acquired through use of eminent domain powers.
  - e) instream flow rights are not acquired based on diligence claims unless those claims have been previously recognized by court decree.
  - f) the cost of administering the instream flow change is borne entirely by the instream flow holder.

We oppose:

- 1) creation of instream flow rights in artificial water bodies such as reservoirs, canals, and ditches except by arms length agreements with the owners and users of such facilities.
- 2) the purchase of water rights for instream flows.

**Water Companies** – Water companies own and manage substantial water rights and water distribution systems which are critical to Utah’s agriculture. Agricultural production is best sustained by maintaining title to underlying water rights by the water companies. We support:

- 1) authorizing cities to contract with water companies to provide water delivery and storm water conveyance systems, including:
  - a) recognition that existing easements may include storm water conveyance,
  - b) expenditure of municipal revenues for payments to water companies under such contract
- 2) requiring canal companies provide advanced notification to adjoining landowners prior to recording an easement with the County Recorder’s Office. This notification must describe the length and width of the intended easement.
- 3) allowing simple reinstatement or reorganization of water companies for which the corporate charter has lapsed or for which there has been an administrative dissolution for failure to file annual reports;
- 4) protecting the interests of water company shareholders who continue use of irrigation water for agricultural use as water interests of the company are purchased and converted for municipal and industrial use.
- 5) assuring viability of water companies in the current economic and legal environment.
- 6) a defined procedure that guarantees notification and delivery of water right change applications to a water company.
- 7) protecting the purpose, viability and interests of water companies, particularly in those instances when the water company may choose to not respond to a shareholder change application request within the legal response time. If the water company knowingly or unknowingly does not respond within the legal response time, then the shareholder change application is denied. In this event, we support:
  - a) mandatory mediation, before and/or after judicial review, unless both parties decline, and
  - b) the costs of mediation should be paid by the non-prevailing party if actual notice is received.

If the water company does respond after actual notice is received and within the legal response time, the shareholder seeking the change application pays full mediation costs.

- 8) notifying the public of pending changes, the holding of hearings and the issuance of first-line decisions by the State Engineer.

- 9) legislation to assure that security interests in a mutual irrigation company shall be perfected under the Utah Commercial Code.

We believe that the people are better served by the government that is closest to them with board members elected by the people in their districts.

We support local government districts. We oppose any movement to take over local water improvement districts by larger conservancy districts.

We support the principle of voting based on shares within a water company, subject to the right of shareholders to provide in their articles of incorporation for other voting arrangements suited to local conditions.

**Water Conservation** – Water is the lifeblood of the West; policies and laws regarding its use must be sound and strictly enforced. They must encourage beneficial use of the natural resource.

We support:

- 1) reuse of municipal and industrial water to help preserve productive agricultural lands around urban areas as a means of preserving important open space.
- 2) the wise use of all water; including agricultural water where farmers and ranchers determine that use.

**Water Development** – We support:

- 1) changes involving agricultural water being transferred to municipal and industrial use should be among willing sellers and buyers.
- 2) development and reclamation of all possible water sources.
- 3) dedicating up to 1/4 cent of the sales tax towards water development and dam safety.
- 4) additional sources of funding for water development through sales taxes.
- 5) those directly benefiting from water projects be the primary source of revenue and other available funding.
- 6) agricultural input in the development of public recreational plans at reservoirs.
- 7) appropriation of a substantial portion of state surplus funds to the Water Resources Conservation and Development Fund.
- 8) the concept of Water Management Authorities for the purpose of voluntarily banking of water for the benefit of agriculture as long as the control is maintained locally by the irrigation companies.

**Bear Lake/River**—We urge the state engineer to require Rocky Mountain Power and Weber Basin Water Conservancy District to maintain the flow of the Bear River and Weber River at a more constant level during the irrigation season, thus ensuring that irrigation users may have easy access to the water rights to which they are legally entitled. We favor dredging in Bear Lake to ensure that established water rights may be fully utilized.

**Bear River—Washakie Dam**—We support:

- 1) water development of the Bear River, including the Washakie Dam site.

- 2) the Bear River Compact and oppose attempts to modify it in a way that would be adverse to agriculture.
- 3) development of Utah's compact allocation under the Bear River Development Act and construction of an off-stream reservoir along the Bear River above the Cutler Dam.

**Cainsville Dam Project**—We support:

- 1) the Cainsville Dam project in Wayne County.

**Central Utah Project** – We support:

- 1) Central Utah Project (CUP) allocation of at least 30,000 acre feet to be delivered for beneficial use in southern Utah County and the original allocation of water to Juab County. We support replacement of the CUP's proposed dam on the Uintah River with a project that would include the West Side Combined Canal and Green River pumping projects.

The Central Utah Project should be completed, while also protecting agricultural water rights, and so as to not reduce the quality of existing water sources. All commitments made on completed sections of the project should be kept before any further transfer of water occurs. The trans-mountain diversion must not exceed the original agreement amount. We support reverting back to the CUP's original plan of bringing replacement water from the Green River to the Uintah Basin. Additional water now available should be left in the Uintah Basin to firm up local water rights and to allow for future development.

When projects within the original CUP agreement are deleted, the repayment contract should be amended to prevent taxation without benefit.

We urge the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, the Bureau of Reclamation, Duchesne County and the Ute Indian Tribe to cooperate in completing the Uintah Basin water projects.

**Flaming Gorge** – We support:

- 1) the use of Flaming Gorge dam as a flood control structure and not to simulate natural flooding of the Green River Flood plain.

**Glen Canyon** – Glen Canyon dam should not be used as a way to simulate natural flooding on the Colorado River.

**Gooseberry Narrows Dam and Reservoir Project**—We support:

- 1) construction of the Gooseberry Narrows Dam and Reservoir Project in Sanpete County.

**Lake Powell Pipeline**—We support:

- 1) the construction of the Lake Powell Pipeline.

**Million Project** – We oppose the “million project” that moves water from the Green River to the Colorado Front Range.

**Water Quality** - We support:

- 1) voluntary, incentive-based solutions at the state and local level for point and non-point source pollution programs, livestock manure management, and water quality enhancement. We are pro-active in supporting at the state and local levels assessments of impaired state waters.
- 2) farmers and ranchers who are in the process of implementing approved water management plans should not be required to



alter such plans while they are in progress without just compensation for such changes.

- 3) livestock and dairy producers should not be held responsible for pollution derived from animal nutrients after ownership of the manure has been transferred to another party and removed from the producer's control.
- 4) collaborative efforts between Utah State University and others to educate forest landowners on the importance of minimizing water pollution associated with silvicultural activities.

We oppose:

- 1) requirements to comply with non-point source clean water standards more quickly than other entities such as industries, municipalities, or other governmental entities.
- 2) mandatory bonding or other financial assurance for waste management facilities associated with Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) or Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).
- 3) the administrative exemption for silviculture from the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process.
- 4) unfunded mandates relating to water quality regulations imposed by changes in rule and law.

**Water Reuse** – Any water reuse project should not allow consumptive use of water that has historically been return flow that has made the water rights of other water users in the State of Utah. Water reuse by municipalities must not exceed the historic depletion under the relevant water rights. Reuse projects should be based on domestic use water rights in excess of historic depletions.

## **WEEDS**

We support:

- 1) aggressive efforts by county weed control boards to control noxious weeds and jointed goat grass.
- 2) the State of Utah controlling weeds on state rights-of-way.
- 3) certified hay and straw required for use on Forest Service lands be certified as weed seed free, rather than weed free.

## **WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION AND AGRICULTURE BURNING**

We support:

- 1) cooperation between federal agencies responsible for fire suppression and local fire districts in the suppression of wildfires on non-federal lands.
- 2) where local fire or trained personnel are prohibited from suppressing the fires on federal or tribal lands, those prohibiting entities should be responsible when the fire gets out of control, for reseeding, reestablishing the streambed and restocking fisheries.
- 3) increased state funding to counties for suppression of wildfires

on non-federal lands.

- 4) livestock grazing as a viable fire suppression tool to reduce burnable fuels on private, county, state, and federal lands.
- 5) agriculture burning as an accepted management practice.
- 6) modifying the state fire suppression code to protect rural communities from unreasonable regulations and ordinances.

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

**Damage Control** –We support:

- 1) monitoring of public range conditions to determine which species are responsible for use and damage to ranges.
- 2) expanding the Utah big game damage payment program to include all wildlife species. Any unused annually appropriated funds for this purpose should be applied specifically for damage or prevention payments in future years.
- 3) compensation to private landowners within a limited entry hunting area for excessive wildlife damages.
- 4) wildlife damage payments on the basis of forage lost, damages, and/or historical land yields for both irrigated and range ground.
- 5) full reimbursement by the DWR without maximum limit to private property owners whose crops, personal property, or real estate have been damaged by any form of wildlife.
- 6) landowners being held harmless when wildlife inadvertently consume potentially harmful substances on private property.
- 7) amending the cougar and bear damage compensation program to include all endangered or protected species and providing 100% compensation for livestock using a multiplier on confirmed losses to reflect actual probable losses.
- 8) harvest objective hunting for cougars and bears.
- 9) valuing livestock based on current market or replacement value.
- 10) valuing young livestock at weaning weights.
- 11) big game damage assessments funded by DWR, administered by a neutral third party, and subsequent damages promptly paid from the depredation fund.
- 12) state and federal programs for controlling sparrows and starlings.
- 13) DWR offering wild turkey permits that may be used for resale as compensation for providing habitat and feed to wild turkeys.
- 14) the mission of the Berryman Institute in addressing Human/Wildlife conflicts.
- 15) the right of agricultural producers to take any wildlife that is destroying crops or livestock. The long established 72-hour notice requirement must be preserved. If the law is amended to provide mediation or arbitration to remedy rare instances of abuse or impasse, it should not be diluted in such a way that its normal application would impede the rights of landowners.

Furthermore, the 72-hour notice provision should not be limited to big game species.

- 16) private parties, using aircraft, to hunt coyotes on Forest Service and BLM lands.
- 17) allowing private landowners to sell landowner and appreciation tags.
- 18) allowing landowners or landowner lessees all the permits necessary to mitigate against depredation. Issuance of mitigation or depredation permits should encompass the following concepts:
  - a) The granting of antlered big game permits to landowners or lessees should not be based strictly on qualifying private rangeland but should also include consideration of damages attributed to cultivated land. Moreover, landowners with less than 640 acres should be eligible for antlered big game permits if their land provides big game habitat. Landowners should also have first priority for permits to hunt in the area in which they live.
  - b) DWR should implement a formula that will provide more weight to big game depredation of cultivated land than for rangeland in granting antlered permits.
  - c) Landowners should be able to distribute qualifying permits at their discretion.
  - d) Hunters receiving mitigation permit vouchers should not be charged an additional permit fee.
  - e) Depredation and mitigation hunts should not be limited to antlerless permits.
  - f) The issuance of mitigation permit vouchers should not absolve DWR from paying for crop damages.
- 19) legislative funding to defray damages to agricultural enterprises by geese, Sandhill Cranes and all federally protected birds.
- 20) limiting acquisition of land with wildlife habitat funds.
- 21) the control of prairie dogs on public and private lands year round.
- 22) increased control of beavers throughout the state.

**Managing Wildlife** - We support:

- 1) wildlife management plans complying with the original intent of the Taylor Grazing Act.
- 2) a pro-active, sustained public education and involvement effort including agriculture, sportsmen, government agencies, and other interested parties
- 3) promoting consistency and the application of multiple use and sustained yield principles in managing and maintaining Utah's wildlife ecosystem.
- 4) cooperative agreements between landowners, permittees, the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), federal, state and local

agencies and sportsmen to establish and maintain population objective numbers of wildlife consistent with public and private land habitat constraints. In the event cooperation cannot be reached, all efforts to harvest more wildlife until they are reduced to population objective.

- 5) efforts to reduce the elk herd in Capitol Reef National Park.
- 6) staying within the provisions of the Bison Herd Unit Management Plan that are specific to the protection of livestock including brucellosis testing and herd size objectives.
- 7) the same public review process used to establish original unit numbers when changes in wildlife unit numbers are proposed.
- 8) Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMU's) for big game, along with the agreed private/public permit ratios for antlered animals established by administrative rule.
- 9) the concept of Cooperative Fishing Management Units (CFMU's).
- 10) DWR contacting private landowners and obtaining their permission prior to setting a special hunt on private lands.
- 11) the issuance of maps and/or CD's by DWR, which indicate hunting unit boundaries and identify private property to those purchasing hunting licenses.
- 12) issuing big game conservation permits to livestock permittee grazing associations to further enhance range improvements under current rules for such permits.
- 13) the general season deer hunt date being re-established in statute as the Saturday closest to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October.
- 14) continued efforts towards the eradication of invasive aquatic species (such as quagga mussel) that could be extremely detrimental to irrigation and water systems throughout the state.
- 15) the picking up of dead wildlife (deer, antelope and elk) carcasses along state roadways in a timely manner.
- 16) euthanizing, not relocating, problematic wildlife that is recovered in municipalities.
- 17) a statewide sage grouse management plan that protects private property rights.
- 18) the spring bear hunts in the state of Utah.
- 19) an annual Sandhill Crane hunt in Utah.
- 20) immediate action to remove Tribal bison that have migrated off of tribal land onto private, state, and federal lands that are causing damage to historic grazing lands and threatening animal health.

**Transplants and Reintroductions - We oppose:**

- 1) transplanting wildlife species into areas where an historical presence cannot be shown.
- 2) introduction of wildlife species where they rely on private forage and compete with livestock on private or public ranges, or where restrictions to road construction or timber harvest

may occur, unless an agreement is reached with private landowners and permittees. Moreover, affected landowners and livestock permittees, local governing bodies, should be notified at least 12 months prior to any proposed transplanting of wildlife with an affidavit of exact release site submitted to all affected parties within 30 days after release.

- 3) reintroduction, relocation, or transplant of predators and wildlife into areas that may adversely impact livestock or other private property.
- 4) reintroduction or transplanting wildlife without landowner, permittee and public input.
- 5) wolves in Utah, including the Mexican gray wolf.
- 6) listing wolves on the Endangered Species list in Utah.
- 7) introduction of the black footed ferret in San Juan County.
- 8) the introduction of wild turkeys into areas where commercial turkey operations are located and urge DWR to aggressively control the commingling of wild fowl with domestic turkeys.
- 9) any illegal transplanting of wildlife and should be punishable as a felony.

**Wildlife Board** - We support:

- 1) modifying and restructuring of the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) State Wildlife Board to statutorily include the agricultural industry.

**WORKERS COMPENSATION**

We support:

- 1) maintaining an insurer of last resort.
- 2) taking proactive steps to reduce premium cost to high-risk books of business.
- 3) all licensed insurance agents having access to writing coverage to the Workers Compensation Fund.

**ZONING ORDINANCES**

We support:

- 1) notice by mail to affected landowners of proposed new zoning maps or adjustments to current maps.
- 2) the opportunity for affected landowners to meet with county/city planners prior to public hearings.
- 3) the Private Property Ombudsman having authority to intervene on behalf of property owners in cases involving both takings and land-use questions.
- 4) local ordinances that allow for the discharging of a firearm within city limits for the disposal of unprotected animals (varmints), such as skunks, raccoons, etc. that have been trapped or for the slaughter of animals for personal consumption.

**Land Divisions** – We support continued flexibility and ease in dividing agricultural lands. Any changes to subdivisions procedures should:

- 1) consider tiering regulatory requirements for subdivision

approval and basing the tiers upon the size and impact of the proposed subdivision with minimal subdivision requirements and no exactions for smaller agricultural lands.

- 2) maintaining the current agricultural division process using metes and bounds for large acreages of land and not requiring surveys and plats.

We oppose:

- 1) the use of zoning as a mechanism to preserve open space at the expense of the landowner.
- 2) assessments by Special Improvement Districts (SID's) on agricultural lands where landowners do not utilize the improvements.