

# Policy Book

 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

# 2021



# 2021 State Board of Directors

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# **Pennsylvania Farm Bureau**

[www.pfb.com](http://www.pfb.com)

## **Mission and Vision Statements**

**Mission Statement:** Growing Communities. Many Voices. United Vision.

**Vision Statement:** People united around food, environment, and community.

## **Membership**

Farm families formed our organization in 1950 as a means of working together to secure a bright future for agriculture and rural communities. Our members volunteer countless hours and great energy to implement Farm Bureau's policies and programs. Programs and services are aimed at solving farm-related problems, tackling issues which threaten agriculture's future, increasing net farm income, enlightening the non-farm public about modern-day agriculture and advancing rural life in the Commonwealth. Members decide our organization's priorities and related activity. All members have the opportunity to participate in the development of Farm Bureau's policies on a broad range of issues. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has grown to become the state's largest farm organization, with member families in 54 County Farm Bureaus.

There are two types of family memberships: 1) Voting Members and 2) "Friend of Farm Bureau" Members.

Farm Bureau membership is with their county Farm Bureau and state organization. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Farm family members have one vote per membership on all policy positions put forth at business meetings of the organization. Only voting members can vote. The organization's position on issues is determined by an extensive annual policy development process. Policy resolutions start at the grassroots county level and are adopted by majority rule of voting members. Resolutions related to state and national issues are recommended to delegate bodies of the state and national organizations, where they are considered and adopted by majority rule of voting delegates chosen by the membership.

## **Policy Implementation**

Nearly 1,000 Farm Bureau members serve on state and national legislative committees. Through continuous interaction with elected and appointed officials of government, they work to achieve adoption of Farm Bureau's policy recommendations.

All members are urged to support, in every way possible, the policies adopted by a majority vote of the delegates at the annual meetings of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

### **Women's Leadership/Leadership Development Committee**

This committee creates programs and projects which enhance the ability of county Farm Bureaus to surface and develop new leadership for the organization. The committee will identify, recruit, and guide farmer members into meaningful roles in their county Farm Bureau. If a county does not wish to have a Women's Leadership Committee, it may organize a Leadership Development Committee, comprised of both men and women.

### **Political Education and Action**

All members are urged to be part of political processes, actively supporting the affairs of their political party, assisting candidates of their choice and participating in all elections. County Farm Bureaus are also encouraged to sponsor events and distribute information enabling members and the general public to become better acquainted with candidates for public office.

### **Agriculture Promotion Committee**

This committee assists county Farm Bureaus in the development of projects designed to educate members and the general public. The committee also supports and promotes the programs of the PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation.

### **Young Ag Professionals Committee**

This committee develops leadership and communications skills in young farmers and young ag professionals (ages 18–35), and also helps to surface new individuals for future leadership roles within Farm Bureau. The committee also recognizes outstanding farming practices and contributions to the community by young farmers.

### **Effective Advocacy for Agriculture**

Effective representation of agriculture and rural interests in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. is recognized as one of the greatest assets of our organization. Members serving on state and national legislative committees develop productive working relationships with their elected representatives. Farm Bureau also has a professional staff of full-time lobbyists who work closely with lawmakers in the General Assembly and the United States Congress to advance the policy positions adopted by our members.

### **Regulatory Affairs and Information**

Regulations approved by government regulatory agencies have far-reaching effects on agriculture and its related industries. Farm Bureau works with all state government agencies to ensure regulations are reasonable in dealing with farming operations, and seeks repeal or revision of regulations adverse to the business of farming. Farm Bureau also provides assistance to county Farm Bureaus and other associations to help ensure that local ordinances and regulations are reasonable and workable.

### **Political Action Committee**

Farm Bureau has a Political Action Committee that raises funds to help FARMER-friendly candidates win election to the Pennsylvania General Assembly. The committee, called FARMER (Farmers Allied for Responsive, More Effective Representation), is a bipartisan approach to better government, and is a legal way to collect funds for contribution to candidates for public office. FARMER is controlled by a committee of farmers and is funded by voluntary contributions.

### **Communications**

Farm Bureau works to foster a better understanding of agriculture among the non-farm public. Farm Bureau maintains close working relationships with the news media to help ensure accurate and extensive coverage of complex issues related to agriculture.

### **Publications**

Regular members are kept up-to-date on farm and rural issues, emerging topics of interest and the work of their organization through, *Country Focus*, produced 8 times a year. A biweekly newsletter, *Farm Bureau Express*, is distributed electronically to Farm Bureau leaders and other members. Friends of Farm Bureau receive a quarterly publication, *Positively Pennsylvania*, featuring articles of consumer interest, as well as general insight about agriculture in Pennsylvania. Members can access electronic versions of both *Country Focus* and *Positively Pennsylvania* through the members only section of [www.pfb.com](http://www.pfb.com).

### **Farm Bureau Website**

PFB's comprehensive website ([www.pfb.com](http://www.pfb.com)) provides members access to organizational events and legislative issues, county Farm Bureau information, and member programs and services. A PDF version of the policy book is available in the members only section of [pfb.com](http://pfb.com). Additionally, at [pfb.com/legislativeaction](http://pfb.com/legislativeaction), you can find state House and Senate legislative reports, as well as a link to ActNow, a legislative tool that provides members an easy means of communicating with lawmakers.

### **Issue Advisory Committees**

Agricultural issues important to Farm Bureau members are addressed by PFB Issue Advisory Committees (IAC), which provide insight and guidance for future Farm Bureau policy. The IACs are organized in areas of the labor, wildlife, dairy/farm policy, environment, and other areas of concern that arise on an ad-hoc basis. Pennsylvania is also represented by members serving on American Farm Bureau Federation committees.

## MEMBER SERVICES

Membership in Farm Bureau provides members with access to many economically beneficial services that fit farming operations, small businesses and friends of agriculture. These services include:

**1. MSC Business Services** connects you with a staff member whose goal is finding a personal or business solution that focuses on improving each client's financial position. A summary of these solutions follows. More information can be found at [www.mscbusiness.net](http://www.mscbusiness.net).

**FMS Service** is an accounting and advisory service specializing in records management, tax planning, tax preparation, business analysis and business planning. The Account Supervisor visits the place of business three to four times a year as a valued partner in your business operation.

**RFD Tax** is an a la carte alternative to FMS full service for individuals who have basic tax preparation needs.

**FACCTS** is an MSC exclusive software specially designed for agricultural and small business bookkeeping. It is available to our FMS Service or RFD Tax clients. Clients can lease computer software and/or hardware. With an annual lease payment, you will get unlimited support, monthly financial statements, software upgrades, and secure data storage.

**Payroll Service Program** provides paycheck processing, tax deposits and other payroll requests for PA Farm Bureau members with employees.

**Consulting Services** connects experienced consulting staff to assist you with business plans, feasibility studies, transition plans and more, ensuring a sustainable future for your business.

**Write-up Services** offers an alternative to compiling monthly records at your business. With this service, you send your records to us and we compile them using our **FACCTS** software into comprehensible reports.

**QuickBooks Consulting** delivers dependability and problem solving regarding your QuickBooks records. Our staff includes certified QuickBooks ProAdvisors who are available to meet your needs, whether simple or complex.

**Call us for details** and to find out more about our other services: *REAP Credit Resale, PFB Legal Service Plan, Ag Lending Agreements and Review Services.*

**2. PFB Health Services** provides health care coverage. As a health insurance agency, PFB Health Services offers coverage through all major health insurance carriers in the state of Pennsylvania. With 44 years of experience, the Health Services staff of licensed and dedicated professionals has been providing our subscribers with the guidance they need to make informed decisions when selecting a health care plan. We can help our members protect their family, or their business employees, by researching and comparing options for a benefit package specifically to meet their needs. Farm Bureau offers Individual and Family plans, Employer Group plans, and Senior Medicare plans. Farm Bureau Members are also able to enroll in one of our group dental and/or vision plans.

**3. Nationwide®** is proud to be the exclusive insurance provider of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, offering a full range of insurance and financial services. As a company with a deep agricultural history, Nationwide offers regular members of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau a discount on farm insurance. Nationwide also offers a variety of other insurance and financial services to Farm Bureau members including auto\*, home, pet\*, travel\* powersports, commercial and life insurance. \*Select discounts may apply. To learn more, contact your local Nationwide agent or visit [Nationwide.com/pfb](http://Nationwide.com/pfb).

**4. Contract Benefits.** Farm Bureau members have access to other cost-saving benefits including: Ford rebates on purchases; NRG electricity savings; Grainger discounts; PFB Visa card with no annual fee; Choice and Wyndham Hotel discounts; ScriptSave prescriptions and supplies; and discounts on Avis and Budget car rentals, ClearValue hearing instruments, CaseIH, John Deere and Caterpillar equipment, mydeals.com, Jiffy-Lube, Sherwin Williams, LifeLock, and Amerigas. As an added benefit, every membership includes an accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy.

**5. Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation** manages and provides funding for educational projects including the Mobile Ag Education Science Programs, Educator's Ag Institute, and Ag Literacy Week. The Mobile Ag Ed Science Programs include the Mobile Ag Lab and Ag on the Go. Both programs educate students on agricultural commodities and concepts, using hands-on science experiments. The Ag Institute attracts educators each summer who meet to learn how to incorporate agriculture and its major concepts into their classroom curriculum. Pennsylvania Ag Literacy Week gives volunteers from the agriculture industry the opportunity to read a related book and complete an activity with students. Each year, the book focuses on different commodities or concepts. The Foundation has also raised funds to endow three different scholarships for the following institutions: The Pennsylvania State University, Delaware Valley University and University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. These scholarships are awarded annually to students pursuing careers in agriculture and large animal veterinary studies. Members contribute to the Foundation and support these worthy projects.

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**POLICIES ON STATE ISSUES ADOPTED BY  
THE VOTING DELEGATES  
OF THE MEMBER COUNTY FARM BUREAUS  
TO THE  
70th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU  
NOVEMBER 16-19, 2020.**

**AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

**Grape and Wine Production**

We recommend:

1. The Liquor Control Board dedicate a percentage of revenue from all wines sold in Pennsylvania for funding extension, research, and development programs in oenology and viticulture, and for marketing and promotion of Pennsylvania wines. ('15)
2. Penn State Extension and PDA fund research to rank commercial rootstock for seedless table and wine grapes during field-trials, for both dense clayish soils and acidic shales, and support development of new and improved cultivars of these types of rootstocks. ('15)
3. PDA and/or Penn State Extension produce a vineyard damage brochure for growers to inform the public of the potential for serious vine damage and economic loss from 2-4-D. ('15)

**Honeybee Research**

We recommend funding to research the effect of new insecticides, seed treatment, and diseases on honeybees. ('19)

**AGRICULTURE, PENNSYLVANIA DEPT. OF**

**Administration**

We recommend the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau be involved in the development of any policy or quarantines implemented by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. ('19)

We oppose the closing of Regional Department of Agriculture Offices. ('19)

**Agricultural Program Funding**

General Program Funding

We recommend:

1. The State Budget contain funding levels for agriculture equitable with other state funded programs. ('15)
2. Money received from the sale of Pennsylvania-owned farms be exclusively dedicated to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. ('15)
3. The Governor's School of Excellence for Agriculture be reinstated as a functioning program. ('15)
4. The State Food Purchase Program be increased by \$5 million to allow food banks to purchase and process more Pennsylvania surplus food products. ('16)

**Certification and Inspection Programs**

We recommend:

1. The Department of Agriculture institute a standard for weed-free hay, straw and mulch products that meets the standards required for state and federal land use by the Bureau of Land Management. ('15)
2. The Department of Agriculture establish a program for labeling of PA Preferred grass fed beef. ('17)
3. Legislation to develop a state meat inspection program to promote local processing and retail sale of livestock. ('20)
4. The creation of a state meat inspection program that complies with the Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program. ('20)

### **Disaster Assistance Program**

We recommend Pennsylvania develop an agricultural disaster assistance program for all commodities, including equine, to include grants, low interest loans and the distribution of surplus feedstuffs which includes free transportation. ('15)

### **Dog and Kennel Regulation and Enforcement**

#### *Dog Law, General*

We recommend:

1. Dog law enforcement continue to be performed by the Department of Agriculture. ('15)
2. Townships be prohibited from enacting ordinances that impose more stringent requirements and standards than currently required under the Pennsylvania Dog Law. ('15)
3. Any state mandated puppy warrantee act be limited to three days against sickness and up to 14 days for any hereditary or congenital defects and limit any veterinary bill reimbursement to 50 percent of the original purchase price. ('15)
4. Housing and confinement of outdoor and working dogs at homes and farms be exempt from regulation. ('15)
5. Farm dogs not be required to be restrained while riding in a vehicle during normal farm operations. ('15)
6. The Department of Agriculture adopt microchips as the primary and preferred method of identifying canines in licensed and inspected kennel facilities. ('15)
7. Allowing Pennsylvania dog owners to obtain a license through a statewide online portal. ('17)
8. Continued allowance of pet shop kennels that are licensed and inspected by the state to purchase animals from multiple sources. ('19)
9. All kennels licensed and inspected by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture abide by the same regulatory standards, regardless of status (e.g., commercial, non-commercial, non-profit or boarding). ('19)

#### **Dog Law Enforcement**

We recommend extending the minimum time period before euthanizing captured and unlicensed dogs to seven days. ('15)

#### **Fairs and Shows**

We recommend:

1. Rabies vaccination not be required for livestock attending Pennsylvania fairs and shows. ('15)
2. Any action regarding the Farm Show Complex be approved by the Farm Show Commission. ('18)
3. The Farm Show Complex not be subject to any financial transactions resulting in a loss of equity, such as lease-lease back agreements. ('18)

#### **Honey and Apiculture**

We recommend:

1. A state quality standard be established and implemented for the grading of honey. ('15)
2. The state budget fund the Department of Agriculture's Apiary Inspection Program to maintain the honeybee inspectors at a minimum of 10 inspectors. ('15)
3. Establishing uniform guidelines for urban beekeepers using best management practices developed by the PA Apiary Advisory Board. These guidelines should be enforced through state law and supersede local regulations. ('15)

#### **Indemnity Payments — Dog and Coyote Damage**

We recommend legislation be enacted to transfer the authority and funds for payment of coyote damage claims from the Department of Agriculture to the Pennsylvania Game Commission. ('15)

## **Promotion of Pennsylvania Products**

We recommend:

1. All state and county prisons, government centers, schools, colleges, senior housing, juvenile facilities and other institutions utilize at least 40 percent of their dairy, fruit, vegetable, meat and wood products from Pennsylvania producers. ('15)
2. Companies that receive state grants for the purpose of building, expanding or updating an agricultural processing plant use a minimum of 25 percent Pennsylvania agricultural products when available. ('17)

## **Regulation of Animals Other Than Livestock**

We recommend:

1. All currently approved exotic species in private control be identified with tattoo or microchip. ('15)
2. The Department of Agriculture streamline and computerize record keeping for deer farm activities. ('18)
3. No restrictions be placed on farmed fish stocking without approval by the Pennsylvania Aquaculture Advisory Committee. ('18)

## **Weights and Measures**

We recommend:

1. Commercial scales be certified yearly. ('17)
2. Commercial grain moisture testers be certified yearly. ('17)

## **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

### **Alcoholic Beverage Sales**

We recommend:

1. The legal drinking age remain at 21 years of age. ('15)
2. The tax on alcoholic beverages be increased 10 percent and that these additional revenues be used to promote programs to combat drunken driving. ('15)
3. Liquor stores be state regulated but privately owned and operated. ('15)
4. State carbonation limits for alcoholic cider be equal to national limits. ('16)
5. Alcoholic ciders manufactured with a Pennsylvania Limited Winery License have access to the beer distributor network. ('16)
6. A program be established for microbreweries and microdistilleries similar to the program available for Limited Wineries. ('16)
7. Limited distilleries be able to sell liquor produced on their licensed premises at a price lower than that charged by the PLCB. ('18)
8. Requiring the PLCB to promote Pennsylvania winery and distillery products sold at PLCB stores. ('18)
9. Liquor licensees located on farmland not be subject to the liquor code's amplified sound restriction provision. ('18)

### **Underage Drinking**

We recommend \$5,000 minimum fines as well as increased jail time for offenders who provide alcohol to minors. ('15)

### **Wineries**

We recommend:

1. Pennsylvania beer distributors be allowed to stock, sell and promote products made by Pennsylvania Limited Wineries. ('15)
2. Out-of-state wineries be authorized to ship directly to adult consumers in Pennsylvania provided they:
  - a. Obtain a shipping permit from the Liquor Control Board;
  - b. File quarterly reports with the Liquor Control Board indicating quantity and retail value of shipments. ('15)
3. Permitting or reporting requirements that may be imposed on out-of-state wineries by law or regulation for direct shipment by out-of-state wineries to adult customers also apply to Pennsylvania limited wineries. ('15)

4. Existing sales opportunities of limited wineries should not be curtailed. ('15)
5. Licensed wineries in Pennsylvania have the right to maintain and operate up to seven satellite locations for individual Pennsylvania wineries and Pennsylvania winery co-operatives. ('15)
6. Pennsylvania wineries not be required to obtain a PLCB amusement permit to host events with live entertainment. ('15)

## **ANIMAL HEALTH**

### **Animal Care**

We recommend:

1. The continued rights of farmers to keep and confine poultry and livestock for agricultural production purposes. ('15)
2. There be no laws or regulations that establish standards or requirements for transportation of horses or other animals which are stricter than federal transportation standards. ('15)
3. No laws or regulations be enacted that would prohibit the transportation of equines for slaughter whether or not intended for human consumption. ('15)
4. "Normal agricultural operations" in Section 5511 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code shall include "open pasturing of animals." ('15)
5. Allowing animal owners to prove an animal's value is greater than the purchase price or fair market value for purposes of determining economic damages in court actions. ('15)
6. Law enforcement officers not be permitted to detain vehicles hauling livestock more than 15 minutes. ('15)
7. A protocol of standards of care be developed for voluntary implementation by equine rescue organizations/facilities. ('15)
8. Farmers be allowed to humanely dock tails and dehorn cattle. ('17)

We oppose:

1. Allowing animal owners to seek non-economic damages for loss of a pet. ('15)
2. Any legislation what would prevent or circumvent a livestock or horse owner's right to euthanize or slaughter an animal. ('15)
3. Any state law that would prohibit the use of a firearm by the animal's owner to euthanize an animal. ('15)
4. State funding for equine rescue facilities. ('15)

### **Animal Drugs**

We recommend:

1. Farmers continue to be permitted to administer inoculations and medications to animals on their farms and kennels. ('15)
2. Animal owners continue to be allowed to provide non-therapeutic antibiotics to their animals. ('15)
3. The Department of Agriculture develop a livestock antibiotics, pharmaceutical supplies and medications residue and waste collection program, similar to ChemSweep. ('15)

### **Animal Health**

We recommend:

1. Standardized testing requirements for all animals exhibited in the State. ('15)
2. Grain haulers and/or drivers be authorized to certify performance of activities accordance with vehicle sanitation requirements. ('15)

We oppose any legislation or ordinance requiring a farmer to maintain an animal's veterinary records after the animal has been sold, traded, given away or transferred to a new owner, or when the animal is no longer residing on the farm or kennel. ('15)

## **Animal Identification**

We recommend:

1. Pet stores be excluded from animal identification requirements, except dogs and cats which are required. ('15)
2. Establishment of a program administered through the Department of Agriculture to provide income tax credits to livestock producers for costs in developing and using RFID Management Technology Systems. ('18)

## **Chronic Wasting Disease**

We recommend:

1. State agencies assist in funding for genetic resistance research to eliminate Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in cervidae. ('16)
2. A CWD eradication program which utilizes state and federal assistance and provides compensation for cervid and livestock producers affected by CWD. ('15)

## **Cruelty to Animals Law Enforcement**

We recommend:

1. There be no change to the State's Cruelty to Animals Law which would make it more restrictive. ('15)
2. Minimum required training for humane society police officers be:
  - a. 72 hours of instruction in animal cruelty laws, criminal procedures, care and treatment and search and seizure practices;
  - b. 48 hours of science-based instruction by Penn State Extension in proper animal husbandry, body scoring of different farm animals and agricultural industry practices; and
  - c. 20 hours annually in continuing education with a minimum of 5 hours of training based on item "b" of this section. ('19)
3. A private organization be prohibited from having any authority to enforce the Cruelty to Animals Law unless the organization's meetings and other business affairs are fully open to the public, members of the public are afforded fair opportunity to discuss affairs of the organization at organization meetings, and eligibility of the public to become members and to elect the organization's governing body is unrestricted. ('15)
4. Humane society police officers be responsible for injuries or damages to property that may occur in the course of investigation or enforcement of animal cruelty laws. ('15)
5. Humane officers be prohibited from superseding recommendations and guidelines set in place by a USDA inspector regarding any animal production regulated by the USDA. ('20)
6. Animal cruelty organizations not be able to investigate without a signed complaint. ('15)
7. A farmer be prohibited from indictment for the condition of purchased animals before being given a reasonable rehabilitation time. ('15)
8. Upon investigation of a cruelty to animals complaint, if an offense is found by the SPCA/Humane Society, the offender must be given three months from the time of written notification to correct the issues found if the issues found do not present an immediate danger to the animals, as determined by one of two other independent expert witnesses (one either a large animal veterinarian, and/or an expert pertaining to species in question from Penn State Extension). The other independent expert must accompany the animal humane law enforcement officer to site of alleged violation before any citation is issued. ('19)

9. Large Animal Protection Societies and humane societies be prohibited from issuing any citations or violations against a breeder if the breeder's licensed veterinarian declares the animal to be in good health or under the veterinarian's care. ('15)
10. If animals are seized by a humane society, the boarding rate to be assessed cannot be greater than the average rate in the county of origin of the animal. ('15)
11. A humane officer not be allowed to remove livestock and equines to another premise with livestock and equines until animal health and disease tests have been completed by a veterinarian. ('15)
12. The Humane Society Police Officer Advisory Board be changed from a non-binding authority to an authority with binding power to allow for more control over Humane Society Police Officers. ('15)
13. Animal cruelty law enforcement fines be used to defray the costs of enforcement and to provide continuing education of animal enforcement officers. ('15)
14. Additional funding not be provided to the Pennsylvania State Police for administration of animal cruelty investigations. ('15)
15. The standard of "clean and sanitary" shelter be removed from the Animal Cruelty Law. ('15)
16. The repeal of Libre's Law. ('17)

We oppose:

1. Requiring a tax on the purchase of dogs to provide financial assistance to the operation of animal shelters by Humane Societies. ('15)
2. The creation of an animal abuser registry. ('15)

#### **Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease**

We recommend extensive research for eradication measures to control EHD. ('15)

#### **Equine Herpes Virus**

We recommend that Pennsylvania require mandatory reporting to the state veterinarian of horses that test positive for EHV-1. ('15)

#### **Johne's Disease**

We recommend the Department of Agriculture:

1. Develop an accurate blood test for Johne's disease;
2. Develop a mandatory program to control and/or eradicate Johne's disease in cattle. ('15)

#### **Regulation of Animals Other Than Traditional Livestock**

We recommend:

1. All regulations and permitting and enforcement procedures for farmed mink, deer, elk, llamas, alpacas, emus, rheas, feral swine and other such animals raised in captivity be performed by the Department of Agriculture rather than the Game Commission. ('15)
2. No feral swine be allowed kept in captivity. ('16)
3. The Game Commission accept a mink farmer's current best management practices and certifications to preclude inspections and other requirements that the Game Commission currently has over these facilities. ('15)

### **ANIMAL PROGRAMS**

#### **Beef**

We support funding for the Center for Beef Excellence. ('15)

#### **Equine**

We recommend:

1. Establishing an equine slaughter facility in Pennsylvania to be subject to state animal laws. ('15)
2. All equine rescue facilities be licensed by the Department of Agriculture and be subject to an annual health and safety inspection. ('18)

3. A veterinarian not be required to be present for performance of equine dentistry. ('15)

### Horseracing

We recommend:

1. Oversight over the Pennsylvania Horse and Harness Racing Commission not be taken away from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. ('15)

2. The Department of Agriculture appoint members of diversified horseracing backgrounds to the State Racing Commissions. ('15)

3. The formation of an advisory group to offer advice to the Department on horse and harness racing issues such as: more races written for Pennsylvania Sired horses at all levels from claiming to stakes. ('15)

4. The Pennsylvania Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association be required to place no less than two board members that represent Presque Isle Downs and Western Pennsylvania. ('19)

## **DAIRY**

### **Biosecurity**

We recommend Pennsylvania develop an educational plan for dairy producers, haulers and processors to review and determine voluntarily bio-security procedures to be implemented for transportation of raw milk from non-infected premises in the event of hoof and mouth or similar emergencies. ('15)

### **Milk Marketing Law**

We recommend:

1. Continuance of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Law as a means of orderly marketing of Pennsylvania's dairy products. ('15)

2. PMMB mandate over-order premiums on Class 1 milk. ('15)

3. Milk not be sold below PMMB minimum wholesale levels for volume or other discounts. ('15)

4. PMMB establish minimum wholesale prices and continue to pay over order premiums to producers. ('15)

5. The elimination of the minimum price for the retail sale of milk. ('16)

6. Total disclosure of how money from the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board is dispersed to all producers including a line on the milk check. ('15)

7. The name of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board be changed to the Pennsylvania Milk Regulatory Board. ('19)

8. The PMMB account for all the money collected on all milk sold in Pennsylvania. ('19)

9. The PMMB start retail assessment of premiums paid to dairy farmers on non-Class I dairy products. ('20)

### **Milk Quality**

We recommend:

1. The penalty level for Somatic Cell Counts in milk be changed to the 400,000 level. ('15)

2. During public health inspections for dairy farms, only the farms that score less than a 90 be penalized. ('18)

3. The expansion of Penn State's Dairy Foods Program to provide additional technical expertise into the development of improved dairy products. ('20)

### **Over-Order Premiums**

We recommend:

1. Out-of-state producers not be eligible for distribution of the PMMB-mandated premium. ('15)

2. The PMMB over-order premium be paid directly to dairy farmers, instead of being distributed through the cooperative or processor. ('16)

3. Eliminating the over-order premium and replacing it with a PMMB-regulated surcharge per gallon of milk retailed in Pennsylvania, with proceeds placed in a pool fund to be evenly distributed to all Pennsylvania producers regardless of where the milk was produced or processed. ('19)

### **Processing Facilities**

We recommend:

1. Incentives, both tax and others, be made available for milk and milk-product plant construction and expansion or other capital improvements in Pennsylvania. ('16)
2. The appropriate Pennsylvania agencies develop a 50 percent tax credit program with a limit of \$150,000, similar to the REAP Program, for milk processors; crediting milk purchased, processed and marketed in Pennsylvania. ('18)
3. The Pennsylvania General Assembly commission a study of environmental, zoning, taxation and regulatory requirements that impact dairy manufacturing and processing plants decisions when selecting a location for a plant or upgrading an existing plant. ('20)

### **Producer Pricing**

We recommend:

1. Pennsylvania work cooperatively with surrounding states to establish higher Class I over-order premiums for producers. ('15)
2. The cost of transporting raw milk be paid by the processor. ('15)

### **Raw Milk**

We recommend the intrastate sale of raw milk from permitted and inspected facilities and that each state be permitted to regulate raw milk sales without federal intervention. ('15)

### **rBST**

We recommend dairy processors receiving a premium for rBST-free milk should pass on that benefit to rBST-free dairy producers. ('15)

### **School and Government Milk Sales**

We recommend:

1. Pennsylvania school students have access to a variety of milk products (whole, reduced fat and flavored) attractively packaged in plastic containers of various sizes. ('15)
2. All milk in Pennsylvania schools and prisons be 2% or whole milk, including flavored milk. ('18)

### **Termination of Producer Market**

We recommend the law permitting milk handlers to drop shippers be extended to 60 days or more notice. ('15)

## **EDUCATION**

### **Agricultural Education**

We recommend:

1. Public schools allow for excused absences for children to participate in agricultural education activities. ('15)
2. Agricultural science curriculums be offered in all school districts. ('15)
3. Schools be required to provide all students with introductory agriculture education. ('15)
4. Adequate funding for FFA programs. ('15)
5. More agriculture careers listed as high priority occupations in the PA Department of Labor and Industry Workforce Program and the PA Department of Education. ('17)
6. The establishment of technology centers that include agricultural education, Supervised Agricultural Experience, and FFA in all counties. ('15)

7. The PA Department of Education, when calculating hours for state reimbursement of agricultural programs, allow general education to count toward 40 percent of the required hours for agricultural education. ('17)

8. Creating a pilot program, developed by the state Department of Education, to promote horticulture in high schools, vocational school and universities. ('18)

### **Charter Schools**

We recommend charter schools that have operated in good standing for at least 10 years not be subject to a 5-year charter renewal process unless a material incident warranting charter revocation occurs. ('17)

### **Curriculum**

We recommend:

1. The rescission of Pennsylvania's acceptance of the Common Core Curriculum. ('15)
2. All Commonwealth schools adopt a cursive reading and writing curriculum. ('16)
3. The Pennsylvania Department of Education establish a priority list of programs to preserve for school districts, with intracurricular activities ranking higher than extracurricular sports. Schools that eliminate priority programs would result in further capping of local taxing ability. ('20)

### **Educational Improvement**

We recommend more emphasis be placed on parental involvement. ('15)

### **Extension Programs**

We recommend:

1. The Cooperative Extension Service and 4-H be adequately funded and maintain necessary agricultural staff levels. ('15)
2. Penn State Extension fill the maple specialist position. ('18)
3. Requiring Penn State's annual financial statement for state appropriations be made publicly available online and include information on Extension professional fees, services and travel expenses on a county-by-county basis. ('18)

### **Funding of Public Education**

We recommend:

1. Adequate funding for public high schools to teach agricultural sciences. ('15)
2. Continuation of additional state subsidy payments to smaller school districts. ('15)
3. Funding for cyber schools be prorated in consideration of their lower overhead costs. ('15)
4. The current factor for state reimbursement for education be raised incrementally to reach 50 percent. ('15)
5. Local school board budget approval mandates be moved until after June 30. ('15)

We oppose any unfunded mandates from the state or federal level for education. ('15)

### **Higher Education**

We recommend:

1. Grants and loans be based on net income for eligibility requirements. ('15)
2. Reinstatement of funding for the PHEAA Agriculture Loan Forgiveness program. ('15)
3. PHEAA loan forgiveness be expanded to include Food Animal Veterinarians under the following limitations:
  - a. The veterinary practice is composed of at least 50 percent large animals.
  - b. Must work for at least one year to be eligible.
  - c. Loan forgiveness be based on a 10-year period.
  - d. Loan forgiveness provides \$10-\$20,000 per year. ('15)

4. The establishment of credit-based, student-run college farms that provide food to school dining halls. ('17)
  5. State-funded higher education institutions work together to share resources. ('18)
  6. Adoption of legislation to forgive up to \$16,000 in student debt loan debt for those who have served a minimum of five years as an active member of a volunteer fire company, volunteer rescue company or an emergency medical service agency. ('19)
- We oppose any proposal that would require state funding of tuition and related college costs for all residents. ('18)

**Patriotism**

We recommend school children continue to salute and pledge allegiance to the United States Flag. ('15)

**Prayer**

We recommend student led prayer and bible reading in public schools at the discretion of the students. ('15)

**School Building Construction**

We recommend expenditure of tax revenue meeting the following conditions be considered by public referendum:

1. Construction of any new public school facilities ('15), or
2. Construction or improvement of any school sport facilities costing more than \$500,000. ('20)

**School Districts**

We recommend:

1. School district consolidation not be mandated by the State. ('15)
2. Contracts to provide bus services to school districts be subject to open public bidding, and the effective term of bus service contracts not be greater than five years. ('15)
3. If a school district elects to reduce its financial responsibility by relocating students to surrounding school districts, the school districts accepting those students be reimbursed by the State for all associated costs and not incur any additional debt. ('16)

**Teacher Training**

We recommend "Act 48" hours start after certified teachers begin teaching full time in public schools, accredited private schools and secular schools. ('15)

**Vocational Education**

We recommend state income and inheritance tax credits be available to donors of equipment or other materials to vocational technical schools. ('15)

**ELECTIONS AND ELECTED OFFICE**

**Candidate Requirements**

We recommend nominating petitions:

1. Require candidates to disclose if they have been convicted of a felony, and ('15)
2. State that convicted felons cannot legally hold office. ('15)

**Judges**

We recommend:

1. Judges be elected, not appointed. ('15)
2. Judges should stand for reelection not retention. ('16)

**Terms of Office**

We recommend:

1. All state elected officials shall not serve more than 12 years. ('16)
2. The term of office for County Commissioners be six years, with one Commissioner being elected every two years. ('15)
3. The Pennsylvania legislature adopt a recall system for all elected officials. ('15)

## **Voting**

We recommend:

1. All voting machines produce and maintain a hard copy record of votes cast with a copy for the voter to verify and deposit in a secure container to be held with the voting records. ('15)
2. Voting in the Commonwealth only be permitted in-person or by absentee ballot, and that early voting or mail-in ballot options not be permitted. ('20)
3. Compensation for election officers not be doubled. ('17)

## **EMINENT DOMAIN**

### **Eminent Domain**

We recommend:

1. A law be enacted that when a property is condemned and the price disputed (and/or ends up in court) if any additional money is awarded to the property owner, the condemner pays all costs (court, lawyer's fees, appraiser fees, etc.) and that this prevent the costs coming out of the award to the owner. ('15)
2. State and local governments not be authorized to exercise eminent domain powers for purposes of flood control. ('15)

### **Farmland Taking**

We recommend:

1. Municipalities and utilities be prohibited from acquiring by eminent domain any property interest in a farm subject to an agricultural conservation easement. ('18)
2. The farmer representative on Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board (ALCAB) have a pre-approved alternate representative if they are unable to attend a hearing. ('15)
3. The highway condemnation standard for land in an agricultural security area be strengthened and that the condemnation exception for activities relating to existing highways be eliminated. ('19)

### **Landfills**

We recommend eminent domain not be used to acquire land for landfills. ('15)

## **ENERGY**

### **Energy Alternatives**

We recommend:

1. The state government:
  - a. Provide state tax incentives for ethanol reformulated fuels to match federal tax incentives. ('15)
  - b. Provide tax incentives to businesses, industries, governments, homeowners and non-profit organizations who convert their furnaces and equipment to natural gas. ('15)
  - c. Provide tax credits for conversion of farm trucks and equipment to run on compressed natural gas. ('15)
  - d. Provide tax credits for farmers to host community energy generation projects, so long as landowners receive the majority share of compensation for available energy, despite any community, financial or other input. ('19)
  - e. Provide tax credits for agricultural and other businesses that implement the use of any renewable sources of energy in their operations, including:
    - i. Geo Thermal;
    - ii. Methane digesters, farm or sewage plants;
    - iii. Wood;
    - iv. Biodiesel fuel. ('15)
  - f. Establish a loan guarantee program for renewable liquid fuels projects at the rate of \$2 per gallon of annual production. ('15)

- g. Work to implement the production of ethanol from whey. ('15)
- h. Research to find ways of making co-products of alternative fuels into edible food products. ('15)
- 2. Nuclear power plants be eligible to receive alternative energy credits. ('19)
- 3. Companies who lease land for solar and wind energy projects be required to pay decommissioned bonds that cover all of the disposal costs for equipment once it is no longer useful or operational. ('19)
- 4. The establishment of a regional Ethanol Task Force of representatives of interested farm organizations, support agencies and ethanol planning groups from Pennsylvania and surrounding states to coordinate information and activities to enhance the use, production and marketing of ethanol, bio-diesel and their co-products in our region. ('15)
- 5. All motor fuels sold in Pennsylvania contain a percentage of renewable fuels without first meeting minimum in-state production requirements. ('15)
- 6. The percentage of biofuels required in marketed off-road fuels and home heating oil be tied to the production of bio-fuels within Pennsylvania. ('15)
- 7. Pennsylvania close its borders to outside Solar Renewable Energy Credits and raise the solar requirements. ('15)
- 8. The PUC allow all renewable energy projects to supply their energy into the grid at market value. ('15)

**Energy Cost**

We oppose:

- 1. Utilities recovering renewable compliance costs as a stranded cost. ('15)
- 2. Any surcharges on alternative energy. ('15)

**Windmills**

We recommend:

- 1. Windmills have a minimum setback of 1,000 feet from any residence unless voluntarily agreed to by the resident. ('15)
- 2. State laws and regulations on windmills supersede local regulations. ('15)
- 3. Royalties from windmills shall be paid only to the property owner where the windmill is located. ('15)

**FAMILY AND RURAL LIFE**

**Abortion**

We recommend efforts be undertaken to enact a Pennsylvania law to ban partial-birth abortion if court decisions overturn the Partial-Birth Abortion Act of 2004. ('15)

**Marriage**

We recommend Pennsylvania retain provisions of law that recognizes marriages only between men and women as legal. ('15)

**FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES**

**Fertilizer Regulation**

We recommend developers, commercial landscapers and commercial applicators of fertilizer on residential and commercial properties be required by PA Department of Agriculture to follow best management practices established through Penn State Extension. ('18)

We oppose:

- 1. Requiring the registration of persons who sell or distribute commercial fertilizers and agricultural minerals for agricultural purposes. ('18)

2. Requiring the certification of persons authorized to apply commercial manufactured fertilizers and agricultural minerals. ('15)

### **Pesticide Regulation**

We recommend:

1. Farmers not be required to have special containers on the farm for disposal of pesticide-holding containers. ('15)
  2. Spraying for the purpose of agricultural production be exempt from notification requirements. ('15)
  3. Maintaining the current pesticide certification program and oppose additional mandates. ('15)
  4. Farms inspected and cleared by PDA's On-Farm Pesticide Application Worker Protection Inspection not be subjected to future inspections until all other farms in the state have been inspected or a complaint has been filed. ('15)
  5. Farmer members be included on PDA and Extension committees established to administer funds allocated to research and control of invasive species. ('18)
- We oppose any increases in fees for private pesticide licenses. ('15)

### **FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY**

We recommend:

1. Food handler employees not be required under the Food Employee Certification Law to be certified or trained in management of food allergies and health responses to food allergies. ('15)
2. All nonprofit member organizations be exempt from regulatory standards imposed on commercial food retailers. ('15)
3. We recommend the Retail Food Facility Safety Act be amended to require proprietors to obtain only one food market stand license, rather than multiple licenses, for each farmers market attended. ('17)

#### **Feeding of Animals**

We recommend the feeding of poultry litter to livestock be prohibited. ('15)

#### **Quality Assurance Programs**

We recommend Pennsylvania develop a Beef Quality Assurance Program (BQAP) retail labeling program. ('15)

### **GAS AND OIL DRILLING**

#### **Abandoned Wells**

We recommend funding of a local orphaned or abandoned oil and gas well identification program implemented by county soil conservation district or similar agency. ('15)

#### **Coal Bed Methane**

We recommend:

1. The Hoge Law of 1983 be repealed to let Pennsylvania conform to the United States Supreme Court's 1999 ruling that the gas found in coal belongs to the gas rights owner. ('15)
2. Coal bed methane gas and natural gas developers be prohibited from accessing private property or performing any activity related to the development, construction, or operation of gas wells on private land without the surface landowner's written consent. ('15)
3. Methane from coal beds not covered by a valid lease is owned by the landowner. ('15)
4. Act 54, the Bituminous Mine Subsidence and Conservation Act, be amended, where applicable, to include coal bed methane wells and development. ('15)

## Inspection and Testing

We recommend:

1. Gas and oil companies be required to test water before and after seismographic testing for water quality. ('15)
2. Mandatory baseline and post well completion tests of surface water and water wells in a 2,500-foot radius of gas and oil well drilling sites. ('15)
3. Oil and gas well sites and access roads be inspected by DEP for the life of the well to ensure that erosion and sedimentation controls are being maintained. ('15)
4. Land reclamation on oil and gas development projects have a one-year "look back period" for DEP enforcement to correct deficiencies, settling, or erosion of the site. ('15)
5. Gas and gas storage companies be required to pay for independent testing of surface water and water wells by a DEP certified laboratory with the results delivered directly to the landowner in a 2,500-foot radius of drilling and storage/retrieval sites. ('15)
6. The PUC oversee the amount of production cost and the production cost expenses associated with gathering lines, hydration, processing, compression and production fees. ('20)

## Leases

We recommend:

1. A code of ethics be established for land men who negotiate leases, with the code enforced by the State Attorney General. ('15)
2. Gas and oil companies who break a lease for any reason be required to remove all records of the lease from the County Recorder of Deeds Office in the Courthouse within 30 days. ('15)
3. A lessee of an oil or gas lease be required to notify the lessor in writing of any sale or transfer of any portion of the lessee's interest in the lease. ('15)
4. The lessee be required to have expired leases removed from property records within six months of lease expiration. ('15)
5. The value of oil or gas from which required minimum royalty (of 12.5 percent) payments to lessors are determined not allow for reductions for costs of oil or gas extraction, processing or transmission, severance or extraction taxes, post production, market enhancement or other costs and that the value be determined under the first marketable product doctrine. ('18)
6. Automatic renewal clauses for oil and gas leases require material drilling activity to have taken place to be valid. ('15)
7. Royalty payments be required to be paid initially on or before the 60th day after production and transmission begins. ('15)
8. Gas well operators who are delinquent on royalty payments be required to pay the landowner or royalty owner an additional 10 percent penalty based on the most recent cost within the calendar month to the landowner or royalty owner on amount of delinquent payment of any royalties. ('20)
9. Royalty payment check stubs be required to provide the following for each separate well:
  - a. The name of the lessor;
  - b. The lessor's identification number (the account number or payee number utilized by producer);
  - c. The lease number, property name and tax parcel number, well name and American Petroleum Institute number used to identify the lease and well;
  - d. The month and year during which the sale occurred for which payment is being made;
  - e. The total volume of oil and gas produced by the well at the wellhead;

- f. If the well is operated under a joint operating agreement and multiple payors are responsible for payment to the lessor, all payors must be listed and applicable percentages shown on each payor's monthly statement;
  - g. The total volume of oil represented by the payment measured in barrels;
  - h. The total volume of gas represented by the payment, measured in mcf and the btu value;
  - i. The total volume of natural gas liquids (NGL) represented by the payment, measured in gallons or barrels;
  - j. The price per barrel of oil sold or mcf of gas sold or the price per barrel (or price by gallon, if applicable) of NGL sold, as applicable;
  - k. Total amount of the state severance and production taxes;
  - l. Lessor's interest in the sale expressed as a decimal;
  - m. Lessor's share of the sale before any deductions or adjustments;
  - n. Lessor's share of the sale after deductions or adjustments;
  - o. Specific deduction code to account for any deduction shown (including, without limitation: transportation, tax, line loss, compression, processing, treatment, marketing, gathering, third party charge); and
  - p. An address and telephone number for which additional information may be obtained and questions answered. ('15)
10. Statutory establishment of rebuttable presumption of legal abandonment of any subsurface interest whose subsurface owner has continuously failed to engage in any physical activity or pay any taxes related to the interest for 50 years. ('15)

#### **Metering**

We recommend all gas and oil wells be required to:

- 1. Have a meter that measures quantities of gas or oil extracted or stored, and that these meters be standardized, easily read and display measurements in numerical form. ('15)
- 2. Be calibrated and certified for accuracy of gas and oil well meters under a program similar to certification of public scales by a third-party agency at prescribed intervals. ('15)

#### **Pooling**

We recommend government not have the power to impose forced pooling without protection of correlative rights under the conservation law. ('15)

#### **Sub-surface Rights**

We recommend owners of surface rights receive direct notification by certified registered mail of the tax sale of oil, gas, and mineral rights related to property they own. ('15)

#### **Transmission and Storage**

We recommend:

- 1. Private gas companies not have authority to acquire gas transmission easements by eminent domain. ('15)
- 2. Gas companies be required to inform landowners and local authorities of the geological horizons, or strata, of gas storage and how the gas will be stored and retrieved. ('15)
- 3. All businesses performing pipeline construction activities be required to be registered and bonded with the Commonwealth. ('15)
- 4. Establishment of state standards for mitigation of soil compaction from pipeline construction projects within agricultural lands that include:
  - a. Testing of disturbed topsoil and subsoil to ensure degree of soil compaction is not greater than undisturbed areas of comparable fields.
  - b. Plowing of severely compacted areas with deep tillage implements.

- c. If topsoil has been segregated, plowing of subsoil before segregated topsoil is replaced. ('15)

### **Well Drilling and Operation**

We recommend:

1. The minimum amounts of bonding required for permitted oil and gas wells be \$25,000 per well and \$250,000 per blanket bond. ('15)
2. Employees of oil and other energy companies, and sub-contractors, traveling between farms exercise biosecurity procedures to prevent potentially transmitting diseases between those farms. ('15)
3. Gas and oil well setbacks from unleased property boundaries be established at 200 feet. ('15)
4. Local governments not be permitted to adopt ordinances against research and drilling of gas wells on private property. ('15)
5. DEP not require "Certified Straw" for gas well and pipeline remediation. ('15)
6. Gas companies be required to give the landowner first option to operate wells the company no longer intends to use. ('15)
7. Surface owner consent be required for extension beyond the nine-month requirement for site restoration. ('16)
8. Water issues in fields caused by natural gas pipelines be remediated within 90 days or otherwise agreed upon by the landowner. ('20)

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Automobile Safety**

We recommend:

1. Use of hand-held cellular phones by the driver of a car for holding a conversation be prohibited while the vehicle is in motion. ('15)
2. All pet animals traveling in vehicles be restricted to the back seat or passenger side of a vehicle. ('15)

### **Cannabis**

We support:

1. The legalization of medical marijuana. ('15)
2. No recreational marijuana use or sales be permitted in Pennsylvania. ('16)

### **Disease Control and Prevention**

We recommend:

1. Use of deer tick killing stations as a Lyme Disease control measure. ('15)
2. Agencies and organizations receiving blood donations for public use in transfusions be required to test all blood received for babesia. ('15)
3. The State provide funding to accelerate research on Lyme Disease vaccines, treatment and eradication. ('17)
4. Health insurers be required to provide insurance coverage for diagnosis and treatment of Lyme or other tick-borne diseases, when prescribed by a physician. ('16)
5. A health care practitioner be immune from disciplinary action if treating a patient for Lyme or other tick-borne diseases in accordance with National Guidelines Clearinghouse (NGC) published guidelines of International Lyme and Associated Disease (ILADS). ('16)
6. Health care providers' continuing education requirements include Lyme disease and other tick-borne illness education. ('17)
7. The state Department of Health provide funding for research on human Lyme disease vaccines. ('18)

8. Health insurers be required to cover any expenses incurred for the treatment of potential rabies exposure determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. ('19)

### **Emergency Medical Technicians**

We recommend that EMS groups be allowed to train Emergency Medical Technicians if there are no community colleges located within 45 miles. ('15)

### **Fire Protection**

We support the issuance of bonds by the Commonwealth to provide funding to volunteer fire companies. ('15)

### **Fireworks**

We recommend:

1. Launch sites for fireworks used for entertainment purposes be minimum of 1,500 feet from adjoining farms unless written permission is obtained from the property owner. ('15)
2. The setback for private explosive fireworks be a minimum of 500 feet from animal housing units. ('19)

### **Healthcare**

We recommend:

1. The Pennsylvania legislature provide incentives for the delivery of medical and mental health services in rural areas, including financial incentives to Pennsylvania medical students training to become family practitioners, general surgeons, or other primary care physicians, who intend to practice in rural Pennsylvania. ('15)
2. The State continue operating mental institutions and allowing new admissions. ('15)
3. Non-financial (clinical) eligibility determinations for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services remain under the Department of Aging. ('19)
4. Oversight and implementation of Older Adults Protective Services (aged 60 and above) remain under the Department of Aging. ('19)
5. The provisions of Act 22 of 2011 granting the Department of Human Services the broad authority to change Medicare and provider reimbursement rates without oversight by the General Assembly or the Independent Regulatory Review Commission be repealed. ('19)

### **Medical Testing**

We recommend:

1. Random drug testing, including blood alcohol levels, be mandatory for all public and private personnel who are responsible for the safety of the public. ('15)
2. Unannounced drug testing of individuals (students and staff) be allowed in all public and private schools that accept public funding. ('15)

### **Rodent Control**

We support the legalization of products like "Rodentator" to control burrowing pests. ('15)

### **Safety**

We recommend:

1. Used farm equipment being sold by dealers be required to have manufacturer-recommended safety shields. ('15)
2. Liquid manure pits be required to be fenced in a manner to prevent accidental human entry. ('15)
3. Fencing with signage be required warning of possible toxic gases in and around permanent manure storage facilities. ('15)
4. Increased funding for training of local emergency response teams in agricultural emergencies, including grain bin rescues, and that ongoing training options for the grain rescue tube be available every two to three years. ('19)

5. All first responders (including volunteer and paid firefighters, ambulance crews, local police, and regional state police) be properly trained to handle animals that are involved in barn fires and road accidents. ('19)
  6. Employers receive state tax credits for employees engaged in emergency services training on voluntarily provided company time, upon the employee's completion and certification of the course. ('19)
  7. County and municipal employees that visit farms be educated to comply with biosecurity regulations and practices. ('17)
  8. An increase in spraying and funding, through DEP and annual appropriations, for black flies. ('17)
  9. Non-solicited computer generated phone calls be limited to bona fide public interest issues and emergencies. ('18)
- We oppose any mandate to require installing seat belts or roll bars on tractors not originally equipped with such safety products. ('15)

## **HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Bridges**

We recommend when bridges need replacement, use culverts when feasible. ('15)

### **Fuel Surcharges**

We recommend that proceeds of fuel surcharges paid under a government contract be passed on to the independent truckers that pay for the fuel. ('15)

### **Maintenance**

#### Infrastructure

We recommend:

1. Maintenance of highways, roads and bridges be given priority over new construction, especially rural state routes. ('15)
2. The State maintain the State roads to accommodate trucks loaded with maximum weight limits. ('15)
3. All road culverts be inspected and problems corrected before roads are resurfaced. ('15)
4. Highway workers and contractors be required to place a small flashing strobe on top of the handheld stop signs that blinks red on the stop sign and amber on the go side. ('15)
5. State mandated county and township bridge projects be funded by the State. ('15)
6. When a municipality grades berms that the adjacent landowner be given the graded material, if requested. ('15)
7. Property owners have first opportunity to use soil removed along the road right-of-way from the property. ('15)
8. Coordination among all government entities for prompt construction and repairs to adjoining roads closed at the same time and location. ('16)
9. The state use a supervised work release program for non-risk prisoners to pick up garbage along the highways. ('18)
10. PennDOT separate its winter and summer maintenance budgets, so that northern counties do not lose their highway expenditures after costly winter expenses. ('19)
11. Financing for interstate highway maintenance come out of general statewide funding without reducing funding for road maintenance at the county level. ('19)

### Weeds and Brush

We recommend:

1. The responsible government agencies keep the corridor of travel clear of limbs and branches to a height of 16 feet, and to the edge of the right-of-way, and/or at least 6 feet from the edge of the road. ('20)
2. Agricultural vehicles that are less than 14 feet in height traveling on the road or in the road right-of-way not be liable for any damage resulting from knocking down low hanging tree limbs or branches encroaching the road right-of-way. ('20)
3. PennDOT and/or municipalities remove fallen branches and trees from the edge of state and/or municipal roads within five business days. ('17)
4. The state reimburse local municipalities for removing tree limbs and trees from state roads. ('18)
5. Additional funding be provided for safe removal of Emerald Ash Borer damaged trees along PennDOT-maintained roadways. ('17)

### **Motor License and Liquid Fuels Revenues**

We recommend all monies in the Motor License Fund received from fuel taxes, registration of vehicles, licenses and other taxes, be used solely for the improvement of the highway system. ('15)

### **Pennsylvania Department of Transportation**

We recommend:

1. PennDOT compensate farmers when a field is damaged by DOT required and/or installed storm drains. ('15)
2. All speed zones, other than school zones, have a one-half-mile minimum length. ('15)

### **Privatization**

We recommend that if the Turnpike Commission assets are leased privately, local governments be able to receive property tax base compensation. ('15)

### **Railroads**

We recommend:

1. Keeping and upgrading rail lines and spur lines to facilitate the transportation of grain, feed, fertilizer and other agricultural products. ('15)
2. Exempting private, farm railroad crossings, used for the purposes of agricultural production, from user fees, maintenance charges and liability insurance requirements. ('15)
3. Railroad crossings to farm fields remain open and maintained by the railroad. ('15)

### **Road and Bridge Construction**

We recommend:

1. Private contractors, engineers and inspectors involved in private highway and bridge construction be held responsible for the work done for five years after completion of the project. ('15)
2. Existing overpasses on limited access highways providing emergency service and farm field access be required to be kept and maintained. ('15)
3. PennDOT use Design and Build techniques in construction of highways when possible. ('15)
4. Any interstate designated as a high use area be improved for additional lanes of traffic. ('15)
5. The presence of endangered species not be a legal basis for delaying road and bridge construction or improvements. ('15)
6. Bridge inspection programs eliminate conflicts of interest by prohibiting companies that inspect and recommend bridge repairs to also bid on performing repairs for that bridge project. ('15)

### **Road and Bridge Weight Limits**

We recommend:

1. Local municipalities be prohibited from revoking the local traffic exemptions from posted weight limits. ('15)

2. Legislation to prohibit local municipalities from exceeding PennDOT regulations and arbitrarily lowering road weight limits to prevent the establishment of agricultural operations that have entered into a verifiable planning process. ('15)
3. Bonding monies paid by the bondor for road repairs be used for the road which has been damaged, and the road be kept in repair during the time the road is under bond. ('15)
4. The "local traffic" exemption from bonding requirements apply to vehicles used in the performance of logging and harvesting of trees and collection of sugar water on farms. ('17)

**Road and Roadside Pollution**

We recommend the use of environmentally friendly products as melting agents on roads. ('15)

**Road Signs and Markers**

We recommend:

1. PennDOT and municipalities consult farmers in the placement of road markers and signs along roads and right-of-way boundaries adjoining farmland. ('15)
2. PennDOT signs advertising agriculture businesses include the words "support local farms." ('15)
3. Farmers who request agricultural signs to be erected by PennDOT or township supervisors not be required to pay for such signs. ('16)
4. The study of temporary visual impairment due to reflectivity of traffic control signs. ('17)
5. PennDOT paint roads in fog areas yearly and make markers closer together. ('19)
6. Upon replacement or repair, all county and township roads that intersect with state routes have name signs of a minimum height of 8 inches in zones under 45 miles per hour zone, and a minimum of 12 inches in zones above 45 miles per hour. ('19)
7. Speed limit signs are posted within 500 feet of rural and parochial school zones. ('19)

**Toll Roads and Bridges**

We recommend:

1. The Turnpike Commission be abolished with management and tolling transferred to PennDOT. ('15)
2. A 3 percent annual cap on Pennsylvania Turnpike toll increases. ('17)
3. All Pennsylvania Turnpike toll money be used for turnpike use only. ('18)

We oppose tolls on any existing federally funded interstate highways, including I-80. ('15)

**Vacating Roadways**

We recommend that affected property owners be able to nullify township or state action to vacate a township or state road by a signed petition of the majority of the adjoining property owners. ('18)

**HUNTING AND FISHING LAWS**

**Bird Shooting Events**

We recommend all commercial regulated hunting grounds for game birds be permitted to offer Sunday hunts. ('20)

We oppose any legislation that would restrict the use of live birds in sporting or competition events of any kind, as long as there is no conflict with the Game Code. ('15)

**Cooperating Farmland Program**

We recommend:

1. A landowner's minimum acreage to obtain a reduced-cost hunting license be reduced from 80 to 40 acres. ('15)
2. A farm family receive two free hunting licenses if they participate in the program. ('15)

3. The Game Commission use land acquisition monies to buy hunting rights of farm-game cooperators instead. ('15)
4. Establishing a voluntary PGC/Landowner hunting access program, similar to existing "walk-in hunting programs" available in other states, wherein landowners are provided with liability protections and compensation including the financial incentives used towards habitat improvements. ('15)
5. Farmer-landowner hunting licenses be valid on a state-wide basis. ('17)

### **Damage by Birds**

We support legislation that would expand state funding for USDA Wildlife Services in blackbird and starling damage programs. ('15)

### **Damage by Game Animals**

#### Bear

We recommend:

1. The Game Commission provide compensation for second and subsequent claims for bear damages to beehives (with a minimum payment of \$50), field crops, and animal losses. ('15)
2. A special permit hunting program similar to the DMAP program to address specific problem bear population areas. ('15)

#### Deer

We recommend:

1. Upon the verification of crop damage by the Game Commission, farmers be permitted to bait deer to facilitate their harvest.
2. Farmers be allowed to contract licensed hunters to harvest deer for crop damage. ('18)
3. Persons lawfully killing deer for crop damage, that will not be utilized for food consumption, not be required to:
  - a. Provide cold storage for compliance with standards of "safekeeping";
  - b. Perform field dressing or gutting; or
  - c. Surrender deer harvested. ('18)

#### Damage by Game, General

We recommend:

1. Research of alternative methods to control wildlife crop damage. ('15)
2. The Game Commission be authorized to fund cost sharing for wildlife crop damage control methods other than fencing, such as invisible fencing to contain guardian dogs on cropland. ('15)
3. The PGC not restrict the current uses of rifles, shot guns, bows, cross bows, for the killing of wildlife for crop damage. ('15)
4. The Pennsylvania Tax Code be changed to allow farmers to claim un-reimbursed documented losses from wildlife damage. ('15)
5. The Game Commission food and cover program address adjacent farm crop damage problems. ('15)
6. Christmas trees be classified and treated as un-harvested crops by the Game Commission. ('15)
7. The Game Commission clearly define what constitutes a farmer as being an individual or entity that actively cultivates, operates, or manages land for a profit when determining wildlife harvests for crop damage. ('20)

### **Deer Depredation Permit Program**

We recommend:

1. The Red Tag program be accessible regardless of landowner use of PGC cooperator programs. ('15)
2. The deer depredation permit program, known as Red Tag, not be eliminated, nor farmer ability to enroll diminished. ('15)
3. Non-resident licensed hunters be permitted to participate in the Deer Depredation Permit program. ('15)
4. Monthly reporting requirements of farmers enrolled in the Deer Depredation Permit Program (Red Tag) be eliminated. ('17)

5. Red Tag permits be expanded to four permits per-parcel per-hunter statewide. ('19)
6. An individual hunter be able to use multiple red tags on the same farm parcel. ('18)
7. The Game Commission allow landowners to enroll and reenroll for Red Tag online. ('19)

#### **Deer Management Assistance Program**

We recommend:

1. Non-resident DMAP doe permits be the same price as regular non-resident doe permits. ('15)
2. Non-resident deer hunters with Pennsylvania licenses be allowed to hunt with DMAP. ('18)
3. Resident DMAP permits be the same price as resident doe permits. ('19)
4. The Game Commission increase DMAP permits to four per hunter, per parcel enrolled. ('19)
5. The Game Commission allow landowners to enroll and reenroll for DMAP online. ('19)

#### **Enforcement of Game and Fish Laws**

We recommend:

1. Only Wildlife Conservation Officers, not Deputy WCOs, administer and supervise red tag programs. ('15)
2. Repealing the provision of the Game Code which makes it illegal to refuse to answer any question asked by a game officer pertaining to the killing or wounding of wildlife or the keeping of a wildlife carcass. ('15)
3. The Fish Commission have no enforcement authority over man-made ponds and other bodies of water located on private lands and having no inlet or outlet surface water stream. ('15)

#### **Farmer Rights**

We recommend:

1. The rights of the property owners to limit hunting, fishing and all other activities on their lands not be abridged. ('15)
2. Any game killed by a farmer for crop damage be kept by the farmer, to be used at his discretion. ('15)
3. The Game Commission reinstate sharecropping and allow farmers to utilize state game lands for agriculture production without a fee. ('20)

#### **Fencing for Damage Control**

We recommend:

1. The Game Commission pay for the construction of platforms, as well as electric fences, to protect stationary beehives from destruction by bears. ('15)
2. Funding be restored to the Game Commission Deterrent Fence Program. ('15)
3. The following changes to the Game Commission Deterrent Fence Program:
  - a. Participating farms have the choice to post their land. ('15)
  - b. Requirements under the program respect farmers' needs regarding fence location, type, quality, openings with gates, etc. ('15)
  - c. For pre-existing farms within or adjacent to Pennsylvania Game Commission Big Game enhancement areas:
    - i. The Game Commission provide free fence materials, construction, and maintenance of fence; and
    - ii. The Game Commission pay an easement when the fence location is more than 10 feet within boundaries of open fields. ('15)

#### **Firearms for Hunting**

We recommend:

1. Hunters be allowed to use high-powered rifles in WMU 5C. ('15)

2. Semiautomatic rifles be permitted only for hunting coyotes, foxes and woodchucks. ('17)
3. Authorizing the use of gas or air powered long guns for hunting. ('16)

### **Game and Fish Commissions**

We recommend:

1. Agriculture be represented on any commission responsible for the management of fish and/or wildlife. ('15)
2. One of the eight Pennsylvania Game Commission commissioner positions be held only by a PFB-nominated Commissioner. ('15)
3. Game Commissioner appointments be for an eight-year term on a two-year rotation with one position up yearly. ('15)
4. Former Game Commission employees and Game Commission enforcement officers not be considered for appointment as members of the Game Commission Board of Commissioners. ('15)
5. A ninth position be added to the Game Commission representing the counties: Berks, Lehigh, Northampton & Schuylkill as the Ninth district, Southeast Region. ('15)
6. Commissioners of the Game Commission not be replaced with an advisory board or state legislators taking the decision-making powers of Commissioners. ('15)
7. The Game Commission request nominations from Pennsylvania Farm Bureau for any committees with public members. ('15)
8. The Game Commission allow leashed dogs to track wounded deer, bear and turkey. ('15)
9. All Game Commission and Fish & Boat Commission proposed regulations or regulatory changes be published on the Commissioner's page of the agency Website and 60-day public comment period be required before Board of Commissioners action may be taken. ('15)
10. Game and Fish Commission funds remain separate from the state General Fund. ('15)

We oppose any action by the Game Commission to withdraw land from active farming. ('19)

### **Game Sanctuaries**

We recommend if a private or commercial sanctuary is created through posting, the landowner creating the sanctuary be required to fence the sanctuary area or be required to pay for crop damage or property damage to neighboring lands. ('15)

### **Harvest Reports**

We recommend no legislation or Commission action extend reporting deer kills beyond 10 days for licensed hunters. ('15)

### **Hot Spot Program**

We recommend the Game Commission establish a hot spot program for turkey. ('15)

### **Hunting on Private Property**

We recommend:

1. No one be allowed to erect any type of tree stand on private property without the landowner's written consent. ('15)
2. Landowners be allowed to confiscate any and all tree stands that are erected on their property without the written consent of the landowner. ('15)
3. Amendments to the Game and Wildlife Code to prohibit any hunter from hunting on private property unless the hunter obtains and carries written permission from the landowner while hunting. ('15)
4. A one-year revocation of hunting and fishing privileges for anyone who hunts or fishes on private land without landowner permission. ('15)

5. Trail cameras not be placed on private property without written permission of the landowner, and notification of the location of the devices to the landowner. ('20)

### **Hunting and Trapping Safety**

We recommend:

1. Safety zone signs be in place by September 1. ('15)
2. During big game seasons (except Sundays), users of public trails be required to wear blaze orange as required by hunters in areas open to public hunting. ('15)

### **Licenses**

We support an increase of \$5 for the general hunting license dedicated to combatting CWD. ('18)

#### Antlerless and Antlered Deer Licenses

We recommend:

1. Anyone whose major source of income is cultivating land be entitled to a free doe license. ('15)
2. Antler restrictions for senior and lifetime license holders allow two or more points on one antler or a spike three or more inches in length. ('17)
3. Hunting licenses and antlerless deer tags be made available for sale at the same time. ('18)
4. No more than two antlerless deer tags be issued per hunter and the issued permits be filled before obtaining additional tags. ('18)
5. Increasing doe tags in an effort to reduce the deer herd. ('20)

#### Elk Licenses

We recommend:

1. Any applicants for the elk license lottery first purchase a resident or non-resident license and the lottery entry fee be increased to \$30 for resident and \$60 for non-resident and not be refundable. ('15)
2. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds from the lottery and sale of elk hunting licenses be used for compensation and/or prevention of elk damage. ('15)

#### Fishing Licenses

We recommend:

1. Property owners who own property along a stream and their families be allowed to fish on their own property without a license. ('15)
2. Any family member, tenant, employee or anyone with the owner's consent be allowed to fish on private man-made ponds and other similar bodies of water without requirements to obtain a fishing license or permit. ('15)

#### Furbearers Licenses

We recommend property owners not be required to have a furbearer's license while trapping on their own property. ('15)

### **Purchase of Wildlife**

We recommend that when the Game Commission puts out bids to purchase wildlife in Pennsylvania, the first 75 percent of their quota must first be filled by Pennsylvania growers of wildlife when available. ('15)

### **Seasons and Bag Limits**

#### Antlerless and Antlered Deer

We recommend:

1. An October rifle antlerless deer season. ('15)
2. The antlered deer season begin on a Saturday. ('15)
3. Muzzle loader season for deer be held in conjunction with the last two weeks of archery season and prior to rifle season. ('15)
4. Antler and antlerless deer season be extended by one week, allowing more hunting time and more harvest of deer, without Sunday hunting. ('15)

5. The Game Commission allow the use of percussion muzzleloaders during regular muzzleloader season. ('15)
6. A concurrent season for antlered and antlerless deer. ('15)
7. Deer season open on the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. ('16)
8. Deer hunters be able to apply for and obtain antlerless deer licenses online. ('19)

### Bear

We recommend:

1. Statewide concurrent deer and bear seasons. ('15)
2. Bear season length be established at Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) levels, based on bear-human conflicts and bear population growth. ('15)
3. Bear hunting season remain open until the Game Commission's quota is met in each WMU. ('18)

### Turkey

We recommend:

1. The bag limit for turkeys be increased to two for spring and two for fall. ('15)
2. The daily hunting hours for spring gobbler season be uniform, starting at one half hour before sunrise until one half hour after sunset. ('15)

### General

We recommend:

1. That there be no further expansion of Sunday hunting beyond crow, coyote, fox, as well as woodchuck in cultivated fields with express written permission of the landowner. ('16)
2. That if Sunday hunting expansion were to become law, the following must apply:
  - a. Trespass laws be amended to address PFB "trespass policy";
  - b. Hunting be allowed only with written private landowner permission;
  - c. Hunting for deer be allowed on state game lands and state forests with "No Sunday Hunting" signage provided at no charge for adjacent private lands at the owner's request;
  - d. Hunting be expanded to include antlerless deer and woodchuck only;
  - e. Sunday hunting for antlerless deer be limited to:
    - i. 1st Sunday of archery,
    - ii. 1st Sunday of flintlock,
    - iii. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday after the Thanksgiving holiday. ('18)
3. Trapping season on muskrats be extended to February 21. ('15)
4. An open season be restored on raccoon and fox. ('15)
5. An open season for red squirrel. ('15)
6. An open season for porcupine. ('15)

### **Spotlighting**

We recommend spotlighting for game animals be legal only when performed on state game lands and public land or when performed by farmers shooting wildlife for crop damage on their property and on rented land. ('15)

### **Tree Stands**

We recommend hunter/owner identification be required on all tree stands, ground blinds and trail cameras. ('16)

### **Trophies**

We recommend game or birds that have been hunted and killed lawfully and mounted or preserved at the owner's expense be allowed to be sold at private or public sales. ('15)

### **Youth Hunting**

We recommend:

1. Opportunities for youth hunting be expanded for days other than Sunday. ('15)

2. Establishing a second youth deer season on the Friday and/or Saturday after Thanksgiving. ('15)
3. The Game Commission offer free DMAP (Deer Management Assistance Program) permits to youth hunters. ('15)

### **Wildlife Management**

We recommend:

1. Trapping of groundhogs with conibear traps be legalized. ('15)
2. The Pennsylvania Game Commission work with Penn State and other governmental agencies to develop an effective groundhog reduction program. ('15)
3. The Game Commission use sharpshooters to reduce deer herds in Disease Management Areas. ('16)
4. The Game Commission be financially responsible for all damage to personal property done by animals introduced into the area by the Commission. ('15)
5. The Game Commission educate the public about landowner's and farmers' rights, to control wildlife on their property. ('15)
6. Sound science be used to manage wildlife populations. ('15)
7. Hunters, with landowner approval, be permitted to use motorized vehicles to hunt and control predatory animals that are killing farm animals. ('15)
8. The use of drones for hunting or disruption of hunting be illegal. ('15)
9. Legal buck be defined as having antlers with a length three inches or more. ('16)
10. No elk be moved onto any PA Game Lands south of I-80. ('15)
11. No additional statewide or regional restrictions be imposed on current allowances for feeding wildlife or sale of wildlife feed products. ('19)
12. White tailed deer antler restrictions be removed in CWD Disease Management Areas. ('17)
13. Infrared night vision hunting equipment be legalized for livestock, and agricultural crop protection. ('17)
14. Infrared night vision equipment be legalized for use by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and law enforcement. ('17)
15. For wildlife killed by vehicles on public roads:
  - a. Large game animals be removed within 48 hours of notification to the Game Commission. ('15)
  - b. The entire carcass (including antlers and/or hide) of wildlife killed be available to the vehicle owner at no cost. ('15)

We oppose any legislation that would prohibit the use of steel traps for trapping wild animals. ('15)

## **INSURANCE**

### **Automobile Insurance**

We recommend minimum limits of 15,000/30,000/5,000 for bodily injury and property damage be raised to 50,000/100,000/50,000. ('19)

### **Fire and Casualty Insurance**

We recommend Pennsylvania insurance companies additionally be subject to the 2 percent tax on fire and casualty policy premiums for the benefit of volunteer fire companies. ('16)

## LABOR

### Agricultural Employment

We recommend:

1. Family farm partnerships and family farm corporations be regulated under the same labor laws as sole proprietorships. ('15)
2. Employees of roadside stands, farmers' markets, etc. be classified as farm employees for purposes of unemployment compensation and insurance. ('15)
3. Farm proprietors, partnerships and corporations who directly employ farm laborers be exempt from state crew leader registration requirements. ('15)
4. Farmers who engage the services of a farm labor contractor be exempt from state crew leader registration requirements. ('15)
5. Liability between a farmer and a farm labor contractor with respect to labor law be severable. ('15)
6. The Pennsylvania Seasonal Farm Labor Act be amended to prohibit mandatory inspection of single family housing. ('15)
7. Mushroom operations growing year-round not be subject to the Pennsylvania Seasonal Farm Labor Act. ('15)
8. Farmers be exempt from providing mandatory paid sick leave to their employees. ('15)
9. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Department of Labor and Industry collaborate with the agriculture industry to identify ways to improve workforce development at the state and local level. ('20)

### Industrial Homework

We recommend the Industrial Homework Law of 1937 be amended to permit the processing of food articles, and making of toys and dolls, in private homes. ('15)

### Minimum Wage

We recommend:

1. Pennsylvania's minimum wage not exceed the federal mandate. ('15)
2. Any employer hiring a person under 18 years of age be exempt from minimum wage law in regard to that employee. ('15)

### Prevailing Wage Rate

We recommend:

1. Elimination of Pennsylvania prevailing wage rate. ('15)
2. Until repeal is achieved, the prevailing wage rate exemption for all public projects be \$125,000, and adjusted annually for inflation. ('16)

### Public Employee Act

#### Public Employees

We recommend:

1. A Public Employee Act uniformly apply to all public instrumentalities and their employees except public school teachers. ('15)
2. Public employees be required to vote by secret ballot in any vote related to contract negotiations. ('15)
3. Failure to reach agreement within contract period shall subject the parties to injunctive action by the courts to require continuation of work during the settlement period. ('15)
4. All public employees work under a no strike contract. ('15)

#### Teachers

We recommend:

1. Mandatory time frames for negotiation and settlement of contract disputes be implemented to prevent teacher strikes at the start of the new school year. ('15)
2. Right to strike by teachers be lost when binding arbitration is utilized. ('15)
3. Selective strikes by teachers be prohibited. ('15)

4. Teachers lose a full day's wage for each day they are on strike, and this amount be deducted from their annual wages upon resolution of the strike. ('15)
5. Prior to any strike by teachers, the last offer of both the school board and the teachers' bargaining unit be published for public review and comment. ('15)
6. Teachers be required to teach during their contract without striking. ('15)

### **Right-to-Work**

We recommend a right to work law be enacted in Pennsylvania. ('15)

### **Unemployment Compensation**

We recommend:

1. State unemployment benefits not be increased. ('15)
2. Increasing the threshold level of agricultural coverage from the present level of \$20,000 of wages paid in any calendar quarter to \$50,000 to reflect wage inflation that has occurred since the enactment of agricultural coverage. ('15)
3. Increasing the agricultural threshold coverage for multiple employees from the current level of 10 or more persons during any portion of 20 or more weeks of the year to 15 or more persons for any portion of 30 weeks of the year. ('15)
4. An employer not be subject to state unemployment contributions for an H-2A worker's wages. ('19)
5. All employees for whom unemployment compensation contributions are made be eligible to receive compensation only from the at-fault employer within the base year. ('16)
6. School bus drivers and other seasonal workers not be eligible for unemployment compensation. ('15)
7. State unemployment regulations be changed to state that workers who knowingly accept seasonal agricultural employment making \$12,000 or less a year are not eligible to apply for Unemployment Compensation. ('15)
8. Unemployment benefits be taxed as ordinary income. ('15)

### **Unionization**

We recommend:

1. Legislation be enacted to prohibit strikes in agriculture, or in an agriculture processing plant, during a critical period of production or harvest. ('15)
2. Public employees not have the right to unionize. ('15)

### **Workers' Compensation**

We recommend:

1. Workers' compensation claims be settled within 36 months from the time the claim was presented. ('15)
2. All workers' compensation audits be conducted using the previous calendar year for a base. ('15)
3. Allowing sole proprietors and partners to obtain workers' compensation coverage in their businesses, including agriculture businesses, and establishing minimum compensation for proprietors and partners of 50 percent of the state-wide average weekly wage. ('15)

### **Workers' Compensation and Agriculture**

We recommend:

1. The minimum fee charged to small-scale farmers with annual employee salaries of less than \$7,000 be reduced to a nominal fee of less than \$100. ('15)
2. Christmas tree growers be considered an agricultural operation for workers' compensation purposes. ('15)
3. Workers' Compensation, Section 302(c) of the Workers' Compensation Law be amended to increase the threshold pay amount of \$1,200 to \$2,500 for employers to be required to cover all employees. ('15)

## LAND USE

### Agricultural Land Preservation

We recommend:

1. Utilities be subject to the same requirements for review and approval for authority to condemn land within agricultural security areas as are imposed upon governmental agencies. ('15)
2. ½ of 1 percent of the realty transfer tax be earmarked for farmland preservation. ('15)
3. The farmland preservation law be amended to establish a program for landowners to preserve farmland with tax credits for a term of five years, with the annual option by the landowner to extend the preservation agreement for one year. ('15)
4. Amending the Agricultural Area Security Law to allow farmers to voluntarily relinquish their right to construct a residence on preserved farms; and to clarify that a subdivision for a residence is allowed, regardless of whether the residence already exists or needs to be constructed. ('18)
5. Mulch making be classified as a farming practice under the Right to Farm and Ag Preservation programs. ('15)
6. Establishing a state process for administrative appeals of county preservation decisions through the Department of Agriculture. ('15)
7. Farms in Farmland Preservation be allowed commercial rights for cell towers at the discretion of the County Farmland Preservation Board. ('15)
8. Farms enrolled in Farmland Preservation be allowed to have agritainment activities, such as trail rides, corn mazes, etc. ('15)
9. Preserved farms be allowed to produce and harvest energy (windmills, solar, methane digesters, natural gas wells, etc.) without penalty provided minimal preserved acreage is impacted. ('15)
10. Counties be prohibited from requiring deed consolidation as a condition for eligibility for agricultural conservation easement purchase. ('15)
11. Public use trails not be allowed on preserved farms. ('18)
12. County-wide transfer of development rights (TDR) programs for farmland preservation be established that:
  - a. Apply to any contiguous farmland parcel of 10 acres or more within a county's boundaries;
  - b. Allow an initial TDR unit to be sold by right, subject to the availability of funds;
  - c. Allow subsequent TDR units to be eligible for sale, based on a ranking system similar to those used by county agricultural land preservation boards, subject to the payment of fees to the municipality in which the farmland is located;
  - d. Require TDR fees paid to municipalities be restricted in use for the purchase of subsequent TDRs in that municipality;
  - e. Allow development rights to be repurchased by the original TDR seller on a one-time basis, subject to a financial penalty equal to twice the current TDR value; and
  - f. Provide incentives for the development of land with low farm potential or conservation value. ('19)

We oppose changes to county and state Farmland Preservation Program guidelines that would create buffer zones to future growth areas, buffer zones for water and sewer lines, and a one mile buffer zone for interstate highway exits. ('18)

### Easements, General

We recommend:

1. Property owners who are burdened by public easements on their property be compensated on the full market value of the area burdened by the easement. ('15)

2. Pipeline, utility, mineral, oil, gas, and governmental easement rights be deemed terminated after five years if the easement is not used. ('17)

### **Local Zoning**

We recommend:

1. Municipalities be required to impose a minimum setback of 150 feet from property lines for construction of houses, swimming pools, wells and other residential structures on properties adjacent to farms and orchards. ('15)
2. Farmers be allowed to build homes on their property for immediate family members without having to sub-divide the property. ('15)
3. Honey bee operations be authorized to function in all local zones when operating in accordance with best management practices recommended by the PA Department of Agriculture. ('15)
4. A five-year statute of limitations for the enforcement of zoning and building permit violations. ('15)
5. Counties and municipalities be prohibited from enacting and enforcing zoning ordinances that require tracts or parcels of agricultural land, consisting of 10 or more acres, to be re-zoned if the agricultural land is being used for commercial purposes. ('20)
6. Agricultural tracts of land in excess of 250 acres be exempt from island or reverse spot zoning. ('20)

### **Rails-to-Trails**

We recommend:

1. Government agencies be prohibited from taking private land by eminent domain to create or extend a recreational trail. ('15)
2. All tax money should be withdrawn from the funding of Rails to Trails. ('15)

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

### **Children and Youth Programs**

We recommend:

1. The State provide full funding of any children and youth service the county is required by the state or federal government to provide. ('15)
2. The county providing children and youth services to an individual receive all of the government-supported financing provided to that individual attributable to the individual's participation in the county's children and youth program. ('15)
3. Visitors, who appear high or intoxicated, of children who are in the protective custody of a Children and Youth Agency, including parents and grandparents, submit to a drug test when requested by the agency, or forfeit their visit with the child, with the exception of 30-day voluntary relinquishment of children. ('15)

### **Impact Fees**

We recommend:

1. Persons proposing to engage in a multiple-unit residential or a major commercial development project be required to file a report of anticipated effects of the project upon local student enrollment before any land development plan or permits are filed. ('15)
2. Counties, school districts and townships be authorized to impose impact fees on new residential and nonagricultural commercial construction which reflect the increased costs the construction is likely to cause:
  - a. Counties in providing additional public services and farmland preservation.
  - b. School districts in servicing increased student enrollment, including school building construction.

- c. Municipalities in constructing and maintaining additional roads and sewers. ('15)

### **Legal Notices and Recordkeeping**

We recommend:

1. Municipalities be required to make public notices available through electronic media sources. ('15)
2. Local governments be required to post all proposed and current ordinances on publicly-accessible electronic sources. ('15)

### **Legislation and Programs Impacting Municipalities**

We recommend:

1. Municipalities be prohibited from banning private use of solar panels, windmills and clotheslines. ('15)
2. Municipalities be prohibited from requiring landowners to escrow casualty insurance benefits payments. ('18)
3. Referendum approval be made by voters of a municipality before the municipality may be terminated or may be acquired by or consolidated with another municipality or county. ('15)
4. Neither county governing bodies nor county voters be given exclusive authority to initiate or effectuate consolidation of any municipality within a county. ('15)
5. Amending the Municipalities Planning Code to allow all agricultural commodities, including timber, to be harvested without requiring a permit. ('20)

We oppose repealing current state township code provisions that authorize the initiation of court action for removal of local officials who fail to perform duties of office by petition of local voters. ('15)

### **Local Regulation of Agriculture Enterprises**

We recommend:

1. Uniform minimum standards for agricultural, agritourism and farm marketing activities and structures authorized to be performed and constructed on farm properties be established, through the Department of Agriculture. ('15)
2. Local governments have no authority to prohibit any activity or construction that meets the minimum standards established for agricultural, agritourism and farm marketing activities and buildings. ('15)
3. No permit be required by a municipality to harvest any agricultural commodity. ('16)
4. Act 38 (ACRE Law) be amended to authorize local government units to submit proposed ordinances to the Attorney General for an opinion regarding being an unauthorized local ordinance. ('16)
5. The State Attorney General's office provide adequate staffing to handle ACRE appeals in 120 days. ('16)
6. Establishing an advisory board within the Department of Agriculture to consider and offer opinions to farmers and local governments on whether a proposed agricultural, agritourism or farm marketing activity is in accordance with the minimum standards established. ('15)
7. A nonconforming use performed on a farm property meeting the minimum area or agricultural income of a normal agricultural operation not be considered legally abandoned until 10 years after the use has been discontinued. ('15)
8. Relative to proposed construction and land development projects on farm properties that meet the minimum area or agricultural income of a normal agricultural operation, municipalities be:
  - a. Prohibited from imposing more than \$100 in total fees and costs in reviewing and determining whether the project should be approved. ('15)
  - b. Required to identify all deficiencies and corrections necessary for approval of the project within 45 days after the proposal is initially submitted. ('15)

c. Required to make a final determination of approval or disapproval within 90 days after the proposal is initially submitted unless final approval requires the project be built and the landowner or builder requests an extension of time. ('15)

9. Stables and wineries be included under the "Right-to-Farm" Act. ('15)

10. Municipalities be required to regulate equine boarding and training and riding operations as agriculture in zoning, development and building construction ordinances. ('15)

11. Counties and municipalities not be allowed to regulate or require permitting or impose fees for operation of bee hives. ('15)

12. Regarding the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) and its application to agriculture, third party construction code administrators be authorized, upon request of the landowner, to inspect buildings on farms exempt from building code regulation for identification of any serious fire, safety or structural hazard. ('15)

### **Local Regulation of Roads**

We recommend municipalities not be given authority to lower speed limits on portions of state roads located within the municipality. ('15)

### **Municipal Airport Authorities**

We recommend:

1. Municipal airport authorities be required to pay annual assessments to taxing districts based on the amount of property tax that would normally be paid. ('15)

2. Municipal airport authorities compensate neighboring landowners adversely impacted by development and operation of a municipal airport for the reduction in value resulting from the owner's loss of, or restriction in, use of property. ('15)

### **Planning and Zoning Commissions**

We recommend a mandatory review of township zoning ordinances to coincide with the Municipality Planning Code's requirement for review of comprehensive plans every 10 years. ('15)

### **Pornography**

We recommend a municipality be given the option (by referendum vote) to reject the showing of X-rated films or adult pornography stores in their district and that the referendum be voted upon every three or more years. ('15)

### **Regulation of Water by Municipalities**

We recommend:

1. Water obtained from development of a well field on agricultural land not be transferred outside the municipality where the water was obtained. ('15)

2. Municipalities in a common watershed not be allowed to jointly plan and regulate land in that jurisdiction. ('15)

3. Dry fire hydrants be installed by local governing bodies for street and road-accessible ponds at the owner's discretion. ('15)

### **Township Supervisors**

We recommend:

1. Terms for township supervisors be three years. ('15)

2. The maximum compensation a township may provide under contract without bid to a supervisor for use of personal equipment be increased to \$3,000 per year. ('15)

## **MARKETING**

### **Commodity Marketing Programs**

We recommend:

1. A referendum be required to be conducted according to either of the following two methods:

a. Referendum of individual producers, or

- b. Bloc voting be permitted provided:
  - i. The policy making body has issued a certified resolution permitting bloc voting for its members.
  - ii. Individual members of a cooperative are mailed an individual ballot for the purpose of casting his or her vote.
  - iii. The votes cast by individual members of the cooperative are deducted from the bloc vote cast by the members' cooperative.
  - iv. It be stated on the ballot that if the individual member of the cooperative does not vote, his vote will be bloc voted by his cooperative. ('15)

2. A referendum to terminate or amend a program shall be held when 15 percent of affected producers, or 5 percent of those producers voting in the referendum affecting a program, request in writing that a referendum be held on the question of terminating or amending. ('15)

### **Cooperative Formation**

We recommend establishment of a marketing and bargaining law covering all agricultural products sold to the packer or processor, not now regulated in regard to price by state or federal government or traded over the counter at the Commodity Exchange. The packer or processor would be required to bargain with these producers when 50 percent of the producers in an area have organized. ('15)

### **Farmers Markets and Restaurants**

We recommend:

1. Guidelines be established by representatives of the PA Farm Bureau, the PA Retail Farm Market Association, and the Penn State Ag Engineering department before implementation of any significant change in Department of Agriculture regulation, inspection, or certification of farm markets, rides and amusements. ('15)
2. The wording on the vouchers for Farmers Market Nutrition Program be changed from "to be used to purchase produce eligible under Pennsylvania's FMNP program" to "to be used to purchase Pennsylvania grown produce only." ('15)
3. Restaurants and stores be required to name their source of "locally" produced products, which shall be defined as no greater than 150 air miles. ('19)

### **Grain Brokers and Dealers**

We recommend:

1. All grain brokers and elevators be required to pay within fourteen days of grain delivery. ('15)
2. Pennsylvania either create a grain indemnity fund for instances of insolvent grain buyers or brokers, or require that grain dealers, brokers, feed mills and elevators who buy or sell commodities in Pennsylvania are bonded. ('18)

## **MOTOR VEHICLE CODE**

### **Driving Under the Influence**

We recommend:

1. A DUI offender be subject to a \$1,500 fine for the first offense and an automatic three months driver's license suspension, and for the second offense be subject to a \$5,000 fine and a permanent loss of driver's license. ('15)
2. Authority for immediate confiscation of the driver's license of an individual involved in an alcohol-related or drug-related accident or subject to a routine road check who refuses to take a test (such as field sobriety or breathalyzer test) for determining alcohol or drug impairment. ('15)

3. A mandatory five-year-without-parole prison sentence for anyone convicted of a DUI accident resulting in another person's death. ('15)

4. Patients who receive methadone drug therapy not be allowed to drive a vehicle when leaving the treatment clinic. ('15)

### **Motorcycles**

We recommend that all motorcyclists be required to wear a helmet while operating or riding on a motorcycle. ('15)

### **Non-motorized Vehicles**

We recommend:

1. All bicycles and mopeds traveling less than 25 miles per hour required to have a safety marker (orange flag) permanently displayed. ('15)

2. Legislation that cyclists must have reflective clothing when traveling on public roads. ('17)

3. No license or registration be required for horse drawn transportation or horse drawn implements. ('17)

### **Oversize and Overweight Vehicles**

We recommend:

1. Farmers and custom operators be able to obtain a yearly over-width permit which would exceed the current width allowed by law to transport farm equipment on all highways. ('15)

2. The vehicle code be amended to provide for issuance of annual permits authorizing the movement on highways of agricultural commodities and agricultural-related equipment in excess of the Code's specified maximum gross vehicle weight, provided that the overall weight of the permitted vehicle does not exceed 95,000 pounds and the weight of each of the vehicle's non-steering axles does not exceed 21,000 pounds. ('17)

3. Extending the gross maximum vehicle weight to 90,000 pounds for farmers hauling their own product, without the need to obtain a permit. ('19)

4. Supporting any state proposal that would expand permitting for an increase gross weight of trucks for the purpose of hauling any agricultural commodities. ('18)

5. Oversize permits to transport agricultural and custom farm equipment be required to be issued within one business day. ('15)

6. Farm equipment operating with over-width permits should be permitted to move on holidays. ('15)

7. Farmers be allowed to move implements of husbandry anytime, between 16 to 18 feet wide, on public roads without a permit. ('17)

8. Any farm licensed or farm stickered vehicle be exempt from the road weight restriction within the 50-mile farm radius. ('17)

### **Slow Moving Vehicles**

We recommend:

1. Law enforcement agencies enforce the fines established for the prohibited use of Slow Moving Vehicles (SMV) emblems. ('15)

2. Misuse of SMV emblems on permanent stationary objects be subject to increased fines of \$300. ('15)

3. The Slow Moving Vehicle emblem, and its meaning, be incorporated into Chapter 2 of the State Driver Education Manual. ('15)

### **State Emergencies**

We recommend vehicles transporting essential supplies to farms or perishable farm products from farms be exempt from vehicle restrictions imposed during declared emergencies. ('19)

### **Tow Truck Operators**

We recommend prior to removing any disabled vehicle that appears to have caused damage to private property, the tow truck driver be prohibited from moving the vehicle until the vehicle driver or owner shows proof that he/she has notified the landowner. ('15)

### **Unmarked Cars**

We recommend vehicles that are not properly marked as police vehicles be prohibited from being used to stop motorists for Vehicle Code violations. ('15)

### **Vehicle Code and Agriculture**

We recommend:

1. Bees be tarped or individually screened in some kind of container when transported by vehicles. ('15)
2. The Pennsylvania driver's test include safety questions about driving in the presence of farm equipment, dump trucks, tractor trailers and other large machinery encountered on public roads, including a question on wide turns by large vehicles. ('16)
3. The creation of a special registration plate benefiting agricultural education programs. ('17)
4. PennDOT and Municipal Drivers be required to complete a biennial physical like other CDL drivers. ('17)
5. PennDOT clarify their interpretation of CDL requirements to minimize burdens on farmers who haul farm equipment and/or livestock, regardless of who owns the load. ('18)
6. Farm exemption stickers be available for any vehicle, truck, car, atv, or utility vehicle that has a primary farm use. ('18)
7. Pennsylvania have reciprocity agreements with other states regarding farm vehicles. ('20)
8. Farmers be exempt from date sensitive tire-replacement mandates on farm vehicles. ('20)

### **Farm Implements and Agricultural Vehicles**

We recommend:

1. Unlicensed farm tractors be permitted to be operated on roads in furtherance of parades, hay rides, tractor pulls and similar social events. ('15)
2. Farm equipment be permitted to be operated on non-interstate limited access highways when flashing warning lights be required to be in use by the farm equipment and by rear escort vehicles. ('19)
3. Commercial implements of husbandry be allowed an axle weight of 27,000 pounds and a gross vehicle weight of 96,000 pounds. ('15)
4. Equipment used by the custom farm operator have the same exemptions as those available to equipment used by the farmer on his own farm. ('15)
5. Tractors with steel cleats be banned from public highways. ('15)
6. The creation of a sticker designating multipurpose agricultural vehicles as farm vehicles. ('15)
7. A multipurpose agricultural vehicle be defined as "a motor vehicle which is generally, but not necessarily 65 inches or less in width and 2,400 pounds or less in dry weight and is used exclusively for agricultural operations and only incidentally operated or moved upon the highway." ('18)
8. Multipurpose agricultural vehicles be allowed to travel up to 50 miles between sunrise and sunset between parts of one farm owned or operated by the farmer or between a farm and place of business for the purpose of buying or selling agriculture commodities and supplies, or for the purpose of repairing or servicing the vehicle. ('20)

9. Any person operating farm machinery designed by a manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than 25 miles per hour being operated on local or state roadways be required to have a valid driver's license. ('15)
10. Agricultural machinery being used for snow removal be exempt from registration and/or licensing when driven on public roadways. ('19)
11. The use of four-way flashers on an agricultural vehicle not be required if amber beacon lights can be seen from 360 degrees. ('19)
12. Timber harvesting equipment be allowed to be moved and/or hauled with the same laws and regulations as other agricultural equipment. ('15)

Farm Trucks and Trailers

We recommend:

1. The Department of Transportation issue seasonal registration for farm vehicles at a prorated fee. ('15)
2. A new class of vehicle at a reduced registration fee which is specifically limited to transporting farm workers from farm to field on the highway. ('15)
3. Placement of the Pennsylvania farm truck exempt from registration sticker be on the left driver's side of the windshield. ('15)
4. Farm vehicles with the Type B and Type C biennial certification of exemption have a 50-mile radius of operation from the farmer's farm. ('19)
5. The Department of Transportation issue a rear identification plate for registration-exempt farm vehicles to replace or supplement the sticker. ('15)
6. Notarized transit permits for farm exempt vehicles be available from point of purchase to the farm the vehicle will be used on. ('18)
7. The Vehicle Code be amended to allow a permanent exemption from registration for registration-exempt farm trucks. ('15)
8. The Department issue a receipt of proof that a farm truck is exempt from registration until the sticker arrives. ('15)
9. PennDOT send out notices for biennial registration exemption of farm vehicles. ('15)
10. Trees harvested by farmers on their own property be permitted to be hauled on farm exempt and farm registered trucks. ('15)
11. Farm truck operators be exempt from covering crop loads when traveling from field to farm for a distance of 10 miles or less. ('15)
12. Wagons being towed by farm trucks and implements of husbandry:
  - a. Be exempt from Vehicle Code requirements for lighting while being towed during daylight hours. ('15)
  - b. Be exempt from Vehicle Code requirements to be secured to the towing vehicle by safety chains. ('15)
  - c. Be exempt from Vehicle Code requirements for brakes if over 3,000 pounds. ('15)
13. Permanent trailer registrations be available for all trailers, regardless of gross weight. ('15)
14. Farm vehicles and trailers currently farm-exempt under the Vehicle Code be permitted to serve non-profit and charity usages within the current guidelines for farm vehicles. ('17)
15. PennDOT make available exemption stickers from inspection for trailers for farm use with a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 pounds or less. ('17)
16. All farm vehicle registrations be immediately available and processed at a PennDOT authorized office. ('17)

17. Farm registration exempt vehicles hauling agricultural waste be exempt from permitting requirements under Act 90 of 2002. ('18)
18. Farm trucks only be required to register at a combination weight when the gross weight of the combination exceeds 26,000 pounds. ('15)

### **Vehicle Code, General**

We recommend:

1. That disabled vehicles must be removed from the highway right-of-way within two working days. ('15)
2. All 102-inch twin trailers and 102-inch trailers over 28.5 feet long be allowed to travel on all portions of primary roads. ('16)
3. PennDOT inspectors be required to possess a current Pennsylvania driver's license for the vehicle classes they inspect. ('16)
4. PennDOT develop an intermediate driver's license for immigrant workers with proper documentation, e.g., tax identification or social security number, seeking employment or legal residence with an annual renewal. ('18)
5. Local law enforcement officers notify landowners when there is a traffic accident that causes property damage when officers are notified of such damage. ('18)
6. No separate class of reckless driving penalties for drivers involved in an accident with "vulnerable highway users." ('18)
7. An officer conducting a commercial vehicle size and weight inspection have a state inspection certification. ('18)
8. Increasing registration/road use fees for electric cars to offset the loss of gas tax revenue. ('19)
9. PennDOT be required to notify CDL drivers and commercial truck owners of spotted lanternfly regulations and penalties with their license and registration renewal. ('19)

### **Vehicle Idling**

We oppose legislation limiting the length of time a diesel-powered vehicle can idle. ('15)

### **Vehicle Weight**

We recommend trucks exiting fields with agricultural products or exiting forests with wood products have a 10 percent gross weight tolerance. ('15)

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Air Quality**

We recommend:

1. Exempting from state air pollution laws off-farm drying of grain crops within 30 days of harvest. ('15)
2. The creation of Climate Change/Global Warming policies and regulations that are based on proven science. ('15)
3. Pennsylvania not enter into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. ('20)
4. DEP not limit the use of indoor or outdoor wood or biomass boilers. ('15)
5. An exemption for farm residences from DEP regulatory limitations on use of indoor and outdoor wood or biomass boilers. ('15)

### **Biosolids**

We recommend:

1. Third party testing of biosolids be required before their application on farmland. ('15)
2. Since winter crops can best utilize biosolid contents prior to March 15, spreading of biosolids be allowed on frozen ground provided that the land is protected by conservation practices (such as adequate ground cover) and that slopes do not exceed 2 percent. ('15)

We oppose legislation that would require DEP to hold at least one public hearing prior to issuance of permits for land application of biosolids. ('15)

### **Bottles and Cans**

We recommend:

1. All bottles and cans have a “returnable” value of no less than 5 cents. ('15)
2. Returnable container legislation contain provisions for redemption centers. ('15)
3. A binding referendum for a 5 cents returnable beverage container program. ('15)

### **Chesapeake Bay TMDL**

We recommend:

1. Conservation Districts and DEP inventory and record non-cost shared BMPs and attribute such voluntary efforts as actual nutrient and sediment reductions in the Chesapeake Bay Model. ('15)
2. Full funding to accompany BMP requirements under EPA and DEP’s adaptive management strategy. ('15)
3. State funding to research road-salt application and any adverse effects it may have on water quality, including nutrient and sediment loadings, in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. ('15)
4. Water quality monitoring in local watersheds be used to verify theoretical data in the Chesapeake Bay Model. ('19)

### **Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of**

We recommend:

1. The Secretary of DCNR have a professional background in one sector of production agriculture, preferably the forest products industry. ('15)
2. The Bureau of Forestry initiate a forester certification program within the state and then post the certified foresters on their web site. ('15)
3. Agricultural representatives be provided on all DCNR advisory committees. ('15)

### **Conservation Districts**

We recommend:

1. Legislation to increase the funding and staffing of the conservation districts to enable them to deliver locally-led conservation programs. ('15)
2. Establishment of a non-lapsing “conservation district fund” to provide for dedicated funding of conservation districts. ('15)
3. County conservation districts receive an appropriation to the Conservation District Fund in an amount sufficient to meet the Commission’s Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) 50 percent cost-share policy for all positions. ('15)
4. Bottle bill returns as a dedicated funding source to supplement the (CDFAP). ('15)
5. Conservation districts be the executing authorities for Chapter 102 (erosion & sediment control) regulation. ('15)
6. County conservation districts be funded to employ an in-house technician to write post-construction storm water management plans with 80 percent of the cost paid by the state and 20 percent by the active farmer. ('15)
7. All county conservation districts have trained and certified staff to write conservation plans. ('15)
8. Conservation districts not be compelled by DEP to serve in a regulatory enforcement capacity as a condition to receive state and federal funding. ('15)
9. Decisions on agriculture structure plans by conservation districts be required to be made within 45 days of the date the plans are submitted. ('15)
10. Conservation districts be required to inform landowners who inquire if their properties contain wetlands. ('15)

11. Conservation districts have the ability to opt in or out of administration of DEP's model policy for agricultural compliance with the State Conservation Commission every three years. ('15)

### **Dams**

We recommend bonding not be required for high hazard dams annually inspected and certified as safe by a professional engineer. ('15)

### **Environmental Enforcement**

We recommend:

1. The amount of time between the filing of charges against a person by a state agency and trial on those charges be not more than 180 days. ('15)
2. The parties doing repairs to the private right-of-way and not the property owner be liable for any actions necessary to be performed from failure to meet Department of Environmental Protection standards. ('15)
3. DEP's Agricultural Advisory Board provide oversight for the Regional Agricultural Watershed Assessment Program. ('15)

### Complaints

We recommend:

1. Any complaint filed with the DEP or other state regulatory agencies be in writing and signed by the person making the complaint in order to be valid. ('15)
2. When DEP investigates a complaint, the name of the person initiating the complaint be made available to the person whom the complaint is filed against. ('15)
3. When any state agency receives an environmental complaint against an agricultural operation:
  - a. The state official conducting the investigation contact the farmer and explain the nature of the complaint before entering the farm premises. ('15)
  - b. An appointment be scheduled at least 48 hours before entering the premises to address any bio-security concerns. ('15)
  - c. The party or parties initiating the complaint become part of the public record. ('15)
  - d. The state official complete and provide to the farmer a report of the official's investigation of the complaint before departing the premises. ('15)
  - e. The time frame for the initial investigative visit be limited to a maximum of two hours. ('15)

### Landowner Notification and Private Property

We recommend:

1. Legislation be passed mandating the prosecution of DEP officials who violate due process of law when entering private property. ('15)
2. DEP inspectors notify property owners, obtain permission and provide identity before going onto private property. ('15)
3. DEP be required to notify landowners of any water or air testing done on their land and be required to provide all test results to the landowner, if requested. ('15)
4. Conservation officers be required to notify landowners and any tenants before entering to investigate wetland encroachments or environmental concerns. ('20)

### Penalties

We recommend:

1. DEP have a positive test for contamination in order to issue a fine in the event of water pollution. ('15)
2. A \$1,000 fine limit on agricultural enterprise conservation and environmental violations. ('15)

## **Environmental Laws and Regulations**

We recommend:

1. Environmental laws and regulations be weighed against their effect on agriculture before their final enactment or adoption. ('15)
2. Agricultural stream crossing permit fees not exceed \$100 per permit. ('15)
3. Reclassification of impaired streams into the following categories: "Natural Impairment", "Urban Impairment" and "Agricultural Impairment." ('15)
4. The Susquehanna River not be classified as an impaired watershed. ('15)
5. Farmers not be required to invest in any agricultural best management practice to be performed under the Manure Management Manual, the Agricultural Water Quality Initiative and the agricultural Watershed Implementation Plan that is not validated by Agricultural Research Service with scientific data as resulting in reduction of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model's measured nutrient and sediment loadings. ('15)
6. A competitive bidding procurement program be established to encourage technology, innovation and cost reduction for nutrient and sediment management in meeting federal and state requirements. ('15)
7. A sinkhole be defined for regulatory purposes as an open hole in the ground surface that provides direct access to the ground water. ('15)
8. DEP contract with engineering firms to accelerate the permit process. ('17)
9. DEP permit reviews be completed within 90 days. ('18)
10. Any review of a mandated DEP permit must be funded by the state (not by the permit holder) or the permit not be required. ('19)
11. Permit fees by all government agencies be waived for farmers to repair or replace non-public agricultural culverts, pipes or bridges. ('19)

We oppose:

1. Assessment of a surcharge on environmental violations for the purpose of funding the State Conservation Commission. ('15)
2. New regulations of geologic hazardous zones until the current regulations are enforced and the need for more regulation has been scientifically established. ('15)

### **Forest Management**

We recommend dedicated funding and increased manpower to support DCNR's efforts to suppress insect species which defoliate forests. ('15)

We oppose any certification system for wood products that will require the oversight of paid forest managers. ('15)

### **Habitat**

We recommend:

1. In order to qualify for state cost share and other grants, applicants follow the USDA policy on optional planting of pollinator habitat to qualify. ('15)
2. Non-noxious, pollinator-friendly plantings in highway medians and on power and pipeline right-of-ways that are not returned to agricultural, commercial or private use. ('15)

### **Impact on Agriculture**

We recommend civil and criminal penalties for the introduction of new species, or the reintroduction of previously native species, of plants and animals into Pennsylvania that have an adverse impact on agriculture. ('15)

### **Littering**

We recommend the littering fine be raised to \$1,000 and enforced. ('15)

We oppose any initiative that advocates a program to “adopt a farm” for litter pick up. ('15)

### **Manure and Nutrient Management**

We recommend:

1. The basis for imposing requirements under the Nutrient Management Act continue to be animal units per acre. ('15)
2. No regulatory changes be made to Nutrient Management Act until an impact study is completed to show the financial effect changes will have on farmers. ('15)
3. State funding be provided for:
  - a. Scientifically determining the contribution of normal farm practices to existing phosphorus levels in streams. ('15)
  - b. Determining if current levels of phosphorous in agriculturally impaired waterways warrants the economic costs under current and/or proposed regulations. ('15)
4. Determining viable methods to mitigate phosphorus impacts on waterways. ('15)
5. Urban and suburban runoff and sewer system effluents be regulated in a manner similar to nutrient management for both nitrogen and phosphorus. ('15)
6. Additional cost-share funding be available to producers for constructing animal waste storage and handling facilities, including composters and separators, as well as for farmers forced into transportation of animal manure in order to comply with nutrient management requirements. ('15)
7. State conservation funding be available to farmers for the construction of and upgrades to manure storage facilities at 75 percent cost-share, up to \$80,000. For projects that exceed \$80,000, we recommend a 50 percent cost-share. ('15)
8. DEP create a formal CAFO Advisory Board, consisting of CAFO farmers, to provide insight and opinions to the department on new and existing CAFO regulations. ('15)
9. All CAFO permits be extended to seven years and nutrient management plans and DEP agricultural permits be extended to five years for periodic review. ('17)
10. CAFO regulations should be based solely on nutrient removal on a density-based formula. ('18)
11. The maximum period for review and approval for nutrient management plans be reduced from 180 days to 90 days. ('15)
12. Three-year nutrient management plans have crop flexibility. ('15)
13. Any increase in regulatory standards, by rulemaking or guidance document revisions, provide a practical timeline for the regulated community to adopt and implement necessary changes and identify funding to assist with compliance costs. ('15)
14. DEP and PDA publish and widely distribute all available state and federal sources of funding to assist farms in implementing BMPs required through administration of the Agricultural Water Quality Initiative and or through changes to the Manure Management Manual. ('15)
15. Winter land application restrictions established in the PA Manure Management Manual, be limited to actual environmental conditions (no snow cover and non-frozen ground) and not be imposed strictly on the basis of the calendar date. ('15)
16. Persons certified to prepare nutrient management plans for regulated concentrated animal operations be automatically qualified to prepare nutrient balance sheets for commercial manure haulers and brokers, without additional requirements for testing or certification. ('15)

17. A farm survey, similar to that conducted by Penn State for the Chesapeake Bay watershed, be conducted for other watersheds in the state to capture Best Management Practices that have not been cost shared to be credited to water quality improvement. ('17)

18. 4-H and FFA projects be exempt from the nutrient management plans. ('18)

19. Farms managing seven animal equivalent units (as described in the Act 38 Nutrient Management Program Technical Manual) or less be exempt from the requirement to have a manure management plan. ('18)

We oppose:

1. Mandatory incorporation of manure. ('15)

2. Cost recovery for state agencies that conduct an investigation for non-compliance issues with the Manure Management Manual. ('15)

3. Any legislation that would ban or restrict livestock from streams or bodies of water in Pennsylvania. ('16).

4. Annual fees proposed or adopted by the DEP for CAFO permits. ('18)

5. Increases in individual and general CAFO permit fees that would make Pennsylvania agriculture less competitive when compared to other states. ('19)

### **Mining Reclamation**

We recommend:

1. Any company or persons who strip mine farm land for minerals (coal, clay, etc.) must have the land reclaimed in one year from the completion of the mining operation, even if the lease is still in effect. ('15)

2. Bluestone quarries be included in the Commonwealth's administration of its "brownfields policy," for reuse of industrial sites. ('15)

### **Mining Reclamation Bonds**

We recommend the bond for strip reclamation be set at \$6,000 minimum per acre. ('15)

### **Mushroom Industry Regulation**

We recommend all composting operations, from which the compost produced is used exclusively by farmers, be permanently classified as agriculture by all state and federal regulatory agencies. ('15)

### **No-Till**

We recommend:

1. For conservation funding purposes, any definition of no-till must include provisions allowing the incorporation of manure as long as two-thirds of the residue stays on the ground. ('15)

2. Farmers and persons under contract to perform conservation projects funded by Growing Greener or other state funded grants be required to be paid within 60 days of the invoice date. ('15)

### **Nutrient and Carbon Trading**

We recommend:

1. A statewide program be developed for nutrient trading and credits based on phosphorus and nitrogen. ('15)

2. The development of a viable, statewide carbon trading program. ('15)

### **Public Dumping on Private Land**

We recommend farmers or landowners not be held liable for items dumped on their property by others without their knowledge. ('15)

## **Public Ownership of Waterways**

We recommend:

1. For waterways under claim of public ownership, the Commonwealth be responsible for maintenance of the waterway. ('15)
2. State agencies be prohibited from claiming ownership of subsurface and royalty interests relative to natural resources underneath waterways. ('16)

## **Non-Coal Mining**

We recommend:

1. Landowners quarrying on their own land and removing not more than 1,000 tons of saleable material per year be exempt from permit requirements. ('15)
2. For permitting purposes, the definition of quarrying exclude picking up of loose stone or quarry rubble from the quarry or the removal and sale of field stone and stone walls. ('15)
3. Quarries be included in brownfields regulations allowing reopening and reuse rather than backfilling and moving unspoiled forested areas. ('15)
4. DEP be required to rescind the new, more stringent quarry regulations establishing a 5-acre limit for small quarries — including all ancillary operations — to allow economic development to continue. ('15)
5. Limestone mining activities be subject to the same legal requirements and landowner remedies as provided under the state Bituminous Mining law. ('15)

We oppose legislation that requires a farmer to restore quarry sites or shale pits until it can be proven that the quarry site or shale pit is no longer productive. ('15)

## **Real Estate Disclosure**

We recommend a buyer of real estate be notified by the seller if said property is affected by or adjacent to a superfund site. ('15)

## **Recycling Programs**

We recommend:

1. Asphalt millings be allowed to be recycled for municipal reuse without being considered by Department of Environmental Protection to be hazardous material. ('15)
2. Municipalities should not have to obtain a state permit for the reuse of asphalt millings. ('15)
3. All counties provide a site for the recycling of all types of electronic devices and items not permitted for disposal in landfills. ('15)

## **River and Stream Control**

We recommend:

1. The creation of a general permit for stream restoration that:
  - a. Does not limit the length of the stream authorized to be cleaned. ('15)
  - b. Does not prevent removal of gravel bars because of existence of vegetation. ('15)
  - c. Allows a landowner to restore the stream bed back to its original channel. ('15)
  - d. Establishes an effective term of five years for the permit unless property ownership changes hands. ('15)
2. Guidelines be established to facilitate property owners and/or municipalities to immediately respond to public health and safety hazards and massive debris conditions. These guidelines would:
  - a. Require the environmental agencies be notified prior to the removal of flood-related hazards or related stream clearing activities. ('15)
  - b. Not require permits or professional engineering services. ('15)

- c. Provide that in situations deemed emergencies by local, county, or state authorities, flood-related hazards may be removed prior to any notification of the agencies with 12 months. ('18)
  - d. Provide an expedited regulatory review process for water system repairs, sewer system repairs and road repairs where public health and/or safety are impacted. ('15)
  - 3. Township riparian buffer ordinances not require streambank buffers greater than 35 feet and buffers not be required to be completely forested. ('17)
  - 4. Streambank riparian buffer width be proportional to the average stream flow. ('17)
  - 5. No regulatory agency shall mandate a standard defined buffer or riparian zone. ('18)
  - 6. Riparian buffers include a pollinator friendly and multifunctional variety of trees and shrubs. ('18)
  - 7. DEP commit permanent and recurring funding for stream restoration and stabilization, including all gas royalty income received from all waters belonging to the Commonwealth. ('18)
- We oppose upgrading of the Delaware River and its tributaries from High Quality or lower classifications to "Exceptional Value." ('15)

### **Scrap Yards**

- 1. We recommend a 14-day waiting period be established before dismantling or destroying agricultural equipment at a salvage or junk yard. ('15)
- 2. Scrap yards be required to take video of anyone who attempts to sell scrap and the scrap they are selling. ('15)

### **Sewage Systems**

We recommend:

- 1. Sewers and septic systems be investigated as sources of phosphorus pollution in any area where phosphorus is a problem. ('15)
- 2. Small flow sewage treatment facilities being installed on single-family homes be approved the same way as mound or leech bed septic fields are approved (no 30-day comment period). ('15)
- 3. Landowners not be subject to requirements for septic service or septic fees on tracts that have no septic systems on the property. ('15)
- 4. The Sewage Facilities Act be amended to expand eligibility for the 10-acre rural residence exemption from sewage permit requirements to current landowners. ('15)

### **Soil Health**

We recommend current science and farming practices be used to update soil survey recommendations for each county. ('18)

### **Solid Waste Management**

We recommend:

- 1. Continuation of the farmer exemption of solid waste in future solid waste legislation and regulations, including agricultural waste generated in the course of normal farming operations. ('15)
- 2. Utilization of food waste on agricultural facilities, for digesters or composting, be regulated as agricultural waste rather than municipal waste under the Solid Waste Management Act. ('16)
- 3. Farmers not be prevented from burning and disposing of organic wastes and refuse on their farms, such as wood, weeds and brush. ('15)
- 4. Milk house waste be classified as agricultural waste. ('15)
- 5. No landfills be constructed within 2,500 feet of state parks. ('15)
- 6. The intentional release of balloons and Chinese lanterns for recreation be banned. ('15)

7. The Department of Agriculture offer a recycling program for agricultural plastics and farm implement tires. ('15)

8. Municipalities that prohibit burning agriculture plastics be required to provide collection points for agriculture plastics at no costs to farmers. ('16)

9. Blanket agricultural exemption for open burning of processed materials, such as plastic and paper. ('16)

We oppose any new legislation or amendments to the Solid Waste Management Law or regulations that would restrict normal farming operations. ('15)

### **State Conservation Commission**

We recommend:

1. The State Conservation Commission have a 60-day open comment period for farmers/Conservation District Boards to comment on proposed changes or additions to regulations and/or policies. ('15)

2. We support term limits for the State Conservation Commission Board of Directors to two terms or a maximum of eight years. ('15)

### **REAP**

We recommend:

1. Public notification of any change in eligibility standards for REAP program credits be provided at least 90 days before the fiscal year in which the change takes effect. ('15)

2. REAP be required to reassess qualified equipment into current "smart" technology sold in the past five years. This assessment should occur every five years to reflect current industry standards. ('20)

3. Current funding for the REAP program be maintained, but that the maximum funds for each applicant be increased to \$500,000 in an applicant's lifetime. ('17)

### **Storage Tank Regulation**

We recommend all on-farm fuel tanks of 3,000 gallons or less used to store motor fuel be exempt from Department of Environmental Protection regulations. ('15)

### **Stormwater and Erosion Control**

We recommend:

1. All damages caused, including by water runoff and erosion from housing and commercial development, mining, construction, drilling or logging to property owners (to include personal property, land, water, roads and buildings) become the financial responsibility of the operator or the developer within 10 years. ('15)

2. For any new construction that will affect the direction of water, the responsible party be required to compensate any adjacent private landowner for costs that may be incurred to control water entering his/her property. ('15)

3. The impoundment area of manure storage facilities be exempt from stormwater requirements in Chapter 102 Regulations. ('15)

4. An exemption of open-top manure storage facilities from NPDES permit for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities. ('15)

5. The impervious area threshold under Chapter 102 regulations recognize gravel as permeable and the minimum be greater than 5,000 square feet before a stormwater management plan be required. ('15)

6. Agencies of government prioritize the use of Reed Canary Grass as an alternative to planting trees along streams and rivers. ('15)

7. Farmers be exempt from the 2012 revisions to Chapter 102 Stormwater Management regulations. ('15)

8. Structures used for growing crops in the field, such as low tunnels, high tunnels and greenhouses where crops are grown in the soil and no permanent changes have been made to soil or topography of site, be exempt from state stormwater regulations. ('17)
9. That for government agencies and authorities levying Stormwater Management Fees, offsetting credits to those fees be calculated, published and enacted for the following:
- a. Each acre of compliance under each of the following:
    - i. an NRCS or County Conservation District approved Conservation Plan,
    - ii. an Erosion and Sediment Plan,
    - iii. an Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan, and/or an implemented NRCS Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan.
  - b. Each approved Manure Management Plan.
  - c. Erosion controlling structures including diversion ditches, grass waterways, stone waterways and terraces.
  - d. NRCS or County Conservation District approved manure holding structures.
  - e. Each acre of forested or wooded acres.
  - f. Positive ratios of pervious to impervious areas. ('19)
10. Pennsylvania agriculture be exempt from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements mandated under the Federal Clean Water Act, and that all mandated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) implementation be funded by the state. ('19)
11. DEP design Best Management Practice guidelines that would allow farmers to maintain and improve our drainage lines to protect the use of farmland without requiring of costly permits, delays and engineering costs. ('17)
12. The funds collected from Act 89 of 2013 be used for storm water projects for townships and municipalities, after county-owned bridges are repaired. ('19)
13. Increased funding from DEP for agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control plans. ('19)

We oppose:

1. Legislation that would authorize counties to jointly develop watershed based stormwater management plans and require counties and municipalities to develop land use regulations that are consistent with these plans. ('15)
2. Any increase in the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) level from the current Act 95 regulations. ('15)
3. Any fee, tax, or ordinance based on stormwater runoff. ('19)

#### **Sustainable Agriculture**

We recommend participation in any sustainable agriculture program be on a voluntary basis. ('15)

#### **Toxic and Hazardous Waste Disposal**

We recommend DEP make available to landowners who could be affected by hazardous leachate or any other emissions from waste disposal sites reports on the hazard involved and information on how to mitigate the specific hazard or emission. ('15)

#### **Water Quality**

We recommend:

1. Farmers, who have or are implementing an approved erosion and sedimentation control plan or conservation plan and are using organic or inorganic fertilizers, herbicides and/or pesticides in accordance with Best Management Practices, not be liable for non-point pollution resulting from normal farming practices and be exempt from penalties under the Clean Streams Law. ('15)

2. Legislation to provide for just and adequate compensation to landowners for the loss of water, or water damages by operations (such as mining, construction, drilling, logging or hazardous/toxic waste sites) due to said practices or activity. ('15)
3. The Good Samaritan Act be expanded to include any watershed clean-up activities in addition to those activities currently covered under the Act (i.e. acid mineral drainage and other mineral extraction). ('15)
4. More stringent categories of water standards not be created for the waters of PA than the existing Exceptional Value and High Quality standards. ('15)
5. DEP grant townships a waiver for permit fees associated with permit work performed by the township on or near High Quality or Exceptional Value streams. ('18)
6. Municipal and public water users over 10,000 gallons per day be assessed a fee no greater than \$.001 per gallon to fund water quality improvement projects. ('18)
7. Programs administered through the Center for Water Quality Excellence prioritize the enhancement and coordination of technical assistance to farmers for implementation of agricultural BMPs recommended in county-action plans. ('20)  
Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program

We recommend:

1. Establishment of an Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program that will provide a direct source of public and private funds to conservation districts for use in administration of agricultural conservation programs and practices that effectively improve local water quality. ('20)
2. Funding provided to conservation districts under an Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program be based on consideration of proportionate number of farms, cropland acres, livestock and poultry and level of agriculturally impaired streams. ('20)
3. State appropriations for an Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program be sufficient to reduce the level of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff estimated from agriculture by at least 50 percent by 2025. ('20)

We oppose legislation directing DEP to draft and model ordinances for critical water areas. ('15)

### **Water Rights**

We recommend:

1. Agriculture be exempt from any water usage limits under non-emergency conditions. ('15)
2. Agriculture be given priority in a drought emergency to assure essential amounts of water needed for production of food, fuel and fiber. ('15)
3. Agriculture be exempt from water use fees. ('15)
4. Support of government funded reservoir storage of make-up water to satisfy the Susquehanna River Basin Commission consumptive use regulations for agriculture. ('15)
5. Inter-basin piping of water from agricultural areas to non-agricultural areas be prohibited. ('15)
6. Withholding of all funding to the Delaware River Basin Commission until such time as it adopts regulations to allow gas drilling in the river basin. ('17)
7. Pennsylvania withdraw from the Delaware River Basin Commission. ('17)
8. The moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in the Delaware River Basin by the Delaware River Basin Commission be considered a "taking" of the property of the owners of the oil and gas estates in the Basin. ('18)
9. The Delaware River Basin Commission suspend its plan to permanently ban natural gas drilling in the Delaware River watershed. ('18)

10. No additional geographic or watershed-wide prohibitions be imposed on fracking activity. ('19)

We oppose:

1. The registration of private water wells. ('15)
2. Required metering of private wells and gravity-flow systems by government and all other agencies or organizations. ('17)

### **Water Wells and Structures**

We recommend:

1. DEP provide fast-track consideration and approval of on-farm dam building projects for water conservation and irrigation in which federal assistance is being provided. ('15)
2. Legislation and/or regulation that specifies a setback for new wells or water sources adjoining farmland must be equal to the setback imposed on necessary farm practices needed to maintain soil fertility and control pests. ('15)
3. Any new well drilled within 150 feet of a property line record an exemption on their deed releasing a neighboring landowner from manure spreading setbacks for the well. ('19)

### **Weed Control**

#### Plants

We recommend:

1. The Game Commission and other regulatory agencies be required to obtain approval of the Department of Agriculture before planting plants which may be potentially harmful to agriculture. ('15)
2. Quack grass be reduced from a prohibited to a noxious weed as it pertains to seed. ('15)
3. Wild cucumber, autumn olive, sow thistle, water hemlock, ailanthus, common teasel, wild teasel Japanese knotweed and bamboo be added to the noxious weed list, with 90 percent cost sharing for eradication on private land. ('18)
4. The State allocate funding at the county level for control and eradication of multi-flora rose. ('16)
5. PennDOT, counties, and townships uphold the same standards and requirements to control noxious weeds as farmers are required to do. ('19)
6. PennDOT establish an online and paper no-spray registry for roadside spraying. ('17)
7. Seeding or planting of woody species be prohibited within 20 feet of a utility or highway right-of-way for government-funded conservation plantings. ('18)

#### Seeds

We recommend:

1. Seeds or plants with a potential to spread and become a nuisance be labeled accordingly if offered for sale. ('15)
2. Bird feed should be heat treated and should be tested as regular crop seed. ('15)

We oppose the sale of thistle seed used in bird seed. ('15)

### **Wetlands**

We recommend:

1. When state agencies are involved in the mitigation of wetlands, such activity be required to take place on state-owned land. ('15)
2. Determination that denial of wetlands utilization permit would be a "taking" of property in which just compensation would be required to be provided to landowners whose permit is denied. ('15)
3. Any designated wetlands be exempt from property tax. ('15)
4. Farmers be exempt from regulation for draining wet areas on croplands, if the area drained is 2 acres or less. ('20)
5. No "buffer" zones be required around wetlands. ('15)
6. Any surface wetlands created by mining be permanently exempt from all wetland regulations. ('15)

7. Ponds be allowed in designated wet lands without further delineation and mitigation. ('15)
8. County conservation districts should be the sole agencies to regulate the building of ponds. ('15)

## **PUBLIC LAND AND FACILITIES**

### **Game Lands**

We recommend:

1. The Game Commission fully allow use of existing roads to access game lands during hunting season. ('15)
2. The Game Commission not charge a user fee or require permits for equine activities, or the use of designated trails and service roads used by horses, bicycles, and snowmobiles. ('15)
3. State game lands pay property taxes in proportion to private landowners. ('20)

### **Public Construction Projects and Facilities**

We recommend:

1. The State not have power to site hazardous waste facilities, landfills, or prisons without the referendum approval of the affected municipalities. ('15)
2. No state tax money be used to build, maintain or repair professional sports facilities. ('15)
3. Any property purchased with tax revenue that is not being used for its intended public purpose be sold or donated for public or private use. ('16)

### **Public Land Acquisition and Management**

We recommend:

1. No agency or commission of government be allowed to purchase additional land unless state owned land of an equal value is transferred to the private sector. ('15)
2. A ban on the Game Commission purchasing or acquiring more land. ('15)
3. Any state-owned land that currently meets the definition of prime farmland and is comprised of United States Department of Agriculture Class I or Class II soils be restricted to agriculture use only, protecting prime farmland for future generations. ('15)
4. Legislation to increase the amount of in-lieu-of-tax payment collectively paid to counties, municipalities and school districts on state-owned forestland to \$5.40 per acre and be distributed as presently shared between the township, county and school district. ('15)

### **Public Land Use**

We recommend:

1. State game preserves and state institution lands be opened for at least one day of hunting to protect neighboring farms. ('15)
2. All state game lands and state forests be opened to horseback riding. ('19)

We oppose any changes to the fees, or the adding of fees, by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for use public lands by the public. ('20)

### **Revenue Distribution**

We recommend the State pay 25 percent of royalties from the government sales of gas, oil, timber, coal and other natural resources be paid locally to the county, municipality and school district. ('15)

## **PUBLIC UTILITIES AND BROADBAND**

### **Broadband**

We recommend:

1. Updating Pennsylvania Act 183 of 2004 to define minimum broadband service (internet) speeds of 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream. ('15)

2. Pennsylvania clarify existing broadband tower and other facility sharing mandates such that the sharing mandates occur on a non-discriminatory basis to allow all telecom providers (including municipal, cooperative, tribal, etc.) access and use of these facilities. ('18)
3. Requiring the Pennsylvania Department of General Services to inventory all state-owned assets that could host or assist in the development of broadband technology. ('19)
4. County and municipalities be able to construct broadband where private entities will not do so. ('19)
5. Holding broadband service providers accountable to fulfill their obligation to provide service after they have accepted government money to expand broadband service. ('19)

**Electrical Utility Rates**

We recommend:

1. All farm use of electricity be classified as residential rather than commercial. ('15)
2. Farmers be exempt from electric utility demand charges. ('15)
3. Farm processors and other agricultural businesses be exempted from electric utility demand metering. ('15)
4. Anyone using electricity for a very limited time such as county fairs be exempted from electric utility demand charges. ('15)
5. Utility rate increases for commercial and industrial users be held to the same percentage change as residential user rates. ('15)
6. An owner not be responsible for a tenant's past due electric bill. ('18)

**Net Metering**

We recommend:

1. Farmers not be subject to any limitations of farm-generated electricity capacity in order to qualify for net metering. ('15)
2. The Public Utility Commission (PUC) not place limits on the quantity of farmer-generated electricity sold back to the power company. ('15)

**Public Utility Commission**

We recommend:

1. The appointment of a farmer or agribusiness person on the Public Utility Commission. ('15)
2. Telecommunications utilities be prohibited from denying or discontinuing landline service to customers. ('15)

**Soil and Property Damage**

We recommend the Public Utility Commission:

1. Establish guidelines for utilities to follow in determining amount and timing of payment for damages they cause to farmland, and that such guidelines require payment for damages be made within 90 days of the date a damage claim is filed. ('18)
2. Develop a standardized form that landowners may use in submitting to public utilities claims of property damage resulting from the utility's activities. ('18)
3. Establish an alternative procedure to court litigation for resolving damage claims between landowners and utilities resulting from utility activities, which establishes specified time periods for landowners to file and utilities to respond to claims and which promptly initiates the convening of a hearing panel to consider and determine the extent of damages incurred. ('18)
4. Require utilities to reseed agricultural areas impacted by utility development with the same plant varieties that existed before development. ('19)

## **Stray Voltage**

We recommend:

1. Power companies be required to bear all costs for elimination of stray voltage and be liable for all damages caused by stray voltage originating off the farm. ('15)
2. The PUC establish guidelines for utilities to follow in determining how to eliminate stray voltage. ('15)

### **Utility Lines and Structures**

We recommend:

1. Public utilities be required to obtain agreement from landowners in the placement of above-ground utility facilities. ('15)
2. All new and replacement utility poles and lines be installed with a minimum 18-foot clearance to the lowest point. ('15)
3. All newly installed or replacement underground utility lines be required to be a minimum of three-feet deep. ('19)
4. Any above-ground gas or utility lines structures on agricultural lands be marked at a minimum height of six feet and be a visible, reflective color. ('15)
5. Utilities be exclusively liable for damages or injuries resulting from interaction with an above-ground utility line that is below legally required minimum height. ('19)
6. Utility companies use the same right-of-way as other utility companies are presently using. ('15)
7. Any company doing work on right-of-ways on private land be required to notify land owners, including identification and emergency contact numbers and email addresses of all contractors and the scope of the work performed, as follows:
  - a. For nonemergency work, by first-class mail at least 30 calendar days prior to the work. ('18)
  - b. For emergency work, within 48 hours of entry. ('18)
8. When property is taken by eminent domain for a commercial utility for profit, property owners shall be compensated at minimum twice the appraisal of highest and best use. In addition, the utility shall pay a yearly fee for each pole, tower or pipeline erected on forest land and farmland, with the fee adjusted for inflation. ('17)
9. Where feasible, electric utilities be required to use monopoles on farmland. ('17)

### **Utility Marking Flags**

We recommend biodegradable stakes/marketing flags be used to mark utility company lines, NRCS and Soil Conservation markers. ('15)

## **STATE GOVERNMENT**

### **Agricultural Classification**

We recommend:

1. Mushroom growing, horticulture, aquaculture, viticulture and winemaking, Christmas trees, maple sap and sugar water, silviculture, production of cervids and animals other than traditional livestock, and all commodities and by-products which produce food, fiber, and oxygen and their composting as listed by the PA Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture be permanently classified as agriculture. ('17)
2. Activities conducted on a farm classified as agriculture, such as farm tours, hay rides, corn mazes, bed and breakfast, be considered a part of the farm operation and listed and permanently classified by the United States Department of Agriculture and the PA Department of Agriculture as agriculture. ('15)
3. On-farm breeding, training and raising of domestic animals for sale be considered an agricultural enterprise. ('15)

4. Algae based fuel production be treated as an agricultural operation. ('15)

### **Agroterrorism and Homeland Security**

We recommend:

1. Ammonium nitrate vendors be required to:
  - a. Warehouse the product in secure facilities;
  - b. Sell it to legitimate farmers; and
  - c. Store it in secured facilities until used. ('15)
2. Increased penalties, beyond restitution, against those convicted of acts of violence and/or vandalism against agricultural equipment, property, livestock or crops. ('15)

### **Budget**

We recommend:

1. Continued funding of agriculture-based fairs. ('15)
2. In addition to current funding sources, monies from the PA Race Horse Development Fund be able to be used for funding of agricultural priorities. ('15)
3. When the State fails to enact a budget on time, funding be maintained for all line items at levels in the just expired budget until a new budget is enacted. ('16)

We oppose amending the state constitution to change the effective period for approved state budgets from one year to two years. ('15)

### **Building Codes**

We recommend:

1. Farmers with on-farm markets or developing on-farm markets be allowed up to 25 percent of gross sales to be from off-site additions such as bakeries, gift shops, and butcher shops to be allowed under current agricultural construction exemptions. ('15)
2. The following structures be exempt from regulation under the Statewide Building Code:
  - a. Any equine building not accessible to the general public. ('15)
  - b. Any building used predominantly for on-farm processing of products produced on the farm. ('15)
3. Individuals be authorized to have any state-approved building code inspector or sewage enforcement officer review and approve permits. ('15)
4. The Uniform Construction Code be changed to exempt small businesses whose operating structures are less than 2,500 square feet and whose volume of traffic does not exceed an average of 25 vehicles per day. ('15)
5. Existing barns used for agritourism purposes be exempt from sprinkler system requirements of the building code. ('18)
6. Deer farming operations and their structures related to animal husbandry be considered agricultural buildings under the Uniform Construction Code. ('18)

### **Building Contracts**

We recommend:

1. Any public contracts be open for bids to non-union contractors. ('15)
2. Repealing the Pennsylvania Separations Act of 1913. ('17)

### **Charitable Organizations**

We recommend charitable organizations whose compensation to executive employees is greater than 40 percent of collected contributions be prohibited from soliciting contributions. ('17)

### **Civil Suits**

We recommend:

1. The enactment of tort reform legislation which includes the following:
  - a. State courts have the authority to impose penalties upon persons or attorneys who bring frivolous law suits. ('15)

- b. A cap of \$100,000 in award for pain and suffering and mental anguish. ('15)
  - c. Legal compensation on a set fee basis, rather than a contingent fee. ('15)
  - d. Authority of a defendant to pay an award in installments rather than lump sum. ('15)
  - e. Denial of right to sue for injuries suffered on the land of another during the commission of a crime. ('15)
  - f. Denial of right to sue for injuries suffered on the land of another without the landowner's express authority or consent to be on the land. ('15)
  - g. Exemption of farmers from being sued by people visiting on a farm tour. ('15)
  - h. Anyone who visits a farm to see or use animals be held legally responsible for their own safety and health. ('15)
  - i. A defendant who prevails under Right to Farm Law protections or in other legal cases be reimbursed by the plaintiff for all legal fees and costs incurred by the defendant. ('16)
  - j. Juries in personal injury litigation be made aware of all the facts pertaining to the litigation including all forms of reimbursement received by the plaintiff from other sources. ('15)
2. Landowners be absolved from liability resulting from actions of other persons using their land for recreation or other purposes. ('15)
  3. Landowners not be held liable for injuries caused by wildlife to individuals on their property. ('15)
  4. Consent agreements not be legally required to be made public. ('15)
  5. Legislation be enacted that would statutorily recognize a participant in an agritourism or agritainment activity or other recreational activity on the farm is assuming the risk of inherent injury that may result from participation in that activity. ('15)
  6. Retail vendors not be held liable for manufacturing or design defects in products sold to consumers that have not been altered by the vendor. ('15)

### **Commercial Enterprises by State Agencies**

We recommend government agencies that market natural resources pay townships for road use. ('15)

### **Compliance Audits**

We recommend:

1. Department of Labor and Industry audits be announced seven days in advance, in writing by registered mail. ('17)
2. All state officials visiting an agriculture entity, present a photo identification and one other form of identification, with one form being left on site. ('17)

### **Court Documents**

We recommend any liens that are court registered be removed when liens are paid, at the expense of the party who had the lien registered. ('15)

### **Disaster Declarations**

We recommend:

1. A disaster declaration can only be declared by the Governor for a maximum of 14 days, after that it must be approved by the State House and Senate. ('20)
2. The State Emergency Management Services Code be amended to prevent the Governor from unilaterally ordering the closure of private businesses and industries. ('20)
3. The legislature determine which businesses are deemed "essential" during a disaster emergency. ('20)

4. All agriculture and agriculturally-related businesses, including but not limited to greenhouses, veterinary and veterinary technicians, fee-fishing operations, and mental health activities such as equestrian and pet-therapy functions, be deemed "essential" during a disaster emergency. ('20)
5. Any state-imposed gathering limitation imposed for health-protection purposes, apply equally to all businesses, with the exception of religious services. ('20)
6. Prohibiting the closure of state-owned rest areas, service plazas, and welcome centers during declared disaster emergencies. ('20)
7. All patients be allowed a family member or friend as a patient advocate to be present always, regardless of a pandemic situation. ('20)
8. During a pandemic, only counties with a high percentage of cases, as determined by the state Department of Health, should be forced to quarantine. ('20)
9. Coroners and other local-government officials always be included in the process of death, particularly with the issuing of death certificate, during a disaster emergency. ('20)
10. The Governor or the Board of Corrections not be able to unilaterally release prisoners without the personal recommendation of the Board of Pardons during a disaster emergency. ('20)

### **English**

We recommend English be adopted as the official language of the State. ('15)

### **Executive Branch**

We recommend:

1. Appointees that have been denied confirmation by the Senate cannot serve in an acting position or make policy. ('15)
2. All new hires for DEP and PDA take mandatory training from Pennsylvania Farm Bureau to gain firsthand knowledge on modern agriculture. ('18)

### **Fair Dealership Law**

We recommend changes to the Fair Dealership Law that:

1. Ensure protection of farm equipment dealers from business practices by manufacturers and large-scale suppliers that limit the types of products a dealer may sell, require dealers to purchase parts and equipment not related to the products marketed by the dealer, discriminate or intentionally control marketing opportunities among dealers, fail to provide adequate compensation to dealers providing warranted repair services for the manufacturer. ('15)
2. In cases where the dealership agreements do not expressly establish the ending date of the agreement, allow the dealer to voluntarily terminate the agreement at any time, upon timely notice. ('15)
3. Extend the period for successors of a deceased or incapacitated dealer to exercise the option to continue the dealership agreement. ('15)

### **False Complaints to Government Agencies**

We recommend:

1. Anyone who turns in an invalid nuisance complaint be liable for the cost of the investigation. ('15)
2. If an animal activist or animal control officer makes a false accusation of animal abuse against a farm, stable or kennel owner, the farmer shall be entitled to full reimbursement of legal costs and any lost income. ('15)

3. Agencies and humane societies empowered to enforce the cruelty to animals law be required to provide written notice to persons filing complaints of animal abuse that they may be subject to criminal penalties for intentionally making false statements in support of their claim. ('15)

4. The public be enabled to obtain identification of individuals who make intentional, reckless, or repeatedly false claims to government agencies. ('20)

#### **Farm Size Limitation**

We oppose any legislative or regulatory practice that discriminates against increasing, or has the effect of limiting, the size of family farms. ('15)

#### **Firearms and Weapons Regulation**

We recommend:

1. Prohibiting government from seizing legal firearms from law-abiding citizens in times of local, state, or national emergency. ('15)

2. The continued use of lead in ammunition. ('15)

We oppose:

1. Registration of shotguns, long guns, rifles, handguns and pistols. ('15)

2. Any law that allows municipalities to regulate the ownership of guns and/or ammunition. ('15)

#### **Gambling**

We recommend:

1. Amendments to the Small Games of Chance Law to authorize non-profit organizations to engage in up to two gaming projects per year without requirement to obtain a license. ('15)

2. The use of state lottery fund appropriations remain exclusively for senior services and care. ('19)

#### **General Assembly**

We recommend:

1. The number of General Assembly members should remain at its present level of 203 House members and 50 Senate members. ('15)

2. The General Assembly become a part-time governing body. ('15)

3. An agricultural caucus be formed in both chambers of the General Assembly. ('15)

4. A 2/3 vote of both chambers of the General Assembly be required to enact legislation increasing taxes during Lame Duck sessions. ('15)

5. Any proposed increase in the Commonwealth's long-term debt obligations require an analysis that quantifies effects of the bill on the ability of the Commonwealth to service its total debt obligations prior to passage. ('15)

6. All unused funds budgeted for the state legislature be returned to the state general fund at the end of the fiscal year. ('15)

7. Pennsylvania Senators and Representatives maintain and make public on their websites a monthly log of all meetings held with registered lobbyists. ('20)

We oppose:

1. Elimination of lame duck sessions in the legislature. ('15)

2. Convening a PA Constitutional Convention. ('15)

#### **Grants**

We recommend that the title of all state grants clearly identify the source of money used for a particular grant program. ('19)

#### **Illegal Timber Harvest**

We recommend the statute of limitation for civil actions for illegal cutting or removal of timber be increased to seven years. ('15)

## **Immigration**

We oppose state law regarding immigration in favor of national law. ('15)

## **Loans and Financial Programs**

We recommend:

1. Foreign investors not be eligible for any government-funded low-interest loans to operate or develop agricultural production facilities. ('15)
2. The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, in partnership with financial institutions, create a campaign to make farmers aware of the loan programs that are available to new and beginning farmers and for the development and expansion of established farms. ('20)

## **Military and Veterans Affairs**

We recommend Pennsylvania citizens entering any branch of the armed forces be presented a Pennsylvania flag courtesy of the state government. ('15)

## **Penn State Trustees**

We recommend:

1. Keeping the number of Penn State Trustees elected by agriculture societies and organizations to a minimum of six. ('15)
2. Penn State county Trustee election delegates have the option to vote online from Extension Offices. ('15)

## **Property Rights**

We recommend:

1. Landowners be compensated for the taking of land or restricted use of land, including loss of current and future agricultural income, by all levels of government. ('15)
2. The doctrine of adverse possession be abolished. ('20)
3. State and federal unfunded mandates impacting private landowners be the financial responsibility of the state or federal government, not the private landowner. ('15)

## Privacy

We recommend:

1. Images of law-abiding humans, on private property, captured by game cameras be prohibited to be reproduced or transmitted without permission of the subjects or law enforcement. ('20)
  2. Legislation requiring state officials to do the following before going onto private property:
    - a. Identify themselves;
    - b. Notify property owners; and
    - c. Obtain written or oral permission, or have a search warrant. ('20)
  3. All individual operator information contained in Geographic Information System mapping programs utilized by state and county Agencies be kept strictly confidential. ('20)
- We oppose surveillance of private property by any governmental agency without a warrant or probable cause. ('20)

## **Public Records**

We recommend the legislature expand the "open record's law" to include Penn State, Pittsburgh, Temple and Lincoln Universities. ('15)

## **Real Estate Transfers**

We recommend:

1. As part of a real estate transaction in which property located near agricultural activity is sold, a statement that the property is subject to normal farming practices, such as odors, dust, noise, etc., signed by the developer/builder or purchaser, must be attached to the property deed and recorded in the county recorder's office. ('15)
2. Contracts for sale of real property be required to include written disclosure that the property subject to sale is located within or adjacent to an agricultural security area. ('15)

## **Referendum**

We oppose the expenditure of tax dollars for non-binding referenda. ('15)

## **Regulatory Review**

We recommend all state government agencies be subject to sunset review. ('15)

## **Regulatory Settlements**

We recommend that public disclosure of settlements and consent agreements in civil and criminal enforcement actions brought by regulatory agencies be part of the bargaining process, and not subject to automatic disclosure under the Right-To-Know Law. ('15)

## **Salaries and Benefits of Governmental Officials**

We recommend:

1. In any year the state budget is not passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor prior to July 1, the elected officials of the state House and Senate and the Governor shall not receive their pro-rated salary, any per diem expenses, account mileage or any other expenses for each day there is not a budget. ('15)
2. All state employees be subject to random drug/alcohol testing. ('15)
3. The General Assembly secure funding to raise the pay scale of Soil Conservation employees to a competitive level consistent with identical commercial or governmental positions. ('15)

## Gifts

We recommend:

1. A cap on all gifts and contributions to public officials. ('15)
2. State employees be allowed to accept small gratuities, such as food and drink, commonly provided to persons attending a meeting. ('16)

## Health Insurance Premiums

We recommend state legislators, including retired legislators, pay 100 percent of their health insurance premiums. ('15)

## Pensions

We recommend:

1. Government pension plans for new employees be changed from a Defined Benefit Plan to a Defined Contribution Plan. ('15)
2. State mandated teacher and county pension plans be changed from a defined benefit to a defined contribution. ('15)
3. Public sector employees contribute a higher percent toward their pension plan reducing the state and/or school district contribution by the same amount. ('15)
4. Pension reform start with current state legislators' pensions. ('15)
5. The total of employer contributions (state, plus school district), for individual employees made into the Pennsylvania State Employee Retirement System (PSERS), not exceed the amount of the employee's contribution into PSERS. ('15)
6. Reducing the benefit multiplier for state pension plans to 2 percent for state employees and legislators. ('15)
7. Selling of bonds to offset the deficit in the state pension plan. ('15)
8. The creation of a stacked-hybrid pension plan, with public employees ineligible to receive yearly pension payments above \$70,000 per year. ('17)
9. State pension payments be based on base salary or a 40-hour work week and not include overtime. ('17)
10. Raising the minimum retirement age for receiving a public pension to be consistent with Social Security retirement. ('17)
11. Strengthening the Pension Forfeiture Act to apply to a wider range of felonies. ('17)

## **State Aid Eligibility**

We recommend:

1. The means test for disability or educational aid be based upon net income and not include personal or business assets. ('15)
2. Public assistance recipients, with the exception of disabled recipients under the Americans with Disabilities Act, be required to perform 10 hours per week of community service and document it on a form to be turned in to the Department of Health and Human Services before more funds are dispersed. ('16)
3. Pennsylvania welfare recipients be subject to random drug and alcohol testing and the loss of benefits for one year if the test is positive. ('15)

## **State Police**

We recommend the State provide additional police protection in rural areas. ('15)

We oppose assessment of fees for State Police protection to rural municipalities that do not have a police force. ('15)

## **Surveying Standards**

We recommend:

1. Surveyors be held liable for any damages they cause on agricultural land, and landowners be notified prior to any land surveying on farmland. ('15)
2. All new permanent land survey markers be buried at least four feet deep and be GPS activated. ('15)
3. All temporary, aboveground survey markers be at least six feet tall and consist of reflective material. ('15)

## **Warranty and Repair Laws**

We recommend:

1. There be a lemon law established to protect new agricultural farm equipment from defects for at least 12 months or 1,000 hours. ('15)
2. The creation of a right to repair law that requires manufacturers to sell repair parts, make diagnostic tools and repair information available to the public, and provide a way to get around proprietary software locks that are designed to prevent repair. ('18)

## **Young and Beginning Farmers**

We recommend:

1. Additional state funding for the FARMLINK program. ('19)
2. An agricultural development authority, similar to the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority, be created to help young farmers get started in agriculture. ('15)

## **TAXES**

### **Capital Stock and Franchise Tax**

We recommend elimination of the capital stock and franchise tax. ('15)

### **Clean and Green Act Administration**

We recommend:

1. Land tracts enrolled in Forest Reserve be open to public recreational use, except when a portion of the tract is enrolled in agricultural use. ('15)
2. Farms subject to conservation easements automatically receive Clean and Green assessment. ('15)
3. The annual deadline for filing Clean and Green applications not apply to applications filed in the year the land was purchased. ('15)
4. Counties be required to:
  - a. Periodically inspect agricultural reserve lands to ensure that their owners are not restricting public access for recreational purposes. ('15)

b. Terminate preferential assessment of those ag reserve lands in which public access is being denied. ('15)

c. Provide for an additional land valuation class that will assign no or negligible assessment value to portions of agricultural use land that are not economically feasible for use in crop production. ('15)

5. All county assessment officials administering county Clean and Green programs be required to demonstrate, through certification and continuing education and recertification, a thorough knowledge and understanding of Clean and Green statutes and regulations and administration guidelines. ('15)

6. The Clean and Green Act be amended to eliminate authority for annual adjustment of assessed use values of clean and green properties in years other than years that a county implements countywide reassessment of all properties. ('15)

7. Monetary penalties be imposed on counties that fail to comply with Clean and Green statutes, regulations or state administrative guidelines. ('15)

8. The Department of Agriculture have clear authority and duty to take legal action to correct any administrative activity or interpretive position by a county that violates the Clean and Green statutes, regulations or state administrative guidelines. ('15)

9. Lands currently enrolled in Clean and Green not become ineligible because of future changes to enrollment standards. ('15)

#### Rollback Taxes

We recommend:

1. The Clean and Green Act allow the use of clean and green land for commercial alternative energy production, with roll back taxes only imposed on the area used for such purposes. ('15)

2. Counties be required to use the principal amount of Clean and Green rollback taxes received for the county's agricultural land preservation program. ('15)

3. Conveyances of a portion of a farm less than 10 acres enrolled in Clean and Green to an adjoining farm enrolled in Clean and Green not be subject to rollback taxes. ('15)

4. Owners of land enrolled in Clean and Green be given a six-month safe harbor from roll back taxes and interest to correct any deficiency arising from the unintentional change in a qualified land use or other enrollment criteria. ('19)

5. The Clean and Green Act be amended to authorize application of limited rollback tax on use of enrolled land for rural enterprises by persons other than the landowner or the landowner's immediate family. ('15)

6. The rate of interest on roll-back taxes be the lower of 1 percent over the U.S. prime interest rate or 5 percent. ('16)

We oppose:

1. Any amendment to the Clean and Green Act that would attempt to limit or restrict the type or extent of agricultural practices that may be performed on farms as a condition of eligibility for clean and green enrollment. ('15)

2. Any requirements for landowner verification of regularly enrolled Clean & Green properties. ('15)

#### **Depreciation**

We recommend accelerated depreciation for purchases of machinery and equipment, land improvements and buildings. ('15)

#### **Income Tax**

We recommend:

1. Health insurance premiums and medical expenses, including premiums and expenses for long-term care insurance, be fully deductible for income tax purposes. ('15)

2. Rules for determining taxable gain for state income tax purposes be the same as those applied under federal regulations. ('15)
3. State income tax laws be amended to exempt individuals 70 years of age and older from requirements to pay estimated tax on income received during a tax year. ('15)
4. State income tax laws provide for the same exclusion from capital gains in the sale of a primary residence (\$250,000/\$500,000) as provided in federal law and allow portions of the resident farm other than the immediate farm residence to be eligible for the exclusion. ('15)
5. Local income tax laws be amended to establish the same exemptions from payment of estimated tax by taxpayers whose gross income is primarily from farming as are provided under state income tax laws. ('15)
6. Sales of ag conservation easements be exempt from state income taxes, and taxes paid on previous agricultural conservation sales be refunded. ('15)
7. Social Security benefits remain exempt from state income taxes. ('15)
8. Allowing farm losses to offset other income on state and local returns. ('15)
9. Rules governing depreciation for state income tax be aligned with federal regulations. ('15)
10. The maximum level of business expense deduction from income tax allowed in the year of purchase of business equipment be increased to \$500,000. ('15)
11. There be no reduction in income tax exemptions provided to farm businesses under current law. ('15)
12. Employers be permitted to use the PALite format when required to electronically submit local tax filings. ('15)
13. PA DCED's Certificate of Residence Form be deemed sufficient and accepted as a standardized form when filing income taxes. ('15)
14. The local estimated tax required to be paid on income from agriculture for any tax year be no greater than 2/3 of the total tax due or the total tax paid for the prior tax year. ('15)
15. Interest paid on a home mortgage loan of the taxpayer's primary residence be deductible from the state income tax. ('15)
16. Act 172 of 2016 be amended to allow municipalities to provide credits from local earned income tax to volunteers of county and regional emergency management and disaster organizations. ('18)
17. Federal tax rules apply in determining the amount of depletion deduction from state income tax a natural gas/hydrocarbons royalty owner may receive under the percentage deduction method. ('18)
18. Income tax credits:
  - a. Be made available to employers for a portion of every employee's health insurance premium paid. ('15)
  - b. Be provided to landowners who lease idle farmland to beginning farmers for agricultural production. ('15)
  - c. Be available immediately upon receipt. ('18)

### **Inheritance Tax**

We recommend:

1. Pennsylvania inheritance tax be eliminated. ('15)
2. In the absence of elimination of the inheritance tax, the inheritance tax law:
  - a. Provide a personal exclusion of \$1 million. ('15)
  - b. Increase to \$15,000 the total value of gifts received from a person within one year of death that are excluded from inheritance tax. ('15)
3. Any active farm be exempt from inheritance tax. ('15)

4. Transfers by will of any active farm to a person not a relative of the deceased owner be exempt from inheritance tax if the succeeding owner continues to operate the farm under ownership or lease for at least of seven years after transfer. ('15)

#### **Liquid Fuels Tax**

We recommend:

1. The area from the farm in which consumption of fuel by farm vehicles and equipment is eligible for state liquid fuels tax refund be extended to 100 miles. ('15)

2. The Pennsylvania Board of Finance and Review refund fuel tax monies within 45 days of the file date. ('19)

#### **Local Taxation**

We recommend:

1. State income tax laws be amended to provide for income tax credits to farmers for payment of local property taxes on their farms. ('15)

2. Local property taxes and school taxes not be assessed on a person age 62 or older if the person's income is at or below poverty level. ('15)

3. Municipalities and school districts be required to provide for filing of joint income tax returns by spouses. ('15)

4. All agriculture related entertainment should be exempt from any municipal amusement tax. ('15)

5. 911 call systems not be funded through property taxes. ('15)

6. Reporting of withholdings of local services tax made on farm employees during a calendar year be deferred until after completion of that year. ('15)

7. Any future change to school district taxing authority ensure the change will not cause a reduction in amount of revenue currently provided to any individual school district. ('18)

8. Counties be authorized to replace real property tax with earned income tax or a county sales tax, consistent with state law. ('18)

#### **Real Property Taxes**

We recommend:

1. The elimination of school property taxes in Pennsylvania and that they be replaced with a menu of various revenue sources to fund school districts which may include a mixture of earned income, wage and/or an expanded state sales tax on goods and services except those covered by current business and agricultural exemptions. ('15)

2. Utility companies be fully responsible for real estate taxes with respect to the real estate under on land corridors that the utility has acquired any property interest for the use or operation of aboveground piping and structures. ('15)

3. Property tax millage rates be frozen at the time of preservation on farmland preserved through conservation easements created under the Ag Area Security Law. ('15)

4. School districts be required to allow taxpayers to pay real property tax obligations in installments. ('15)

5. Interest on property taxes be suspended during bankruptcy. ('15)

We support a partial reduction of school property taxes as a possible needed step in the process to achieve the final result of eliminating school property taxes. ('15)

#### **Exemptions from Property Tax**

We recommend:

1. The following should be exempt from property tax:

a. Farm grain storage bins, even those not exclusively used for on-farm animal feed storage. ('15)

b. On-farm agricultural commodity cold storage facilities. ('15)

c. All farm buildings used solely for agricultural purposes. ('15)

- d. Facilities that generate energy from waste primarily for on-farm use. ('15)
  - e. Cellular towers used exclusively for law enforcement and emergency service purposes. ('17)
  - f. Public roadways and public utility right-of-ways on private property. ('19)
2. Only the following types of property held by non-profit organizations be exempt from realty taxes:
    - a. Church property regularly used for worship and burial. ('15)
    - b. Property owned by volunteer fire departments used to further firefighting, rescue operations and fundraising.
    - c. Non-profit hospitals. ('15)
    - d. Fairgrounds owned and operated by nonprofit fair organizations. ('15)
    - e. Property owned by agricultural organizations. ('15)
  3. New agriculture-related buildings be tax exempt from real estate taxes for five years. ('15)
  4. Buildings constructed on the premises of a newly-formed business that employs the hourly equivalent of more than 10 permanent workers be exempt from real estate taxes during the first five years the business is in operation. ('15)
  5. Solar, wind and geothermal energy systems constructed for the purpose of on-site electricity or heating or cooling use be exempt from real property tax for eight years. ('15)
  6. No increase in the maximum level of homestead exemption from real property tax that taxing districts may currently provide. ('15)

### **Realty Transfer Tax**

We recommend:

1. Transfers of real property to or by a land conservancy be subject to realty transfer tax. ('15)
2. The farm exemption from realty transfer tax also include fur farms. ('15)
3. Changes in law or interpretive policy to ensure transfers of real property to a family farm business by an individual family member with any ownership interest in that business qualify for exemption from realty transfer tax if the family's total ownership interest is at least 75 percent of the business's total ownership. ('16)

### **Sales Tax**

We recommend:

1. Parties with seasonal sales only be required file sales tax returns once per year. ('15)
2. There be no reduction in sales tax exemptions provided to farm businesses under current law. ('15)
3. Legislation to exempt professional loggers from sales tax on equipment used in harvesting timber products. ('15)
4. The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue provide farmers with a sales tax exemption number for qualified purchases. ('19)

#### Exemptions from Sales Tax

We recommend the following be exempt from sales tax:

1. Commercial businesses and non-profit organizations engaged in breeding, boarding or raising of horses for recreation. ('15)
2. Purchases farm equipment and other specialized vehicles for use by custom farm service businesses. ('15)
3. Purchases by organizations operating fairs, including agricultural fair organizations. ('15)
4. Purchases of goods, services and equipment by a church for maintaining or improving a cemetery that the church owns and operates for religious purposes. ('15)
5. Concrete used in the construction of trench silos. ('15)

6. Purchases of material and services for construction or maintenance of permanent agricultural fencing. ('15)
7. Fire prevention and safety equipment purchases. ('15)
8. Costs for residential utility services supplied to employer-provided housing to employees. ('15)
9. Fundraisers and sale of chances conducted by volunteer fire companies. ('15)
10. Dog food purchases by all licensed breeding kennels inspected by the Department of Agriculture. ('15)
11. Repair parts, tires and farm licenses on vehicles over 17,000 pounds gross vehicle weight when purchased by farmers. ('15)
12. Purchases of lumber and building materials for construction, repair or maintenance of facilities used in production agriculture. ('15)
13. Christmas trees purchased in Pennsylvania and which originate from a Pennsylvania tree farm. ('16)
14. Purchases of equipment predominantly used for collection, handling or reprocessing of agricultural plastic. ('17)
15. Commercial raising in captivity of cervids and animals other than traditional livestock qualify for the farming exemption from sales tax. ('18)

### **Severance Tax**

We recommend:

1. The imposition of a severance tax on gas and oil extraction not be imposed. ('15)
2. Any action to impose a severance tax not reduce the schedule of impact fees imposed on natural gas wells under Act 13 of 2012. ('16)

### **Tax Assessment Administration**

We recommend:

1. Establishment of uniform rules for real property assessment that must be applied by counties statewide, and a moratorium on property reassessment in Pennsylvania until uniform rules are established. ('15)
2. Counties be required to identify and make available to farmers in writing the methodology used in calculating tax assessments of agricultural buildings. ('15)
3. County assessors be required to provide estimates of changes in assessed value to result from planned building construction projects. ('15)
4. Counties not be authorized to reassess whole farm properties because of sale of transfer of the property or construction or renovation of a farm building or structure. ('15)
5. Assessments issued for non-reported property improvements be reported yearly to all municipalities within a county. ('19)
6. Municipalities and school districts be prohibited from initiating tax assessment appeals of real property. ('15)
7. Immediate adjustments in tax assessment values to lands that become burdened by a publicly-authorized right-of-way easement. ('15)
8. Information on suspensions or revocations of licenses of real estate appraisers be kept in the county records office for three years. ('15)
9. No property tax assessment be authorized on gas, oil or minerals unless the subsurface real property has been separated in ownership from surface realty. ('15)
10. If a county uses fly over planes for assessment purposes that they do a physical site visit before increasing the assessment on a property. ('16)
11. Taxing districts be prohibited from paying commissions or other incentive or contingent fee payments for services to identify underassessed real property. ('18)

### **Time of Payment**

We recommend all businesses whose total annual payroll is \$100,000 or less have the option to pay all state and local employment taxes otherwise due during a tax year by the last day of the first month of the following tax year. ('15)

### **Tobacco Tax**

We recommend no additional tax be imposed on the wholesale marketing of tobacco products in the Commonwealth. ('15)

### **Wine Excise Tax**

We recommend a 12-cent-per-gallon assessment be imposed on all wines sold in PA liquor stores, with proceeds directed to the Pennsylvania wine marketing board provided a minimum of 75 percent of the proceeds is allocated for wine and wine grape research and extension projects. ('15)

## **TRESPASSING**

### **Agricultural Trespass**

We recommend:

1. No statute be created to make large livestock escapes a criminal offense. ('15)
2. We recommend legislation that would make it a criminal act to seek employment or commit unauthorized access on an agricultural production facility in order to videotape farm operations. ('15)

### **General Trespass**

We recommend:

1. A state commission be established to evaluate Pennsylvania's trespassing laws and their enforcement with the goal of effectively deterring trespassing on private properties. ('15)
2. Trespassing on any posted private property without permission be classified as a misdemeanor with a mandatory fine of \$500 for each offense. ('15)
3. Property owners be allowed to confiscate unmanned aircraft systems found illegally operating inside their barns or covered structures. ('20)
4. Landowner permission be required prior to entrance onto private property. ('20)
5. A trespass law be established where:
  - a. Landowners are authorized to provide public notice of areas where trespassing is not authorized through use of purple paint markings.
  - b. Unauthorized presence in designated no trespass areas through paint markings be subject to the same offenses and penalties that apply under current trespass laws. ('17)

### **Hunting-Related Trespass**

We recommend:

1. The Fish and Boat, and Game Commission officers be empowered to enforce the trespass laws as a primary offense. ('15)
2. A Game and Wildlife Code offense of "trespass on private property while hunting," in defiance of the landowner's expressed order would carry a penalty of revocation of the hunter's license for one year if he/she violates this offense more than once in a year. ('15)
3. Penalties for private property and hunting trespass violations occurring on Sunday be doubled. ('17)

### **Vehicle Trespass**

We recommend:

1. Property owners not be liable for injury or damages to trespassing vehicles and their operators. ('15)

2. Persons found trespassing with vehicles be fined and have their vehicles confiscated by the proper authorities. ('15)

## **VIOLENCE AND CRIME**

### **Crime Victims**

We recommend:

1. Sex crime offenders be required to undergo blood tests for infectious diseases and that these results be supplied to the victim. ('15)
2. Victim compensation for sexual, emotional or physical abuse settlements be the sole responsibility of perpetrators when found guilty, or liable, in workplace events for elected officials or employees of state and local governments. ('18)

### **Enforcement Authority**

We recommend legislative authorization of County Sheriff's and Deputy Sheriff's to enforce laws and make arrests for crimes for which they hold certification and training. ('15)

### **Illegal Plant Cultivation**

We recommend when illegal plants are found growing on a property, the property owner not be subject to loss of his property until the authorities prove the owner is responsible for growing the plants. ('15)

### **Law Enforcement**

We recommend:

1. All state police vehicles have dash-cam cameras activated at all times during duty assignments. ('17)
  2. All state police officers wear a voice activated camera at all times, with back-up capabilities, during duty assignments. ('17)
- We oppose the defunding of local police departments and state police departments. ('20)

### **Prison Inmates**

We recommend that all prison inmates' grievances be submitted to and acted upon by a prison arbitration board. Legal proceedings may only be instituted at the discretion of the arbitration board. ('15)

### **Young Offenders**

We recommend the names of juveniles tried as adults and convicted of violent crimes be publicized. ('15)

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## **Notes**

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# **PFB Philosophy**

*PFB Members Believe:  
In the American competitive enterprise system.*

***That mankind's search for progress**  
should be encouraged by maintenance of opportunity,  
not hindered by illusions of security.*

*That every person should be rewarded  
in accordance with his productive contribution to society.*

*That every person is entitled to own property, earn money honestly,  
earn, save, invest and spend as he chooses.*

*That property rights cannot be taken away without infringing  
on rights guaranteed by the Constitution.*

*That the Constitution is the basic law of the land, and that its  
interpretation should be in accordance with the intent of its authors.*

*That the government should operate impartially in the interest of all.*

***That government's regulatory functions should be based on law.***

*That government should provide only minimum aid and controls.*

*That government should stimulate, not discourage, individual initiative.*

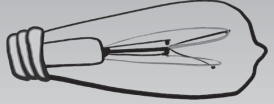
*That propagandizing by government is dangerous  
to the maintenance of self-government.*

*That monopoly, whether by government, industry, labor  
or agriculture, is dangerous.*

*That voluntary cooperation is part of the American system.  
That all candidates for public office should state their beliefs  
with respect to communism, socialism and capitalism.*

*That the most effective means to settle our differences is within our  
own organization. The opinion of the majority should be expressed  
through one voice, namely a farm organization voluntarily financed  
by farmers, whose programs and policies are developed solely by  
farmers as exemplified by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
and the American Farm Bureau Federation.*

# Policy Development and You



 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

## Step 1

A policy idea comes from you.



## Step 2

The idea is developed into a formal resolution.

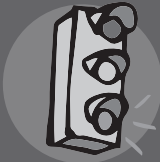


## Step 3

County Farm Bureau members vote on resolutions. Approved local resolutions become county policy. Endorsed state and national resolutions are submitted for further consideration.



## Step 4



The State Policy Development Committee ensures submitted resolutions are suitable for consideration by the state's voting delegates.

## Step 5

State Delegates vote on resolutions. Approved state resolutions become state policy. Endorsed national resolutions are submitted for consideration to the American Farm Bureau.



## Step 6

Farm Bureau members and select employees advocate for our policy positions.





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Policies may be found in the  
Members Only website  
under Government Relations:  
**[www.pfbmembers.org](http://www.pfbmembers.org)**