

South Dakota Farm Bureau

2023 State Policy

1 **AGRICULTURE**

2

3 **We support:**

4

5 The need to explore improved methods of weather data
6 collection or the use of more than one means of data
7 collection. (Pennington/Jackson 2021)

8

9 The continued inclusion of “Concentrated Animal Feeding
10 Operations” CAFO, in the SD Codified law definition of
11 agriculture. (Turner 2016)

12

13 **AGRICULTURE CREDIT**

14

15 **We support:**

16

17 Putting more emphasis on helping young farmers and
18 ranchers to get started in agriculture with the aid of
19 guaranteed loans.

20

21 **AGRICULTURE EDUCATION & 22 RESEARCH**

23

24 **We support:**

25

26 Development of ag processing including livestock, grain
27 and other commodities.

28

29 Use of ink made from soy oil.

30

31 Use of biodegradable packaging materials made from ag
32 products.

33

34 Adequate funding for vocational agriculture programs and
35 encourage curricula that project farming and ranching as a
36 business, not just a way of life.

37

38 The Cooperative Extension program, 4-H and FFA.

39

40 Programs to educate consumers regarding the safety, value
41 and health benefits of biotechnology and irradiated foods.

42

43 Continued funding for the SD Ag Experiment Station.

44

45 Educational and workforce development programs targeted
46 towards a professional certificate and/or apprenticeship in
47 meat cutting from post-secondary institutions.
48 (Pennington/Jackson 2020)

49

50 Encouraging the S.D. Department of Labor to provide
51 opportunities from organizations such as Job Service and
52 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WOIA)
53 Program to provide scholarships and financial aid
54 assistance for students who are seeking meat processing
55 certificates and/or apprenticeships from post-secondary
56 institutions. (Pennington/Jackson 2020)

57 Funding for renovations of existing or construction of a
58 new meat laboratory at SDSU. (Pennington/Jackson 2020)

59

60 **We oppose:**

61

62 Creation of a value-added ag fund generated from a one-
63 cent sales tax.

64

65 **AGRICULTURE PROMOTION**

66

67 **We support:**

68

69 Further incentivizing meat packing capacity expansion
70 through grants to enhance meat harvesting and production
71 of cattle in South Dakota. (Beadle 2021)

72

73 The promotion and growth of the CIS Program. (Beadle
74 2021)

75

76 The concept of the S.D. Certified Beef Program.

77

78 State institutions refraining from purchasing imported meat
79 and to give preference to meat produced and processed in-
80 state if available.

81

82 The right of producers to promote increased research, sales
83 and consumption of the commodities they produce. State
84 and federal governments should not cease funding research
85 and promotion with the intent of allowing the farmer
86 checkoff-funded programs to cover such costs. We support
87 commodity checkoff programs as detailed in AFBF Policy
88 concerning the checkoff program.

89

90 **AG REGULATIONS - LIVESTOCK**

91

92 **We support:**

93

94 The CIS Program and prefer it over an interstate compact
95 program. (Beadle 2021)

96

97 Livestock production, expansion, and processing facilities
98 as important value added ag industries.

99

100 Permitting alternative technology designs for the
101 management and/or control of feedlot runoff water that
102 does not provide actual storage capacities as set forth in the
103 general permit. Allowances for research permits should be
104 made when the “general permit” is reviewed as long as a
105 state university and federal agency such as NRCS are
106 parties to that research project. Parameters for a “research
107 permit” should be limited by allowances of the Clean
108 Water Act rather than the South Dakota “general permit.”

109

110 Research relating to the application of manure to frozen
111 and/or snow-covered ground.

112

1 Allowing the establishment of livestock operations in
2 South Dakota if DENR regulations and local ordinances
3 are followed.
4 Criteria should include:
5 (1) Science based air and water quality standards
6 (2) Sound conservation practices
7 (3) Good stewardship.
8
9 Equal protection in matters of siting and/or expanding
10 livestock operations.
11
12 The concept of ag districts within the county zoning
13 ordinances.
14
15 Local zoning laws that stipulate once livestock feeding
16 operations are established and operating within the law, a
17 property right has been established and that right is
18 transferable without further government action.
19
20 The actions, under ordinances of zoning boards—to be
21 administrative and should not be subject to referendum.
22
23 Changing the law to require a simple majority of the
24 zoning board to obtain a conditional use permit.
25
26 Expansion of procedures and practices that can be
27 performed by veterinary livestock assistants.
28
29 Procedures known and designated as castrating, spaying,
30 dehorning, and pregnancy testing of cattle, sheep or horses,
31 and swine, should not be considered the practice of
32 Veterinary medicine within the meaning of state law.
33
34 A producer's right to administer vaccinations, wormers,
35 antibiotics, and other medications to the animals on his
36 farm, ranch, or kennel and should be protected.
37
38 If a farm or ranch on agricultural zoned land adds a USDA
39 or state-licensed and inspected kennel breeding operation,
40 that operation will be viewed as part of the agri-business of
41 the existing farm or ranch.
42
43 Continuance of the state inspection of meat locker facilities
44 and products.
45
46 Initiating a review and potential remedy of the current
47 county CAFO siting process, allowing individual counties
48 to opt out in accordance with proposed state law. (Turner
49 2015)
50
51 State legislation that would set minimum standards that
52 would require facilities up to 999 animal units (AU) be
53 defined as a permitted use, and that any facility that falls
54 below the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
55 (CAFO) threshold be defined by the Department of
56 Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) as a
57 permitted use and not as a conditional use. (Moody 2017)
58
59 A Farmstead/Homestead Exemption for small and medium
60 CAFOs from local zoning except municipal lot setbacks.
61 (Turner, Pennington/Jackson 2017)
62

63 Producer and/or producer led organizational efforts to
64 bring cattle producers, cattle feeders, and beef packers
65 together to develop a voluntary price discovery
66 methodology that is fair to all entities involved in
67 producing, feeding, marketing, harvesting, and retailing
68 beef products; and that if such voluntary efforts fail to
69 reach a compromise in a reasonable and timely manner,
70 SDFB will support efforts to modify or amend current
71 governmental rules and regulations to address the price
72 discovery problems now plaguing the beef industry.
73 (Moody 2020)

74
75 Cropland being under more than one DENR Nutrient
76 Management Plan. (Turner 2020)

77
78 Legislation that would encourage the development,
79 operation and sustainability of new and existing meat
80 processing plants. (Meade, Pennington/Jackson 2020)

81
82 Allowing state inspected meat to be sold across state lines.
83 (Pennington/Jackson 2020)

84 85 **AG REGULATION**

86 87 **We support:**

88
89 The early release of CRP and WRP lands for emergency
90 haying and grazing. (Moody 2021)

91
92 Continuing the effective permitting, regulating and
93 monitoring of the breeding and raising of elk, deer and
94 other cervids under the S.D. Animal Industry Board and
95 the State Veterinarian.

96
97 SD Department of Agriculture having jurisdiction over
98 introduced wild animals or plants for release in South
99 Dakota.

100
101 S.D. apiary regulations should be amended to provide that
102 landowners may allow or employ any apiary to site bees on
103 their property.

104
105 State and local farm organizations having input in the
106 handling and use guidelines of hazardous ag chemicals.

107
108 Mandatory state inspection for protein and moisture testers
109 used by licensed grain handlers.

110
111 All commercial scales used in the weighing of livestock,
112 grain and feed be equipped and operated only with an
113 electronic or mechanical weight ticket stamp.

114
115 The choice to plant GMO seed.

116
117 Any setbacks for organic farming be the sole responsibility
118 of the organic farmer. (Douglas 2020)

119 120 **We oppose:**

121
122 Any additional taxes and regulations on non-restricted ag
123 chemicals.

124
125 Any additional taxes to pay for cleanup of chemical spills.

1
2 Cities, municipalities or townships enacting stricter
3 regulations than current state or federal regulations in
4 regard to the use, storage or disposal of ag chemicals.

5
6 Additional regulations on farm fuel storage tanks
7 State operation of OSHA plans under federal guidelines
8 that result in routine enforcement inspections for small
9 farm employers.

10
11 Municipal initiatives and referendums that would hinder
12 the creation, expansion, and operation of value-added
13 agricultural projects that meet the necessary zoning,
14 permitting, and other state and national regulations.
15 (Davison/Hanson 2022)

16 17 **ANIMAL CARE**

18 19 **We support:**

20
21 Industry established standards for the management, care
22 and treatment of animals in agriculture, commerce and in
23 medical research. Suspected violations of those standards
24 should be investigated by appropriate legal authorities.

25
26 Due process before any private property or animals
27 (animals includes but are not limited to livestock, horses,
28 dogs from USDA regulated commercial kennels, and
29 poultry) can be confiscated or disposed of by any
30 governmental entity, the humane society or similar groups.

31
32 Violations of or illegal actions against livestock facilities
33 or research labs should be classified a felony.

34
35 That before a warrant to enter an animal facility is issued,
36 three notarized complaints must be filed with the proper
37 authorities.

38
39 A waiting warning period be given the owner/operator to
40 correct any problems prior to law enforcement action.

41
42 Only animals in a life-threatening situation, as diagnosed
43 by a South Dakota state licensed veterinarian, should be
44 taken immediately and treated appropriately.

45
46 Legislation that provides adequate legal protection for
47 scientists engaged in medical or animal research.

48 49 **We oppose:**

50
51 The use of animal rights curriculum in schools. We
52 encourage Farm Bureau members to emphasize the proper
53 care farmers, ranchers, and regulated commercial kennels,
54 presently give farm animals.

55 56 **EDUCATION**

57 58 **We support:**

59
60 Adequate funding for sparsity factor legislation.
61

62 Control of our schools remain with the local elected board
63 of education.

64
65 Strong reading and phonics programs along with a testing
66 program at the end of each year as a requirement to
67 advance.

68
69 The concept of open enrollment.

70
71 The option of home schooling. The state aid to education
72 formula should allow for the cost of home school students
73 to participate in extra-curricular activities.

74
75 Teaching civics and citizenship in schools.

76
77 The teaching of local tax structure and local budgets.

78
79 Retaining the right to say the Pledge of Allegiance in all
80 schools and at all school functions.

81
82 Voluntary prayer in schools, and favor allowing public and
83 private schools to post the Ten Commandments.

84
85 Consolidation of school administration, faculty and
86 electronic equipment when feasible.

87
88 The starting date of school districts staying with local
89 decision of the school boards.

90
91 Membership of the Board of Regents should include at
92 least two members from agriculture related businesses. At
93 least one of these should be involved in production
94 agriculture.

95
96 Tuition reciprocity programs between neighboring states at
97 vocational schools, colleges and universities.

98
99 Student loan programs and strongly recommend
100 enforcement of the repayment of such loans.

101
102 Finding and/or developing GMO educational materials and
103 making such materials available to school age children.
104 (Minnehaha 2015)

105 106 **ELECTIONS**

107 108 **We support:**

109
110 The opportunity to recall county commissioners, by
111 petition of voters, similar to the present recall law for
112 mayor and/or city commissioner.

113
114 Citizen's rights of Referendum and Initiated Measures.

115
116 Only S.D. registered voters should be eligible to circulate
117 petitions for ballot measures.

118
119 Retention of the Electoral College for presidential
120 elections. Electors should be required to vote for the
121 candidates on the ballots to which they were pledged.

122
123 Legislative districts consist of one senator and two
124 representatives.

1
2 The Public Utilities Commission should be kept an elected
3 body.
4
5 That candidates be required to clean up their litter after
6 elections.
7
8 Combining elections whenever possible.
9
10 An increase in the required number of petition signatures
11 for initiated measures, constitutional amendments, and law
12 referrals. (Perkins 2016)
13
14 Changing South Dakota law to require more
15 geographically-diverse signatures from South Dakota
16 voters before an issue can be brought to the ballot.
17 (Clark/Day/Perkins 2016)
18
19 Reasonable and fair individual county commission districts
20 based upon population. (Clay/Union 2022)
21
22 **We oppose:**
23
24 Term limits for state legislators.
25
26 Proposals to make the popular vote the sole determinant of
27 presidential elections.
28
29 **ENERGY**
30
31 **We support:**
32
33 Construction of pipeline projects in South Dakota, that are
34 beneficial to our local and federal economies.
35
36 Building oil refineries in South Dakota.
37
38 The development of renewable energies and by-products.
39
40 Expansion of wind energy production in South Dakota.
41
42 The use of a renewable energy standard to be applied to the
43 growth in energy consumption.
44
45 Research into the feasibility of alternative energy
46 production in South Dakota.
47
48 Research to find better methods to transmit and store
49 electricity produced by wind energy.
50
51 Increased ethanol blender fuel pumps in the state.
52
53 The production and use of ethanol fuels.
54
55 The state incentive for ethanol production.
56
57 Production and use of soy diesel and other bio-fuels.
58
59 All forms of energy, including coal. (Clay/Union 2015)
60
61 Educating people that CO2 is not a pollutant. (Clay/Union
62 2015)

63
64 **ENVIRONMENT**
65
66 **We support:**
67
68 Strict enforcement of all S.D. litter laws.
69
70 All soft drink and alcoholic beverages sold in South
71 Dakota should be in containers with a deposit paid thereon.
72
73 Governmental entities and agriculture being treated with
74 the same criteria for non-point source water protection.
75
76 The concept of trading pollution credits between farmers in
77 an effort to limit overall non-point source pollution in a
78 given watershed.
79
80 Before adverse actions can be taken against farmers the
81 Department of Environment and Natural Resources must
82 show proof that contamination is occurring.
83
84 The DENR informing the operator of the nature of the
85 complaint and the full report of their investigation.
86 (Brookings 2019)
87
88 **We oppose:**
89
90 Holding farmers legally or financially responsible for trace
91 amounts of ag chemicals found in a water source providing
92 manufacturer's directions and instructions have been
93 followed.
94
95 Holding present owners accountable for past violations of
96 water protection or other environmental laws by former
97 owners of that land.
98
99 **FAMILY**
100
101 **We support:**
102
103 The legal definition of marriage as a union of one male and
104 one female.
105
106 Neither the United States nor any state should deprive any
107 human being of life or equal protection of the law on
108 account of illness, age, or incapacity.
109
110 Life begins at the moment of conception. Congress and the
111 State Legislature should establish these principals with
112 appropriate legislation.
113
114 **GAME, FISH & PARKS**
115
116 **We support:**
117
118 SD Game, Fish & Parks along with the SD Department of
119 Environment & Natural Resources, be responsible for
120 posting uniform signage for fences that farmers are
121 required to register on navigable streams.
122
123 A surcharge on all hunting and fishing fees to be used for
124 county and township roads.

1
2 Government agencies responsible for the management of
3 wildlife be held to the same standards as the private sector
4 with regard to brucellosis.
5
6 State funding to compensate landowners who suffer lost
7 income due to prairie dog migration and infestation from
8 public land to private land.
9
10 The continued monitoring and compliance of the SD
11 Prairie Dog Management Plan.
12
13 Returning the prairie dog to the S.D. pest list and ask state
14 and federal agencies to immediately stop all activities and
15 efforts to list the prairie dog as endangered.
16
17 The same season for resident and non-resident pheasant
18 hunters.
19
20 Reforming aerial hunting regulations to make them more
21 landowner and agriculture friendly.
22
23 Clarifying the authority of conservation officers.
24
25 Halting land acquisition by the Game, Fish & Parks and
26 encourage more walk-in hunting funding and designations.
27
28 The SD Game, Fish & Parks to act more landowner-
29 friendly by:
30 A) consulting with landowners regarding game
31 problems,
32 B) consulting with landowners regarding hunting
33 access,
34 C) providing transferable licenses, coupons for
35 landowners, etc.
36 D) adequately funding depredation programs.
37
38 Game, Fish & Parks establish hunting seasons that reflect
39 the number of wildlife and the depredation problems that
40 wildlife cause.
41
42 Increasing the number of non-resident waterfowl license
43 sales.
44
45 Compensation to farmers and ranchers for game
46 depredation.
47
48 Issuing transferable depredation tags to producers based on
49 damage.
50
51 Shortening the action on a depredation complaint time to 8
52 hours.
53
54 A lesser percentage increase on license fees for residents
55 than non-residents. Predator license fees should remain
56 unchanged.
57
58 Predator control.
59
60 Returning a percentage of GF&P's income to counties for
61 predator control.
62

63 Extreme caution in the state becoming involved in a
64 comprehensive wildlife management plan that includes
65 federal mandates, diminishes property rights or impacts
66 local economies.
67
68 The use of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and aircraft by
69 coyote hunters engaged in livestock protection.
70
71 Any person carrying a legal hunting license be allowed to
72 shoot wildlife for another member of the hunting party
73 with a valid hunting license.
74
75 The right of S.D. resident landowners/operators to transfer
76 big game licenses to other hunters, giving preference to
77 veterans.
78
79 Game, Fish & Parks and School and Public Lands
80 controlling noxious weeds and pests on their property.
81
82 Game, Fish & Parks shall properly and timely dispose of
83 big game from roadways and ditches.
84
85 Immediate steps to reduce the mountain lion population to
86 the extent that they will not continue to be crowded into
87 areas of human habitation.
88
89 GF&P funds which are scheduled for land acquisition be
90 used for animal damage control.
91
92 Flooded private land should be allowed in the South
93 Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Walk-In Areas program and
94 compensated similarly to land that is allowed public
95 hunting access through that program. (Clark/Day 2015)
96
97 **We oppose:**
98
99 Additional acquisition of land by GF&P except for small
100 narrow tracts that provide access to any existing GF&P
101 property. Before any property is acquired by GF&P, the
102 commission should hold public hearings in the vicinity of
103 the proposed acquisition. Leasing of land for wildlife
104 production and hunting, as well as refuges, is preferred
105 over government ownership.
106
107 Road hunting.
108
109 Extending the pheasant hunting season beyond December
110 1.
111
112 **GOVERNMENT**
113
114 **We support:**
115
116 Residents living in extra-territorial areas should be allowed
117 to vote in city elections so that they have representation.
118
119 Township and other local levels of government.
120
121 Consideration of local government consolidation must be
122 decided by a vote of the people of each government entity
123 involved.
124

1 Policies and procedures to allow local, community and
2 private firefighting units the authority to extinguish forest
3 and prairie fires in instances when they are the first
4 responder.

5
6 Reallocating a portion of the contractors excise tax from
7 agricultural development construction back to local
8 government for related infrastructure maintenance and
9 repair.

10
11 Allowing South Dakota residents to purchase fireworks all
12 year long, and making fireworks legal to use whenever it is
13 safe.

14
15 The merging of the SD Department of Agriculture and the
16 SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources
17 into the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
18 with the expectation of a continued focus on production
19 agriculture, responsible livestock development and quality
20 customer service to South Dakota's agricultural producers.
21 (Pennington/Jackson, Moody 2020)

22 **GUN OWNERS RIGHTS**

23 **We support:**

24
25 Reciprocity between states involving firearm permits.

26 **We oppose:**

27
28 Legislation to require registration or licenses for firearms.

29 **HEALTH CARE**

30 **We support:**

31
32 Health care legislation that encourages accountability and
33 cost savings by the consumer.

34
35 People be able to choose their own health protection
36 including high deductible insurance policies and medical
37 savings accounts (MSA's).

38
39 Expanding existing state programs for in-home care for the
40 elderly and disabled to allow these people to remain in
41 their homes and reduce costs.

42
43 More restraint and supervision by the Medical community
44 concerning opioid prescriptions. (Davison/Hanson 2017)

45
46 Continued use of pharmacy benefit managers and opposes
47 legislation that would mandate the price pharmacy benefit
48 managers must pay to pharmacies, further increasing the
49 cost of generic drug prices for South Dakotans. (Moody
50 2022)

51 **We oppose:**

52
53 Legalizing marijuana for any purpose.

54
55
56
57
58
59
60

61 Health care benefits discrimination against individuals
62 participating in work or leisure activities involving ATV's,
63 snowmobiles, motorcycles or horseback riding.

64

65 Federal government subsidy and involvement in health
66 care, and we recognize that any government financed
67 health program is in fact, socialized medicine.

68

69 **HIGHWAY REGULATIONS**

70

71 **We support:**

72

73 Construction, maintenance, cleaning, repair and legal
74 liability of auto gates remain with the government entity
75 responsible for the road.

76

77 Eliminating S.D. DOT regulations which restricts mowing
78 of state highway rights-of-way before a certain date to
79 improve highway safety, weed control, and hay quality.

80

81 The opportunity for adjoining landowners to hay the
82 median on interstate highways.

83

84 The license plate number and one other descriptive item be
85 the only information required for prosecution of the
86 violation of passing a school bus with a flashing red light.

87

88 Implementation of the living snow fence program to work
89 in conjunction with the continuous CRP program.

90

91 The current process and restrictions for obtaining a driving
92 permit at age 14, which includes the passage of a driving
93 test and/or Drivers Ed and 3-6 months probationary
94 periods. (2018)

95

96 Revenue collection efforts on those users who do not
97 currently contribute to the South Dakota Highway Fund
98 due to electric vehicles and/or alternative fuels. (Charles
99 Mix/Douglas 2020)

100

101 The creation of a Small Business Restricted Commercial
102 Driver's License. (Pennington/Jackson 2022)

103

104 **We oppose:**

105

106 S.D. Department of Transportation inspections on non-
107 commercial pickups, trucks and trailers under 26,000 lb
108 GVW even if their combined GVW weights are over
109 26,000 lbs.

110

111 Authority for S.D. DOT to enforce fines for exceeding load
112 limits by checking elevator weight tickets.

113

114 Fishing or any other recreational activities be allowed from
115 a bridge without a designated walkway or shoulder on any
116 county or state highway. (Hutchinson 2015)

117

118 **INSURANCE**

119

120 **We support:**

121

1 Having insured motorists not be legally responsible for
2 damage to an uninsured's motorized vehicle caused by an
3 insured motor vehicle. (Charles Mix 2021)
4
5 S.D. law of subrogation involving settlements between
6 insurance companies and oppose using the "make whole"
7 doctrine.
8
9 Proof of liability insurance be required when purchasing
10 vehicle licenses.
11
12 Increased fines for failure to carry proper liability
13 insurance.
14
15 Raising minimum automobile liability coverage to
16 100/300/50.
17
18 Insurance companies be required to notify the insured party
19 of any liability claim paid on their behalf.
20
21 A person who lends a vehicle or machine to another
22 individual without compensation should not be held liable
23 for damages caused by the vehicle or machine due to the
24 negligence of the borrower.
25
26 Changing the workers compensation law to simplify the
27 admissions process and allow up to 72 hours for
28 authorization in cases of emergency.
29
30 Requiring law enforcement officers responding to an
31 accident, to write an "accident" report for accidents
32 occurring on private property. The report shall be written
33 on a non-reportable accident form (not reportable to the
34 state) and be retained by the responding department.
35 (Haakon 2015)
36
JUDICIAL/LAW ENFORCEMENT
37
We support:
38
39 Only accepting US Constitutional Law and not accepting
40 legal arguments that cite international law, World Court, or
41 Sheria Law.
42
43 Limitations on lawsuits, both on what may constitute a
44 lawsuit and on monetary awards that can be sought.
45
46 Plaintiffs and their attorneys be liable for the defendant's
47 legal fees if a jury finds a lawsuit without grounds or if the
48 prosecuting lawyer handles the case on a contingency fee
49 basis.
50
51 Medical malpractice be limited to \$250,000 for non-
52 economic awards. Lawyer contingency fees should also be
53 limited.
54
55 In order for a civil court suit to be settled out of court, it
56 must be done before a jury is called. Once the jury is called
57 and an expense to the county is created, the decision should
58 be in the hands of the court. Should an out of court
59 settlement be made after a jury is called and before that
60 jury has reached a verdict, the plaintiff should pay for the
61 cost of the court.
62
63

64
65 Strict enforcement of criminal laws, especially DUI and
66 controlled substance laws.
67
68 Keeping the death penalty for certain violent crimes.
69 Individuals who distribute misinformation concerning
70 detrimental effects of agricultural products should be held
71 responsible for their actions.
72
73 The Right to Privacy Law be rescinded for prison inmates.
74
75 Victims and their families be notified before parole or
76 release of the criminal from a correctional facility.
77
78 Protection of innocent victims by authorities requiring
79 adequate bond payments and suspects being held the
80 proper length of time before being released on bail.
81
82 Enforcement of age requirements for admission to theaters
83 and renting of videos based on the movie rating system.
84
85 Prohibition on the sale and distribution of hard core
86 pornography.
87
88 Inmates doing constructive work in the community.
89
90 Any fines and/or reprimands handed down from the State
91 Bar of the South Dakota Disciplinary Board should be
92 made public. (Potter 2020)
93
94 All education and work programs in the prison and will
95 support expanding programs to more facilities if the
96 opportunity arises. (Douglas 2022)
97
We oppose:
98
99
100 Any attempt by the state to put unnecessary restraints on
101 churches and clergy inside the prison systems.
102
LABOR
103
We support:
104
105 SDFB working with the Legislature, the administration and
106 state agencies to enact programs that will assist farmers in
107 having an adequate legal work force.
108
109 Employers who knowingly hire illegal workers be fined.
110
111 Employers who follow the law and then later find out a
112 worker is "illegal" should be held harmless.
113
114 Retaining the Right to Work section of the State
115 Constitution.
116
117 Treating unaccompanied minors who enter the United
118 States illegally under the same laws as adults who enter the
119 country illegally.
120
121
122
We oppose:
123
124
125 Mandatory workers compensation for farm employees.

1
2 Teacher continuing contract clauses.

3 4 **LAND OWNERSHIP**

5 6 **We support:**

7 Action to return to the State of South Dakota all federal
8 land within the state's boundaries.

9
10 Any proposed sale or transfer of land to an entity of state
11 or federal government must be given public notice for three
12 consecutive weeks with a three month waiting period
13 before condemnation, sale, or transfer occurs. The person
14 renting the land must be notified in writing at least two
15 months before a deal is closed.

16
17 If the state government acquires property from the private
18 sector, it should be required to release like amount into the
19 private sector, either by sale or termination of easements.

20 Leaving the adverse possession South Dakota law in its
21 present form. (Beadle, Davison/Hanson, Charles Mix,
22 Douglas 2017)

23 24 **We oppose:**

25
26 Trades involving state lands that would place such state
27 lands into Federal Government ownership or control.

28
29 The purchase of private land by state or federal agencies
30 with the intent of bartering with ranchers who lease
31 government owned grazing lands.

32
33 The purchase and/or ownership of agriculture farm ground
34 that is owned by majority stockholders from foreign
35 countries or entities. (Pennington/Jackson 2022)

36 37 **LAND USE**

38 39 **We support:**

40
41 Counties forming Public Land Use Resource Committees
42 to maximize local input into policy making and lawmaking
43 involving state and federal land in their county.

44
45 Continued research at SDSU in the monitoring of overland
46 and subsurface flows for water quality and sediment
47 reduction.

48
49 Efforts to reduce excess water levels so farms can once
50 again operate, maintaining essential community services
51 and reducing annual cost of road repairs.

52
53 A system under which environmental regulatory authority
54 would lie with the state, while control of ag zoning would
55 stay with the counties.

56
57 The right to buy back conservation easements at change of
58 ownership or a renegotiation of the easement every 30
59 years.

60
61 Initiatives that allow replacing or exchanging agriculture
62 land where restrictions of use have been placed by

63 easements, rules and policies of USDA or other Federal
64 government agencies. (Moody/Brown/Davison-Hanson
65 2016)

66
67 That an exemption be allowed to producers of all buffer
68 strips to expand the time of cutting hay with no time
69 restrictions. (Turner 2018)

70 71 **We oppose:**

72
73 The state imposing any wetland regulations more stringent
74 than federal wetland regulations.

75
76 The creation of mandatory buffer zones along waterways,
77 wetlands and wildlife production areas in the state.

78
79 Public access on flooded private land without landowner or
80 operator permission. This does not apply to meandered
81 lakes that have been surveyed and currently have public
82 access.

83 84 **LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION & 85 THEFT PROTECTION**

86 87 **We support:**

88
89 The brand inspection program in West River South Dakota
90 and support administration by the S.D. brand board.

91
92 All brand inspection fees be used solely for and by the S.D.
93 brand board for the brand inspection program.

94
95 Livestock owner's ability to obtain a shipper's permit for
96 taking livestock out of the ownership inspection area as
97 they are transporting to a ranch or private individual
98 outside the brand inspection area. The livestock will be
99 inspected at the closest approved in-state open market at
100 the time of the move.

101
102 Strengthening the SD Animal Industry Board's ability to
103 deal with animal disease outbreaks and food safety issues.

104 105 **We oppose:**

106
107 Mandatory EID and RFID tags at the state and national
108 level. (Douglas 2021)

109
110 Any effort to legalize freeze brands for ownership
111 identification.

112 113 **MINERAL RIGHTS**

114 115 **We support:**

116
117 When mineral rights are separated from the surface rights,
118 these mineral rights should be taxed. The tax should be
119 subtracted from the landowner's property tax. If the
120 mineral taxes are not paid for three years, the mineral
121 rights would be offered to the landowner for payment of
122 back taxes, thereby clearing title to the mineral rights.

123

1 Legislation to protect surface owners in cases involving
2 mineral rights disputes.
3
4 Statutory protection of the surface owners' rights in the
5 event that there is mineral activity that affects surface
6 owners' rights. South Dakota must require that the mineral
7 producer negotiate a surface use agreement with the
8 surface owner prior to any mineral activities commencing
9 on the property.

10 11 **NATURAL RESOURCES**

12 13 **We support:**

14
15 Changes in wetland mapping conventions and minimal
16 effects that make S.D. more consistent with the original
17 intent of Swampbuster and neighboring states.

18
19 Landowner requested reviews of their certified wetland
20 determinations anytime NRCS guidelines change.

21
22 Multiple use of public lands by the public, including but
23 not limited to proper resource management, agriculture
24 production and recreation.

25
26 Delisting the Topeka Shiner from the ESA list.

27
28 Active timbering of our national forests.

29
30 NRCS appeals should be performed by a person of
31 seniority other than the original employee who made the
32 determination.

33
34 NRCS wetland appeals should include the technical results
35 as well as the procedural process.

36
37 Legislation to prohibit the introduction of any endangered
38 species into South Dakota.

39 40 **We oppose:**

41
42 The "no net loss" policy for wetlands.

43
44 Any expansion of present wilderness areas or the
45 establishment of any new wilderness areas in the State of
46 South Dakota, and specifically opposes creation of
47 wilderness on any federal land.

48 49 **PROPERTY RIGHTS**

50 51 **We support:**

52
53 The passage of private property rights legislation which
54 directs the Attorney General to do an assessment of the
55 impacts of rules, regulations and/or laws and which
56 provides compensation for "takings."

57
58 Registering drainage projects at the county register of
59 deeds for adequate tracking purposes, and should be done
60 only at the discretion of the landowner.

61

62 The current state fencing laws. (Moody/Charles
63 Mix/Perkins/Douglas 2016)

64
65 The use of improved rights-of-way for the movement
66 and/or transportation of people and any and all legal
67 commodities. (Minnehaha/Moody 2018)

68 69 **We oppose:**

70
71 The condemnation/eminent domain of land for any purpose
72 other than highways and such public utilities that benefit
73 the majority of the public. Eminent domain should not be
74 abused for public recreational facilities or private economic
75 development.

76
77 Limiting the ability of private landowners to generate
78 revenue off their land, including lands inundated by water,
79 without the landowner's permission. (Brown 2017)

80
81 The use of Eminent Domain to acquire property until at
82 least 51% of the producers agree to the terms of the
83 projects buy out, at that time Eminent Domain can be used
84 by the rules it is governed. (Charles Mix 2022)

85 86 **RAILROADS**

87 88 **We support:**

89
90 Railroad upgrade projects with a commitment of service to
91 agriculture.

92
93 S.D. law be changed to limit time to 10 minutes for a train-
94 blocked crossing, except for emergency vehicles, which
95 must have access as soon as possible.

96
97 Reverting abandoned railroad beds and rights-of-way back
98 to adjacent landowners.

99
100 When abandoned railroad beds go to public use, the
101 adjacent landowners should be exempt from all liability
102 incurred by the public use of former railroad property.

103
104 Railroad companies in the State of South Dakota shall
105 abide by South Dakota fencing laws. (Haakon 2017)

106 107 **We oppose:**

108
109 The State of South Dakota entering into any perpetual
110 easements concerning abandoned railroad rights-of-way.

111 112 **RELIGIOUS LIFE**

113 114 **We support:**

115
116 The necessary steps to reestablish the right to offer
117 voluntary prayers in public schools and should be
118 supported at both state and national levels.

119 120 **We oppose:**

121
122 Actions preventing free distribution of copies of the Bible.

1 **STATE GOVERNMENT**

2
3 **We support:**

4
5 The amount required to trigger the vehicle damage
6 disclosure on a vehicle title be raised to \$10,000.

7
8 The South Dakota vehicle title damage disclosure be
9 amended to disclose if the damage was cosmetic only, such
10 as hail or minor collision that does not affect the
11 performance or the safety of the vehicle.

12
13 An across the board spending freeze on state government,
14 with adjustments for inflation.

15
16 The philosophy of privatization in county and state
17 government.

18
19 State government funding for any state-mandated changes
20 of local government.

21
22 State agencies reevaluating all travel and vehicle
23 requirements and enforce existing policies regarding
24 personal use of state-owned vehicles.

25 Surplus monies above the reserve designated by the
26 legislature should be automatically returned to county
27 governments using the current distribution formula for
28 property tax relief.

29
30 A requirement that all boards at the state and federal level
31 which regulate agricultural policy contain at least 51
32 percent membership that is involved in agriculture
33 production or the agricultural industry.

34
35 Existing laws governing special taxation districts be
36 changed to allow a one-fourth or larger part of a district to
37 petition out, if a number equal to 10% of the people who
38 voted in the last governor’s race sign the petition. The
39 county commissioners would set up the election instead of
40 the special taxation district which would stop any
41 discrimination in a small area. A simple majority of voters
42 from that portion wishing to petition out would free that
43 portion of the district.

44
45 State government providing funding and other support for
46 the benefit of the S.D. State Fair.

47
48 Banning state sanctioned gambling on the state
49 fairgrounds.

50
51 Allowing gambling only on the original reservation treaty
52 lands and not on Indian Trust Land.

53
54 Repeal of video lottery.

55
56 A moratorium on any increase in new games and number
57 of machines in casino gaming pending a study of the social
58 impact it has on the state, i.e., law enforcement,
59 rehabilitation, etc.

60
61 An increase of at least an additional 5% of the video lottery
62 revenues for the state and an additional 10% of the gross
63 revenue from video casinos be returned to the state. The

64 state portion should not be used for promotion of
65 gambling.

66
67 Using a portion of the tax on alcoholic beverages and
68 revenues from gambling to finance the rehabilitation of
69 alcoholics and addicted gamblers, and address other
70 problems directly attributed to alcohol and gambling.

71
72 Allowing volunteer ambulance services to operate in
73 communities of fewer than 3,500.

74
75 Bonding requirements for auctioneers and clerks be
76 adequate to protect the seller.

77
78 A single tax rate for auction sales to eliminate confusion in
79 the clerking process.

80
81 Carrying over to the following year any remaining remote
82 seller sales taxes of less than \$20 million. (Moody 2018)

83
84 A small structure and large culvert fund that would be
85 distributed to each county for their townships, on a yearly
86 basis. This would be for all counties, even if they only
87 have unorganized townships. (Davison/Hanson 2020)

88
89 **We oppose:**

90
91 State ownership or operation of ag processing plants for
92 any reasons other than research or market development.

93
94 **TAXATION-FUEL**

95
96 **We support:**

97
98 Removing the use of gas tax funds for boat ramps, park
99 roads, snowmobile trails, etc. Park and user fees should be
100 used to fund these items.

101
102 Continuing the per-gallon road use fuel tax rather than
103 other forms of taxation to finance state highway
104 maintenance and construction.

105
106 **We oppose:**

107
108 Adding a tax on dyed diesel fuel.

109
110 **TAXATION-GENERAL**

111
112 **We support:**

113
114 A concept of tax limitation.

115
116 All tobacco products be taxed at the same rate.

117
118 All telecommunications companies doing business in
119 South Dakota be taxed.

120
121 Repeal of the contractors excise tax.

122
123 **We oppose:**

124
125 A South Dakota income tax.

1
2 Placing a tax on tile and/or surface drainage for any use
3 except to operate a drainage district.

4
5 A personal property tax.

6
7 **TAXATION-REAL PROPERTY**

8
9 **We support:**

10
11 The assessed valuation of ag land that reflects the land's
12 ability to produce under natural conditions and should be
13 adjusted on an annual basis.

14
15 Requiring actual use for property tax valuation.

16
17 A majority approval of the county commission to remove
18 land from the tax rolls. Notification must also be given to
19 the township chairman in any affected township. Land to
20 be purchased, sold or transferred should be publicly
21 advertised and a bid process enacted.

22 The interpretation of real property as land and permanent
23 structures only.

24
25 Legislation that will allow counties to equalize tax
26 assessments and use the adjustment factors in statute to
27 measure productivity in addition to the soil survey to
28 calculate assessments.. The practice of "neighborhooding"
29 in specific geographic areas within a county should be
30 substantially weighted and at least equal in influence with
31 the soil survey.

32
33 Increasing the \$10,000 homestead exemption to \$50,000
34 for ag structures.

35
36 Taxation of Public lands as if that land were owned
37 privately. The U.S. Government should pay the tax with no
38 fee increase to the public land user.

39
40 Church property that generates income should not receive
41 preferential tax treatment.

42
43 Municipalities that own income producing real property
44 should be required to make property tax payments.

45
46 Property owners who have been wrongfully assessed taxes
47 should receive compensation from their county, including
48 all expenses incurred through the appeal process.

49
50 Township boards be given more time to have the tax
51 assessments records in order to make their
52 recommendations on valuations to the county assessor.

53
54 A return to the law that assessors be reappointed every five
55 years.

56
57 **We oppose:**

58
59 Any real estate tax reduction on land under easement.

60
61 Any attempt to raise the tax rate per \$1000 of value on ag
62 land to equal that on non-ag land for school purposes.

63

64 **TAXATION-SALES**

65
66 **We support:**

67
68 Purchased inputs for agricultural production,
69 manufacturing and industrial production shall be exempt
70 from state and local sales tax. Sales tax should only be
71 collected on the final product at the time of
72 sale/consumption.

73
74 Legislation that would tax advertising.

75
76 **We oppose:**

77
78 Sales tax on feed, seed, fertilizer, and ag chemicals. Sales
79 tax should be removed from veterinary supplies. City sales
80 tax should not be charged on machinery, repairs, building
81 materials and veterinary supplies used by farmers.

82
83 Cities or school districts having extra sales tax for the
84 support of schools.

85
86 Cities being allowed to put sales tax receipts in their
87 general fund for property tax relief.

88
89 The repeal of the state food sales tax. (Beadle 2022)

90
91 A county sales tax except for the purpose of financing a
92 county jail or for the incarceration costs of county inmates
93 in a regional jail. (Walworth 2022)

94
95 **TAXATION-WATER**

96
97 **We oppose:**

98
99 Any tax on water usage, including irrigation. If a water
100 usage tax is necessary, it should be applied to all water
101 users, including domestic, city, industrial and agriculture.

102
103 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

104
105 **We support:**

106
107 Communication back up power during power outages.
108 (2019)

109
110 The efforts of SD Rural Electrics to defend their right to
111 serve electric service territory granted them under state
112 law. (Pennington/Jackson, Charles Mix, Douglas, Turner
113 2019)

114
115 **TRESPASS LAWS**

116
117 **We support:**

118
119 Broadening the present trespass law under which all land is
120 off limits unless permission is granted by the landowner or
121 operator, to include private land in the Black Hills fire
122 protection district. We favor increased fines for violators.

123

1 The trespass and use policy for school and public lands
2 should release the lessee of all liability.

4 **WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

6 **We support:**

8 Equal treatment of wetland work by private contractors and
9 NRCS work and handle them on a timely basis.

11 The use of retention and draw down dams in drainage
12 areas, and favor a pilot program to allow retention and dam
13 areas to be put in continuous CRP.

15 Revising the S.D. Vested Drainage Rights law to include
16 new drainage and previously undiscovered drainage
17 systems.

19 Prior to filing legal action a qualified mediator or water
20 expert be brought in when disagreements about drainage
21 affecting individual parties cannot be resolved. Parties
22 should bear the cost of mediation.

24 The formation of smaller drainage districts primarily
25 composed of landowners, governed by landowners, as a
26 state statute already allows and to include SDSU
27 participation, county governments, US geological maps
28 and professional ag specialists as needed.

30 A credible data law to govern total maximum daily load
31 regulations.

33 State and federal legislation that will positively affect
34 domestic water development in our state.

36 Water projects be paid for by people who benefit from
37 those projects. Funding of water projects should be
38 determined in accordance with the direct benefit.

40 Legislation that the transfer of water rights for a change of
41 use be reviewed as a new application and given a new
42 priority date.

44 A landowner being allowed to drain back to a wetland high
45 water mark if it can exit into a natural drain way.

47 Directing the state of South Dakota to create an
48 engineering study of the eastern South Dakota water issue,
49 to help determine how much economic activity is lost due
50 to the high water, and to determine how to best manage the
51 water levels to put some of this land back into agricultural
52 production.

54 Using site specific radar generated rainfall data in
55 determining normal, wet and dry years in regards to
56 wetland determinations methods. (Brown 2016)

58 **We oppose:**

60 Any new taxes for water development.

61

62 New state legislation designed to manage surface water
63 until other issues are settled. (Moody 2016)

65 **WEED & PEST CONTROL**

67 **We support:**

69 Placing the mountain pine beetle on the South Dakota pest
70 list.

72 The use of all modern technology, including actively
73 timbering our forests, to help manage our forests for future
74 generations.

76 Action by the state to adopt state emergency powers on
77 federal lands in instances where the federal government
78 fails to act in the best interest of South Dakotans relating to
79 fire prevention or pest and disease prevention.

81 Strict enforcement of weed control laws with a goal of
82 eradicating primary noxious weeds, e.g. musk thistle,
83 Canada thistle and leafy spurge.

85 Streamlining the process for noxious weed control so the
86 time period from complaint to action can be shortened.

87 Weed control requirements on local, state and federal
88 government lands be equal to those required of private
89 landowners.

91 **WELFARE**

93 **We support:**

95 A mandatory random drug-testing program to be eligible to
96 receive welfare benefits.

98 **We oppose:**

100 Persons on strike being eligible to receive food stamps or
101 state unemployment benefits.

103 Welfare for a person who is capable of but not willing to
104 assume a job.

106 The use of food stamps to purchase nonessential food items
107 or to obtain cash over one dollar.

109 **WE BELIEVE (2015)**

111 We believe it to be man's inalienable right to worship God,
112 to offer prayers and to read the Bible as God's Word in
113 private and public places, including classrooms.

115 The nutritional value of meat and its promotion as an
116 essential part of everyone's daily diet.

118 We recognize the need to expand livestock production in
119 the state and encourage the construction of processing
120 facilities.

121

1 County ordinances are determined by the people and set to
2 be fair and equitable standards for all.

3
4 We support a concentrated effort by the public and private
5 sector to isolate and defeat chronic wasting disease in both
6 wildlife and livestock.

7
8 Juveniles should be responsible for their actions when laws
9 are broken and/or property is destroyed.

10
11 We believe land use is the right and responsibility of the
12 individual landowner. Whenever land use decisions are
13 made, the rights of individual property owners should be
14 given the highest consideration.

15
16 Railroads must put forth their best efforts to address local
17 concerns such as safety, noise, and adjoining landowner
18 issues.

19
20 Privatization of certain government functions will reduce
21 spending, lower the number of employees, be more
22 effective and save tax dollars.

23
24 We should work closely with and lend our support to the
25 South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems to
26 effectively promote and secure water for all South Dakota
27 communities needing a dependable source of water.

28
29 Farm Bureau be opposed to modifying, changing, or
30 otherwise defacing the faces on Mount Rushmore. (Moody
31 2017)

32
33 SDFB work with SD Department of Agriculture, the SD
34 Attorney's General Office, and such enforcement agencies
35 to remove imitator dairy products from the "dairy case" in
36 stores selling such food products. (Minnehaha 2017)

37
38 In a marketing campaign that promotes and markets
39 agricultural products into international markets.
40 (Minnehaha 2017)

41
42
43 ****Policy Book Reviewed in 2017**