

South Dakota Farm Bureau

2026 State Policy

1 AGRICULTURE

2 We support:

3 Investment in weather data collection. (Hughes/Stanley 2025)
4
5 The continued inclusion of “Concentrated Animal Feeding
6 Operations” CAFO, in the SD Codified law definition of
7 agriculture. (Turner 2016)
8
9

10 AGRICULTURE CREDIT

11 We support:

12 Putting more emphasis on helping young farmers and
13 ranchers to get started in agriculture with the aid of
14 guaranteed loans.
15

16 AGRICULTURE EDUCATION & 17 RESEARCH

18 We support:

19 Development of ag processing including livestock, grain,
20 and other commodities.
21

22 Adequate funding for vocational agriculture programs and
23 encourage curricula that project farming and ranching as a
24 business, not just a way of life.
25

26 The Cooperative Extension program, 4-H and FFA.
27

28 Continued funding for the SD Ag Experiment Station.
29

30 Educational and workforce development programs targeted
31 towards a professional certificate and/or apprenticeship in
32 meat cutting from post-secondary institutions.
33 (Pennington/Jackson 2020)
34

35 Encouraging the S.D. Department of Labor to provide
36 opportunities from organizations such as Job Service and
37 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
38 Program to provide scholarships and financial aid
39 assistance for students who are seeking meat processing
40 certificates and/or apprenticeships from post-secondary
41 institutions. (Pennington/Jackson 2020)
42

43 Funding for renovations of existing or construction of a
44 new meat laboratory at SDSU. (Pennington/Jackson 2020)
45

46 We oppose:

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55 AGRICULTURE PROMOTION

56 We support:

57 Further incentivizing meat packing capacity expansion
58 through grants to enhance meat harvesting and production
59 of cattle in South Dakota. (Beadle 2021)
60
61 The promotion and growth of the CIS Program. (Beadle
62 2021)
63

64 The concept of the S.D. Certified Beef Program.
65

66 State institutions refraining from purchasing imported meat
67 and to give preference to meat produced and processed in-
68 state if available.
69

70 The right of producers to promote increased research, sales,
71 and consumption of the commodities they produce. State
72 and federal governments should not cease funding research
73 and promotion with the intent of allowing the farmer
74 checkoff-funded programs to cover such costs. We support
75 commodity checkoff programs as detailed in AFBF Policy
76 concerning the checkoff program.
77

78 AG REGULATIONS - LIVESTOCK

79 We support:

80 The CIS Program and prefer it over an interstate compact
81 program. (Beadle 2021)
82

83 Livestock production, expansion, and processing facilities
84 as important value-added ag industries.
85

86 Permitting alternative technology designs for the
87 management and/or control of feedlot runoff water that
88 does not provide actual storage capacities as set forth in the
89 general permit. Allowances for research permits should be
90 made when the “general permit” is reviewed as long as a
91 state university and federal agency such as NRCS are
92 parties to that research project. Parameters for a “research
93 permit” should be limited by allowances of the Clean
94 Water Act rather than the South Dakota “general permit.”
95

96 Allowing the establishment of livestock operations in
97 South Dakota if DANR regulations and local ordinances
98 are followed.
99

100 Criteria should include:

- 101 (1) Science based air and water quality standards.
- 102 (2) Sound conservation practices.
- 103 (3) Good stewardship.

104 Equal protection in matters of siting and/or expanding
105 livestock operations.
106

107 The concept of ag districts within county zoning
108 ordinances.
109

1 Local zoning laws that stipulate once livestock feeding
2 operations are established and operating within the law, a
3 property right has been established and that right is
4 transferable without further government action.
5
6 The actions, under ordinances of zoning boards—to be
7 administrative and should not be subject to referendum.
8
9 Changing the law to require a simple majority of the
10 zoning board to obtain a conditional use permit.
11
12 Expansion of procedures and practices that can be
13 performed by veterinary livestock assistants.
14
15 Procedures known and designated as castrating, spaying,
16 dehorning, and pregnancy testing of cattle, sheep or horses,
17 and swine, should not be considered the practice of
18 Veterinary medicine within the meaning of state law.
19
20 A producer's right to administer vaccinations, wormers,
21 antibiotics, and other medications to the animals on his
22 farm, ranch, or kennel and should be protected.
23
24 If a farm or ranch on agricultural zoned land adds a USDA
25 or state-licensed and inspected kennel breeding operation,
26 that operation will be viewed as part of the agri-business of
27 the existing farm or ranch.
28
29 Continuance of the state inspection of meat locker facilities
30 and products.
31
32 Initiating a review and potential remedy of the current
33 county CAFO siting process, allowing individual counties
34 to opt out in accordance with proposed state law. (Turner
35 2015)
36
37 State legislation that would set minimum standards that
38 would require facilities up to 999 animal units (AU) be
39 defined as a permitted use, and that any facility that falls
40 below the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
41 (CAFO) threshold be defined by the Department of
42 Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) as a permitted
43 use and not as a conditional use. (Moody 2017)
44
45 A Farmstead/Homestead Exemption for small and medium
46 CAFOs from local zoning except municipal lot setbacks.
47 (Turner, Pennington/Jackson 2017)
48
49 Producer and/or producer led organizational efforts to
50 bring cattle producers, cattle feeders, and beef packers
51 together to develop a voluntary price discovery
52 methodology that is fair to all entities involved in
53 producing, feeding, marketing, harvesting, and retailing
54 beef products; and that if such voluntary efforts fail to
55 reach a compromise in a reasonable and timely manner,
56 SDFB will support efforts to modify or amend current
57 governmental rules and regulations to address the price
58 discovery problems now plaguing the beef industry.
59 (Moody 2020)

60 Cropland being under more than one DANR Nutrient
61 Management Plan. (Turner 2020)
62
63 Legislation that would encourage the development,
64 operation and sustainability of new and existing meat
65 processing plants. (Meade, Pennington/Jackson 2020)
66 Allowing state inspected meat to be sold across state lines.
67 (Pennington/Jackson 2020)
68
69 Livestock vaccine regulation based on sound science and
70 in consultation with a veterinarian's recommendation.
71 (Hughes/Sully/Stanley 2023)
72 State legislation requires lab-produced meat products that
73 are sold commercially to be labeled clearly and accurately
74 with an entire list of ingredients used in their manufacturing
75 process. (SDFB Board of Directors 2024)
76
77 **AG REGULATION**
78 **We support:**
79
80 The early release of CRP and WRP lands for emergency
81 haying and grazing. (Moody 2021)
82 Continuing the effective permitting, regulating, and
83 monitoring of the breeding and raising of elk, deer and
84 other cervids under the S.D. Animal Industry Board and the
85 State Veterinarian.
86 Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources having
87 jurisdiction over introduced wild animals or plants for
88 release in South Dakota.
89
90 S.D. apiary regulations should be amended to provide that
91 landowners may allow or employ any apiary to site bees on
92 their property.
93
94 State and local farm organizations having input in the
95 handling and use guidelines of hazardous ag chemicals.
96 Mandatory state inspection for protein and moisture testers
97 used by licensed grain handlers.
98
99 All commercial scales used in the weighing of livestock,
100 grain and feed be equipped and operated only with an
101 electronic or mechanical weight ticket stamp.
102
103 The choice to plant GMO seed.
104
105 Any setbacks for organic farming be the sole responsibility
106 of the organic farmer. (Douglas 2020)
107 State legislation that adequately indemnifies farmers and
108 ranchers who passively receive per and polyfluoroalkyl
109 substances (PFAS) onto their property. (Minnehaha 2023)
110 Statewide zoning standards for livestock production
111 facilities. (Faulk/Spink 2024)

1 **We oppose:**

2 Any additional taxes and regulations on non-restricted ag
3 chemicals.
4
5 Any additional taxes to pay for cleanup of chemical spills.
6
7 Cities, municipalities or townships enacting stricter
8 regulations than current state or federal regulations in
9 regard to the use, storage, or disposal of ag chemicals.
10
11 Additional regulations on farm fuel storage tanks
12
13 State operation of OSHA plans under federal guidelines
14 that result in routine enforcement inspections for small
15 farm employers.
16
17 Municipal initiatives and referendums that would hinder
18 the creation, expansion, and operation of value-added
19 agricultural projects that meet the necessary zoning,
20 permitting, and other state and national regulations.
21 (Davison/Hanson 2022)
22
23 Legislation in South Dakota that would create a farmer-
24 funded grain indemnity program (Hughes/Sully/Stanley
25 2023)

27 **ANIMAL CARE**

29 **We support:**

31 Industry established standards for the management, care,
32 and treatment of animals in agriculture, commerce and in
33 medical research. Suspected violations of those standards
34 should be investigated by appropriate legal authorities.
35
36 Due process before any private property or animals
37 (animals includes but are not limited to livestock, horses,
38 dogs from USDA regulated commercial kennels, and
39 poultry) can be confiscated or disposed of by any
40 governmental entity, the humane society, or similar groups.
41
42 That before a warrant to enter an animal facility is issued,
43 three notarized complaints must be filed with the proper
44 authorities.
45
46 A waiting warning period be given to the owner/operator
47 to correct any problems prior to law enforcement action.
48
49 Only animals in a life-threatening situation, as diagnosed
50 by a South Dakota state licensed veterinarian, should be
51 taken immediately and treated appropriately.
52
53 Legislation that provides adequate legal protection for
54 scientists engaged in medical or animal research.
55
56
57

58 **We oppose:**

59
60 The use of animal rights curriculum in schools. We
61 encourage Farm Bureau members to emphasize the proper
62 care farmers, ranchers, and regulated commercial kennels,
63 presently give farm animals.

64

65 **EDUCATION**

66

67 **We support:**

68
69 Adequate funding for sparsity factor legislation.
70
71 Control of our schools remains with the local elected board
72 of education.
73 Strong reading and phonics programs along with a testing
74 program at the end of each year as a requirement to
75 advance.
76 The concept of open enrollment.
77
78 The option of home schooling. The state aid to education
79 formula should allow for the cost of home school students
80 to participate in extra-curricular activities.
81
82 Teaching civics and citizenship in schools.
83
84 The teaching of local tax structure and local budgets.
85
86 Retaining the right to say the Pledge of Allegiance in all
87 schools and at all school functions.
88
89 Voluntary prayer in schools, and favor allowing public and
90 private schools to post the Ten Commandments.
91
92 Consolidation of school administration, faculty, and
93 electronic equipment when feasible.
94
95 Membership of the Board of Regents should include at
96 least two members from agriculture-related businesses. At
97 least one of these should be involved in production
98 agriculture.
99
100 Tuition reciprocity programs between neighboring states at
101 vocational schools, colleges, and universities.

102 Student loan programs and strongly recommend
103 enforcement of the repayment of such loans.

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

107

108 **ELECTIONS**

109

110 **We support:**

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

115

1 Citizen's rights of Referendum and Initiated Measures.
2
3 Only S.D. registered voters should be eligible to circulate
4 petitions for ballot measures.
5
6 Retention of the Electoral College for presidential
7 elections. Electors should be required to vote for the
8 candidates on the ballots to which they were pledged.
9
10 Legislative districts consist of one senator and two
11 representatives.
12
13 The Public Utilities Commission should be kept an elected
14 body.
15
16 Combining elections whenever possible.
17
18 An increase in the required number of petition signatures
19 for initiated measures, constitutional amendments, and law
20 referrals. (Perkins 2016)
21
22 Changing South Dakota law requires more geographically
23 diverse signatures from South Dakota voters before
24 an issue can be brought to the ballot.
25 (Clark/Day/Perkins 2016)
26
27 Reasonable and fair individual county commission districts
28 based upon population. (Clay/Union 2022)
29 Keeping the single-subject rule for constitutional 22
30 amendments. (Meade/Douglas/Moody 2023)
31
32 The collection of the minimum number of signatures to
33 come from at least 2/3 of the voting districts, for the
34 purpose of getting a constitutional amendment on the ballot.
35 (Douglas 2025)
36
37 A 60% majority to pass a constitutional amendment.
38 (Douglas 2025)
39
40 **We oppose:**
41
42 Term limits for state legislators.
43
44 The election of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural
45 Resources. (Walworth/Edmunds 2023)
46
47 **ENERGY**
48
49 **We support:**
50
51 Construction of pipeline projects in South Dakota, that are
52 beneficial to our local and federal economies.
53
54 Building oil refineries in South Dakota.
55
56 The development of renewable energies and by-products.
57
58 The use of a renewable energy standard to be applied to the
59 growth in energy consumption.
60
61 Research into the feasibility of alternative energy
62 production in South Dakota.
63
64 Research to find better methods to transmit and store
65 electricity produced by wind energy.
66
67 Increased ethanol blender fuel pumps in the state.
68
69 The production and use of ethanol fuels.
70
71 The state incentive for ethanol production.
72
73 Production and use of soy diesel and other bio-fuels.
74
75 All forms of energy, including coal. (Clay/Union 2015)
76
77 Educating people that CO2 is not a pollutant. (Clay/Union
78 2015)
79
80 South Dakota maintaining a diverse and reliable electrical
81 energy generation portfolio to ensure energy stability and
82 resiliency at an affordable cost. (Walworth/Edmunds 2023)
83
84 Counties adopting a comprehensive plan that sets guidelines
85 as to where energy generation can take place within the
86 county. (Walworth/Edmunds 2023)
87
88 Statewide zoning standards for solar farms. (Faulk/Spink
89 2024)
90
91 The reduction of the 100 MW regulatory threshold for solar
92 energy development to more accurately reflect today's
93 regulatory atmosphere. (Faulk/Spink 2024)
94
95 **We oppose:**
96
97 The Gregory Pumped Storage Project, which has the
98 potential to negatively affect the quality and quantity of
99 drinking water, hinder state and local economies, damage
100 natural habitats, and remove productive agricultural land.
101 (Charles Mix 2024)
102
103 **ENVIRONMENT**
104
105 **We support:**
106
107 Strict enforcement of all S.D. litter laws.
108
109 All soft drinks and alcoholic beverages sold in South
110 Dakota should be in containers with a deposit paid thereon.
111
112 Governmental entities and agriculture being treated with
113 the same criteria for non-point source water protection.
114
115 The concept of trading pollution credits between farmers in
116 an effort to limit overall non-point source pollution in a

1 given watershed.
2
3 Before adverse actions can be taken against farmers the
4 Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources must
5 show proof that contamination is occurring.
6
7 The DANR informing the operator of the nature of the
8 complaint and the full report of their investigation.
9 (Brookings 2019)

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59
60 Returning the prairie dog to the S.D. pest list and ask state
61 and federal agencies to immediately stop all activities and
62 efforts to list the prairie dog as endangered.
63
64 The same season for resident and non-resident pheasant
65 hunters.
66
67 Reforming aerial hunting regulations to make them more
68 landowner and agriculture friendly.
69
70 Clarifying the authority of conservation officers.
71
72 Halting land acquisition by the Game, Fish & Parks and
73 encourage more walk-in hunting funding and designations.
74
75 The SD Game, Fish & Parks to act more landowner-
76 friendly by:
77 A) consulting with landowners regarding game
78 problems,
79 B) consulting with landowners regarding hunting
80 access,
81 C) providing transferable licenses, coupons for
82 landowners, etc.
83 D) adequately funding depredation programs.
84
85 Game, Fish & Parks establish hunting seasons that reflect
86 the number of wildlife and the depredation problems that
87 wildlife cause.
88
89 Increasing the number of non-resident waterfowl license
90 sales.
91
92 Compensation to farmers and ranchers for game
93 depredation.
94
95 Issuing transferable depredation tags to producers based on
96 damage.
97
98 Shortening the action on a depredation complaint time to 8
99 hours.
100
101 A lesser percentage increase on license fees for residents
102 than non-residents. Predator license fees should remain
103 unchanged.
104
105 Predator control.
106
107 Returning a percentage of GF&P's income to counties for
108 predator control.
109
110 The use of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and aircraft by
111 coyote hunters engaged in livestock protection.
112
113 Any person carrying a legal hunting license be allowed to
114 shoot wildlife for another member of the hunting party with
115 a valid hunting license.
116
117 The right of S.D. resident landowners/operators to transfer

We oppose:

Holding farmers legally or financially responsible for trace amounts of ag chemicals found in a water source, providing manufacturer's directions and instructions have been followed.
Holding present owners accountable for past violations of water protection or other environmental laws by former owners of that land.

FAMILY

We support:

The legal definition of marriage as a union of one male and one female.
Neither the United States nor any state should deprive any human being of life or equal protection of the law on account of illness, age, or incapacity.
Life begins at the moment of conception. Congress and the State Legislature should establish these principals with appropriate legislation.

GAME, FISH & PARKS

We support:

SD Game, Fish & Parks along with the SD Department of Environment & Natural Resources, be responsible for posting uniform signage for fences that farmers are required to register on navigable streams.
A surcharge on all hunting and fishing fees to be used for county and township roads.
Government agencies responsible for the management of wildlife be held to the same standards as the private sector with regard to brucellosis.
State funding to compensate landowners who suffer lost income due to prairie dog migration and infestation from public land to private land.
The continued monitoring and compliance of the SD Prairie Dog Management Plan.

1 big game licenses to other hunters, giving preference to
2 veterans.
3 Game, Fish & Parks and School and Public Lands
4 controlling noxious weeds and pests on their property.
5
6 Game, Fish & Parks shall properly and timely dispose of
7 big game from roadways and ditches.
8
9 Immediate steps to reduce the mountain lion population to
10 the extent that they will not continue to be crowded into
11 areas of human habitation.
12
13 GF&P funds which are scheduled for land acquisition be
14 used for animal damage control.
15
16 Flooded private land should be allowed in the South
17 Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Walk-In Areas program and
18 compensated similarly to land that is allowed public
19 hunting access through that program. (Clark/Day 2015)
20
21 The option for a landowner-on-own-land to purchase an
22 any-elk tag without the lottery requirement.
23 (Pennington/Jackson 2024)
24
25 Lowering the days of elk use. (Pennington/Jackson 2024)
26

We oppose:

29 Additional acquisition of land by GF&P except for small
30 narrow tracts that provide access to any existing GF&P
31 property. Before any property is acquired by GF&P, the
32 commission should hold public hearings in the vicinity of
33 the proposed acquisition. Leasing of land for wildlife
34 production and hunting, as well as refuges, is preferred
35 over government ownership.
36

37 Road hunting.
38

39 Extending the pheasant hunting season beyond December
40 1.
41

42 Comprehensive wildlife management plans that diminish
43 property rights and/or negatively impact local economies.
44 (Lyman/Jones 2025)

GOVERNMENT

We support:

50 Residents living in extra-territorial areas should be allowed
51 to vote in city elections so that they have representation.
52

53 Township and other local levels of government.
54

55 Consideration of local government consolidation must be
56 decided by a vote of the people of each government entity
57 involved.
58

59 Policies and procedures to allow local, community and

60 private firefighting units the authority to extinguish forest
61 and prairie fires in instances when they are the first
62 responder.
63
64 Reallocating a portion of the contractors excise tax from
65 agricultural development construction back to local
66 government related to infrastructure maintenance and
67 repair.
68
69 Allowing South Dakota residents to purchase fireworks all
70 year long and making fireworks legal to use whenever it is
71 safe.
72
73 The merging of the SD Department of Agriculture and the
74 SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources into
75 the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources with
76 the expectation of a continued focus on production
77 agriculture, responsible livestock development, and quality
78 customer service to South Dakota's agricultural producers.
79 (Pennington/Jackson, Moody 2020)

We oppose:

81 Language endorsing the right to hunt, fish, and trap in the
82 54-state constitution. (Moody 2024)

GUN OWNERS RIGHTS

We support:

83 Reciprocity between states involving firearm permits.
84

We oppose:

85 Legislation to require registration or licenses for firearms.
86

HEALTH CARE

We support:

99 Health care legislation that encourages accountability and
100 cost savings by the consumer.
101

102 People be able to choose their own health protection
103 including high-deductible insurance policies and medical
104 savings accounts (MSA's).
105

106 Expanding existing state programs for in-home care for the
107 elderly and disabled to allow these people to remain in their
108 homes and reduce costs.
109

110 More restraint and supervision by the Medical community
111 concerning opioid prescriptions. (Davison/Hanson 2017)
112

We oppose:

114 Legalizing marijuana for any purpose.
115

116 Health care benefits discrimination against individuals
117

1 participating in work or leisure activities involving ATV's,
2 snowmobiles, motorcycles, or horseback riding.

3
4 Federal government subsidy and involvement in health
5 care, and we recognize that any government financed
6 health program is in fact, socialized medicine.

7 8 **HIGHWAY REGULATIONS**

9 10 **We support:**

11 Construction, maintenance, cleaning, repair, and legal
12 liability of auto gates remain with the government entity
13 responsible for the road.

14
15 Eliminating S.D. DOT regulations which restricts mowing
16 of state highway rights-of-way before a certain date to
17 improve highway safety, weed control, and hay quality.

18
19 The opportunity for adjoining landowners to hay the
20 median on interstate highways.

21
22 The license plate number and one other descriptive item be
23 the only information required for prosecution of the
24 violation of passing a school bus with a flashing red light.

25
26 Implementation of the living snow fence program to work
27 in conjunction with the continuous CRP program.

28
29 The current process and restrictions for obtaining a driving
30 permit at age 14, which includes the passage of a driving
31 test and/or Drivers Ed and 3-6 months probationary
32 periods. (2018)

33
34 Revenue collection efforts on those users who do not
35 currently contribute to the South Dakota Highway Fund
36 due to electric vehicles and/or alternative fuels. (Charles
37 Mix/Douglas 2020)

38
39 The creation of a Small Business Restricted Commercial
40 Driver's License. (Pennington/Jackson 2022)

41
42 A usage-based tax for electric vehicles. (Pennington/Jackson
43 2024)

44 45 **We oppose:**

46 S.D. Department of Transportation inspections on non-
47 commercial pickups, trucks, and trailers under 26,000lb.
48 GVW even if their combined GVW weights are over
49 26,000 lbs.

50
51 Authority for S.D. DOT to enforce fines for exceeding load
52 limits by checking elevator weight tickets.

53
54 Fishing or any other recreational activities be allowed from
55 a bridge without a designated walkway or shoulder on any
56 county or state highway. (Hutchinson 2015)

57 58 **59 INSURANCE**

60 61 **We support:**

62 Having insured motorists not be legally responsible for
63 damage to an uninsured's motorized vehicle caused by an
64 insured motor vehicle. (Charles Mix 2021)

65
66 S.D. law of subrogation involving settlements between
67 insurance companies and oppose using the "make whole"
68 doctrine.

69
70 Proof of liability insurance be required when purchasing
71 vehicle licenses.

72
73 Increased fines for failure to carry proper liability
74 insurance.

75
76 Raising minimum automobile liability coverage to
77 100/300/50.

78
79 Insurance companies be required to notify the insured party
80 of any liability claim paid on their behalf.

81
82 A person who lends a vehicle or machine to another
83 individual without compensation should not be held liable
84 for damages caused by the vehicle or machine due to the
85 negligence of the borrower.

86
87 Changing the workers compensation law to simplify the
88 admissions process and allow up to 72 hours for
89 authorization in cases of emergency.

90
91 Requiring law enforcement officers responding to an
92 accident, to write an "accident" report for accidents
93 occurring on private property. The report shall be written
94 on a non-reportable accident form (not reportable to the
95 state) and be retained by the responding department.
96 (Haakon 2015)

97 98 **99 JUDICIAL/LAW ENFORCEMENT**

100 101 **We support:**

102 Limitations on lawsuits, both on what may constitute a
103 lawsuit and on monetary awards that can be sought.

104
105 Plaintiffs and their attorneys be liable for the defendant's
106 legal fees if a jury finds a lawsuit without grounds or if the
107 prosecuting lawyer handles the case on a contingency fee
108 basis.

109
110 Medical malpractice be limited to \$250,000 for non-
111 economic awards. Lawyer contingency fees should also be
112 limited.

1 In order for a civil court suit to be settled out of court, it
2 must be done before a jury is called. Once the jury is called
3 and an expense to the county is created, the decision should
4 be in the hands of the court. Should an out of court
5 settlement be made after a jury is called and before that
6 jury has reached a verdict, the plaintiff should pay for the
7 cost of the court.

8
9 Strict enforcement of criminal laws, especially DUI and
10 controlled substance laws.

11
12 Keeping the death penalty for certain violent crimes.
13 Individuals who distribute misinformation concerning
14 detrimental effects of agricultural products should be held
15 responsible for their actions.

16 The Right to Privacy Law be rescinded for prison inmates.

17
18 Victims and their families be notified before parole or
19 release of the criminal from a correctional facility.

20
21 Protection of innocent victims by authorities requiring
22 adequate bond payments and suspects being held the proper
23 length of time before being released on bail.

24
25 Enforcement of age requirements for admission to theaters
26 and renting of videos based on the movie rating system.

27
28 Prohibition on the sale and distribution of hard-core
29 pornography.

30
31 Inmates doing constructive work in the community.

32
33 Any fines and/or reprimands handed down from the State
34 Bar of the South Dakota Disciplinary Board should be made
35 public. (Potter 2020)

36
37 All education and work programs in the prison and will
38 support expanding programs to more facilities if the
39 opportunity arises. (Douglas 2022)

40
41 The concept of the state incentivizing county
42 consolidation/regionalization of both boundaries and
43 services as well as the state absorbing a share of the
44 counties' expenses for unfunded and underfunded legal
45 services mandates without raising property taxes.
46
47 (Walworth/Edmunds/Beadle 2023)

48
49 **We oppose:**

50
51 Any attempt by the state to put unnecessary restraints on
52 churches and clergy inside the prison systems.

58 **LABOR**

59
60 **We support:**

61
62 SDFB working with the Legislature, the administration and
63 state agencies to enact programs that will assist farmers in
64 having an adequate legal work force.

65
66 Employers who knowingly hire illegal workers be fined.

67
68 Employers who follow the law and then later find out a
69 worker is "illegal" should be held harmless.

70
71 Retaining the Right to Work section of the State
72 Constitution.

73
74 Treating unaccompanied minors who enter the United
75 States illegally under the same laws as adults who enter the
76 country illegally.

77
78 **We oppose:**

79
80 Mandatory workers compensation for farm employees.

81
82 Teacher continuing contract clauses.

83 **LAND OWNERSHIP**

84
85 **We support:**

86
87 Action to return to the State of South Dakota all federal
88 land within the state's boundaries.

89
90 Any proposed sale or transfer of land to an entity of state
91 or federal government must be given public notice for three
92 consecutive weeks with a three-month waiting period
93 before condemnation, sale, or transfer occurs. The person
94 renting the land must be notified in writing at least two
95 months before a deal is closed.

96
97 If the state government acquires property from the private
98 sector, it should be required to release like amount into the
99 private sector, either by sale or termination of easements.

100
101 Leaving the adverse possession South Dakota law in its
102 present form. (Beadle, Davison/Hanson, Charles Mix,
103 Douglas 2017)

104
105 That land used for solar farms shall not be classified as
106 agricultural land. (Clay/Union 2024)

107
108 The use of conservation easements that protect agricultural
109 land from urban sprawl, provided the easements preserve the
110 agricultural land as working lands and are held in trust by a
111 non-profit farm and ranch-led organization.

112
113 (Campbell/Walworth 2024)

114

115

1 **We oppose:**

2 Trades involving state lands that would place such state
3 lands into Federal Government ownership or control.
4
5 The purchase of private land by state or federal agencies
6 with the intent of bartering with ranchers who lease
7 government owned grazing lands.
8
9 The purchase and/or ownership of agriculture farm ground
10 that is owned by majority stockholders from foreign
11 countries or entities. (Pennington/Jackson 2022)

12 **LAND USE**

13 **We support:**

14 Counties forming Public Land Use Resource Committees
15 to maximize local input into policy making and lawmaking
16 involving state and federal land in their county.
17
18 Continued research at SDSU in the monitoring of overland
19 and subsurface flows for water quality and sediment
20 reduction.
21
22 Efforts to reduce excess water levels so farms can once
23 again operate, maintaining essential community services
24 and reducing annual cost of road repairs.
25
26 A system under which environmental regulatory authority
27 would lie with the state, while control of ag zoning would
28 stay with the counties.
29
30 The right to buy back conservation easements at change of
31 ownership or a renegotiation of the easement every 30
32 years.
33
34 Initiatives that allow replacing or exchanging agriculture
35 land where restrictions of use have been placed by
36 easements, rules and policies of USDA or other Federal
37 government agencies. (Moody/Brown/Davison-Hanson
38 2016)
39
40 That an exemption be allowed to producers of all buffer
41 strips to expand the time of cutting hay with no time
42 restrictions. (Turner 2018)

43 **We oppose:**

44 The state imposing any wetland regulations more stringent
45 than federal wetland regulations.
46
47 The creation of mandatory buffer zones along waterways,
48 wetlands, and wildlife production areas in the state.
49
50 Public access on flooded private land without landowner or
51 operator permission. This does not apply to meandered
52 lakes that have been surveyed and currently have public
53 access.

54 **60**

55 **LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION &
56 THEFT PROTECTION**

57 **We support:**

58 The brand inspection program in West River South Dakota
59 and support administration by the S.D. brand board.
60
61 All brand inspection fees be used solely for and by the S.D.
62 brand board for the brand inspection program.
63
64 Livestock owners' ability to obtain a shipper's permit for
65 taking livestock out of the ownership inspection area as
66 they are transporting to a ranch or private individual
67 outside the brand inspection area. The livestock will be
68 inspected at the closest approved in-state open market at
69 the time of the move.
70
71 Strengthening the SD Animal Industry Board's ability to
72 deal with animal disease outbreaks and food safety issues.
73
74 Efforts to legalize freeze brands for ownership identification.
75 (Pennington/Jackson 2023).
76
77 An increase in the brand inspection fee cap.
78 (Pennington/Jackson 2023)
79
80 A repeal of the horse brand inspection. (Pennington/Jackson
81 2023)
82
83 Maintaining the operational status of the Brand Board as an
84 independent agency until the brand inspection fee is increased.
85 (SDFB Board of Directors 2025)

86 **We oppose:**

87 Mandatory EID and RFID tags at the state and national
88 level. (Douglas 2021)

89 The election of the State Brand Board. (Pennington/Jackson
90 2023)

91 **MINERAL RIGHTS**

92 **We support:**

93 When mineral rights are separated from the surface rights,
94 these mineral rights should be taxed. The tax should be
95 subtracted from the landowner's property tax. If the
96 mineral taxes are not paid for three years, the mineral
97 rights would be offered to the owner for payment of back
98 taxes, thereby clearing title to the mineral rights.

99
100 Legislation to protect surface owners in cases involving
101 mineral rights disputes.

102 Statutory protection of the surface owners' rights in the

1 event that there is mineral activity that affects surface
2 owners' rights. South Dakota must require that the mineral
3 producer negotiate a surface use agreement with the
4 surface owner prior to any mineral activities commencing
5 on the property.

7 NATURAL RESOURCES

9 We support:

11 Changes in wetland mapping conventions and minimal
12 effects that make S.D. more consistent with the original
13 intent of Swampbuster and neighboring states.

15 Landowner requested reviews of their certified wetland
16 determinations anytime NRCS guidelines change.

18 Multiple use of public lands by the public, including but
19 not limited to proper resource management, agriculture
20 production, and recreation.

22 Delisting the Topeka Shiner from the ESA list. Active
23 timbering of our national forests.

25 NRCS appeals should be performed by a person of
26 seniority other than the original employee who made the
27 determination.

29 NRCS wetland appeals should include the technical results
30 as well as the procedural process.

32 Legislation to prohibit the introduction of any endangered
33 species into South Dakota.

35 We oppose:

37 The "no net loss" policy for wetlands.

39 Any expansion of present wilderness areas or the
40 establishment of any new wilderness areas in the State of
41 South Dakota **and** specifically opposes creation of
42 wilderness on any federal land.

44 PROPERTY RIGHTS

46 We support:

48 The passage of private property rights legislation which
49 directs the Attorney General to do an assessment of the
50 impacts of rules, regulations, and/or laws and which
51 provides compensation for "takings."

53 Registering drainage projects at the county register of
54 deeds for adequate tracking purposes and should be done
55 only at the discretion of the landowner.

59 Clear and consistent definitions of a legal fence to prevent
60 neighbor disputes, equal cost-sharing between adjoining
61 landowners, flexibility for neighbors to mutually agree on
62 alternate fencing arrangements, exemptions from fencing
63 requirements when no livestock are present on either
64 property, and local control and fairness in determining
65 fenceline responsibilities.

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

70 The Public Utilities Commission's statutory standards and
72 processes set for the development of carbon infrastructure,
73 including pipelines. (Spink/Faulk 2023).

74 The ability by a company who can utilize eminent domain
76 prior to being granted a permit by the Public Utilities
77 Commission to survey; however, the surveying process
78 should include increasing applicant/landowner
79 communication, clarifying landowner compensation,
80 specifying when and where a survey may be conducted, and
81 the amount of time the survey will require. (SDFB Board of
82 Directors 2023)

83 Value-added opportunities that increase demand for South
84 Dakota agricultural commodities by establishing and/or
85 increasing market access provided it is science-based, meets
86 safety standards, protects landowner rights, and meets all
87 regulatory requirements. (SDFB Board of
88 Directors 2023)

90 First right of purchase for isolated government property,
91 meaning property surrounded by the same owner.
(Deuel/Grant 2025)

95 We oppose:

96 The condemnation/ eminent domain of land for any purpose
97 other than highways and such public utilities that benefit
99 the majority of the public. Eminent domain should not be
100 abused for public recreational facilities or private economic
101 development.

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

106 The use of eminent domain to acquire property until at
108 least 67 percent of the landowners agree to the terms of the
109 project's buy out; at that time eminent domain can be used
110 by the rules it is governed. (Spink/Faulk 2023)

112 Statewide setbacks for carbon dioxide infrastructure. (SDFB
113 Board of Directors 2023).

114

115

116

1 RAILROADS

2 We support:

5 Railroad upgrade projects with a commitment of service to
6 agriculture.

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

12 Reverting abandoned railroad beds and rights-of-way back
13 to adjacent landowners.

15 When abandoned railroad beds go to public use, the
16 adjacent landowners should be exempt from all liability
17 incurred by the public use of former railroad property.

19 Railroad companies in the State of South Dakota shall
20 abide by South Dakota fencing laws. (Haakon 2017)

22 We oppose:

24 The State of South Dakota entering into any perpetual
25 easements concerning abandoned railroad rights-of-way.

27 RELIGIOUS LIFE

29 We support:

31 The necessary steps to reestablish the right to offer voluntary
32 prayers in public schools and should be supported at both
33 state and national levels.

35 We oppose:

37 Actions preventing free distribution of copies of the Bible.

39 STATE GOVERNMENT

41 We support:

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

46 The South Dakota vehicle title damage disclosure be
47 amended to disclose if the damage was cosmetic only, such
48 as hail or minor collision that does not affect the
49 performance or the safety of the vehicle.

51 The philosophy of privatization in county and state
52 government.

54 State government funding for any state-mandated changes
55 of local government.

57 State agencies reevaluating all travel and vehicle
58 requirements and enforce existing policies regarding

59 personal use of state-owned vehicles.

60
61 Surplus monies above the reserve designated by the
62 legislature should be automatically returned to county
63 governments using the current distribution formula for
64 property tax relief.

65
66 A requirement that all boards at the state and federal level
67 which regulate agricultural policy contain at least 51
68 percent membership that is involved in agriculture
69 production or the agricultural industry.

70
71 Existing laws governing special taxation districts be
72 changed to allow a one-fourth or larger part of a district to
73 petition out, if a number equal to 10% of the people who
74 voted in the last governor's race sign the petition. The
75 county commissioners would set up the election instead of
76 the special taxation district which would stop any
77 discrimination in a small area. A simple majority of voters
78 from that portion wishing to petition out would free that
79 portion of the district.

80
81 State government providing funding and other support for
82 the benefit of the S.D. State Fair.

83
84 Repeal of video lottery.

85
86 An increase of at least an additional 5% of the video lottery
87 revenues for the state and an additional 10% of the gross
88 revenue from video casinos be returned to the state. The
89 state portion should not be used for promotion of
90 gambling.

91
92 Using a portion of the tax on alcoholic beverages and
93 revenues from gambling to finance the rehabilitation of
94 alcoholics and addicted gamblers and address other
95 problems directly attributed to alcohol and gambling.

96
97 Allowing volunteer ambulance services to operate in
98 communities of fewer than 3,500.

99
100 Bonding requirements for auctioneers and clerks be
101 adequate to protect the seller.

102
103 A single tax rate for auction sales to eliminate confusion in
104 the clerking process.

105
106 A small structure and large culvert fund that would be
107 distributed to each county for their townships, on a yearly
108 basis. This would be for all counties, even if they only
109 have unorganized townships. (Davison/Hanson 2020)

111 We oppose:

112
113 State ownership or operation of ag processing plants for
114 any reasons other than research or market development.

115

116

1 **TAXATION-FUEL**

2 **We support:**

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

8
9 Continuing the per-gallon road use fuel tax rather than
10 other forms of taxation to finance state highway
11 maintenance and construction.

12 **We oppose:**

13 Adding a tax on dyed diesel fuel.

17 **TAXATION-GENERAL**

19 **We support:**

20 A concept of tax limitation.

22 All tobacco products be taxed at the same rate.

24 All telecommunications companies doing business in
25 South Dakota be taxed.

28 **We oppose:**

29 A South Dakota income tax.

32 Placing a tax on tile and/or surface drainage for any use
33 except to operate a drainage district.

35 A personal property tax.

37 **TAXATION-REAL PROPERTY**

39 **We support:**

41 The assessed valuation of ag land that reflects the land's
42 ability to produce under natural conditions and should be
43 adjusted on an annual basis.

45 Requiring actual use for property tax valuation.

47 A majority approval of the county commission to remove
48 land from the tax rolls. Notification must also be given to
49 the township chairman in any affected township. Land to
50 be purchased, sold or transferred should be publicly
51 advertised and a bid process enacted.

53 The interpretation of real property as land and permanent
54 structures only.

56 Legislation that will allow counties to equalize tax
57 assessments and use the adjustment factors in statute to
58 measure productivity in addition to the soil survey to

59 calculate assessments. The practice of "neighborhooding"
60 in specific geographic areas within a county should be
61 substantially weighted and at least equal in influence with
62 the soil survey.

63
64 Increasing the \$10,000 homestead exemption to \$50,000
65 for ag structures.

66
67 Taxation of Public lands as if that land were owned
68 privately. The U.S. Government should pay the tax with no
69 fee increase to the public land user.

70
71 Church property that generates income should not receive
72 preferential tax treatment.

73
74 Municipalities that own income producing real property
75 should be required to make property tax payments.

76
77 Property owners who have been wrongfully assessed taxes
78 should receive compensation from their county, including
79 all expenses incurred through the appeal process.

80
81 Township boards be given more time to have the tax
82 assessments records in order to make their
83 recommendations on valuations to the county assessor.

84
85 A return to the law that assessors be reappointed every five
86 years.

87
88 A permissive county sales tax dedicated to property tax
89 relief, if it follows state sales tax exemptions, exempts
90 agricultural machinery, and remains subject to referral.
91 (Campbell/Walworth 2025)

93 **We oppose:**

94 Any real estate tax reduction on land under easement.

96
97 Any attempt to raise the tax rate per \$1000 of value on ag
98 land to equal that on non-ag land for school purposes.

100 **TAXATION-SALES**

102 **We support:**

103
104 Purchased inputs for agricultural production,
105 manufacturing and industrial production shall be exempt
106 from state and local sales tax. Sales tax should only be
107 collected on the final product at the time of
108 sale/consumption.

109
110 Legislation that would tax advertising.

111
112 The 2027 sunset on the state sales tax cuts. (Charles Mix
113 2023)

114

115

116

1 **We oppose:**

2 Sales tax on feed, seed, fertilizer, and ag chemicals. Sales
 3 tax should be removed from veterinary supplies. City sales
 4 tax should not be charged on machinery, repairs, building
 5 materials and veterinary supplies used by farmers.

6 Cities or school districts having extra sales tax for the
 7 support of schools.

8 Cities being allowed to put sales tax receipts in their
 9 general fund for property tax relief.

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

11 A county sales tax except for the purpose of financing a
 12 county jail or for the incarceration costs of county inmates
 13 in a regional jail. (Walworth 2022)

14 **TAXATION-WATER**

15 **We oppose:**

16 Any tax on water usage, including irrigation. If a water
 17 usage tax is necessary, it should be applied to all water
 18 users, including domestic, city, industrial and agriculture.

19 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

20 **We support:**

21 Communication backup power during power outages. (2019)

22 The efforts of SD Rural Electrics to defend their right to
 23 serve electric service territory granted them under state
 24 law. (Pennington/Jackson, Charles Mix, Douglas, Turner
 25 2019)

26 **TRESPASS LAWS**

27 **We support:**

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

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

34 **WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

35 **We support:**

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

38 The use of retention and draw down dams in drainage areas

39 and favor a pilot program to allow retention and dam areas
 40 to be put in continuous CRP.

41 **We oppose:**

42 Revising the S.D. Vested Drainage Rights law to include
 43 new drainage and previously undiscovered drainage
 44 systems.

45 **We support:**

46 Prior to filing legal action, a qualified mediator or water
 47 expert be brought in when disagreements about drainage
 48 affecting individual parties cannot be resolved. Parties
 49 should bear the cost of mediation.

50 **We support:**

51 The formation of smaller drainage districts primarily
 52 composed of landowners, governed by landowners, as a
 53 state statute already allows and to include SDSU
 54 participation, county governments, US geological maps and
 55 professional ag specialists as needed.

56 **We support:**

57 A credible data law to govern total maximum daily load
 58 regulations.

59 **We support:**

60 State and federal legislation that will positively affect
 61 domestic water development in our state.

62 **We support:**

63 Water projects be paid for by people who benefit from
 64 those projects. Funding of water projects should be
 65 determined in accordance with the direct benefit.

66 **We support:**

67 Legislation that the transfer of water rights for a change of
 68 use be reviewed as a new application and given a new
 69 priority date.

70 **We support:**

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

73 **We support:**

74 Directing the state of South Dakota to create an
 75 engineering study of the eastern South Dakota water issue,
 76 to help determine how much economic activity is lost due
 77 to the high water, and to determine how to best manage the
 78 water levels to put some of this land back into agricultural
 79 production.

80 **We support:**

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

84 **We oppose:**

85 Any new taxes for water development.

86 **We support:**

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

89 **WEED & PEST CONTROL**

90 **We support:**

91 Placing the mountain pine beetle on the South Dakota pest
 92 list.

1
2 The use of all modern technology, including actively
3 timbering our forests, to help manage our forests for future
4 generations.
5
6 Action by the state to adopt state emergency powers on
7 federal lands in instances where the federal government fails
8 to act in the best interest of South Dakotans relating to fire
9 prevention or pest and disease prevention.
10
11 Strict enforcement of weed control laws with a goal of
12 eradicating primary noxious weeds, e.g., musk thistle,
13 Canada thistle, and leafy spurge.
14
15 Streamlining the process for noxious weed control so the
16 time period from complaint to action can be shortened.
17
18 Weed control requirements on local, state, and federal
19 government lands be equal to those required of private
20 landowners.
21

22 **WELFARE**

23 **We support:**

24 A mandatory random drug-testing program to be eligible to
25 receive welfare benefits.
26

27 **We oppose:**

28 Persons on strike being eligible to receive food stamps or
29 state unemployment benefits.
30

31 Welfare for a person who is capable of but not willing to
32 assume a job.
33

34 The use of food stamps to purchase nonessential food items
35 or to obtain cash over one dollar.
36

37 **WE BELIEVE (2015)**

38 We believe it to be man's inalienable right to worship God,
39 to offer prayers and to read the Bible as God's Word in
40 private and public places, including classrooms.
41

42 The nutritional value of meat and its promotion as an
43 essential part of everyone's daily diet.
44

45 We recognize the need to expand livestock production in
46 the state and encourage the construction of processing
47 facilities.
48

49 County ordinances are determined by the people and set to
50 be fair and equitable standards for all.
51

52 We support a concentrated effort by the public and private
53 sector to isolate and defeat chronic wasting disease in both
54 wildlife and livestock.
55

56 Juveniles should be responsible for their actions when laws
57 are broken and/or property is destroyed.
58
59 We believe land use is the right and responsibility of the
60 individual landowner. Whenever land use decisions are
61 made, the rights of individual property owners should be
62 given the highest consideration.
63
64 Railroads must put forth their best efforts to address local
65 concerns such as safety, noise, and adjoining landowner
66 issues.
67
68 Privatization of certain government functions will reduce
69 spending, lower the number of employees, be more
70 effective and save tax dollars.
71
72 We should work closely with and lend our support to the
73 South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems to
74 effectively promote and secure water for all South Dakota
75 communities needing a dependable source of water.
76
77 Farm Bureau be opposed to modifying, changing, or
78 otherwise defacing the faces on Mount Rushmore. (Moody
79 2017)
80
81 SDFB work with SD Department of Agriculture, the SD
82 Attorney's General Office, and such enforcement agencies
83 to remove imitator dairy products from the "dairy case" in
84 stores selling such food products. (Minnehaha 2017)
85
86 In a marketing campaign that promotes and markets
87 agricultural products into international markets. (Minnehaha
88 2017)
89
90 ****Policy Book Reviewed in 2017**
91