

South Dakota Farm Bureau

2026 State Policy

AGRICULTURE

We support:

Investment in weather data collection. (Hughes/St Stanley 2025)

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

AGRICULTURE CREDIT

We support:

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

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION & RESEARCH

We support:

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

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

The Cooperative Extension program, 4-H and FFA.

Continued funding for the SD Ag Experiment Station.

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

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

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

We oppose:

AGRICULTURE PROMOTION

We support:

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

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

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

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

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

AG REGULATIONS - LIVESTOCK

We support:

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

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

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

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

Criteria should include:

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

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

The concept of ag districts within county zoning ordinances.

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
67 Allowing state inspected meat to be sold across state lines.
68 (Pennington/Jackson 2020)
69
70 Livestock vaccine regulation based on sound science and
71 in consultation with a veterinarian’s recommendation.
72 (Hughes/Sully/Stanley 2023)
73
74 State legislation requires lab-produced meat products that
75 are sold commercially to be labeled clearly and accurately
76 with an entire list of ingredients used in their manufacturing
77 process. (SDFB Board of Directors 2024)
78
79 **AG REGULATION**
80
81 **We support:**
82
83 The early release of CRP and WRP lands for emergency
84 haying and grazing. (Moody 2021)
85
86 Continuing the effective permitting, regulating, and
87 monitoring of the breeding and raising of elk, deer and
88 other cervids under the S.D. Animal Industry Board and the
89 State Veterinarian.
90
91 Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources having
92 jurisdiction over introduced wild animals or plants for
93 release in South Dakota.
94
95 S.D. apiary regulations should be amended to provide that
96 landowners may allow or employ any apiary to site bees on
97 their property.
98
99 State and local farm organizations having input in the
100 handling and use guidelines of hazardous ag chemicals.
101
102 Mandatory state inspection for protein and moisture testers
103 used by licensed grain handlers.
104
105 All commercial scales used in the weighing of livestock,
106 grain and feed be equipped and operated only with an
107 electronic or mechanical weight ticket stamp.
108
109 The choice to plant GMO seed.
110
111 Any setbacks for organic farming be the sole responsibility
112 of the organic farmer. (Douglas 2020)
113
114 State legislation that adequately indemnifies farmers and
115 ranchers who passively receive per and polyfluoroalkyl
116 substances (PFAS) onto their property. (Minnehaha 2023)
117
118 Statewide zoning standards for livestock production
119 facilities. (Faulk/Spink 2024)

We oppose:

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

Any additional taxes to pay for cleanup of chemical spills.

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

Additional regulations on farm fuel storage tanks

State operation of OSHA plans under federal guidelines that result in routine enforcement inspections for small farm employers.

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

Legislation in South Dakota that would create a farmer-funded grain indemnity program (Hughes/Sully/Stanley 2023)

ANIMAL CARE

We support:

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

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

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

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

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

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

We oppose:

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

EDUCATION

We support:

Adequate funding for sparsity factor legislation.

Control of our schools remains with the local elected board of education.

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

The concept of open enrollment.

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

Teaching civics and citizenship in schools.

The teaching of local tax structure and local budgets.

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

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

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

Membership of the Board of Regents should include at least two members from agriculture-related businesses. At least one of these should be involved in production agriculture.

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

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

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

ELECTIONS

We support:

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

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 29 Resources. (Walworth/Edmunds 2023)
46

47 **ENERGY**

48 **We support:**

49
50
51 Construction of pipeline projects in South Dakota, that are
52 36 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 **We support:**

105
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

given watershed.

Before adverse actions can be taken against farmers the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources must show proof that contamination is occurring.

The DANR informing the operator of the nature of the complaint and the full report of their investigation. (Brookings 2019)

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.

Returning the prairie dog to the S.D. pest list and ask state and federal agencies to immediately stop all activities and efforts to list the prairie dog as endangered.

The same season for resident and non-resident pheasant hunters.

Reforming aerial hunting regulations to make them more landowner and agriculture friendly.

Clarifying the authority of conservation officers.

Halting land acquisition by the Game, Fish & Parks and encourage more walk-in hunting funding and designations.

The SD Game, Fish & Parks to act more landowner-friendly by:

- A) consulting with landowners regarding game problems,
- B) consulting with landowners regarding hunting access,
- C) providing transferable licenses, coupons for landowners, etc.
- D) adequately funding depredation programs.

Game, Fish & Parks establish hunting seasons that reflect the number of wildlife and the depredation problems that wildlife cause.

Increasing the number of non-resident waterfowl license sales.

Compensation to farmers and ranchers for game depredation.

Issuing transferable depredation tags to producers based on damage.

Shortening the action on a depredation complaint time to 8 hours.

A lesser percentage increase on license fees for residents than non-residents. Predator license fees should remain unchanged.

Predator control.

Returning a percentage of GF&P's income to counties for predator control.

The use of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and aircraft by coyote hunters engaged in livestock protection.

Any person carrying a legal hunting license be allowed to shoot wildlife for another member of the hunting party with a valid hunting license.

The right of S.D. resident landowners/operators to transfer

big game licenses to other hunters, giving preference to veterans.

Game, Fish & Parks and School and Public Lands controlling noxious weeds and pests on their property.

Game, Fish & Parks shall properly and timely dispose of big game from roadways and ditches.

Immediate steps to reduce the mountain lion population to the extent that they will not continue to be crowded into areas of human habitation.

GF&P funds which are scheduled for land acquisition be used for animal damage control.

Flooded private land should be allowed in the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Walk-In Areas program and compensated similarly to land that is allowed public hunting access through that program. (Clark/Day 2015)

The option for a landowner-on-own-land to purchase an any-elk tag without the lottery requirement. (Pennington/Jackson 2024)

Lowering the days of elk use. (Pennington/Jackson 2024)

We oppose:

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

Road hunting.

Extending the pheasant hunting season beyond December 1.

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

GOVERNMENT

We support:

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

Township and other local levels of government.

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

Policies and procedures to allow local, community and

private firefighting units the authority to extinguish forest and prairie fires in instances when they are the first responder.

Reallocating a portion of the contractors excise tax from agricultural development construction back to local government related to infrastructure maintenance and repair.

Allowing South Dakota residents to purchase fireworks all year long and making fireworks legal to use whenever it is safe.

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

We oppose:

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

GUN OWNERS RIGHTS

We support:

Reciprocity between states involving firearm permits.

We oppose:

Legislation to require registration or licenses for firearms.

HEALTH CARE

We support:

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

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

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

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

We oppose:

Legalizing marijuana for any purpose.

Health care benefits discrimination against individuals

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

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

HIGHWAY REGULATIONS

We support:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We oppose:

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

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

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

INSURANCE

We support:

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

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

Proof of liability insurance be required when purchasing vehicle licenses.

Increased fines for failure to carry proper liability insurance.

Raising minimum automobile liability coverage to 100/300/50.

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

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

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

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

JUDICIAL/LAW ENFORCEMENT

We support:

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

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

Medical malpractice be limited to \$250,000 for non-economic awards. Lawyer contingency fees should also be 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
17 The Right to Privacy Law be rescinded for prison inmates.

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

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

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

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

31
32 Inmates doing constructive work in the community.

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

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

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

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57

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 84 **LAND OWNERSHIP**

85 86 **We support:**

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

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

97
98 If the state government acquires property from the private
99 sector, it should be required to release like amount into the
100 private sector, either by sale or termination of easements.
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 (Campbell/Walworth 2024)

113
114
115

We oppose:

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

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

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

LAND USE

We support:

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

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

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

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

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

Initiatives that allow replacing or exchanging agriculture land where restrictions of use have been placed by easements, rules and policies of USDA or other Federal government agencies. (Moody/Brown/Davison-Hanson 2016)

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

We oppose:

The state imposing any wetland regulations more stringent than federal wetland regulations.

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

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

LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION & THEFT PROTECTION

We support:

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

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

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

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

Efforts to legalize freeze brands for ownership identification. (Pennington/Jackson 2023).

An increase in the brand inspection fee cap. (Pennington/Jackson 2023)

A repeal of the horse brand inspection. (Pennington/Jackson 2023)

Maintaining the operational status of the Brand Board as an independent agency until the brand inspection fee is increased. (SDFB Board of Directors 2025)

We oppose:

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

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

MINERAL RIGHTS

We support:

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

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

Statutory protection of the surface owners' rights in the

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

NATURAL RESOURCES

We support:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We oppose:

The "no net loss" policy for wetlands.

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

PROPERTY RIGHTS

We support:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We oppose:

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

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

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

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

RAILROADS

We support:

Railroad upgrade projects with a commitment of service to agriculture.

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

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

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

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

We oppose:

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

RELIGIOUS LIFE

We support:

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

We oppose:

Actions preventing free distribution of copies of the Bible.

STATE GOVERNMENT

We support:

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

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

The philosophy of privatization in county and state government.

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

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

personal use of state-owned vehicles.

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

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

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

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

Repeal of video lottery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

We oppose:

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

TAXATION-FUEL

We support:

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

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

We oppose:

Adding a tax on dyed diesel fuel.

TAXATION-GENERAL

We support:

A concept of tax limitation.

All tobacco products be taxed at the same rate.

All telecommunications companies doing business in South Dakota be taxed.

We oppose:

A South Dakota income tax.

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

A personal property tax.

TAXATION-REAL PROPERTY

We support:

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

Requiring actual use for property tax valuation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We oppose:

Any real estate tax reduction on land under easement.

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

TAXATION-SALES

We support:

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

Legislation that would tax advertising.

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

We oppose:

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

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

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

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

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

TAXATION-WATER

We oppose:

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

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

We support:

Communication backup power during power outages. (2019)

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

TRESPASS LAWS

We support:

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

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

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

We support:

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

The use of retention and draw down dams in drainage areas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We oppose:

Any new taxes for water development.

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

WEED & PEST CONTROL

We support:

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

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

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

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

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

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

WELFARE

We support:

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

We oppose:

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

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

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

WE BELIEVE (2015)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

****Policy Book Reviewed in 2017**