

South Dakota Farm Bureau

2025 State Policy

1 **AGRICULTURE**

2

3 **We support:**

4

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

8

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

12

13 **AGRICULTURE CREDIT**

14

15 **We support:**

16

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

20

21 **AGRICULTURE EDUCATION & 22 RESEARCH**

23

24 **We support:**

25

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

28

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

32

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

34

35 Continued funding for the SD Ag Experiment Station.

36

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

41

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

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

51

52 **We oppose:**

53

54

55 **AGRICULTURE PROMOTION**

56

57 **We support:**

58

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

62

63 The promotion and growth of the CIS Program. (Beadle
64 2021)

65

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

67

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

71

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

79

80 **AG REGULATIONS - LIVESTOCK**

81

82 **We support:**

83

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

86

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

89

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

99

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

103 Criteria should include:

104

105 (1) Science based air and water quality standards

106

107 (2) Sound conservation practices

108

109 (3) Good stewardship.

110

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

1 The concept of ag districts within county zoning
2 ordinances.
3
4 Local zoning laws that stipulate once livestock feeding
5 operations are established and operating within the law, a
6 property right has been established and that right is
7 transferable without further government action.
8
9 The actions, under ordinances of zoning boards—to be
10 administrative and should not be subject to referendum.
11
12 Changing the law to require a simple majority of the
13 zoning board to obtain a conditional use permit.
14
15 Expansion of procedures and practices that can be
16 performed by veterinary livestock assistants.
17
18 Procedures known and designated as castrating, spaying,
19 dehorning, and pregnancy testing of cattle, sheep or horses,
20 and swine, should not be considered the practice of
21 Veterinary medicine within the meaning of state law.
22
23 A producer’s right to administer vaccinations, wormers,
24 antibiotics, and other medications to the animals on his
25 farm, ranch, or kennel and should be protected.
26
27 If a farm or ranch on agricultural zoned land adds a USDA
28 or state-licensed and inspected kennel breeding operation,
29 that operation will be viewed as part of the agri-business of
30 the existing farm or ranch.
31
32 Continuance of the state inspection of meat locker facilities
33 and products.
34
35 Initiating a review and potential remedy of the current
36 county CAFO siting process, allowing individual counties
37 to opt out in accordance with proposed state law. (Turner
38 2015)
39
40 State legislation that would set minimum standards that
41 would require facilities up to 999 animal units (AU) be
42 defined as a permitted use, and that any facility that falls
43 below the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
44 (CAFO) threshold be defined by the Department of
45 Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) as a permitted
46 use and not as a conditional use. (Moody 2017)
47
48 A Farmstead/Homestead Exemption for small and medium
49 CAFOs from local zoning except municipal lot setbacks.
50 (Turner, Pennington/Jackson 2017)
51
52 Producer and/or producer led organizational efforts to
53 bring cattle producers, cattle feeders, and beef packers
54 together to develop a voluntary price discovery
55 methodology that is fair to all entities involved in
56 producing, feeding, marketing, harvesting, and retailing
57 beef products; and that if such voluntary efforts fail to
58 reach a compromise in a reasonable and timely manner,
59 SDFB will support efforts to modify or amend current
60 governmental rules and regulations to address the price
61 discovery problems now plaguing the beef industry.
62 (Moody 2020)
63

64 Cropland being under more than one DANR Nutrient
65 Management Plan. (Turner 2020)
66
67 Legislation that would encourage the development,
68 operation and sustainability of new and existing meat
69 processing plants. (Meade, Pennington/Jackson 2020)
70
71 Allowing state inspected meat to be sold across state lines.
72 (Pennington/Jackson 2020)
73
74 Livestock vaccine regulation based on sound science and
75 in consultation with a veterinarian’s recommendation.
76 (Hughes/Sully/Stanley 2023)
77
78 State legislation that requires lab-produced meat products
79 that are sold commercially to be labeled clearly and
80 accurately with an entire list of ingredients used in their
81 manufacturing process. (SDFB Board of Directors 2024)
82

83 84 **AG REGULATION**

85 86 **We support:**

87
88 The early release of CRP and WRP lands for emergency
89 haying and grazing. (Moody 2021)
90
91 Continuing the effective permitting, regulating and
92 monitoring of the breeding and raising of elk, deer and
93 other cervids under the S.D. Animal Industry Board and
94 the State Veterinarian.
95
96 Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources having
97 jurisdiction over introduced wild animals or plants for
98 release in South Dakota.
99
100 S.D. apiary regulations should be amended to provide that
101 landowners may allow or employ any apiary to site bees on
102 their property.
103
104 State and local farm organizations having input in the
105 handling and use guidelines of hazardous ag chemicals.
106
107 Mandatory state inspection for protein and moisture testers
108 used by licensed grain handlers.
109
110 All commercial scales used in the weighing of livestock,
111 grain and feed be equipped and operated only with an
112 electronic or mechanical weight ticket stamp.
113
114 The choice to plant GMO seed.
115
116 Any setbacks for organic farming be the sole responsibility
117 of the organic farmer. (Douglas 2020)
118
119 State legislation that adequately indemnifies farmers and
120 ranchers who passively receive per and polyfluoroalkyl
121 substances (PFAS) onto their property. (Minnehaha 2023)
122
123 Statewide zoning standards for livestock production
124 facilities. (Faulk/Spink 2024)
125
126 **We oppose:**

1
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 State operation of OSHA plans under federal guidelines
13 that result in routine enforcement inspections for small
14 farm employers.
15
16 Municipal initiatives and referendums that would hinder
17 the creation, expansion, and operation of value-added
18 agricultural projects that meet the necessary zoning,
19 permitting, and other state and national regulations.
20 (Davison/Hanson 2022)
21
22 Legislation in South Dakota that would create a farmer-
23 funded grain indemnity program (Hughes/Sully/Stanley
24 2023)

26 ANIMAL CARE

28 We support:

30 Industry established standards for the management, care
31 and treatment of animals in agriculture, commerce and in
32 medical research. Suspected violations of those standards
33 should be investigated by appropriate legal authorities.
34

35 Due process before any private property or animals
36 (animals includes but are not limited to livestock, horses,
37 dogs from USDA regulated commercial kennels, and
38 poultry) can be confiscated or disposed of by any
39 governmental entity, the humane society or similar groups.
40

41 That before a warrant to enter an animal facility is issued,
42 three notarized complaints must be filed with the proper
43 authorities.
44

45 A waiting warning period be given the owner/operator to
46 correct any problems prior to law enforcement action.
47

48 Only animals in a life-threatening situation, as diagnosed
49 by a South Dakota state licensed veterinarian, should be
50 taken immediately and treated appropriately.
51

52 Legislation that provides adequate legal protection for
53 scientists engaged in medical or animal research.
54

55 We oppose:

56
57 The use of animal rights curriculum in schools. We
58 encourage Farm Bureau members to emphasize the proper
59 care farmers, ranchers, and regulated commercial kennels,
60 presently give farm animals.
61

62 EDUCATION

63
64 **We support:**
65
66 Adequate funding for sparsity factor legislation.
67
68 Control of our schools remains with the local elected board
69 of education.
70
71 Strong reading and phonics programs along with a testing
72 program at the end of each year as a requirement to
73 advance.
74
75 The concept of open enrollment.
76
77 The option of home schooling. The state aid to education
78 formula should allow for the cost of home school students
79 to participate in extra-curricular activities.
80
81 Teaching civics and citizenship in schools.
82
83 The teaching of local tax structure and local budgets.
84
85 Retaining the right to say the Pledge of Allegiance in all
86 schools and at all school functions.
87
88 Voluntary prayer in schools, and favor allowing public and
89 private schools to post the Ten Commandments.
90
91 Consolidation of school administration, faculty and
92 electronic equipment when feasible.
93
94 Membership of the Board of Regents should include at
95 least two members from agriculture-related businesses. At
96 least one of these should be involved in production
97 agriculture.
98
99 Tuition reciprocity programs between neighboring states at
100 vocational schools, colleges and universities.
101
102 Student loan programs and strongly recommend
103 enforcement of the repayment of such loans.
104
105 Finding and/or developing GMO educational materials and
106 making such materials available to school age children.
107 (Minnehaha 2015)
108
109 **ELECTIONS**
110
111 **We support:**
112
113 The opportunity to recall county commissioners, by
114 petition of voters, similar to the present recall law for
115 mayor and/or city commissioner.
116
117 Citizen's rights of Referendum and Initiated Measures.
118
119 Only S.D. registered voters should be eligible to circulate
120 petitions for ballot measures.
121
122 Retention of the Electoral College for presidential
123 elections. Electors should be required to vote for the
124 candidates on the ballots to which they were pledged.
125

1 Legislative districts consist of one senator and two
2 representatives.
3
4 The Public Utilities Commission should be kept an elected
5 body.
6
7 Combining elections whenever possible.
8
9 An increase in the required number of petition signatures
10 for initiated measures, constitutional amendments, and law
11 referrals. (Perkins 2016)
12
13 Changing South Dakota law to require more
14 geographically diverse signatures from South Dakota
15 voters before an issue can be brought to the ballot.
16 (Clark/Day/Perkins 2016)
17
18 Reasonable and fair individual county commission districts
19 based upon population. (Clay/Union 2022)
20
21 Keeping the single-subject rule for constitutional
22 amendments. (Meade/Douglas/Moody 2023)
23
24 **We oppose:**
25
26 Term limits for state legislators.
27
28 The election of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural
29 Resources. (Walworth/Edmunds 2023)
30
31 **ENERGY**
32
33 **We support:**
34
35 Construction of pipeline projects in South Dakota, that are
36 beneficial to our local and federal economies.
37
38 Building oil refineries in South Dakota.
39
40 The development of renewable energies and by-products.
41
42 The use of a renewable energy standard to be applied to the
43 growth in energy consumption.
44
45 Research into the feasibility of alternative energy
46 production in South Dakota.
47
48 Research to find better methods to transmit and store
49 electricity produced by wind energy.
50
51 Increased ethanol blender fuel pumps in the state.
52
53 The production and use of ethanol fuels.
54
55 The state incentive for ethanol production.
56
57 Production and use of soy diesel and other bio-fuels.
58
59 All forms of energy, including coal. (Clay/Union 2015)
60
61 Educating people that CO2 is not a pollutant. (Clay/Union
62 2015)

63
64 South Dakota maintaining a diverse and reliable electrical
65 energy generation portfolio to ensure energy stability and
66 resiliency at an affordable cost. (Walworth/Edmunds 2023)
67
68 Counties adopting a comprehensive plan that sets
69 guidelines as to where energy generation can take place
70 within the county. (Walworth/Edmunds 2023)
71
72 Statewide zoning standards for solar farms. (Faulk/Spink
73 2024)
74
75 The reduction of the 100 MW regulatory threshold for
76 solar energy development to more accurately reflect
77 today's regulatory atmosphere. (Faulk/Spink 2024)
78
79 **We oppose:**
80
81 The Gregory Pumped Storage Project, which has the
82 potential to negatively affect the quality and quantity of
83 drinking water, hinder state and local economies, damage
84 natural habitats, and remove productive agricultural land.
85 (Charles Mix 2024)
86
87 **ENVIRONMENT**
88
89 **We support:**
90
91 Strict enforcement of all S.D. litter laws.
92
93 All soft drinks and alcoholic beverages sold in South
94 Dakota should be in containers with a deposit paid thereon.
95
96 Governmental entities and agriculture being treated with
97 the same criteria for non-point source water protection.
98
99 The concept of trading pollution credits between farmers in
100 an effort to limit overall non-point source pollution in a
101 given watershed.
102
103 Before adverse actions can be taken against farmers the
104 Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources must
105 show proof that contamination is occurring.
106
107 The DANR informing the operator of the nature of the
108 complaint and the full report of their investigation.
109 (Brookings 2019)
110
111 **We oppose:**
112
113 Holding farmers legally or financially responsible for trace
114 amounts of ag chemicals found in a water source,
115 providing manufacturer's directions and instructions have
116 been followed.
117
118 Holding present owners accountable for past violations of
119 water protection or other environmental laws by former
120 owners of that land.
121
122 **FAMILY**
123
124 **We support:**

1
2 The legal definition of marriage as a union of one male and
3 one female.
4
5 Neither the United States nor any state should deprive any
6 human being of life or equal protection of the law on
7 account of illness, age, or incapacity.
8
9 Life begins at the moment of conception. Congress and the
10 State Legislature should establish these principals with
11 appropriate legislation.
12
13 **GAME, FISH & PARKS**
14
15 **We support:**
16
17 SD Game, Fish & Parks along with the SD Department of
18 Environment & Natural Resources, be responsible for
19 posting uniform signage for fences that farmers are
20 required to register on navigable streams.
21
22 A surcharge on all hunting and fishing fees to be used for
23 county and township roads.
24
25 Government agencies responsible for the management of
26 wildlife be held to the same standards as the private sector
27 with regard to brucellosis.
28
29 State funding to compensate landowners who suffer lost
30 income due to prairie dog migration and infestation from
31 public land to private land.
32
33 The continued monitoring and compliance of the SD
34 Prairie Dog Management Plan.
35
36 Returning the prairie dog to the S.D. pest list and ask state
37 and federal agencies to immediately stop all activities and
38 efforts to list the prairie dog as endangered.
39
40 The same season for resident and non-resident pheasant
41 hunters.
42
43 Reforming aerial hunting regulations to make them more
44 landowner and agriculture friendly.
45
46 Clarifying the authority of conservation officers.
47
48 Halting land acquisition by the Game, Fish & Parks and
49 encourage more walk-in hunting funding and designations.
50
51 The SD Game, Fish & Parks to act more landowner-
52 friendly by:
53 A) consulting with landowners regarding game
54 problems,
55 B) consulting with landowners regarding hunting
56 access,
57 C) providing transferable licenses, coupons for
58 landowners, etc.
59 D) adequately funding depredation programs.
60
61 Game, Fish & Parks establish hunting seasons that reflect
62 the number of wildlife and the depredation problems that
63 wildlife cause.

64
65 Increasing the number of non-resident waterfowl license
66 sales.
67
68 Compensation to farmers and ranchers for game
69 depredation.
70
71 Issuing transferable depredation tags to producers based on
72 damage.
73
74 Shortening the action on a depredation complaint time to 8
75 hours.
76
77 A lesser percentage increase on license fees for residents
78 than non-residents. Predator license fees should remain
79 unchanged.
80
81 Predator control.
82
83 Returning a percentage of GF&P's income to counties for
84 predator control.
85
86 Extreme caution in the state becoming involved in a
87 comprehensive wildlife management plan that includes
88 federal mandates, diminishes property rights or impacts
89 local economies.
90
91 The use of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and aircraft by
92 coyote hunters engaged in livestock protection.
93
94 Any person carrying a legal hunting license be allowed to
95 shoot wildlife for another member of the hunting party
96 with a valid hunting license.
97
98 The right of S.D. resident landowners/operators to transfer
99 big game licenses to other hunters, giving preference to
100 veterans.
101
102 Game, Fish & Parks and School and Public Lands
103 controlling noxious weeds and pests on their property.
104
105 Game, Fish & Parks shall properly and timely dispose of
106 big game from roadways and ditches.
107
108 Immediate steps to reduce the mountain lion population to
109 the extent that they will not continue to be crowded into
110 areas of human habitation.
111
112 GF&P funds which are scheduled for land acquisition be
113 used for animal damage control.
114
115 Flooded private land should be allowed in the South
116 Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Walk-In Areas program and
117 compensated similarly to land that is allowed public
118 hunting access through that program. (Clark/Day 2015)
119
120 The option for a landowner-on-own-land to purchase an
121 any-elk tag without the lottery requirement.
122 (Pennington/Jackson 2024)
123
124 Lowering the days of elk use. (Pennington/Jackson 2024)
125
126 **We oppose:**

1
2 Additional acquisition of land by GF&P except for small
3 narrow tracts that provide access to any existing GF&P
4 property. Before any property is acquired by GF&P, the
5 commission should hold public hearings in the vicinity of
6 the proposed acquisition. Leasing of land for wildlife
7 production and hunting, as well as refuges, is preferred
8 over government ownership.

9
10 Road hunting.

11
12 Extending the pheasant hunting season beyond December
13 1.

14 **GOVERNMENT**

15 **We support:**

16
17 Residents living in extra-territorial areas should be allowed
18 to vote in city elections so that they have representation.

19
20 Township and other local levels of government.

21
22 Consideration of local government consolidation must be
23 decided by a vote of the people of each government entity
24 involved.

25
26 Policies and procedures to allow local, community and
27 private firefighting units the authority to extinguish forest
28 and prairie fires in instances when they are the first
29 responder.

30
31 Reallocating a portion of the contractors excise tax from
32 agricultural development construction back to local
33 government for related infrastructure maintenance and
34 repair.

35
36 Allowing South Dakota residents to purchase fireworks all
37 year long, and making fireworks legal to use whenever it is
38 safe.

39
40 The merging of the SD Department of Agriculture and the
41 SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources
42 into the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
43 with the expectation of a continued focus on production
44 agriculture, responsible livestock development and quality
45 customer service to South Dakota's agricultural producers.
46 (Pennington/Jackson, Moody 2020)

47 **We oppose:**

48
49 Language endorsing the right to hunt, fish, and trap in the
50 state constitution. (Moody 2024)

51 **GUN OWNERS RIGHTS**

52 **We support:**

53
54 Reciprocity between states involving firearm permits.

55 **We oppose:**

56
57 Legislation to require registration or licenses for firearms.

58 **HEALTH CARE**

59 **We support:**

60
61 Health care legislation that encourages accountability and
62 cost savings by the consumer.

63
64 People be able to choose their own health protection
65 including high deductible insurance policies and medical
66 savings accounts (MSA's).

67
68 Expanding existing state programs for in-home care for the
69 elderly and disabled to allow these people to remain in
70 their homes and reduce costs.

71
72 More restraint and supervision by the Medical community
73 concerning opioid prescriptions. (Davison/Hanson 2017)

74 **We oppose:**

75
76 Legalizing marijuana for any purpose.

77
78 Health care benefits discrimination against individuals
79 participating in work or leisure activities involving ATV's,
80 snowmobiles, motorcycles or horseback riding.

81
82 Federal government subsidy and involvement in health
83 care, and we recognize that any government financed
84 health program is in fact, socialized medicine.

85 **HIGHWAY REGULATIONS**

86 **We support:**

87
88 Construction, maintenance, cleaning, repair and legal
89 liability of auto gates remain with the government entity
90 responsible for the road.

91
92 Eliminating S.D. DOT regulations which restricts mowing
93 of state highway rights-of-way before a certain date to
94 improve highway safety, weed control, and hay quality.

95
96 The opportunity for adjoining landowners to hay the
97 median on interstate highways.

98
99 The license plate number and one other descriptive item be
100 the only information required for prosecution of the
101 violation of passing a school bus with a flashing red light.

102
103 Implementation of the living snow fence program to work
104 in conjunction with the continuous CRP program.

105
106 The current process and restrictions for obtaining a driving
107 permit at age 14, which includes the passage of a driving
108 test and/or Drivers Ed and 3-6 months probationary
109 periods. (2018)

110
111 Revenue collection efforts on those users who do not
112 currently contribute to the South Dakota Highway Fund

1 due to electric vehicles and/or alternative fuels. (Charles
2 Mix/Douglas 2020)

3
4 The creation of a Small Business Restricted Commercial
5 Driver's License. (Pennington/Jackson 2022)

6
7 A usage-based tax for electric vehicles.
8 (Pennington/Jackson 2024)

9
10 **We oppose:**

11
12 S.D. Department of Transportation inspections on non-
13 commercial pickups, trucks and trailers under 26,000 lb
14 GVW even if their combined GVW weights are over
15 26,000 lbs.

16
17 Authority for S.D. DOT to enforce fines for exceeding load
18 limits by checking elevator weight tickets.

19
20 Fishing or any other recreational activities be allowed from
21 a bridge without a designated walkway or shoulder on any
22 county or state highway. (Hutchinson 2015)

23
24 **INSURANCE**

25
26 **We support:**

27
28 Having insured motorists not be legally responsible for
29 damage to an uninsured's motorized vehicle caused by an
30 insured motor vehicle. (Charles Mix 2021)

31
32 S.D. law of subrogation involving settlements between
33 insurance companies and oppose using the "make whole"
34 doctrine.

35
36 Proof of liability insurance be required when purchasing
37 vehicle licenses.

38
39 Increased fines for failure to carry proper liability
40 insurance.

41
42 Raising minimum automobile liability coverage to
43 100/300/50.

44
45 Insurance companies be required to notify the insured party
46 of any liability claim paid on their behalf.

47
48 A person who lends a vehicle or machine to another
49 individual without compensation should not be held liable
50 for damages caused by the vehicle or machine due to the
51 negligence of the borrower.

52
53 Changing the workers compensation law to simplify the
54 admissions process and allow up to 72 hours for
55 authorization in cases of emergency.

56
57 Requiring law enforcement officers responding to an
58 accident, to write an "accident" report for accidents
59 occurring on private property. The report shall be written
60 on a non-reportable accident form (not reportable to the
61 state) and be retained by the responding department.
62 (Haakon 2015)

63

64 **JUDICIAL/LAW ENFORCEMENT**

65
66 **We support:**

67
68 Only accepting US Constitutional Law and not accepting
69 legal arguments that cite international law, World Court, or
70 Sheria Law.

71
72 Limitations on lawsuits, both on what may constitute a
73 lawsuit and on monetary awards that can be sought.

74
75 Plaintiffs and their attorneys be liable for the defendant's
76 legal fees if a jury finds a lawsuit without grounds or if the
77 prosecuting lawyer handles the case on a contingency fee
78 basis.

79
80 Medical malpractice be limited to \$250,000 for non-
81 economic awards. Lawyer contingency fees should also be
82 limited.

83
84 In order for a civil court suit to be settled out of court, it
85 must be done before a jury is called. Once the jury is called
86 and an expense to the county is created, the decision should
87 be in the hands of the court. Should an out of court
88 settlement be made after a jury is called and before that
89 jury has reached a verdict, the plaintiff should pay for the
90 cost of the court.

91
92 Strict enforcement of criminal laws, especially DUI and
93 controlled substance laws.

94
95 Keeping the death penalty for certain violent crimes.
96 Individuals who distribute misinformation concerning
97 detrimental effects of agricultural products should be held
98 responsible for their actions.

99
100 The Right to Privacy Law be rescinded for prison inmates.

101
102 Victims and their families be notified before parole or
103 release of the criminal from a correctional facility.

104
105 Protection of innocent victims by authorities requiring
106 adequate bond payments and suspects being held the
107 proper length of time before being released on bail.

108
109 Enforcement of age requirements for admission to theaters
110 and renting of videos based on the movie rating system.

111
112 Prohibition on the sale and distribution of hard-core
113 pornography.

114
115 Inmates doing constructive work in the community.

116
117 Any fines and/or reprimands handed down from the State
118 Bar of the South Dakota Disciplinary Board should be
119 made public. (Potter 2020)

120
121 All education and work programs in the prison and will
122 support expanding programs to more facilities if the
123 opportunity arises. (Douglas 2022)

124
125 The concept of the state incentivizing county
126 consolidation/regionalization of both boundaries and

1 services as well as the state absorbing a share of the
2 counties' expenses for unfunded and underfunded legal
3 services mandates without raising property taxes.
4 (Walworth/Edmunds/Beadle 2023)

5
6 **We oppose:**

7
8 Any attempt by the state to put unnecessary restraints on
9 churches and clergy inside the prison systems.

10
11 **LABOR**

12
13 **We support:**

14
15 SDFB working with the Legislature, the administration and
16 state agencies to enact programs that will assist farmers in
17 having an adequate legal work force.

18
19 Employers who knowingly hire illegal workers be fined.

20
21 Employers who follow the law and then later find out a
22 worker is "illegal" should be held harmless.

23
24 Retaining the Right to Work section of the State
25 Constitution.

26
27 Treating unaccompanied minors who enter the United
28 States illegally under the same laws as adults who enter the
29 country illegally.

30
31 **We oppose:**

32
33 Mandatory workers compensation for farm employees.

34
35 Teacher continuing contract clauses.

36
37 **LAND OWNERSHIP**

38
39 **We support:**

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

42
43 Any proposed sale or transfer of land to an entity of state
44 or federal government must be given public notice for three
45 consecutive weeks with a three-month waiting period
46 before condemnation, sale, or transfer occurs. The person
47 renting the land must be notified in writing at least two
48 months before a deal is closed.

49
50 If the state government acquires property from the private
51 sector, it should be required to release like amount into the
52 private sector, either by sale or termination of easements.
53 Leaving the adverse possession South Dakota law in its
54 present form. (Beadle, Davison/Hanson, Charles Mix,
55 Douglas 2017)

56
57 That land used for solar farms shall not be classified as
58 agricultural land. (Clay/Union 2024)

59
60 The use of conservation easements that protect agricultural
61 land from urban sprawl, provided the easements preserve
62 the agricultural land as working lands and are held in trust

63 by a non-profit farm and ranch-led organization.
64 (Campbell/Walworth 2024)

65
66 **We oppose:**

67
68 Trades involving state lands that would place such state
69 lands into Federal Government ownership or control.

70
71 The purchase of private land by state or federal agencies
72 with the intent of bartering with ranchers who lease
73 government owned grazing lands.

74
75 The purchase and/or ownership of agriculture farm ground
76 that is owned by majority stockholders from foreign
77 countries or entities. (Pennington/Jackson 2022)

78
79 **LAND USE**

80
81 **We support:**

82
83 Counties forming Public Land Use Resource Committees
84 to maximize local input into policy making and lawmaking
85 involving state and federal land in their county.

86
87 Continued research at SDSU in the monitoring of overland
88 and subsurface flows for water quality and sediment
89 reduction.

90
91 Efforts to reduce excess water levels so farms can once
92 again operate, maintaining essential community services
93 and reducing annual cost of road repairs.

94
95 A system under which environmental regulatory authority
96 would lie with the state, while control of ag zoning would
97 stay with the counties.

98
99 The right to buy back conservation easements at change of
100 ownership or a renegotiation of the easement every 30
101 years.

102
103 Initiatives that allow replacing or exchanging agriculture
104 land where restrictions of use have been placed by
105 easements, rules and policies of USDA or other Federal
106 government agencies. (Moody/Brown/Davison-Hanson
107 2016)

108
109 That an exemption be allowed to producers of all buffer
110 strips to expand the time of cutting hay with no time
111 restrictions. (Turner 2018)

112
113 **We oppose:**

114
115 The state imposing any wetland regulations more stringent
116 than federal wetland regulations.

117
118 The creation of mandatory buffer zones along waterways,
119 wetlands and wildlife production areas in the state.

120
121 Public access on flooded private land without landowner or
122 operator permission. This does not apply to meandered
123 lakes that have been surveyed and currently have public
124 access.

1
2 **LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION &**
3 **THEFT PROTECTION**

4
5 **We support:**

6
7 The brand inspection program in West River South Dakota
8 and support administration by the S.D. brand board.

9
10 All brand inspection fees be used solely for and by the S.D.
11 brand board for the brand inspection program.

12
13 Livestock owner’s ability to obtain a shipper’s permit for
14 taking livestock out of the ownership inspection area as
15 they are transporting to a ranch or private individual
16 outside the brand inspection area. The livestock will be
17 inspected at the closest approved in-state open market at
18 the time of the move.

19
20 Strengthening the SD Animal Industry Board's ability to
21 deal with animal disease outbreaks and food safety issues.

22
23 Efforts to legalize freeze brands for ownership
24 identification. (Pennington/Jackson 2023).

25
26 An increase in the brand inspection fee cap.
27 (Pennington/Jackson 2023)

28
29 A repeal of the horse brand inspection.
30 (Pennington/Jackson 2023)

31
32 **We oppose:**

33
34 Mandatory EID and RFID tags at the state and national
35 level. (Douglas 2021)

36
37 The election of the State Brand Board.
38 (Pennington/Jackson 2023)

39
40 **MINERAL RIGHTS**

41
42 **We support:**

43
44 When mineral rights are separated from the surface rights,
45 these mineral rights should be taxed. The tax should be
46 subtracted from the landowner’s property tax. If the
47 mineral taxes are not paid for three years, the mineral
48 rights would be offered to the landowner for payment of
49 back taxes, thereby clearing title to the mineral rights.

50
51 Legislation to protect surface owners in cases involving
52 mineral rights disputes.

53
54 Statutory protection of the surface owners’ rights in the
55 event that there is mineral activity that affects surface
56 owners’ rights. South Dakota must require that the mineral
57 producer negotiate a surface use agreement with the
58 surface owner prior to any mineral activities commencing
59 on the property.

60
61 **NATURAL RESOURCES**
62

63 **We support:**

64
65 Changes in wetland mapping conventions and minimal
66 effects that make S.D. more consistent with the original
67 intent of Swampbuster and neighboring states.

68
69 Landowner requested reviews of their certified wetland
70 determinations anytime NRCS guidelines change.

71
72 Multiple use of public lands by the public, including but
73 not limited to proper resource management, agriculture
74 production and recreation.

75
76 Delisting the Topeka Shiner from the ESA list.

77
78 Active timbering of our national forests.

79
80 NRCS appeals should be performed by a person of
81 seniority other than the original employee who made the
82 determination.

83
84 NRCS wetland appeals should include the technical results
85 as well as the procedural process.

86
87 Legislation to prohibit the introduction of any endangered
88 species into South Dakota.

89
90 **We oppose:**

91
92 The “no net loss” policy for wetlands.

93
94 Any expansion of present wilderness areas or the
95 establishment of any new wilderness areas in the State of
96 South Dakota, and specifically opposes creation of
97 wilderness on any federal land.

98
99 **PROPERTY RIGHTS**

100
101 **We support:**

102
103 The passage of private property rights legislation which
104 directs the Attorney General to do an assessment of the
105 impacts of rules, regulations and/or laws and which
106 provides compensation for “takings.”

107
108 Registering drainage projects at the county register of
109 deeds for adequate tracking purposes, and should be done
110 only at the discretion of the landowner.

111
112 The current state fencing laws. (Moody/Charles
113 Mix/Perkins/Douglas 2016)

114
115 The use of improved rights-of-way for the movement
116 and/or transportation of people and any and all legal
117 commodities. (Minnehaha/Moody 2018)

118
119 The Public Utilities Commission’s statutory standards and
120 processes set for the development of carbon infrastructure,
121 including pipelines. (Spink/Faulk 2023).

122
123 The ability by a company who can utilize eminent domain
124 prior to being granted a permit by the Public Utilities
125 Commission to survey; however, the surveying process

1 should include increasing applicant/landowner
2 communication, clarifying landowner compensation,
3 specifying when and where a survey may be conducted,
4 and the amount of time the survey will require. (SDFB
5 Board of Directors 2023)

6
7 Value-added opportunities that increase demand for South
8 Dakota agricultural commodities by establishing and/or
9 increasing market access provided it is science-based,
10 meets safety standards, protects landowner rights, and
11 meets all regulatory requirements. (SDFB Board of
12 Directors 2023)

13
14 **We oppose:**

15
16 The condemnation/ eminent domain of land for any purpose
17 other than highways and such public utilities that benefit
18 the majority of the public. Eminent domain should not be
19 abused for public recreational facilities or private economic
20 development.

21
22 Limiting the ability of private landowners to generate
23 revenue off their land, including lands inundated by water,
24 without the landowner's permission. (Brown 2017)

25
26 The use of eminent domain to acquire property until at
27 least 67 percent of the landowners agree to the terms of the
28 project's buy out; at that time eminent domain can be used
29 by the rules it is governed. (Spink/Faulk 2023)

30
31 Statewide setbacks for carbon dioxide infrastructure.
32 (SDFB Board of Directors 2023).

33
34 **RAILROADS**

35
36 **We support:**

37
38 Railroad upgrade projects with a commitment of service to
39 agriculture.

40
41 S.D. law be changed to limit time to 10 minutes for a train-
42 blocked crossing, except for emergency vehicles, which
43 must have access as soon as possible.

44
45 Reverting abandoned railroad beds and rights-of-way back
46 to adjacent landowners.

47
48 When abandoned railroad beds go to public use, the
49 adjacent landowners should be exempt from all liability
50 incurred by the public use of former railroad property.

51
52 Railroad companies in the State of South Dakota shall
53 abide by South Dakota fencing laws. (Haakon 2017)

54
55 **We oppose:**

56
57 The State of South Dakota entering into any perpetual
58 easements concerning abandoned railroad rights-of-way.

59
60 **RELIGIOUS LIFE**

61
62 **We support:**

63
64 The necessary steps to reestablish the right to offer
65 voluntary prayers in public schools and should be
66 supported at both state and national levels.

67
68 **We oppose:**

69
70 Actions preventing free distribution of copies of the Bible.

71
72 **STATE GOVERNMENT**

73
74 **We support:**

75
76 The amount required to trigger the vehicle damage
77 disclosure on a vehicle title be raised to \$10,000.

78
79 The South Dakota vehicle title damage disclosure be
80 amended to disclose if the damage was cosmetic only, such
81 as hail or minor collision that does not affect the
82 performance or the safety of the vehicle.

83
84 The philosophy of privatization in county and state
85 government.

86
87 State government funding for any state-mandated changes
88 of local government.

89
90 State agencies reevaluating all travel and vehicle
91 requirements and enforce existing policies regarding
92 personal use of state-owned vehicles.

93
94 Surplus monies above the reserve designated by the
95 legislature should be automatically returned to county
96 governments using the current distribution formula for
97 property tax relief.

98
99 A requirement that all boards at the state and federal level
100 which regulate agricultural policy contain at least 51
101 percent membership that is involved in agriculture
102 production or the agricultural industry.

103
104 Existing laws governing special taxation districts be
105 changed to allow a one-fourth or larger part of a district to
106 petition out, if a number equal to 10% of the people who
107 voted in the last governor's race sign the petition. The
108 county commissioners would set up the election instead of
109 the special taxation district which would stop any
110 discrimination in a small area. A simple majority of voters
111 from that portion wishing to petition out would free that
112 portion of the district.

113
114 State government providing funding and other support for
115 the benefit of the S.D. State Fair.

116
117 Repeal of video lottery.

118
119 An increase of at least an additional 5% of the video lottery
120 revenues for the state and an additional 10% of the gross
121 revenue from video casinos be returned to the state. The
122 state portion should not be used for promotion of
123 gambling.

124
125 Using a portion of the tax on alcoholic beverages and
revenues from gambling to finance the rehabilitation of

1 alcoholics and addicted gamblers, and address other
2 problems directly attributed to alcohol and gambling.

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

6
7 Bonding requirements for auctioneers and clerks be
8 adequate to protect the seller.

9
10 A single tax rate for auction sales to eliminate confusion in
11 the clerking process.

12
13 A small structure and large culvert fund that would be
14 distributed to each county for their townships, on a yearly
15 basis. This would be for all counties, even if they only
16 have unorganized townships. (Davison/Hanson 2020)

17
18 **We oppose:**

19
20 State ownership or operation of ag processing plants for
21 any reasons other than research or market development.

22
23 **TAXATION-FUEL**

24
25 **We support:**

26
27 Removing the use of gas tax funds for boat ramps, park
28 roads, snowmobile trails, etc. Park and user fees should be
29 used to fund these items.

30
31 Continuing the per-gallon road use fuel tax rather than
32 other forms of taxation to finance state highway
33 maintenance and construction.

34
35 **We oppose:**

36
37 Adding a tax on dyed diesel fuel.

38
39 **TAXATION-GENERAL**

40
41 **We support:**

42
43 A concept of tax limitation.

44
45 All tobacco products be taxed at the same rate.

46
47 All telecommunications companies doing business in
48 South Dakota be taxed.

49
50 **We oppose:**

51
52 A South Dakota income tax.

53
54 Placing a tax on tile and/or surface drainage for any use
55 except to operate a drainage district.

56
57 A personal property tax.

58
59 **TAXATION-REAL PROPERTY**

60
61 **We support:**

62

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

66
67 Requiring actual use for property tax valuation.

68
69 A majority approval of the county commission to remove
70 land from the tax rolls. Notification must also be given to
71 the township chairman in any affected township. Land to
72 be purchased, sold or transferred should be publicly
73 advertised and a bid process enacted.

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

76
77 Legislation that will allow counties to equalize tax
78 assessments and use the adjustment factors in statute to
79 measure productivity in addition to the soil survey to
80 calculate assessments. The practice of "neighborhooding"
81 in specific geographic areas within a county should be
82 substantially weighted and at least equal in influence with
83 the soil survey.

84
85 Increasing the \$10,000 homestead exemption to \$50,000
86 for ag structures.

87
88 Taxation of Public lands as if that land were owned
89 privately. The U.S. Government should pay the tax with no
90 fee increase to the public land user.

91
92 Church property that generates income should not receive
93 preferential tax treatment.

94
95 Municipalities that own income producing real property
96 should be required to make property tax payments.

97
98 Property owners who have been wrongfully assessed taxes
99 should receive compensation from their county, including
100 all expenses incurred through the appeal process.

101
102 Township boards be given more time to have the tax
103 assessments records in order to make their
104 recommendations on valuations to the county assessor.

105
106 A return to the law that assessors be reappointed every five
107 years.

108
109 **We oppose:**

110
111 Any real estate tax reduction on land under easement.

112
113 Any attempt to raise the tax rate per \$1000 of value on ag
114 land to equal that on non-ag land for school purposes.

115
116 **TAXATION-SALES**

117
118 **We support:**

119
120 Purchased inputs for agricultural production,
121 manufacturing and industrial production shall be exempt
122 from state and local sales tax. Sales tax should only be
123 collected on the final product at the time of
124 sale/consumption.

125

1 Legislation that would tax advertising.
2
3 The 2027 sunset on the state sales tax cuts. (Charles Mix
4 2023)

5
6 **We oppose:**

7
8 Sales tax on feed, seed, fertilizer, and ag chemicals. Sales
9 tax should be removed from veterinary supplies. City sales
10 tax should not be charged on machinery, repairs, building
11 materials and veterinary supplies used by farmers.

12
13 Cities or school districts having extra sales tax for the
14 support of schools.

15
16 Cities being allowed to put sales tax receipts in their
17 general fund for property tax relief.

18
19 The repeal of the state food sales tax. (Beadle 2022)

20
21 A county sales tax except for the purpose of financing a
22 county jail or for the incarceration costs of county inmates
23 in a regional jail. (Walworth 2022)

24
25 **TAXATION-WATER**

26
27 **We oppose:**

28
29 Any tax on water usage, including irrigation. If a water
30 usage tax is necessary, it should be applied to all water
31 users, including domestic, city, industrial and agriculture.

32
33 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

34
35 **We support:**

36
37 Communication back up power during power outages.
38 (2019)

39
40 The efforts of SD Rural Electrics to defend their right to
41 serve electric service territory granted them under state
42 law. (Pennington/Jackson, Charles Mix, Douglas, Turner
43 2019)

44
45 **TRESPASS LAWS**

46
47 **We support:**

48
49 Broadening the present trespass law under which all land is
50 off limits unless permission is granted by the landowner or
51 operator, to include private land in the Black Hills fire
52 protection district. We favor increased fines for violators.

53
54 The trespass and use policy for school and public lands
55 should release the lessee of all liability.

56
57 **WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

58
59 **We support:**

60

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

63
64 The use of retention and draw down dams in drainage
65 areas, and favor a pilot program to allow retention and dam
66 areas to be put in continuous CRP.

67
68 Revising the S.D. Vested Drainage Rights law to include
69 new drainage and previously undiscovered drainage
70 systems.

71
72 Prior to filing legal action a qualified mediator or water
73 expert be brought in when disagreements about drainage
74 affecting individual parties cannot be resolved. Parties
75 should bear the cost of mediation.

76
77 The formation of smaller drainage districts primarily
78 composed of landowners, governed by landowners, as a
79 state statute already allows and to include SDSU
80 participation, county governments, US geological maps
81 and professional ag specialists as needed.

82
83 A credible data law to govern total maximum daily load
84 regulations.

85
86 State and federal legislation that will positively affect
87 domestic water development in our state.

88
89 Water projects be paid for by people who benefit from
90 those projects. Funding of water projects should be
91 determined in accordance with the direct benefit.

92
93 Legislation that the transfer of water rights for a change of
94 use be reviewed as a new application and given a new
95 priority date.

96
97 A landowner being allowed to drain back to a wetland high
98 water mark if it can exit into a natural drain way.

99
100 Directing the state of South Dakota to create an
101 engineering study of the eastern South Dakota water issue,
102 to help determine how much economic activity is lost due
103 to the high water, and to determine how to best manage the
104 water levels to put some of this land back into agricultural
105 production.

106
107 Using site specific radar generated rainfall data in
108 determining normal, wet and dry years in regards to
109 wetland determinations methods. (Brown 2016)

110
111 **We oppose:**

112
113 Any new taxes for water development.

114
115 New state legislation designed to manage surface water
116 until other issues are settled. (Moody 2016)

117
118 **WEED & PEST CONTROL**

119
120 **We support:**

121
122 Placing the mountain pine beetle on the South Dakota pest
123 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
8 fails to act in the best interest of South Dakotans relating to
9 fire 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 Weed control requirements on local, state and federal
18 government lands be equal to those required of private
19 landowners.

20 21 **WELFARE**

22 **We support:**

23
24
25 A mandatory random drug-testing program to be eligible to
26 receive welfare benefits.

27 **We oppose:**

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

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

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

38 39 **WE BELIEVE (2015)**

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

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

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

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

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

58
59 Juveniles should be responsible for their actions when laws
60 are broken and/or property is destroyed.

61

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

66
67 Railroads must put forth their best efforts to address local
68 concerns such as safety, noise, and adjoining landowner
69 issues.

70
71 Privatization of certain government functions will reduce
72 spending, lower the number of employees, be more
73 effective and save tax dollars.

74
75 We should work closely with and lend our support to the
76 South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems to
77 effectively promote and secure water for all South Dakota
78 communities needing a dependable source of water.

79
80 Farm Bureau be opposed to modifying, changing, or
81 otherwise defacing the faces on Mount Rushmore. (Moody
82 2017)

83
84 SDFB work with SD Department of Agriculture, the SD
85 Attorney's General Office, and such enforcement agencies
86 to remove imitator dairy products from the "dairy case" in
87 stores selling such food products. (Minnehaha 2017)

88
89 In a marketing campaign that promotes and markets
90 agricultural products into international markets.
91 (Minnehaha 2017)

92
93
94 ****Policy Book Reviewed in 2017**