

NEW HAMPSHIRE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

2009 POLICY DOCUMENT

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NEW HAMPSHIRE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

2009

Policy Development Committee

Dan Briggs, Chairman

Board of Directors:

Executive Committee:

Jeff Holmes, President (Langdon)
John McPhail, First Vice-President (Bow)
Dan Briggs, Second Vice-President (Deerfield)
Dave Babson, Second Vice-President (Ossipee)
Dick Fabrizio, Treasurer (North Haverhill)
Sandy Salo, President, Associated Women's Organization (Marlow)
Beth Hodge, Chair, Young Farmer Committee (Hinsdale)

County Presidents:

John Moulton, Belknap (Meredith)	Sean Trombly, Hillsboro (Milford)
Jenny Tapper, Carroll (Brookfield)	Bob Drown, Merrimack (Webster)
Ralph Heald, Cheshire (Troy)	Bradley Briggs, Rock. (Deerfield)
Joyce Brady, Coos (Columbia)	Dave Miner, Strafford (Lee)
Denis Ward, Grafton (Monroe)	Lori Cook, Sullivan (Langdon)

Standing Committee Chairs:

Annual Meeting & Special Events Planning, John McPhail
Dairy, Jamie Robertson (Contoocook)
Equine, Julie Porter (Dover)
Forestry/Maple, John Salo (Marlow)
Health Insurance Program, Dan Briggs
Horticulture, Chuck Souther (Concord)
Legislative, Chuck Souther
Livestock, Erick Sawtelle (Lee)
Membership, Sandy Salo
Policy Development, Dan Briggs
Poultry, Bill Merrill (Londonderry)
Profile Award, Gordon Gowen (Alstead)
Young Farmer, Beth Hodge

County Policy Development Committee Chairs:

John Hodsdon, Belk. (Meredith)
Vin Blandini, Carroll (Wolfeboro)
Barbara Fostyck, Ches. (Hinsdale)
Joyce Brady, Coos
Vern Dingman, Graf. (Haverhill)
Ben Cargill – Hills. (Brookline)
Kevin Bragg – Merr. (Canterbury)
Dan Briggs, Rockingham
No Appointment - Strafford
Keith Cutting – Sull. (Grantham)

Staff

Executive Director.....Robert Johnson, II
Communications Director.....Maureen Duffy
Executive Assistant.....Melanie Phelps
Office Assistant.....Kerry Harman
Office Assistant.....Stephanie Smith

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Foreword

These statements of policy have been developed by Farm Bureau members through a grassroots, democratic process. Members propose resolutions at their county Farm Bureau's annual meeting at committee meetings or through the Associated Women's organization. These resolutions are discussed, deliberated and voted on. Resolutions approved are presented to the Federation's Policy Development (PD) Committee.

The PD Committee is made up of the Federation's Directors and Committee Chairs as well as County PD Committee Chairs. This committee consolidates similar resolutions, makes factual corrections to statements, properly words resolutions and makes recommendations regarding the current policy document. The resulting resolutions and recommendations are then presented to the House of Delegates at the Federation annual meeting held each year in November where they are once again discussed, deliberated and voted on. Those adopted become Farm Bureau policy.

The House of Delegates is comprised of members elected at their county Farm Bureau annual meeting. County Farm Bureau representation to the Federation annual meeting is based on the number of members in the county, with each county Farm Bureau holding a membership in the Federation entitled to one delegate, and an additional delegate for each two hundred, or major portion thereof, of members. The House of Delegates elect the officers who lead the New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation (NHFBF) and adopts the policies that guide the Federation.

These policies represent the collective thinking of nearly 5,000 farm and rural member families and supporters that make up the ten County Farm Bureaus. Programs and activities of NHFBF are based on the policies printed herein or if not covered by policy, upon approval by the Board of Directors.

Resolutions on national and international subjects may be submitted for consideration to the delegates at the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) annual meeting. All policies adopted there become AFBF policy and also NHFBF policy, unless NHFBF exercises its right to dissent.

Suggestions for improvements to this policy document are always welcome.

**Meeting of the House of Delegates
November 13, 2008
Mountain View Grand, Whitefield, NH**

Officers Present: Jeff Holmes, President (Presiding)
John McPhail, First Vice-President
Dan Briggs, Second Vice-President
Dave Babson, Second Vice-President
Dick Fabrizio, Treasurer (Served as a Delegate)

Also Present: Sandy Salo, President, Associated Women
Beth Hodge, Chairman, Young Farmer Committee

2008 Voting Delegates

Belknap County

John Hodsdon – Meredith
Lela Corbin – Sanbornton

Carroll County

Vincent Blandini – Wolfeboro
Jenny Tapper - Brookfield

Cheshire County

Ralph Heald - Troy
John Salo - Marlow

Coös County

Joyce Brady – Columbia
Scott Forbes - Lancaster
Fred Sullivan - Lancaster

Grafton County

Tom Cope - Bath
Dick Fabrizio – North Haverhill
Jesse Laflamme – Monroe
Dan Nelson – Wentworth
Denis Ward - Monroe

Hillsboro County

Ben Cargill - Brookline
Beth LeClair - Mason
Matt LeClair - Mason
Sean Trombly - Milford

Merrimack County

Bob Drown, Jr. – Webster
Kevin Bragg - Canterbury
Don Ross - Concord
Chuck Souther - Concord

Rockingham County

Rebecca Briggs – Deerfield
Kevin Briggs - Deerfield
Phil Ferdinando - Derry
Dan Hicks, III - Londonderry

Strafford County

Dorn Cox – Lee
Dave Miner - Lee
Glen Pierce - Strafford

Sullivan County

Lori Cook - Langdon
Gordon Gowen – Alstead
Royal Holmes - Langdon

Italics in each section was voted by the delegates to be a statement of philosophy.

AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATION

We believe production agriculture should be represented in the decision making processes when public policies affecting land use, farm practices, crop production, water regulation and similar issues are considered to assure a balance of farm and non-farm goals. We endorse statutory requirements for specific farmer representation on state boards and commissions, including to the University System of NH Board of Trustees. There should be greater agricultural representation that guides UNH Cooperative Extension (Extension) when forming policy and procedures that affect farming. We urge more agricultural representation on county conservation district boards to assure a balance of agricultural and conservation goals. We encourage towns to establish agricultural committees or commissions to assist local decision makers.

Municipal Conservation Commissions should have an agriculture representative on them.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Research of agricultural practices such as biotechnology, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), reduced tillage, sustainable agriculture and water quality management achieve positive impacts on the environment and quality of life. Agricultural research is often of a long-term nature requiring scientific and economic risk benefit analysis when assessing new technologies. Blanket prohibitions of advances in crop and animal production methods are irresponsible. Regulatory action must be predicated on a peer reviewed scientifically demonstrated need to mitigate adverse conditions.

Biotechnology regulation should come from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We oppose state and local regulation of biotechnology.

We endorse the work of the UNH Agricultural Experiment Station and Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and urge adequate state and federal funding.

We support increased research and development of renewable energy sources by the University of New Hampshire system.

In order to bolster research opportunities at smaller institutions such as UNH, we urge the USDA to increase the amount allocated under the Hatch Act, to the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES).

We support research on control measures for bedstraw.

We encourage the use of materials other than sawdust and wood shavings for the research into and use in the manufacturing of pellets and other fuel sources.

(UNH) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Extension should take a proactive approach to research programs that examine alternative farm practices and new possibilities in agriculture. Extension is an essential conduit between academic research and practical application in the field by disseminating information through workshops, seminars, site visits and publications.

We support Extension and its adequate funding within the University System and support it remaining under the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

We urge Extension to increase its commitment to both commercial agriculture and assistance to rural communities. We support continued funding for the Agriculture Program Leader and

agriculture Specialist positions. We support restoring specialist positions in equine, forages, poultry, livestock and agricultural engineering.

We support 4-H; the youth of today are tomorrow's leaders. We urge that enrolled 4-H members be given priority for financial assistance to attend 4-H camp. The major emphasis of 4-H programs should be placed on agricultural projects.

CRIME AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

We support vigorous prosecution, timely trials and increased enforcement of laws regarding criminal trespass, theft and destruction of farm equipment, products and property. Penalties for malicious crop damage should include mandatory restitution, loss of vehicular licenses and release of the names of juveniles. Plaintiffs who initiate agricultural nuisance lawsuits that they lose should be liable for costs incurred by defendants.

CROP PROTECTION MATERIALS

Public health and the environment are best served by having a wide variety of options available for agricultural crop protection. We do not support the application of specific crop protection methods in a use proven to be detrimental to public health. Appropriate pesticide use should consider all factors, including the benefits to the consumer of increased availability, wholesomeness, affordability and safety of food. We believe research, education, technical assistance and incentives can accomplish this rather than further regulations. Expanding IPM and biological pest control research provides practical substitutes or supplements to chemical controls. We support the wise use of crop protection materials at the lowest effective application rates, while maintaining sustainable productivity and profitability.

We support administration and enforcement of pesticide regulations by the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food (NHDAM&F) and oppose local regulation.

We encourage farmers to use IPM.

We support the continued availability of pesticides currently in use until viable replacements are introduced.

We urge the NH Pesticide Control Board to adopt practical regulations for the spraying of maple orchards.

We support responsible use of agricultural chemicals and do not believe farmers should be held liable for unforeseen consequences when a valid license or permit is held and the chemicals are applied according to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and NH pesticide laws.

We support uniform and reciprocal pesticide use requirements among states.

We support equal manufacturers' registration fees for all classes of pesticides.

We support an expedited labeling process for crop protectants in times of emergency.

A designated farm representative should be able to pick up restricted use pesticides for a private applicator.

DAIRY

Federal government programs instituted to control milk prices should reflect the supply and demand of milk on a regional basis, rather than a national basis. Dairy promotion is vital to the industry. We support the formation of a NH Milk Commission for establishing the milk price in the State. We support research and development to find innovative ways to market dairy products. Promotion fees equal to that paid by domestic producers of milk should be paid on all dairy product imports. We are concerned with the loss of market options for dairy farmers and so anti-trust laws must consider the regional impacts of the consolidation of milk processors.

It is necessary for the State of NH to have a dairy pricing safety net.

We support the development of a NH seal for milk produced, processed and sold in NH.

We support the development and aggressive marketing of a "New England" brand of milk.

We support the principle of the Dairy Compact.

We support the concept of the National Dairy Equity Act.

We support the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program as amended in the 2008 U.S. Farm Bill.

We support the concept of the Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) program.

We support inspection and licensing to allow milk producers to sell raw milk directly to consumers.

We support the revision of Class I milk prices.

We support Federal Milk Marketing Orders for adjusting the producer price of milk throughout the nation.

We oppose the formation of a single milk marketing order to replace regional Milk Marketing Orders.

We support changing the rules formulating the Federal Milk Marketing Orders so as to eliminate the danger of losing an order by voting down an amendment to the order.

We support uniform standards for milk composition similar to the California standards.

We support the authority of the USDA Secretary of Agriculture to dispose of stocks of dairy products owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) in any legal manner available.

We support subsidized school milk.

We support Granite State Dairy Promotion and the promotion of a positive image for agriculture by such means as hosting open barn events.

We encourage dairy farmers to choose where they allocate up to ten cents of their milk promotion money.

We support funding of National Dairy Promotion and Research Board activities, and its management by Dairy Management, Inc.

We support the use of the "Real Seal" logo to enable consumers to identify real dairy products.

We support laws prohibiting imitation dairy products from being sold under dairy names.

We support the appropriate labeling of blends and low fat products.

We oppose regulations limiting the use of biotechnology products or approved farm practices or requiring the registration of farmers who use them.

We oppose the changing of the legal definition of milk to include ultra-filtered milk and milk protein concentrates (MPCs).

We urge strict enforcement of the requirement that milk be stored at a temperature not to exceed 40 degrees Fahrenheit from the farm bulk tank to the consumer

We oppose the use of dairy residue tests that show false positives as the sole official test for determining drug residues in milk.

We urge the FDA and other appropriate agencies to re-classify Polyether Inophores to reflect their true function and to discontinue their classification as antibiotics.

Hauling and stop charges should not be paid by dairy farmers.

EDUCATION

All children in NH should have an opportunity to study, observe and participate in agricultural operations. This traditional source of practical knowledge, ethics and understanding of life is essential to the well being of our society. We support the opportunity for every NH citizen to obtain an education. The authority and responsibility of basic education

belongs at the local level of government. We will cherish and defend the high school agri-science programs in the state.

We support staffing the full-time education curriculum consultant position for agricultural education within the NH Department of Education (DOE).

We support the work of Agriculture in the Classroom and other agricultural education programs.

We support agricultural leadership and civic skills building programs such as FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America).

We urge Federal funding of the Perkins Act with full state matching funds in order to continue vocational agricultural education programs.

We endorse cooperation between NH farmers and schools to teach the importance of agricultural production in NH.

We support the NH Farm to School program.

We support the freedom of communities to determine the food available in their schools, but we urge that nutritionally well-balanced meals and snacks be served with a special emphasis on serving locally grown food products.

We support placing vending machines with NH products in schools offering milk, fruits and nutritious snack foods.

We recognize the intrinsic educational value of out of school learning opportunities and encourage school administrators to release students for events such as exhibiting at fairs.

We endorse “10 x 15,” the Long-Range Goal for Agricultural Education, directed by the National Council for Agricultural Education. We support the creation of new programs in communities not yet served by agricultural education and FFA. We support ensuring the quality and high performance of current programs which provide personal and academic growth and career education in agriculture.

We support requiring all 1st through 8th grade public school children to have 5 hours per week of curriculum time outside in nature.

We encourage the DOE to promote the opening of schools after Labor Day as seasonal oriented businesses, including agriculture and agri-tourism enterprises, depend on the New Hampshire student population to effectively run their operations.

ENERGY

We support the continued research and development of renewable energy from biomass, farm products, geothermal, solar, solid waste, water, wave or tidal action, wind and other sources that can become economically feasible and environmentally sound. We support the use of energy efficiency measures to reduce our dependency on and eliminate the waste of fossil fuel. In the event of energy rationing, farmers must have an adequate supply for agricultural production.

We support development of a national energy policy that includes the continuation of low interest energy conservation loans for farmers and small businesses, the accumulation of a national oil reserve of six months and the use of biofuels.

We support continuing research and development of biofuel sources and products and encourage their use.

Farm electric bills should be protected from high peaks on demand meters caused by power outages.

We support net metering of small dispersed electricity production from renewable sources at competitive rates.

We encourage factual reporting based on proven scientific fact concerning the threat and causes of climate change and global warming.

We oppose an outright ban or unreasonable regulation of outdoor wood-fired boilers.

We oppose federal subsidies for ethanol produced from feed grains.

EQUINE

We recognize and support the equine agricultural industry in the state.

We support horseback riding on designated trails on public land.

We urge equine owners to establish a herd health management program with their veterinarian in accordance with Best Management Practices (BMPs).

We support requiring a Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test whenever horse ownership changes.

We encourage organizers of equine events to require a current EIA test.

We oppose the mandatory licensing of equine facilities.

We recognize wearing an American Society for Testing and Materials/Safety Equipment Institute (ASTM/SEI) approved helmet while riding is a prudent safety measure and recommend that all riders wear one, but we do not support a law requiring mandatory use.

We oppose amending the federal Horse Protection Act to prohibit the slaughtering of horses for human consumption.

We support funding for NHDAM&F and USDA equine inspection, testing, laboratory and quarantine services.

FAMILY LIFE

We believe the family, strong in morals and emotionally and physically healthy, is basic to the quality of life in NH. We encourage making educational resources available through voluntary programs to parents who seek to strengthen their families. Parents must take childrearing responsibilities seriously, emphasizing appropriate behavior, personal responsibility and consideration for others.

FARM CREDIT SYSTEM AND AGRICULTURAL LENDING

The Farm Credit System is America's largest cooperatively owned lender and is a vital source of credit for agriculture and rural America. We support the continuation of a Farm Credit System that maintains its cooperative structure and local participation.

The Farm Credit System should be authorized to finance small rural businesses, which are important to the economic well being of rural communities.

We oppose changes in the Farm Credit System that will limit its access to national money markets.

We support the availability of responsible credit for all phases of agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products industries, including the full credit needs of all farmers, all agricultural marketing and processing entities, as well as all other entities providing farm services and farm supplies. Such credit should be predicated on sound credit practices including purpose, repayment ability, equity and management ability.

We support regulatory changes to allow farmers to do business with the Farm Credit System institution that best fits their needs.

Except for the beginning farmer program, USDA's Farm Service Agency should not lend money in a direct loan or guarantee a loan unless it is based on sound credit practices.

FARMING OPPORTUNITY

Profitability in agriculture and economic returns in line with investment of capital, labor and management is the best way to maintain NH's rural character. We support efforts to match beginning farmers with retiring farmers. We support the full utilization of agricultural resources of the state and the maximum retention of good agricultural land. We recognize that both conventional and certified organic agricultural products are important components of the NH economy.

FIREARMS

We oppose the registration of and restrictions on the sale of firearms and ammunition to the general public. The sale of fully automatic type weapons should require proper licensing. We oppose the sale of firearms to persons who are mentally incompetent or demonstrated incorrigibles. We support heavier penalties for crimes involving the use of firearms.

FISH AND GAME

We will work closely with the NH Fish and Game Department (Fish and Game) to preserve wildlife, while retaining the ability of farmers or their agents to shoot or trap animals damaging crops or livestock.

We oppose requiring the relocation of nuisance wildlife such as skunks and beavers.

We encourage Fish and Game to continue consulting with landowners before releasing game birds and animals on farmland.

We support continued funding by Fish and Game of the Cooperative Fencing Program.

We support increased funding for animal damage control officers and animal damage control programs, including mandated compensation for wildlife damage to crops, livestock and property.

Fish and Game should pay for wildlife damage on an exact loss basis, not on a dry matter basis.

We urge Fish and Game to establish special permits, primitive weapon hunting zones and extended hunting seasons on and around agricultural land that suffers from wild animal depredation. Depredation permits should be available before damage occurs and issued within one working day. Permit holders should be allowed to keep the animals, provided proper carcass disposal is assured.

Landowners who post their land should not forfeit their opportunity to participate in game damage programs.

We support the raising, harvesting and selling of domesticated wildlife, including whitetail deer, so long as the health status of indigenous and domestic livestock are not jeopardized.

We support the establishment of regulated large game hunting areas for elk, fallow deer and red deer.

We support limiting Fish and Game officers' authority to enter property that is posted, unless there is probable cause of an illegal act within or an emergency.

We urge that Fish and Game continue to study and monitor the coyote population and resulting livestock damage. We support the implementation of control measures when a coyote problem is identified.

We support the removal of the gray wolf from the state's endangered species list.

We support requiring written landowner permission before erecting tree stands, with the

additional requirement that the tree stand owners name and address be permanently fixed to the stand.

We support an open season on raccoons, an extended crow hunt and extending the hunting season for non-migratory Canada Geese to include fall and winter months.

We support the pre-baiting of bear, allowing more than one bait station and allowing dog packs to be involved in more than one bear kill.

We support expanding the wild turkey season, take and shotgun hunting in the fall season.

We support the continued testing of wild deer and elk for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

FORESTRY

Forest resource conservation and the forest industry are a vital part of NH's agricultural and natural resource economy. We encourage the use of native lumber. We support research for practical ways to utilize the vast amounts of low-grade wood fiber, waste wood and forest residuals that when harvested, improve the overall health and value of NH's forests. Since small holdings constitute a major part of commercial forestland, efforts to expand programs of advice and assistance for these owners will help maintain private forestland ownership.

We oppose more land in NH being given the wilderness designation and support the re-evaluation of currently designated wilderness areas. We urge that wilderness areas be managed with sound, multiple use principles.

We support continued timber harvest in the White Mountain National Forest and oppose it being a national park.

We oppose the use of the municipal site plan review process or ordinances that regulate woodlot management and restrict access for timber harvest.

We support clear cutting as a sound forestry practice when done according to BMPs as recommended by the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands (Forests and Lands).

We support the continued operation of the State Forest Nursery on a self-supporting basis.

We encourage Forests and Lands to formulate management plans for state owned forestry tracts to better manage government forestlands.

We support the conclusions of the Timber Liquidation Report, issued in February, 1998 by the NH Forest Liquidation Study Committee.

We support the NH Forest Fire Service and necessary funding for fire towers and air surveillance.

We support full cost share funding of the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP).

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations should allow woodland to be treated as a farm for inheritance purposes.

We support the recommendations and action plan pertaining to insurance, regulation and energy of the NH Forest Industry Task Force.

The application process for the use of federal forestland by maple producers should be expedited and simplified. Environmental impact studies and public hearings should not be required for each site. Tap lease rates should reflect market rates.

GOVERNMENT OWNED PROPERTY

Government owned properties that are not available for public use should be required to bear their share of the cost of services provided by other government entities. Government entities acquiring property should be required to satisfy existing tax liens or other long-term indebtedness.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

We support maximizing food safety without compromising wholesomeness, availability or affordability.

We support reinstating the ability of cider makers to wholesale unpasteurized cider.

We support conservatism in risk assessment as appropriate when data is inadequate. However, we believe the EPA's risk assessment methodology is excessively conservative.

We encourage training of emergency response personnel in responding to farm accidents and emergencies, including training regarding preserving equipment and property whenever possible.

We encourage driver education programs to include the proper use and recognition of legal hand signals used by operators of agricultural equipment.

Restrictive legislation should not interfere with the FDA registering veterinary medical products, including antibiotics. The FDA should be given more adequate funding so that the registration and deregistration decisions can be made in a timely manner.

We support the ability to display live Christmas Trees in public buildings and in business establishments.

INSURANCE

Participation in activities involving inherent risk automatically should indicate an acknowledgment and acceptance of the responsibility for such risks by the participant and their legal guardian, except for negligence.

We support tort reform that will cap insurance claims and establish a standard recommended settlement.

We support elimination or limits to "joint and several liability."

We oppose mandatory health insurance for employees.

We support efforts to encourage health insurers to do business in NH.

We support reform of Workers' Compensation laws to encourage people to go back to work.

We support the development of a Workers' Compensation insurance policy that ensures an equitable minimum premium payment for agricultural enterprises.

We support amending crop insurance programs so that the value of lost feed quality and quantity can be recovered.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The economic health of the entire world depends upon mutually beneficial trade among nations. In order to reduce trade barriers among nations, we urge coordinated US efforts to strengthen monetary and trade policies be continued. Imports of agricultural products should meet US standards for similar products produced in the US.

LABOR

We oppose amendments to state youth employment laws and federal child labor laws that restrict opportunities for young people in agricultural employment.

We oppose a collective bargaining act for NH farm workers and federally subsidized programs that seek to organize farm workers.

We support reform of the H-2A agricultural guest worker program for the employment of temporary foreign labor.

We support the tightening of qualifications for unemployment compensation payments.

We oppose increases in unemployment compensation benefits and extension of the law to include farm workers.

We oppose unemployment compensation payments to people on strike.

We support Right-to-Work laws and support Section 14b of the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 permitting states to enact their own Right-to-Work laws.

LAND USE

The protection of private ownership rights is basic to the function of democracy. We support the right of every individual landowner to an appeal from the enforcement of a government land use mandate. We oppose unreasonable restrictions on the use of agricultural land and support zoning decisions being made at the local level of government. The sensible enforcement of zoning controls should result in safe and pleasing land development and prevent development from becoming a burden on public taxation. We support zoning that allows for higher density units, such as cluster zoning, high rises, and condominiums, with provisions for preservation of farmland. We support creative tax incentives to promote environmental practices and land stewardship. We urge local governments to look favorably on the retail aspects of agriculture as necessary to keeping working farms a viable industry and an integral part of the town's character. Open space should be used first and for as long as possible for agricultural uses.

We oppose local ordinances that restrict the viability of agricultural and forestry enterprises when the operation of such enterprises is operated according to BMP guidelines.

We support requiring disclosure of the "Right-to-Farm" law to any purchaser of real estate located within one mile of farmland. (RSA 432:32-35)

We support continued state funding for the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP).

We favor funding of the Acquisition of Agricultural Land Development Rights Law (RSA 432:18 - 432:31-a).

We support the concept of renewable, limited duration, resource protection easements, such as conservation easements, view shed easements or cultural preservation agreements.

In order to preserve open space, we support allowing for the expansion and change of an existing, non-conforming agricultural use.

We support the creation of buffer areas within new residential developments in order to reduce conflict with agricultural uses.

We support exempting demountable greenhouses from building code and building permit requirements.

We support exempting agriculture as defined in RSA 21:34-a from the municipal site plan review process.

We support exempting land or structures currently used for agricultural purposes from local zoning ordinances.

Landowners should be allowed to build non-residential agricultural support structures on property served only by Class VI roads.

Government owned agricultural land should have priority for food and fiber production over other uses. State and county institutional farmland should continue as productive agricultural units with regard to dairy, field crops, livestock, forestry, fruits and vegetables.

LIVESTOCK

Livestock production is integral to preserving open space. Humane animal care through the use of BMPs and the adoption of preventative health measures will serve to protect both the

livestock industry and public health. Efforts to promote increased public understanding of the merits of modern animal production practices and their relation to biosecurity, food safety and public health.

The availability of slaughter and processing facilities, particularly those offering USDA inspection, is critical to a viable commercial livestock industry. Measures ensuring the availability of processing and marketing facilities as well as the continued promotion and marketing of locally grown livestock products are needed to reinvigorate the livestock industry in NH.

We support only a voluntary national animal identification program.

We support the exemption of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) from the Right to Know Law.

We support federal and state funded incentives to attract large animal veterinarians to underserved areas.

We encourage the NHDAM&F and the Veterinary Licensing Board to work with Canada and encourage veterinarians to practice in northern NH.

We support full funding of the Large Animal Veterinarian Net Tuition Repayment Program.

We support the creation of a large animal care worker classification who, working under a licensed veterinarian, can provide routine large animal veterinary care.

We urge veterinary schools give applicants with livestock experience and the desire to practice large animal veterinary medicine special consideration upon application.

We support the interstate sale of state inspected meat, as long as the state inspection is equal to or better than USDA inspection requirements.

We urge USDA to promulgate state meat inspection rules as called for in the U.S. Farm Bill and urge NHDAM&F to implement a state meat inspection program.

We support the ability of a farmer to directly market a limited amount of uninspected meat each year.

We support vaccination of all domestic and farm animals for rabies.

Farm vaccination records containing a producer signed affidavit should be accepted as proof of vaccination.

We support testing for pseudorabies in swine.

We support increased funding to the NHDAM&F for continuation of the tuberculosis testing program.

We support expanding the NH brucellosis and tuberculosis program to include all domesticated animals that are potential carriers.

We support the US Animal Health Associations Johne's Disease Herd Certification Program and support its adoption by the NHDAM&F.

We support a voluntary Johne's Disease testing program based on USDA's voluntary Johne's Disease Herd Status program.

We continue to support research of Johne's Disease and urge producers work with the State Veterinarian toward a Johne's free state.

We support continuing the federal Scrapie eradication program.

We support funding for the development of a live animal test for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE).

We oppose legislation that would prevent owners from humanely euthanizing their animals.

We support FDA regulation of animal antibiotics based on sound scientific risk analysis on an individual product basis rather than a product class basis.

We support the option to use feed additives, hormones and other materials approved for

livestock and poultry production.

We support the NHDAM&F's "New Hampshire Emergency Operations Plan; Emergency Animal Issues."

Assessments for meat promotions should be collected only at the time of slaughter.

Domesticated cervidae (deer family) that are defined as livestock under state law should be regulated solely by the NHDAM&F.

We support the designation of farmed strains of buffalo or bison, llamas, alpacas, emus, ostriches, yaks, elk (*Cervus elephus canadensis*), fallow deer (*Dama dama*), red deer (*Cervus elephus*) and reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) as minor species at the federal level so that research can be conducted to approve animal health products for use in these species.

We support recognizing the production of farmed strains of buffalo or bison, llamas, alpacas, emus, ostriches, yaks, elk (*Cervus elephus canadensis*), fallow deer (*Dama dama*), red deer (*Cervus elephus*), reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) and equines as agricultural industries at the federal level with full benefits of traditional agriculture extended to these industries. This includes production insurance, livestock compensation and other livestock programs, health certification, loan guarantees and expedited approvals.

MARKETING

We favor a free enterprise system for establishing market price by supply and demand.

As allowed by the Capper-Volstead Act, we support the ability of farmers to form agricultural supply and marketing cooperatives.

We support the expansion of farmers' markets, formation of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) entities and cooperatives to market agricultural products.

We support the research, development and marketing of non-traditional agricultural products and enterprises and new uses of existing products.

MOTOR VEHICLES LAW AND TRANSPORTATION

We support continued improvements to the existing highway system in NH with a minimum impact on agricultural land. We support the NH constitutional requirement that all revenues derived from highway user taxes and fees be used exclusively for the construction and maintenance of public highways.

We support the continued use of Agricultural and Farm Plates.

We support an exemption for Agricultural, Farm and Farm Tractor registrations from additional assessments designed specifically to raise funds for state highway construction.

We support an exemption for vehicles with Agricultural Plates from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Act.

We oppose further restrictions on farm vehicles and machinery on highways.

We support exempting drivers of farm trucks and farm implement combinations from Commercial Drivers License requirements.

We propose the addition of the following sentence to clarify RSA 259:42 Construction Equipment: *Construction equipment used only and exclusively in agricultural operations and not for hire shall be allowed to be registered as a farm tractor.*

We urge all vehicle registrations and plates be done at the town level.

We urge the development of a utility registration for farm use that would include miscellaneous vehicles not fitting into any of the present categories.

Any person caught maliciously damaging crops, animals or equipment with an Off Highway

Recreational Vehicle (OHRV) should be subject to loss of license and mandatory restitution. Fish and Game should pay for damages not covered by restitution out of funds coming from the registration of the vehicles and if necessary, fees should be increased to cover these costs.

We support the organization of OHRV clubs. We encourage OHRV clubs to continue to educate their members regarding the safe and courteous operation of OHRVs.

We oppose the easing of restrictions on the public use of OHRVs on private property.

With the increased use of OHRVs, the categories of risk listed in RSA 215-A:34, II needs to be amended to include "equipment in use by the landowner or his agent" to protect the rights of landowners.

The transportation of agricultural products and by-products should be exempt from seasonal load limits on NH roadways.

The transportation of agricultural products and by-products should be exempt from No-Thru Trucking regulations.

We support the establishment of an emergency government fund available for the repair or replacement of bridges condemned and closed in NH.

We oppose requiring surety bonds for temporary access to state highways.

We discourage the use of ultra lights, aircraft and hot air balloons in proximity to livestock.

NH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS & FOOD (NHDAM&F)

New Hampshire has a proud agricultural history. Given regulatory opportunity and the economic climate to do so, agricultural production in NH can be increased to provide not only a beneficial use of available land but also increased nutritional and economic benefits for all its citizens. NHDAM&F must remain intact as an autonomous department and the regulatory authority for all aspects of agriculture, agricultural markets and food; including aquaculture and game farming. This is essential to assure the safety of agricultural products for consumers and to protect the interests of farmers.

We support the appointment of the Commissioner of Agriculture for a five-year term.

We endorse the *Weekly Market Bulletin*, Farm & Forest Exposition, Farms of Distinction program and all other information sources sponsored by the NHDAM&F.

We support strict enforcement of organic farm certification standards and the native produce advertising law (RSA 426:5) by allowing NHDAM&F to levy administrative fines for violations.

We support state funding for NHDAM&F to provide for adequate personnel to inspect bee, cider, livestock, maple, poultry and ornamental horticulture products and operations. The NHDAM&F and not the NH Department of Health & Human Services should oversee inspection.

We support efforts by the NHDAM&F to promote agricultural tourism and locally grown agricultural products.

We support annual inspection and certification for on farm certification of scales.

We support transferring the regulation of composting poultry and livestock to the NHDAM&F.

NUTRITION AND FOOD PROGRAMS

We support the nationwide Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for eligible Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) participants and the Food Stamp Program. We support including these programs at all farm stands.

We support simplifying the Food Stamp Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system for farmers' markets and farm stand operations.

PATRIOTISM

We support keeping the words "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and "In God We Trust" on US currency. We support the sanctity of the American Flag. We encourage everyone to fly the flag according to proper flag etiquette.

POULTRY

On-farm processors marketing directly to consumers at the farm should be allowed an increase in the flock size exempted from USDA inspected slaughter.

We support the expansion of egg and other food handling education programs for commercial food handlers.

We oppose requiring refrigerated transportation of fresh eggs when they are moved locally as defined by RSA 426:5.

We encourage producers to participate in the Voluntary Model State Salmonella Enteritidis Reduction Program.

PRODUCT LABELING

Where federal law requires labeling of food and produce, individual states should adopt those policies and not impose stricter regulations, nor should states adopt product labeling regulations for which the federal government has no requirement.

We support market based labeling and promotion to identify unique product characteristics or production methods, but we oppose deceptive labeling.

We support enabling dairy products to be sold as other products are sold, “% fat free.”

PROMOTION

Viable agricultural and forestry industries provide an environment that is responsible for a quality of life that benefits the state's other leading industries. The tourism industry in the state is dependent upon the open space and vistas provided by agriculture. We strongly encourage production, sale and consumption of locally grown agricultural products.

We support the use of temporary signs for agricultural enterprises on state highways and local roads.

We support increased funding of agricultural development and promotional efforts focusing on the open space that agriculture and forestry provide to all.

We urge the continued close working relationship between the agricultural and tourism industries.

NHDAM&F funding for the promotion of agricultural products should be proportionate to state funding provided to promote industry, recreation, travel and tourism.

We urge NH producers to support NH Made, Inc.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

The most effective stewardship of our natural resources can be obtained through private ownership of land, with government ownership, supervision and regulation kept to the minimum necessary to prevent abuse and to protect our environment. We recognize that for effective land use zoning and planning historical rights may have to be abridged. However, any such abridgment should be solely for the general welfare and not for the benefit of individual or special interest. The principles behind individual ownership of land and rights inherent therein are the same whether the ownership is a suburban house lot or a farmer's fields and forests.

No one who builds or purchases property near a farm should be able to force a change in the day to day operations on that farm.

Easements, non-highway rights-of-way and land protection acquisitions should be made between ready, willing and able buyers and sellers and not through eminent domain.

Where eminent domain takings of farmland result in awarding land damages, compensation should include reasonable access to all property and water supplies. A reasonable time for the removal of crops, gravel, soil and timber should be provided. Payments should be based on the total devaluation of a farm business.

When government regulation constitutes a taking, landowners should be reimbursed for the loss of use of land or decrease in property value and rights, including the loss of riparian rights.

We oppose the taking of land by eminent domain for forestry, parkland, wildlife management, recreational use or any private use.

We support eminent domain land taking only for clearly justified public infrastructure purposes.

Federal and state agencies should be required to review their actions to ensure that unnecessary takings of property do not occur.

We support a rewrite of the Endangered Species Act so that biodiversity is preserved and endangered species are protected through protecting representative ecosystems. The preferred method of protection should be through incentives to landowners. If additional protective methods are required, which result in the taking of property rights, landowners should be compensated at fair market value.

We oppose the listing of an endangered species if the animal is at a sustainable population elsewhere on the continent.

We oppose the addition of the Atlantic Salmon to the Endangered Species List.

We oppose the listing of the Canada Lynx to the Endangered Species List.

We oppose the reintroduction of the timber wolf to the northeastern US.

Eco-terrorism and agro-terrorism are threats to property rights and may inhibit adoption of biotechnology and related farm practices. We support strong enforcement and full prosecution of offenders.

A person involved in conducting a survey must get written permission from a landowner before entering private property to gather information.

We support the right of landowners to protect their land from loss or destruction by rivers and streams without a costly and lengthy permitting process.

We oppose the “dumping” of stormwater runoff, resulting from neighboring development, on farmland and other private property.

Landowners should not be held responsible for the cleanup or removal of material, toxic or otherwise, placed on their property without their consent.

Owners of land served by Class VI roads should be allowed access to their land by the Class VI road. Landowners should be allowed to build non-residential agricultural support structures on property served only by Class VI roads.

A Natural Heritage Inventory of a property should only be obtained with the consent of the landowner. We support the right of property owners to be made fully aware of the uses of Natural Heritage information obtained from their land and to have the ability to control the distribution of any information concerning their property.

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

We oppose the classification of manure as hazardous waste. We support continued research on the disposal and treatment of hazardous waste. We support recycling programs to reduce the

amount of waste. We support enforcement measures to control the discarding of rubbish along highways.

We urge the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) to develop a program for the safe disposal of hazardous materials including agricultural chemicals and containers.

We oppose the use of eminent domain procedures to take productive agricultural land as landfill sites.

We urge continued exploration of alternative methods for waste disposal other than landfills.

We support research and development into the uses and markets for recyclable materials.

STATE GOVERNMENT

Small legislative districts that conform to the boundaries of single towns best serve the tradition of self-government in NH. When multi-town districts must be created, towns of similar size, character and interest should be aggregated.

"Agricultural activities are an economically beneficial and worthwhile feature of the NH economy and landscape and shall not be discouraged or eliminated by use of municipal planning and zoning powers or the unreasonable interpretation of such powers." (RSA 672:1 III-b)

"Any agricultural use...may without restriction be expanded, altered to meet changing technology or markets, or changed to another agricultural use, as set forth in RSA 21:34-a, so long as such expansion, alteration, or change complies with all federal and state laws, regulations, and rules, including best management practices..." (RSA 674:32-b)

We support NH's "Right-to-Farm" law, RSAs 432:33, 34 and 35.

We support establishing a clear difference in the application of the International Building Codes for buildings used for agricultural purposes. (i.e. sprinkler systems in riding arenas, hay barns, animal housing)

We support plumbing codes that allow farmers to do their own plumbing on their farms.

We support the recommendations contained in the report of the Governor's Farm Viability Task Force issued in September 2006 to the Legislature and that the NHDAM&F Agricultural Advisory Board monitor implementation of the recommendations on a continuing basis.

We support a return to biennial sessions of the NH Legislature.

We oppose across the board percentage budget cuts and hiring freezes in the NHDAM&F and Extension.

We support state aid for NH agricultural fairs.

We oppose Home Rule.

We oppose unfunded state mandates.

We oppose new or increased fees for inspection, registration, or licensing that affect the sale, processing, or production of agricultural products in NH that are not reasonably related to the cost of the service rendered by the agency levying the fee.

We oppose government attempts to restrict, control, or remove a landowners' right to control public access to their land.

We support government and private sector statements of privacy and information disclosure policies.

We urge the New Hire Report be combined with the current state unemployment tax reporting schedule and also that the days to report new hires be increased from 20 to 90 days.

We support a preemptive state law allowing alteration of stone walls to accommodate larger modern machinery.

Where state law requires written permission for recreation on private property, preprinted forms

should be provided by the appropriate state agency.

Reasonable exemptions for agriculture should be included in the definition of junkyards.

We support a consumer "Lemon Law" that includes new agricultural machinery and new motor vehicles sold in the state of NH.

As a means of promoting tourism through the maintenance of scenic agricultural vistas, we encourage tree trimming along state rights-of-way.

We support gubernatorial line-item veto authority in appropriation bills.

We encourage the preservation and management of sugar maple stands for the purpose of maple sap production on state and federal owned lands.

In order to keep the general public better informed, we support holding public hearings on proposed changes to state agency rules at multiple locations around the state.

TAXATION

Current Use is the foundation of NH's working farm and forest landscape and the cornerstone in maintaining the state's open space lands. We oppose any efforts that deviate from the founding principal of Current Use, that open space lands will be assessed at a value representing the lands' ability to provide income from agricultural products.

We believe federal income tax laws should encourage savings, investment, education and research with no net increase in taxes. We believe the most efficient use of taxpayers' money is through the frugal exercise of government responsibilities at the lowest practical level of government.

We support the Current Use Law (RSA 79-A) and oppose increasing the 10% Land Use Change Tax (LUCT).

We oppose the state compensating municipalities for tax revenues lost due to Current Use assessment.

We oppose changing Current Use law in a way which would penalize landowners for posting their land.

We support the state mandated Soil Potential Index (SPI) process of assessing cropland. Current Use assessment of inactive farmland should not be so high as to encourage unmanaged reforestation.

We oppose including additional recreational activities in the Current Use assessments 20% recreational adjustment allowed under RSA 79-A:4 II.

Farmers who develop and implement stewardship crop management strategies such as nutrient management plans, IPM scouting services and soil conservation plans, should receive a lower Current Use assessment, similar to the lower assessment forest landowners receive for developing a forestry plan.

Land on which horticultural crops are grown should qualify for Current Use assessment as long as the intent of Current Use is maintained.

Assessment of land taken out of Current Use for the construction of agricultural buildings should be based on no more than the maximum of that land's square footage percentage of a house lot in that town.

When defining a farmer for property tax purposes we support "\$2,500 of annual gross income from the sale of crops or livestock produced thereon." The providing of sales slips, cash register tapes or similar documentation will meet this definition.

Property tax enhancement factors must be well defined, fully documented and transparent to taxpayers; such factors must be consistently applied throughout a municipality.

We support the State standardizing property tax bills so that bills are readily understood, free of

additional computation by the taxpayer and clearly define the Current Use tax portion.

We support repeal of the estate tax.

We support repeal of the Business Enterprise Tax (BET).

We oppose applying the Business Profits Tax (BPT) to capital gains, particularly for the sale of livestock.

We oppose a tax on gross income, a general sales tax, a land value tax, a capital gains tax, a value added tax and the statewide property tax.

If the NH Legislature determines a broad base tax is necessary, we will only support a tax that has a constitutional allocation of 100% of its revenues dedicated to the relief of property taxes in the cities and towns to be distributed in an equitable manner. If a state income tax is enacted, we believe an increase in rate should require a constitutional amendment.

We urge the cost of an adequate education be determined prior to the institution of a long-term tax to fund state education aid to local school districts.

We support an exemption from the Interest and Dividends Tax for installment interest income derived from the sale of operating farms.

The period in which transfers of property are considered to be "in contemplation of death" should be reduced from three years to one year.

We support use of Real Estate Transfer Tax funds for the preservation of agricultural land.

We support repeal of the real estate transfer tax on real estate transferred between members of the same family when there is no change in ownership interest.

We oppose taxation of tower silos, bunker silos and manure storage areas.

We encourage municipalities to adopt the provisions of RSA 79-D (Discretionary Preservation Easements), supporting restoration and preservation of historical agricultural structures.

We encourage municipalities to adopt the provisions of RSA 79-F.

Municipal assessing officials should be prohibited from assessing a farm structure or the land under it as a commercial business use when it is used in the operation of the farm as defined in RSA 21:34-a.

We support the elimination of property taxes on high depreciation, single use agricultural structures, such as greenhouses, in order to allow NH growers to effectively compete with growers in surrounding states.

We oppose percentage based methods of gasoline taxation.

We oppose fuel taxes on fuel used in off-highway vehicles.

We oppose the collection of fuel taxes on agricultural equipment.

We oppose using federal motor fuel taxes or highway user fees to finance general purposes of government other than those related to highway construction and maintenance.

We support tax credits for on-farm alternative energy production and pollution control devices and facilities.

The state should match all available Medicaid money.

We oppose government charges on Internet access.

UNH COLLEGE OF LIFE SCIENCES AND AGRICULTURE

Agriculture should remain an integral part of both the college and its name. Programming should reflect the present and future needs of agriculture in the state. Priority should be given to research programs and services directly benefiting New England farmers at the NH Agricultural Experiment Station and Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

We strongly urge the administration of UNH to fully fund and fill faculty positions in agriculture.

We encourage the UNH College of Life Sciences and Agriculture (COLSA) continue to provide and expand adequate and diverse education to students interested in livestock management or veterinary services.

The New England Land Grant Colleges should equitably share resources to continue quality agricultural curricula, research and Extension programs. Therefore, we support reciprocal tuition agreements so that students may attend an out of state college for their agricultural specialty at their home state tuition rate.

We oppose conversion of UNH farmland to non-agricultural uses.

USDA, FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA), NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) AND THE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Federal farm policy should be evaluated regionally.

We support efforts to decrease agriculture's dependency on federal support programs.

We encourage USDA to amend disaster assistance programs so that farmers would be required to pay crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payments only on those crops they wish to receive disaster payments on.

We urge FSA to study program crops and their benefits to NH farmers based on regional equity rather than national pricing.

We support more authority concerning wetland issues for county FSA boards and Conservation Districts.

We support funding for FSA and NRCS cost share programs and technical support services.

We support the FSA taking over the payment process for all NRCS cost share programs.

We support greater local control in setting priorities.

NRCS is understaffed in NH, personnel should be added immediately.

We support enabling NRCS cost share programs to assist farmers with controlling bedstraw.

We urge that all soil mapping and digitization throughout the state be completed.

We support the concept of allowing farmers to develop their own nutrient management plan to be approved by NHDAM&F.

We support the Farm Lands Protection Program.

We support removing farm size and funding restrictions for NRCS services. The process for determining funding eligibility should be expedited.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) program needs to be reviewed.

We support a formula for WHIP funding that recognizes game damage which may occur on neighboring agricultural lands as a result of increased wildlife populations.

We encourage USDA to review the standards of, and specific regulations for, NRCS projects.

We encourage the State to take over the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permitting process from the EPA.

We support Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) regulations that are implemented incrementally with farmer input.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) areas should be able to set their priorities based on local needs.

We support the work of the Conservation Districts.

We support an adequate appropriation for the State Conservation Committee so that it can fulfill its statutory functions.

We urge full agricultural participation in the Census of Agriculture and all National Agricultural Statistics Service surveys.

We support increased funding for natural resource and conservation activity in the AmeriCorps program.

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

NH water use policy must uphold the riparian principle, where all landowners whose property is adjacent to a body of water (including groundwater) have the established property right to make reasonable use of that water. Administrative rules and permits granted by DES amount to incremental steps toward prior appropriation of water that may limit traditional agricultural uses.

Clean water in a bountiful supply is fundamental to successful agriculture. We understand the importance of maintaining the integrity of water resources. Unreasonable regulations must not be placed on agricultural operations managed in a responsible manner. Irrigation during dry periods is an essential agricultural practice. Special consideration must be given to water use for agriculture, public drinking and sanitary needs. We will be active participants in efforts to regulate water.

We encourage farmers to meter and document their water use.

We support developing the data needed to make informed choices regarding the water resources of our state.

We support increased releases of state waters from lakes and reservoirs during low flow critical periods in order to assure adequate water for irrigation.

We oppose water resource management plan ordinances that would unduly restrict normal agricultural practices. Farmland owners who are negatively affected by the passage of a water resource management plan ordinance must be compensated for the value of the land and for the loss of future income from that land.

We support flood control by numerous small dams and water conservation in the tributaries. We object to the construction of large flood control and hydroelectric dams that destroy agricultural land. Dams constructed primarily for flood control should retain that as their main purpose. We oppose the deliberate breaching of dams in NH if it will adversely affect farm operations above or below the dam.

We support a federal wetlands definition that excludes prior converted cropland from regulation, clarifies that normal agricultural practices are exempt from individual permit requirements, classifies wetlands by value and function and requires compensation to landowners for loss of economic use of private property.

We oppose regulations that prohibit farmers from managing existing wet fields intended for agricultural use.

We support exempting minimum impact wetland projects from permitting.

We oppose mandatory wetlands mitigation.

Ecologically important wetlands should be protected by the purchase of easements or outright purchase at a fair market value.

Wetlands with ecological value that are not substantially reduced by agriculture should be open to farming.

Existing ditches, ponds, water holes, and farm brooks should be allowed to be cleaned without a dredge and fill permit.

We support emergency agriculture and forestry wetlands permits valid for a minimum of 30 days and available equally for land, roads, and buildings.

Farm and forest landowners should be educated and informed regarding the ecological value of vernal pools which may be on their property, but no new regulations should be imposed on farm and forest activities provided BMPs are followed.

We support efforts to educate the public about the nutrient resource management benefits of

spreading manure and other organic residuals.

We oppose local permitting for the storage, transportation and spreading of manure. We support research efforts to reduce the odor of organic residuals.

We support the land application of biosolids, septage, short paper fiber, wood ash, composted waste and other organic residual material when applied according to a site utilization management plan which outlines BMPs and loading limits according to standards set by the NHDAM&F. When such materials are tested and approved for land spreading the generator should assume the liability for potential contamination of soil and water on the property.

When DES grants a permit or waives a regulation for a septic system or a well, the state should be liable for damages to abutting property.

With respect to the federal Coastal Zone Act, shoreline buffers should be objectively based on the best available data for sediment and nutrient transport for the soil type and slope.

Farmers should not be liable for the contamination of wells or groundwater by fertilizers provided that they have been applied according to BMPs.

In order to minimize acid rain and other pollutants we believe fossil fuel burning power plants should be required to install up-to-date pollution controls.

We support the open burning of brush, stumps and wood waste in rural areas.

We support the State of NH lawsuit regarding MtBE.