

2026 Priorities

Food Security	Health Care	Competition	Climate Resiliency	Water and Land Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to affordable, quality food is a basic human right - Promote resilient regional food systems and diverse markets - Raise the commodity loan rate to a level that reflects the cost of production, which will encourage a return to commodity reserves - Reinstate mandatory country of origin labeling for beef and pork - A label must accurately reflect the contents of the product being sold including country of origin - Support the next generation of family agricultural producers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We believe health care is a fundamental right - Support funding Medicaid and Medicare, which directly benefit rural hospitals - Support increased telehealth and telemedicine access - Incentivize providers to practice in rural areas, improving access to and quality of care - Increase access and funding for mental health, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, and addiction services - Focus on food nutrition education and nutrient dense food to prioritize preventive health care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand fair prices throughout the food system supply chain - Urge the Department of Justice (DOJ) to follow through with antitrust investigations - Encourage USDA to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act - Support a permanent Special Investigator and Chief Competition Officer within USDA - Support including a competition title in the Farm Bill - Support agricultural Right to Repair - Support the U.S. Constitution in which Congress has oversight of all federal taxes and tariffs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -We recognize the interdependence of climate, soil health, and food production and support efforts to sustain the balance of all three - Promote developing crops, varieties, and animal breeds that perform under extreme circumstances - Partner with rural communities and utilities to increase their use of renewable energy - Encourage the expansion of biofuels - Support Risk Management Agency (RMA) to credit cover crops and intercropping instead of penalizing their use - Support RMA programs to insure all crops and livestock raised in Montana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support water law with prior appropriations doctrine - Support retaining Montana groundwaters and surface waters for the use of Montanans in Montana - Oppose the drilling of exempt wells that affect existing water users - Support federal and state funding to address the backlog of maintenance on water storage and delivery systems - We only support waste water injection when it has been treated to the minimum standards for irrigation water - Support a farmland and rangeland protection policy to encourage the continuation of agriculture vs urban development

MONTANA FARMERS UNION 2025-2026 POLICY AND PROGRAM

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2025-2026 MONTANA FARMERS UNION POLICY AND PROGRAM

*(Bolded language is new language adopted
at the Oct. 31st - Nov. 1st 2025 MFU Annual
Convention)*

1 PREAMBLE

2 We the members of Montana Farmers Union,
3 advocate for the preservation of rural
4 community life and the independence of
5 farmers living on the family farm.

6
7 We believe that the health and prosperity of
8 family farms and rural communities is
9 directly tied to the health and prosperity of
10 humanity at large.

11
12 From our family farms, we welcome with the
13 hand of history, diversity, dignity,
14 compassion, and stewardship, opportunities to
15 all families both within our own country and
16 in other lands.

17
18 Our promise, delivered through cooperation,
19 legislation, and education is to continue to
20 strengthen our family farms system and
21 cooperative programs that benefit farmers,
22 consumers, laborers, and rural
23 communities alike.

24
25 We are convinced of the truth and rightness of
26 the Declaration of Independence and the
27 Constitution of the United States, its Bill of
28 Rights, and other amendments.

29 AGRICULTURAL POLICY

30 - A family farm or structured family
31 agricultural operation is run by a family
32 (family farm) assumes the economic risk and
33 makes the management decisions. (2014)

34

35 - Keep farmers on the farm by leading a
36 national campaign to promote a price balance
37 between sales and cost of farm operations.

38
39 - We urge lawmakers to provide local, state,
40 and federal legislation to create programs and
41 remedies for reducing obstacles to beginning
42 farmers (and ranchers). We support
43 mentorship and apprenticeship programs on
44 farms and ranches. Urge full and continued
45 funding of the United States Department of
46 Agriculture (USDA) beginning or young
47 farmer and rancher programs. (2023)

48
49 - Montana Farmers Union is committed to all
50 possible unity among agricultural
51 organizations, small businesses, labor,
52 religious and conservation groups in the state
53 of Montana.

54
55 - We oppose consolidation of farmland
56 ownership, commodity manufacturing,
57 processing, and storage facilities in the hands
58 of a few. Instead, we support a climate which
59 will permit family-based farms to flourish,
60 including availability of monetary support,
61 adequate credit opportunity, fair international
62 trade, and equitable profitability for
63 agricultural producers.

64
65 - Advocate and urge funding for conservation,
66 including soil, water, atmosphere, and energy
67 as a responsible economic investment in the
68 future.

69
70 - Recognize that active participation in the
71 political process is necessary at the local,
72 state, national, and international levels to
73 achieve equity for the agricultural industry.

74
75 - Support like-minded organizations in their
76 efforts to support the economic viability of
77 agricultural producers. (2013)

1 **AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM**

- 2 - Support a farm program that provides
3 adequate support to the producers and that
4 support be provided at the grassroots level.
5
- 6 - Support a farm program that emphasizes the
7 importance of food security to our nation.
8 Refer to the farm program as the “National
9 Food Security Program.” (2006)
- 10
- 11 - Encourage farm policy that incentivizes
12 sustainable and regenerative agriculture to
13 combat issues facing the environment, soil
14 health, drought, flood, financial risk, food
15 security, and rural quality of life. (2021)
- 16
- 17 - Encourage the use of RMA yield data in
18 determining payment eligibility for farm
19 programs. (2016)
- 20
- 21 - Producer safety nets should guarantee a
22 revenue level that assures producers the
23 ability to cover all costs of production. (2016)
- 24
- 25 - Call for strict enforcement of realistic
26 payment limitations. (2000)
- 27
- 28 - Urge full funding, staffing, and training for
29 the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural
30 Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in
31 county-based offices. Oppose consolidation
32 of county offices. (1999)
- 33
- 34 - Urge flexibility on conservation compliance
35 plans within FSA-NRCS programs and allow
36 local boards more authority.
- 37
- 38 - **Support fully funding federal and state**
39 **USDA programs and use of designated**
40 **funding through full implementation and**
41 **dispersal to selected applicants. (2025)**

42 **PARITY**

- 43 - Urge that the price of raw materials be
44 raised to historical parity levels at the
45 marketplace.
- 46
- 47 - Urge the historic parity formula (1949) be
48 retained as the official measure of return to
49 agriculture and recommend that Congress set
50 up a program to fairly compensate the farmer
51 on the land. (1990)

52 **COMMODITY LOAN, RESERVE, AND**
53 **PRODUCTION CONTROLS**

- 54 - A farm program should recognize the market
55 realities of the fundamentally unique business
56 of farming. Such a program should include
57 these basic provisions:
- 58 • Price and/or income support
59 mechanisms for agricultural
60 commodities that establish a floor
61 under market prices and enables
62 producers to obtain their income from
63 the marketplace. (2022)
- 64 • Price supports should primarily be
65 provided by Commodity Credit
66 Corporation (CCC) nonrecourse,
67 commodity loans.
- 68 • Flexible loan maturity periods should
69 be able to be extended at the
70 discretion of the producer for up to 18
71 months, with the producer able to
72 forfeit after nine months.
- 73 • Income support, price support, and
74 CCC loan rates should be set at levels
75 to ensure producers receive a fair
76 return on their investment. The loan
77 rate should not be for less than the
78 USDA national average cost of
79 production. CCC loan rates should be
80 adjusted annually to reflect inflation
81 and productivity.
- 82 • Income support, price support, and
83 CCC loan rates should be annually
84 balanced in an upward manner to

1 prevent market and planting
2 distortions.
3

4 - MFU strongly urges the establishment of a
5 voluntary, farmer-owned, market-driven
6 inventory system that reduces volatility in
7 agricultural commodity markets. For such a
8 system to succeed, we recommend
9 the following:

- 10 • USDA will offer per bushel storage
11 rates for commodities when prices fall
12 below a designated loan rate, which is
13 set near the midpoint between the
14 variable and full cost of production for
15 each commodity. Enrollment in the
16 storage program will cease when
17 prices recover.
- 18 • Farmers may enter any portion of their
19 crop into storage, which must remain
20 enrolled in the program until the
21 market price for the commodity
22 reaches the release price, or
23 approximately 130 percent of the loan
24 rate.
- 25 • Economically sound inventory caps
26 should be set on each commodity.
27 Should the inventory cap be reached
28 for a commodity, a voluntary set-aside
29 program may be made available by
30 USDA.
- 31 • When the release price is reached, the
32 farmer may sell the commodity into
33 the market or hold the commodity, but
34 storage rates will cease.
- 35 • Allow the Secretary of Agriculture the
36 authority to manage price-depressing
37 surpluses by providing producers
38 incentives to plant dedicated energy
39 crops on acres which are now, or may
40 be produced, in surplus.
- 41 • Commodity support based on actual
42 production history (APH), where
43 available. For cases without APH, the

44 program yield cannot be lower than
45 county Farm Service Agency yields.
46 Additionally, we urge the
47 establishment of APH floors to protect
48 producers in the event of successive
49 crop failure brought on by natural
50 disasters.
51

52 **- Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) can
53 be extended, on request, by producers for
54 an additional nine months if the crop
55 remains unsold. Producers cannot be
56 required to repay loans if they have not
57 been paid for the commodity pledged as
58 collateral. (2025)**

59 - Low-interest commodity storage facility
60 loans should be made available to producers
61 including livestock facilities, handling
62 equipment, and feed storage. (2024)

63 - Each farm operator and crop share landlord
64 should be eligible for maximum loan volume
65 targeted to family farms.

66 - Farmers should have the right to
67 periodically update acreage bases and proven
68 yields on all crops for each farm.

69 - Farmers should have the option to store
70 forfeited commodity and receive storage
71 payments until final sale is consummated.

72 - Marketing Assistance Loans and programs
73 like the Loan Deficiency Program should be
74 eliminated because they undermine the
75 benefits of the commodity loan programs.
76 (2020)

77 **INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND 78 TARIFFS**

79 - International trade agreements must not
80 include language that allows multinational

1 corporations relief from domestic legislation
2 holding them responsible in areas regarding
3 the environment, labor standards, sustainable
4 family farm and ranch protection, privacy
5 issues, and control over misinformation,
6 hateful, and violent communication via social
7 media and all other applications. (2022)
8

9 - Negotiations on trade agreements must be
10 transparent and accessible to agricultural,
11 labor, and environmental organizations in a
12 manner equal to or greater than participation
13 by large multinational corporations and any
14 other impacted entities. (2022)

15 **CROPS AND SEED**

16 - Support the right of producers to save seed
17 for **and from** their own production. (2013)

18
19 - Urge development of a seed bank program
20 to preserve genetic diversity and cultural
21 significance of crops. (2007)

22
23 - We support continued research and funding
24 for increased access to ancestral seeds in
25 Montana's Indigenous communities
26 including, but not limited to: continued
27 protection, preservation and conservation of
28 wild foods, fruits, plants, and other
29 indigenous used medicinal plants, as an act of
30 Indigenous food sovereignty, cultural
31 knowledge, and recovery of traditional
32 foodways. (2024)

33
34 - We support enhancing and diversifying the
35 genome and plant genetic resource pools
36 recognizing farmers' contributions to the
37 development and conservation of plant
38 genetic resources by protecting farmers'
39 rights of patented plants and plant genetic
40 resources, the rights of farmers and breeders
41 to save seeds from all plant varieties and

42 cultivars developed with public funds, and
43 establishing and maintaining foundation
44 seed banks. (2023)

45
46 - We oppose the consolidation of seed
47 companies and ownership of plant
48 genetics. (2023)

49
50 - Streamline the importation of seed for
51 domestic production. (2014)

52
53 - Support both seed exchanges and seed
54 libraries for the open exchange of heirloom
55 and open-pollinated seeds. (2023)

56
57 - Increase transparency with producer
58 participation in the varietal release
59 processes. (2019)

60
61 - Support increased transparency and
62 education for consumers on seed stock that is
63 repackaged for retail sale and labeled to
64 prevent misrepresentation as sourced or
65 grown local. (2024)

66 **SPECIALTY CROPS**

67 - MFU recognizes the wide range and
68 diversity of agricultural and horticultural
69 products grown by Montana farmers and
70 ranchers, and support research, development,
71 and marketing of new and non-traditional
72 crops and innovative uses of the more
73 commonly grown crops and their by-products
74 at regional, state, and federal levels. (2023)

75
76 - We support the Specialty Crop Block (SCB)
77 grant program, and encourage continued
78 research, development, and marketing of new
79 and existing specialty crops in Montana.
80 (2018)

81

1 - Support development of Montana vineyard
2 production and marketing through Montana
3 wineries. (2022)

4 HEMP

5 - Support laws to allow production of hemp,
6 including, but not limited to:

- 7 • Ensuring the availability of quality
8 seed.
- 9 • Assuring that hemp growers will have
10 unmitigated access to the banking
11 system and Federal Deposit Insurance
12 Corporation (FDIC), and that local
13 banks update their policies to current
14 hemp laws.
- 15 • Allowing producers to sell and ship
16 seed across state lines.
- 17 • Create a crop insurance program that
18 covers producers in a manner similar
19 to other commodities. (2019)
- 20 • Encourage MSU and other research
21 institutions to begin field trials of
22 hemp in a variety of climates around
23 the state and region.
- 24 • Lobby for hemp to be regulated as a
25 food, feed, and fiber product by the
26 Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
27 and/or USDA.
- 28 • A label should accurately reflect the
29 contents of the product. (2020)

30 WOOL

31 - Urge reinstatement of the Wool and Mohair
32 Act of 1954.

33
34 - We support the establishment and **increased**
35 production capacity of domestic wool
36 processors. (2024)

37
38 - We support marketing, research, and
39 education efforts to increase the demand for
40 domestic wool products. (2024)

41 LIVESTOCK

42 - We support teaching animal welfare, as
43 opposed to animal rights, through educational
44 programs and agricultural organizations. We
45 support domestic animals' access to proper
46 food, shelter, and water for survival. (2014)

47
48 - We support funding for education, training,
49 apprenticeships, and startup funding for large
50 animal vets and vet technicians. (2024)

51
52 - Support a fully funded vaccine bank. (2018)

53
54 - The United States does not have a
55 widespread occurrence of Bovine Spongiform
56 Encephalopathy (BSE). Therefore, we
57 support no additional regulation regarding
58 BSE. With the current ruminant-to-ruminant
59 feed ban in place, adequate firewalls are in
60 place to assure that the United States beef
61 supply is safe. (2005)

62
63 - Yellowstone Bison shall not be relocated to
64 any other area of Montana without a complete
65 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
66 (2011)

67
68 - We support the Bison Conservation Transfer
69 Program (BCTP) Environmental Impact
70 Statement (EIS) and continued efforts of
71 bison management between National Park
72 Service (NPS), the State of Montana, Tribes,
73 and other federal partners to balance bison
74 management, while working with states and
75 tribes to develop a shared stewardship plan
76 that furthers ecological and cultural
77 restoration of bison. (2024)

78
79 - Oppose the expansion of the DSA
80 (Designated Surveillance Area) in the absence
81 of brucellosis confirmed in domestic
82 livestock. (2016)

- 1 - We support compensation for livestock
2 producers for testing of herds that have been
3 state or federally quarantined for disease.
4 (2021)
5
6 - Require labeling of any co-mingled meat or
7 meat products from foreign sources or non-
8 animal proteins as “co-mingled with foreign
9 sources” and/or “co-mingled with non-animal
10 proteins.” (2024)
11
12 - Request equitable import and export
13 policies, inspection standards, and recourse to
14 emergency assistance. (1990)
15
16 - Urge any foreign meats or other food stuffs
17 entering the United States be subject to the
18 same standards that apply to United States
19 meats and other food stuffs.
20
21 - We oppose the importation of animals and
22 food stuffs from countries with active Foot
23 and Mouth Disease. (2015)
24
25 - Support the ban of meat and/or meat
26 products from the foreign countries that allow
27 use of medications or additives not approved
28 for use in the U.S. (2010)
29
30 - Raise the beef check-off rate from \$1 to \$2
31 and start a second check-off program under
32 the Commodity Promotion Research and
33 Information Act of 1996, or a beef check-off
34 under Montana State Law, when the
35 following changes are made to the beef
36 check-off: (2023)
37 • Check-off dollars be used to promote
38 only livestock born, raised, and
39 processed in the United States. (2013)
40 • Allow Cattlemen’s Beef Board (CBB)
41 to contract directly with any entity,
42 including any national non-profit
43 organizations, businesses, university
44 researchers, advertising and marketing
45 agencies, and other consultants.
46 (2008)
47 • Reform the national Beef Board to
48 reflect proportional representation
49 from all national agriculture
50 organizations. (2005)
51 • Any state check-off should be
52 executed by the existing Montana
53 Beef Council. (2024)
54 • All funding should be directed
55 towards promotion and research of
56 Montana beef products and
57 production. (2024)
58 • Allow for check-off expenditures to
59 protect USA beef and cattle from
60 unfair trade practices, and to protect
61 the U.S. herd from import practices
62 which threaten cattle herd health and
63 beef consumers. (2005)
64 • Allow for check-off expenditures to
65 promote branded products from small
66 and large packing entities. (2005)
67 • Require all packers to pay into the
68 check-off program when purchasing
69 cattle. (2005)
70
71 - Support mandatory price and volume
72 reporting of livestock, including “captive
73 supply” by all major packers. (2021)
74
75 - **Support the continued eradication of New
76 World Screwworm (NWS) in the United
77 States and bans on imports of live animals
78 from areas of known infestations until all
79 threat is eliminated and uncompromising
80 verifiable safeguards are in place. (2025)**
81
82 - Recognize the potential threat of
83 transmission of avian influenza between wild
84 and domestic populations of birds and
85 livestock. We urge all possible mitigation

1 efforts and use of sound science practices to
2 prevent transmission. (2024)
3
4 - Recognize the serious threat of West Nile
5 virus and urge local governments to control
6 mosquitoes. We recommend education to the
7 public for protection of humans and livestock
8 against the disease. (2003)
9
10 **- Any National Animal Identification
11 System (NAIS) should address herd health
12 only.** MFU urges the following: (2013)
13 • Exclude feeder cattle from the rules
14 and include funding for state record
15 keeping. (2011)
16 • We urge the Department of Homeland
17 Security to provide the full funding
18 necessary to create and maintain the
19 database and provide compensation to
20 producers for their program
21 implementation costs. (2005)
22 • Mitigate producer liability for
23 contaminated food products. (2005)
24 • This system should not impose any
25 additional costs to the producer.
26 (2020)
27 • Use of proprietary information should
28 include clear limits to ensure the
29 information is not used by packers to
30 discount producer prices, be subjected
31 to a Freedom of Information Act
32 request, or passed to telemarketers,
33 etc. (2005)
34 • Control of the confidential database
35 needs to remain under the control of
36 the federal government. (2005)
37 • Access to producer information
38 should be provided for animal disease
39 and bio terrorism trace-back only.
40 (2005)
41 • Ensure uniformity of identification
42 system with tracking technology and
43 database management. (2005)

44 - We support USDA inspected horse slaughter
45 facilities in the United States and encourage a
46 facility be built in Montana. (2013)
47
48 - Support the judicious use of antibiotics.
49 (2015)
50
51 - Provide funding to support the Montana
52 livestock diagnostic laboratory in its entirety.
53 (2017)
54
55 - We support Montana Department of
56 Livestock adoption of the 1000 Bird
57 Exemption. (2014)
58 **DAIRY**
59 - Supports a national policy establishing an
60 equitable floor price policy that sets a level
61 that allows producers to earn a fair return on
62 their dairy products from the marketplace.
63 (2010)
64
65 - We urge the passage of a Raw Milk Law
66 that allows the sale and consumption of raw
67 milk in Montana under regulation and
68 licensing that ensures the milk is produced
69 under inspection and is a safe food product.
70 (2013)
71
72 - Establish a national mandatory program for
73 managed growth based on market demand
74 and price stability. Such a program should
75 increase farmer profitability by elevating milk
76 prices, preventing overproduction, and
77 reducing milk price volatility. (2022)

78 **POLLINATORS**
79 - Continue and expand research and education
80 aimed at protecting bee health as well as
81 development and enhancement of native
82 pollinator population.
83

1 - Support USDA programs that provide
2 financial support to producers willing to plant
3 pollinator-friendly habitats. (2020)
4
5 - Continue collaboration of the chemical
6 industry and pollinator industry to provide
7 education to growers, applicators, and the
8 public on the harmful effects of pesticides and
9 neonicotinoids on pollinator populations,
10 especially related to colony collapse disorder.
11
12 - Continue monitoring of pest populations and
13 pest control methods, as well as pollinator
14 imports and accidental importation of pests
15 and invasive species. (2014)

16 MARKETING

17 - Prohibit any one agriculture commodity
18 organization from serving as the “prime
19 contractor” for a publicly funded program,
20 but allow all organizations to participate in
21 approved projects on a case-by-case basis.
22 (2005)
23
24 - Encourage the creation of new check-off
25 programs for emerging commodities. (2014)
26
27 - Support check-off funds returning to state of
28 production and oppose double assessments.
29 (2015)
30
31 - Support a periodic vote on all check-off
32 programs (every five years) by a petition of
33 10% of producers signing the petition at
34 county FSA offices. (2005 and 2006)
35
36 - Urge MFU and NFU to continue to use the
37 internet to build a network between family
38 farmers and consumers to enhance direct
39 marketing and exchange vital information on
40 products, nutrition, safety, and environmental
41 concerns. (1999)

42 - Support the concept of working together
43 through a marketing system which is
44 cooperative in nature, fair in application, and
45 open to farmer input in operation. (1990)
46
47 - Encourage the state of Montana to maintain
48 Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS).
49 (2014)
50
51 - Call for development and implementation of
52 national legislation prohibiting unreasonable
53 conduct, such as unjustifiable price
54 discrimination by a business that is in a
55 dominating position in contracting, supplying,
56 or buying agricultural goods or services.
57 (1999)
58
59 - We support state attorneys general’s filing
60 suit to enforce current federal antitrust laws
61 including the Sherman Antitrust Act and the
62 Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921. The
63 Federal Trade Commission, Senate Judiciary
64 committee, and the Department of Justice
65 should enforce current regulations. If large
66 concentrations of power still remain,
67 necessary legislation should be enacted to
68 regulate those corporations just as we do
69 other monopolistic entities. (2018)
70
71 - Support USDA’s rulemaking on Packers and
72 Stockyards Act adding provisions to make it
73 easier for farmers to legally challenge unfair
74 practices without a fear of being retaliated
75 against and address market practices that are
76 unfair, discriminatory, or deceptive to farmers
77 and ranchers. Such implementation creates
78 jobs in rural America, assures competitive
79 markets, and prevents meatpackers from
80 manipulating the market, driving prices lower
81 for farmers. (2012 and 2021)
82
83 - Support adequate funding for the state’s
84 Growth through Agriculture (GTA) program.
85 (2016)

1 - Support the continued use and adequate
2 funding for the Montana State Grain Lab and
3 the Montana State Wool Lab. (2020)

4
5 - Support adequate funding for research and
6 inspections of agricultural exports and
7 therefore issuance of export certificates.
8 (2013)

9
10 - Oppose trade deals that unevenly regulate
11 imports and exports between the U.S. and
12 other nations. (2015)

13
14 - Work toward expanding the opportunities in
15 both the number of crops exported and the
16 value returned to our member producers from
17 trade with Cuba and other potential trade
18 countries. (2003)

19
20 - Support modernization and expansion of the
21 State Meat Inspection Program. (1993)

22
23 - **We support the Cooperative Interstate
24 Shipment (CIS) program** to allow state-
25 inspected meat to be sold across state lines.
26 There must be a commitment to funding more
27 inspectors to aid in the development of more
28 local processing. (2022)

29
30 - Support USDA in the use of remote grading
31 of beef, the availability of equipment, and
32 training of inspectors. (2024)

33
34 - A label must accurately reflect the contents
35 of the product being sold. To maintain their
36 integrity, all USDA certifications must clearly
37 identify product origin and whether
38 inspection or auditing was done by a third
39 party. (2021)

40
41 - Urge country of origin labeling of all
42 agricultural commodities and processed food
43 products sold in the U.S. (2000)

44 - We support truth in labeling with organic,
45 local, regenerative, and Made/Grown in
46 Montana so consumers can make true,
47 informed decisions and are not misled. (2024)

48
49 - We declare that all producers receive full
50 indemnity from the agricultural activities
51 occurring on lands not under their ownership
52 or management; that they be held harmless
53 from the intrusion of genetically modified
54 organisms (GMO) and genetically engineered
55 (GE) crops upon their lands and the
56 associated costs and burdens of said intrusion;
57 and that they receive full immunity against
58 litigation in cases of GMO and GE drift
59 contamination into their lands. (2013)

60
61 - Premiums should be paid for wheat
62 weighing above 60 pounds per bushel, just as
63 wheat is discounted below 60 pounds per
64 bushel. (2003)

65
66 - Support wheat pricing of protein based on
67 tenths of percent rather than quarters.

68
69 - Urge congressional investigation of
70 commodity futures trading, especially index
71 funds, to determine any adverse effects the
72 trade might have on farm commodity prices.

73 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

74 - Support Risk Management Programs, such
75 as the State Hail and Federal Crop Insurance
76 Compensation Programs, as a part of a viable
77 farm program.

78
79 - Increase bond percent up to 4% per location
80 per company and support option of fines by
81 Department of Agriculture to ensure
82 producers adequate compensation should a
83 commodity dealer fail before paying
84 producer. (2013)

- 1 - Support changes to RMA to encourage more
2 diverse and effective cropping systems.
3 (2019)
- 4
- 5 - Support RMA to credit cover crops instead
6 of penalizing their uses. (2022)
- 7
- 8 **Producers' crop insurance designation
9 should not be adversely affected by the
10 growing of a cover crop. (2025)**
- 11
- 12 - Support RMA to allow use of intercropping
13 and companion cropping. (2024)
- 14
- 15 - Support RMA programs to insure all crops
16 grown in the state. (2022)
- 17
- 18 - Support crop insurance incentives for soil
19 health improvements and climate-friendly
20 conservation activities. (2022)
- 21
- 22 - Support a cap on the amount of subsidies an
23 individual can receive for federal crop
24 insurance. (2023)
- 25
- 26 - Support that funding must be directed
27 to family farms rather than large corporate
28 farms. (2024)
- 29
- 30 - Support a dual enrollment option for ARC
31 (Agriculture Risk Coverage) and PLC (Price
32 Loss Coverage), which allows producers to
33 receive the higher of the two calculated
34 payments. (2024)
- 35
- 36 - We support the Livestock Risk Protection
37 (LRP) and support expansion to include
38 sheep. (2024)
- 39 **CONSERVATION**
- 40 - Support keeping Environmental Quality
41 Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation
- 42 Stewardship Program (CSP) as separate
43 programs. (2018)
- 44
- 45 - Support the expansion of the Montana State
46 Nursery to meet the demands of conservation
47 programs. (2023)
- 48
- 49 - Support expansion of the Conservation
50 Stewardship Program to allow more
51 producers the opportunity to enroll. (2016)
- 52
- 53 - Support broad-based agricultural
54 conservation practice and development
55 programs in the State of Montana.
- 56
- 57 - Protect agricultural lands through
58 conservation easements or similar contract
59 arrangements to preserve open land. (2007)
- 60
- 61 - A new farm bill must keep the additional
62 funding that was added to conservation
63 programs with the Inflation Reduction Act.
64 (2024)
- 65
- 66 - Encourage sufficient funding through
67 appropriation and cost share programs. (2016)
- 68
- 69 - Develop conservation dams that incorporate
70 flood control and domestic, municipal,
71 agricultural, and recreational uses.
- 72
- 73 - Provide adequate off-stream storage to
74 reserve water for agricultural uses. (1990)
- 75
- 76 - Require effective management of existing
77 dams to prevent flooding of agricultural land.
78 (2022)
- 79
- 80 - Require effective management of existing
81 dams to provide adequate water for irrigation
82 and fisheries. (2023)
- 83

1 - Support adequate funding for coordination
2 of statewide weed control and nursery
3 inspections while ensuring on-going weed
4 control on state and federal lands, county
5 roadways, railroad rights-of-way, and state
6 and private lands. (2014)
7
8 - Support education and control of known and
9 emerging invasive species to preserve
10 Montana natural resources. (2010)
11
12 - To keep rural communities, farms, and
13 ranches viable, we encourage new
14 Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP) with a
15 25% maximum acreage enrollment per farm
16 rather than 25% of a county's farmland.
17 (2003)
18
19 - Allow CRP lands to be withdrawn early
20 from their contracts in order to be put into
21 production for bio-crops. There would be no
22 penalties for early withdrawal as long as the
23 land was kept in bio-crop production for the
24 term of the original CRP contract. (2006)
25
26 - Encourage the retention and increased
27 funding of the Transition Incentive Program
28 (TIP). (2011)

29 RESEARCH

30 - The Montana legislature shall be mandated
31 to provide adequate funding for personnel,
32 facilities, and equipment at the Agricultural
33 Research Stations and the Cooperative
34 Extension Service. (2010)
35
36 - Support an increase in the Wheat & Barley
37 Committee Check-off Program to provide
38 funding for research with an emphasis on
39 ARS. (2010)
40
41 - Oppose corporate donor generated funds for
42 agriculture research, facilities, and capital

43 equipment without adequate care to preserve
44 the integrity of research and accountability to
45 the taxpayer of the land-grant university
46 system. (2004)
47
48 - Oppose the use of public resources for the
49 development of proprietary products. MFU
50 supports increased funding for public research
51 at land-grant universities. (2013)
52
53 - Support publicly funded research to develop
54 improved crop varieties, including both
55 conventional and organic, as well as new
56 uses, industrial and otherwise, which will
57 create new markets for agricultural products.
58 (2021)
59
60 - Support development of effective, low-cost
61 alternative inputs and research into
62 opportunities to capture an economic return
63 by switching to inputs derived from crop by-
64 products. (2021)
65
66 - Support research that will provide a better
67 understanding of what we produce and its
68 effect on human health, as well as support
69 targeting improved production, management,
70 and marketing characteristics. (2012)
71
72 - Urge expansion of Agricultural Experiment
73 Station's development of fertilizing methods,
74 livestock breeding, farming techniques
75 (organic and biological), and new equipment
76 that will help preserve a farmer's competitive
77 position.
78
79 - Encourage the Montana Agricultural
80 Experiment Stations to continue research that
81 is economically feasible and sustainable for
82 family farms and ranches.
83
84 - Encourage research that develops and
85 delivers practical information to farmers and

1 ranchers to assist in adopting practices to
2 mitigate climate change (2022).
3
4 - We encourage funding for research on the
5 impacts of artificial intelligence on
6 agricultural operations in Montana. (2024)
7
8 - Favor the establishment of an acreage
9 dedicated to a long-term organic cropping
10 system at each of the state Agricultural
11 Experiment Stations for the purpose of
12 conducting research in areas such as crop
13 rotations and yield trials, soil nutrition, weed
14 and pest management, plant disease, etc.
15 (2004)
16
17 - Support public funding allocations for
18 organic production systems that are
19 commensurate with organic's contribution to
20 the overall agricultural economy. (2021)
21
22 - Urge that Agricultural Experiment Stations
23 make effective use of farmer advisory
24 committees.

25 PESTICIDE REGULATIONS AND
26 PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

27 - Require safe and proper handling,
28 marketing, and disposal of chemicals to
29 ensure the safety of people and the
30 environment.

31
32 - Request adequate state and federal funding
33 for the Department of Agriculture and MSU
34 Extension to perform its duties in licensing
35 applicators and monitoring of pesticides.
36
37 - Recognize the use of pesticides as a
38 valuable tool in conventional agriculture.
39 (2019)
40
41 - Support requiring adequate insurance
42 coverage for commercial applicators. (2019)

43 - We support regulations that include
44 protections for producers of non-target crops
45 that incur damage due to drift from any crop
46 applications onto their property. (2023)
47
48 - We support funding additional avenues for
49 applicators to implement the use of smart or
50 precision spraying systems to reduce pesticide
51 use, drift, and resistance. (2023)

52 TRANSPORTATION AND RAILROADS

53 - Encourage establishing a coordinated
54 national system of water, rail, and air
55 transportation that will serve both rural and
56 urban areas at reasonable rates.
57
58 - Urge reinstatement of the Rail Service
59 Competition Council. (2020)
60
61 - Support strong farmer and rancher
62 representation on the State Department of
63 Transportation. (1992)
64
65 - Farm equipment operators should be exempt
66 from Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
67 requirements. (2011)
68
69 - Support an electronic log device waiver for
70 livestock haulers. (2017)
71
72 - Support extended hours of service
73 exemption for agricultural commodities.
74 (2019)
75
76 - Urge special emphasis in addressing the
77 crumbling infrastructure in the immediate
78 future. Getting crops to market requires
79 special handling, speed, and affordability, and
80 if not addressed quickly is not only a safety
81 issue but a national security problem. (2012)
82
83 - Oppose indiscriminate freight rate increases.

1 - Support the continuing viability of the less-
2 than-shuttle facility system of elevators in
3 Montana which enhances diversity of rail
4 movements by Montana farmers' production.
5 We oppose any actions by railroads that will
6 not encourage the long-term viability of the
7 less-than-shuttle facilities in Montana. (2013)
8

9 - Ask the Montana State Attorney General and
10 the United States Antitrust Department to
11 vigorously investigate and enforce laws to
12 prevent price fixing of retail motor fuels. We
13 ask that both state and federal funding be
14 appropriated to enforce antitrust and
15 predatory pricing laws. (1999)
16

17 - Oppose further deregulation of railroads.
18

19 - Oppose railroad development which would
20 interfere with or disrupt agricultural
21 production. (2023)
22

23 - Support efforts for permanent access or
24 rights-of-way for ranch and farmlands or
25 infrastructure impacted by public
26 transportation corridors. (2023)
27

28 - Work to get rail rates reduced so that they
29 are comparable to other states and to
30 encourage rail competition. (2005)
31

32 - Support a statewide impact analysis of
33 increased rail traffic with jurisdictional
34 oversight by the Surface Transportation
35 Board. (2015)
36

37 - Support a Southern Montana passenger rail
38 service from Missoula to Billings. (2020)
39

40 - Support a shipping weight variance for
41 livestock transported within Montana. (2018)
42

43 - Support the development and expansion of
44 funding and technology for vehicles powered
45 by alternative fuels and/or electricity and the
46 infrastructure to support them. (2024)
47

48 - We support the development and
49 deployment of plug-in hybrids and all electric
50 vehicles, and policies that encourage off-peak
51 charging. (2024)
52

53 - **Oppose autonomous freight**
54 **transportation on our highways and**
55 **interstates. (2025)**

56 **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**
57 - Support expansion of public transportation
58 in Montana to better serve rural communities.
59 (2013)
60

61 - Support continuation of the Essential Air
62 Service subsidy so that air links serving
63 Montana's smaller cities can continue to
64 operate.
65

66 - Call for an upgraded, efficient public
67 passenger transportation system that reaches
68 rural communities. (2023)

69 **COOPERATIVE POLICY**
70 - Establish and fund curriculum at the high
71 school and postsecondary level involving all
72 facets of the cooperative business model.
73 (2024)
74

75 - Cooperation is a guidepost of the Farmers
76 Union, sharing the organization's triangle
77 with education and legislation.
78

79 - Support patron-owned, democratically
80 controlled cooperatives, built on the principle
81 of one person, one vote, with distribution of
82 savings in direct proportion to patronage.
83

1 - Cooperative endeavor is a legitimate and
2 logical extension enabling farmers to take
3 their operations into the marketplace and
4 allowing individual producers to realize the
5 benefits generated by their production
6 through the sale, processing, and ultimate
7 purchase by the consumer.
8
9 - Because cooperatives are our business, it is
10 imperative that Farmers Union members
11 actively support and participate in their local
12 and regional cooperatives.
13
14 - Urge agricultural co-ops and businesses to
15 have a majority of their board members made
16 up of agricultural producers (2018).
17
18 - Support efforts and services keyed to
19 cooperative principles which are provided by
20 CHS, Farmers Union Insurance, Rural
21 Electric Cooperatives, Rural Telephone
22 Associations, Farm Credit Services, Credit
23 Unions, Bank for Cooperatives, Council of
24 Cooperatives, Montana Cooperative
25 Development Center, Lake County
26 Cooperative Development Center, irrigation
27 districts, grazing districts, and other
28 cooperatives in the state.
29
30 - Educate the general public as to the
31 important role of cooperatives in economic
32 systems.
33
34 - Establish and continue a positive and
35 aggressive approach to cooperative education
36 and philosophy for Farmers Union members.
37
38 - Emphasize the need to select cooperative
39 directors who understand, and are loyal to, the
40 ideas of cooperative business principles.
41
42 - Be ready to work with cooperatives, both
43 local and regional, in educating employees,

44 directors, and patrons in cooperative
45 philosophy.
46
47 - Stand ready to assume or contribute
48 leadership in the development of cooperatives
49 in new fields, emerging technologies, and
50 underdeveloped industries.
51
52 - Maintain an active Young Producers
53 program and Associate Director program
54 composed of beginning farmers and ranchers
55 to suggest ways to involve new and young
56 people in cooperatives. (2012)
57
58 - Urge all supply cooperatives to market
59 locally produced biofuels and lubricants,
60 using locally sourced feedstocks. (1990 &
61 2021)
62
63 - Initiate cooperative camps, conferences, and
64 seminars with other cooperative enterprises.
65
66 - We encourage all cooperatives to contribute
67 education funds to MFU for further
68 cooperative education. (2023)
69
70 - Businesses and associations may not use the
71 word cooperative or its abbreviations in the
72 promotion of their business unless organized
73 legally as a cooperative. (2022)
74 **PUBLIC EDUCATION POLICY**
75 - Education is the cornerstone of our
76 democracy. It has long been regarded as a
77 national ethic, preceding the establishment of
78 our country as an independent nation.
79
80 - Support full funding for public schools.
81 (2020)
82
83 - Reject diverting public funding from public
84 schools to any **private schools and/or**
85 **private** charter schools. (2023)

1 - Support equitable, quality, inclusive
2 education for all levels because this benefits
3 not only individuals, but our state as well. An
4 educated citizenry is a social protection and
5 an unparalleled economic advantage. We
6 regard education as a public utility, not a
7 fringe benefit.

8

9 - Promote education in cooperative
10 philosophy and practical cooperative business
11 operations in our public schools both locally
12 and with the Office of Public Instruction and
13 our state university system.

14

15 - Support the Agriculture in Montana Schools
16 program.

17

18 - Support a Farm to School program that
19 highlights the core elements of procurement
20 of and education about Montana agricultural
21 products and school gardens. (2010 & 2021)

22

23 - Urge elected leaders to prioritize equity in
24 access, quality, and funding of educational
25 opportunity for rural areas at both state and
26 national levels.

27

28 - We support developing curriculum and
29 apprenticeship programs to train people in all
30 facets of meat processing. (2024)

31

32 - Urge adequate funding for the continuation
33 and expansion of vocational-technical
34 education.

35

36 - Commend and support postsecondary efforts
37 such as WWAMI (a consortium made up of
38 the states of Wyoming, Washington, Alaska,
39 Montana and Idaho) and WICHE (Western
40 Interstate Commission for Higher Education),
41 both of which offer educational opportunities,
42 particularly in professional programs, not
43 available in Montana.

44 - Reinforce methods to make school
45 personnel aware of quality educational and
46 resource materials on cooperative businesses
47 and philosophy. (1990)

48

49 - Compile and keep current a list of local and
50 regional scholarships available at Montana's
51 schools and colleges for students in
52 agriculture. (1990)

53

54 - Recognizing the value of Agriculture
55 Education and specifically the FFA and 4-H
56 programs, we urge the state legislature to
57 provide the support necessary to strengthen
58 and continue these programs.

59

60 - Urge continued support for the 6-mill levy,
61 supporting the University system of Montana.

62 **FARM AGRICULTURAL CREDIT**

63 - Urge strenuous support and adequate
64 funding for the Farm Credit Service
65 incorporating long-range, low interest,
66 cooperative policies as the structure was
67 originally designed. (1990)

68

69 - Call for continued protection of borrower
70 stock.

71

72 - Urge a guarantee of borrower's rights, a
73 method of restructuring borrower debts, and
74 the right of first refusal.

75

76 - Support a secondary market for agricultural
77 loans including real estate.

78

79 - Support an effort to meet beginning farmer's
80 credit needs and those whose credit needs
81 cannot be met by commercial lenders.

82

83 - Urge utilization of applicable Farm Credit
84 guidelines in Rural Economic Community
85 Development (RECD) programs.

1 **ENERGY**

2 - Oppose the privatization of the Federal
3 Power Administration and the government-
4 owned transmission and power generation
5 facilities at federal dams.

6

7 - Support state and federal programs to reduce
8 our dependence on fossil fuels through the
9 development of alternative sources such as
10 biofuels, geothermal, solar, and wind energy
11 technologies among others to provide
12 affordable energy. (2021)

13

14 - Support a phased transition from fossil fuel
15 extraction and use to developing other energy
16 sources that fairly compensates impacted
17 farms, ranches, and communities. (2023)

18

19 - Urge the use of biofuels as sources for
20 strategic, transportation, and heating fuels.
21 (2005 & 2010 & 2021)

22

23 - Promote the establishment and construction
24 of domestic biofuel plants and associated
25 processing facilities (2021 & 2022).

26

27 - Support the retention of a Renewable Fuel
28 Standard (RFS) and oppose the changing of
29 the statute without information based on the
30 best possible science and approval by public
31 review.

32

33 - Encourage the Environmental Protection
34 Agency (EPA) to add additional feedstocks
35 for renewable diesel and jet fuel, and research
36 other oilseeds as biofuel feedstock. (2023)

37

38 - Encourage education on issues involved
39 with renewable energy, including right of
40 way, leasing, and property rights with takings
41 affecting landowners. (2009)

42

43 - Safety precautions and landowner
44 protections need to be a high priority in
45 impact statement reviews for pipeline
46 development to ensure protection of Montana
47 farms, ranches, land, air, and water from
48 adverse impacts. (2012&2021)

49

50 - Support the requirement to purchase double
51 current state standards (15%) of renewable
52 energy credits and the electricity output from
53 community renewable energy projects. (2010)

54

55 - Support legislation and initiatives to obtain
56 75% of energy from renewable resources by
57 2030. (2016)

58

59 **- Renewable energy grants to producers
60 must be restored and fully funded. (2025)**

61

62 - The increase in generating capacity created
63 by new hydroelectric generation projects in
64 existing facilities that come online should be
65 classified as renewable energy. (2012)

66

67 - Require new non-utility merchant
68 transmission lines and pipelines set aside 3%
69 annual gross revenues to be paid annually to
70 landowners upon whom the transmission
71 lines and pipelines are built in place of the
72 current practice of one-time easement
73 payments. (2009)

74

75 - We encourage electric co-ops throughout the
76 nation to build and acquire the renewable
77 generation and transmission resources
78 necessary to ensure the same balance of cost-
79 based power. (2003)

80

81 - Support the establishment of publicly-
82 owned energy utilities. (2023)

83

1 - Encourage continued and new
2 agricultural use as a priority on energy
3 project sites. (2025)

4 NET METERING

5 - Montana Farmers Union calls upon the
6 Montana Legislature to enact legislation to
7 expand the benefits of net metering by raising
8 the current cap of 50kW, allow multiple
9 meters for effective use of wind/solar systems
10 on farmsteads and for community net
11 metering, and finally to let renewable energy
12 generators to bank excess energy as credit
13 beyond 12 months for future credit. (2014)

14 AGRITOURISM

15 - Support the expansion of both income-
16 generating and educational agritourism
17 opportunities for Montana producers and their
18 products. (2017)

19
20 - Support a state program providing reliable
21 information about liability and safety issues
22 surrounding agritourism. (2023)

23
24 - We support agritourism as it relates to the
25 values of communities and their needs,
26 including cooperatives, and education as it
27 relates to local foods, resource stewardship,
28 field work, and plant cultivation. (2024)

29
30 - We support grant programs that fairly
31 distribute general fund dollars back to family
32 farms and producers, including beginning
33 farmers and ranchers, participating in
34 agritourism. (2024)

35
36 - We support grant programs and research that
37 focus on sustainable agritourism. (2024)

38
39 - We support furthering the definition of
40 agritourism as it relates to liability, and
41 accompanying signage be made available for
42 those participating in agritourism. (2024)

43 - We support access to affordable and
44 comprehensive liability and property
45 insurance for agritourism. (2024)

46 LAND USE

47 - We believe agriculture is the highest and
48 best use of arable lands for society as a
49 whole, yet such lands are increasingly being
50 lost to urban sprawl or development for other
51 uses. Therefore, we urge local, state, and
52 federal governments to take appropriate
53 actions to protect suitable farmlands and
54 rangelands from development for non-
55 agricultural uses. (2023)

56
57 - Request that trespassers be held liable for
58 any damage done to private property along
59 public access streams.

60
61 - Support public and private partnerships that
62 address access by Montana citizens to federal
63 and state lands. (2020)

64
65 - We discourage new mineral extraction until
66 an EIS is completed. We encourage the
67 Montana legislature to fund the Department
68 of Environmental Quality (DEQ) sufficiently
69 to comply with current law. (2014)

70
71 - Support state-of-the-art reclamation of all
72 lands involved in extractive industries.

73
74 - Urge the State of Montana and all other
75 governmental agencies to adopt measures
76 which require the least possible interference
77 with agricultural production during extraction
78 of minerals.

79
80 - Reclamation, including weed control, should
81 be the responsibility of the land developer.
82 (2021)

83

1 - The land developer must have a noxious
2 weed control plan approved by the local weed
3 board. (2021)

4
5 - Areas of land in Montana that are identified
6 as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) should
7 have a date of completion. (2014)

8
9 - Oppose any agency or individual from
10 entering into a mineral lease or granting a
11 permit for the extraction of minerals without
12 the consent of the land surface owner, with
13 just compensation to the agricultural
14 operation.

15
16 - Mineral estate has dominance over surface
17 owners by law. Surface owners should be
18 compensated for damages to property.

19 Compensation should be paid for well sites,
20 easements, and other facilities that are
21 brought in and used by the industry. (2005)

22
23 - Support the ban on cyanide heap leach in
24 mining. (2011)

25
26 - Urge a more transparent and thorough
27 permitting process for Class II Oil and Gas
28 Solid Waste Disposal Sites that will include a
29 mandatory EIS. (2013)

30
31 - Support the strengthening of Montana's
32 Class II Solid Waste Disposal Sites laws to
33 match or exceed North Dakota statutes to
34 protect Montanan's land and resources.
35 (2013)

36
37 - Support production of sustainable fuels
38 when wastewater is treated to at least
39 irrigation water quality standards on site.
40 (2024)

41
42 - Support safety precautions and landowner
43 protection in impact statement reviews for oil

44 and gas wells to ensure protection of Montana
45 farms, ranches, land, air, and water from
46 adverse impacts. (2013)

47
48 - Oppose any transfer of public land to private
49 entities which would adversely impact
50 agriculture. (2015)

51
52 - Support a farmland and rangeland protection
53 policy to encourage the continuation of
54 farming and ranching versus urban
55 development. (2022)

56
57 - We call for conflicts between land uses and
58 the need for environmental protections to be
59 resolved through some combination of
60 cooperative use agreements, technical and/or
61 financial assistance, and collaborative long-
62 range planning. (2023)

63
64 - We support voluntary government programs,
65 initiatives, and proposals that offer financial
66 incentives to private landowners for keeping
67 farm and ranch lands intact while not limiting
68 or restricting agricultural practices or
69 livestock management or requiring that
70 private property be open to public access.
71 (2023)

72
73 - **MFU urges the Montana court system
and Montana legislature to recognize and
uphold historic boundaries and corners.
(2025)**

77 ENVIRONMENT

78 - Support continued disclosure of potential
79 impacts and public participation under the
80 Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)
81 regarding impacts to agriculture lands and
82 producers from proposals that may cause
83 harm to agricultural operations. (2023)

84

- 1 - Support the rights of future generations of
2 Montanans to have a clean and healthy
3 environment. (2024)
- 4 - Support feasible air, water, and land use
5 standards to prevent degradation of our
6 environment and quality of life for present
7 and future generations.
- 8
- 9 - Support measures to mitigate impacts from
10 extreme weather or disaster events. (2023)
- 11
- 12 - Support establishing numeric standards
13 regarding coal bed methane production to
14 protect our water, soils, and crops. (2022)
- 15
- 16 - When clean water standards for drinking
17 cannot be achieved, then water should be
18 treated to standards acceptable for irrigation
19 use. (2022)
- 20
- 21 - Large corporate concentrated animal feeding
22 operations (CAFO) must be required to
23 operate in a manner least damaging to the
24 environment. (2022)
- 25
- 26 - Support an adequate review, prior to the
27 start of each coal bed methane development,
28 to identify and propose mitigation measures
29 to ensure that the proposal will not:
- 30
- 31 • Cause qualitative or quantitative
32 problems to off-site water resources;
 - 33 • Alter vegetative characteristics;
 - 34 • Cause subsidence; or
 - 35 • Negatively affect the land in other
36 ways. (2000)
- 37
- 38 - Require any company that wants to conduct
39 hydraulic fracturing in Montana to publicly
40 disclose all chemicals to be used. (2011)
- 41
- 42 - Support legislation that requires coal bed
43 methane producers to recharge aquifers with
44 the maximum amount of water practicable.
- 45 (2010)
- 46
- 47 - Support classification of coal bed methane
48 water as groundwater and ensuring senior
49 water rights holders, not developing
50 companies, will hold these water rights.
- 51 (2009)
- 52
- 53 - Continue climate change monitoring and
54 research to provide agricultural producers
55 with the knowledge and ability to adapt to
56 climate change and to reduce their
57 environmental impact. (2014)
- 58
- 59 - Any climate solution should address fair and
60 equitable compensation for all agricultural
61 producers to sequester carbon and reduce
62 greenhouse gases. Solutions should also
63 address the development of alternative energy
64 resources. (2022)
- 65
- 66 - Ensure integrity of private carbon markets
67 and other efforts to reduce greenhouse gas
68 emissions and make sure that agriculture
69 plays a key role in these initiatives. (2022)
- 70
- 71 - Support immediate development of safe
72 methods of disposal of nuclear waste in the
73 state of origin.
- 74
- 75 - Request that educational programs be
76 conducted and corrective measures taken to
77 control saline seep.
- 78
- 79 - Support first priority for water used in
80 domestic, municipal, and agricultural
81 consumption.
- 82
- 83 - Urge feasible legislation and educational
84 programs, which will assist in protecting
85 groundwater from pollution and depletion
86 beyond natural recharge.

1 - Support out-of-state garbage bans to give
2 the state time to properly regulate large-scale
3 landfills.
4
5 - Recommend that prior to oil and gas drilling
6 on any agricultural property, the company
7 should provide an independent well and
8 surface testing for water quality and quantity
9 base line. (2012)
10
11 - Support the expansion of the pesticide
12 container recycling program through
13 increased drop-off locations and times. (2016)
14
15 - Oppose the disposal of hazardous waste by
16 mixing it with fertilizer and other farm
17 products, which is unacceptable and a
18 dangerous practice that threatens the
19 environment and human health.
20
21 - MFU should be instrumental in bringing
22 together agriculture organizations,
23 environmental and industry groups to
24 examine the latest national fertilizer standards
25 and their relevance to Montana. (1999)
26
27 - Support statewide recycling. (2015)
28
29 **- Encourage research and implementation
30 of cost-effective means to reinstate,
31 continue, and expand recycling efforts.
32 (2025)**
33
34 - Support replacement of non-renewable
35 materials with renewable materials. (2015)
36
37 - Support a farmer educational program to
38 assist access to and development of
39 renewable packaging, marketing, and
40 production. (2015)

41 **FOREST AND RANGELAND
42 STEWARDSHIP**
43 - Seek expanded technical assistance for
44 landowners of small timber tracts.
45
46 - Call for state license and bonding of all log
47 and timber scalers.
48
49 - Urge that timber and log purchases and sales
50 be based on total cubic content.
51
52 - Recommend that control of National Forests
53 should remain with the United States
54 Department of Agriculture.
55
56 - Urge that State and Federal Forest Services
57 expand their small sales program to make
58 timber available and provide continual
59 employment for small independent
60 operations.
61
62 - Urge that state and federal forest policies
63 include the recognition of the importance of
64 permitted grazing and biomass production.
65 Increased funding should be provided for
66 salvaging dead trees and fuels reduction.
67 (2011 & 2014)
68
69 - We support 'Good Neighbor Authorities'
70 and other state and federal policies that
71 reduce regulatory obstacles to collaborative
72 management and stewardship of forests
73 rangeland. (2024)
74
75 - Oppose "let it burn" policies. (2002)
76
77 - Support practical grazing practices on public
78 land that support good stewardship.
79
80 - Vacant grazing allotments on public land
81 should be made immediately available to
82 Montana livestock producers affected by
83 drought or other natural disaster. (2020)

1 **WATER**

2 - Support the use of water storage through
3 impoundment structures, conservation
4 measures, USDA Small Watershed Program,
5 and implementation of soil health principles
6 as primary means for water development.
7 (2023)

8
9 - Support a broad water development policy,
10 which insures multiple uses, recognizing the
11 primacy of the needs of agriculture.

12
13 - Support state's right to adjudicate all waters
14 within its borders.

15
16 - Support State Water Court adjudication of
17 all state water disputes, including all federal,
18 state, and private permits and/or reservations.

19
20 - Any time a water source used by agricultural
21 and rural communities is contaminated, all
22 remediation expenses should be levied against
23 the responsible party and work should be
24 completed in an expeditious manner. (2023)

25
26 - Oppose the levying of any additional fees on
27 any water rights that the claimants have
28 already paid an assessment for water rights
29 adjudication. (2004)

30
31 - Include agricultural representatives on river
32 basin councils. (2017)

33
34 - Oppose the drilling of exempt wells that
35 affect existing water users. (2017)

36
37 - Oppose legislation, administrative rules, and
38 reservation processes that give control of our
39 waterways to the Department of Fish,
40 Wildlife, and Parks, Corps of Engineers, or
41 the Environmental Protection Agency.

42

43 - Oppose broadening the definition of what
44 waters are covered under the Clean Water Act
45 that may unduly burden family farmers and
46 ranchers. (2021)

47
48 - Oppose the broadening of the federal
49 government's jurisdiction over a group of
50 waters simply because the bodies of water are
51 near each other. (2021)

52
53 - Oppose legislation which allows federal
54 reservation of wilderness water rights.

55
56 - Oppose removal of dams on the Snake and
57 Columbia River systems. (1999)

58
59 **- We believe that salmon and dams can
60 coexist on the Snake and Columbia River
61 systems. (2025)**

62
63 - Oppose amendments to the Clean Water Act
64 that pertain to non-point source pollution,
65 which adversely affects family farms. (1992
66 & 2022)

67
68 - Recognize that degradation of water occurs
69 through natural means and request that such
70 degradation be taken into consideration when
71 monitoring for non-point source pollution.

72
73 - Urge a water development program to
74 include the construction and rehabilitation of
75 multiple use water storage facilities and
76 delivery systems.

77
78 - Support the Montana Water Rights Compact
79 Commission to continue and expedite the
80 adjudication of all federal water rights and all
81 water rights held in trust for the Indian tribes
82 by compact. Encourage public programs to
83 provide sufficient funding to bring this to a
84 conclusion.

85

1 - We support ensuring adequately staffed,
2 maintained, and operated irrigation projects.
3 While continuing to expedite the adjudication
4 of water rights, we should also support
5 effectively managed facilities and programs.
6 (2024)

7
8 - Support a joint effort between the State of
9 Montana and federal lending agencies to
10 supply long-term, low interest loans for
11 agricultural development of water that has
12 been reserved for agricultural purposes and
13 irrigation and encourage the agricultural
14 interests to take advantage of this and develop
15 the water that has been reserved, before
16 losing it to downstream states.

17
18 - We urge oil and gas companies to properly
19 treat and reuse their wastewater. (2013)

20
21 - We only support wastewater injection that
22 has been treated to at least the minimum
23 standards for irrigation water. (2024)

24
25 - Object to EPA or DEQ from exempting
26 entire aquifers for wastewater injection or
27 disposal. (2024)

28 WILDLIFE

29 - Urge support of wildlife management to
30 maintain a brucellosis-free state.

31
32 - Bison and bison management throughout the
33 entire state of Montana, especially the Greater
34 Yellowstone Area, remains a concern to
35 Montana livestock producers.

36
37 - Effective bison and elk management is an
38 important component of the prevention of the
39 spread of brucellosis and to the protection of
40 private property. Prevention of brucellosis is
41 in the interest of public health and safety.

42

43 - Private property rights of all landowners
44 must be protected within any bison
45 management plan. Free roaming, feral, and
46 wild bison should not be allowed within the
47 state of Montana and all bison should be
48 regulated as livestock by the Montana
49 Department of Livestock. (2012)

50
51 - Support adjustments in Federal and State
52 grazing fees according to quality of grazing
53 units.

54
55 - The National Park Service shall eliminate
56 brucellosis from its wildlife within
57 Yellowstone National Park. It shall maintain
58 its bison and elk herds and range health.
59 (2008)

60
61 - Support private property and land lessees'
62 rights in regard to wildlife management
63 (2021).

64
65 - Urge a portion of big game hunting and
66 fishing license fees be earmarked for county
67 road maintenance.

68
69 - Support a state management plan for grizzly
70 bears and wolves created in collaboration
71 with family farmers and ranchers. (2019)

72
73 - Oppose any legislation banning aerial
74 hunting, steel traps, M44's, and other
75 approved methods for control of wildlife-
76 incurred damage.

77
78 - Oppose placing the prairie dog on the
79 endangered species list. (2002)

80
81 - Urge provisions for working with the
82 landowner on habitat restoration, which
83 benefits both the landowner and the
84 endangered species. (2003)

- 1 - Oppose taking coyote and fox off the
2 predator list through reclassification as
3 furbearers.
4
5 - We support the judicious use of control
6 practices being continued on federal and state
7 lands to control coyotes, feral hogs, rabid
8 skunk populations, burrowing rodents, and
9 other damaging species. (2014)
10
11 - We recognize concerns of the impacts on
12 agricultural lands with the potential listing of
13 endangered species. (2014)
14
15 - Allow ranchers and the public to protect
16 private property from predators that fall under
17 the Endangered Species Act. (2010)
18
19 - The Department of Interior U.S. Fish and
20 Wildlife Service is responsible for the
21 management of wildlife while under the
22 Endangered Species Act (ESA) and is
23 responsible for reimbursement of livestock
24 losses caused by said wildlife. (2010)
25
26 - Urge adequate support for wildlife predator
27 control including protected species. (2013)
28
29 - We support funding for the livestock loss
30 program. (2018)
- 31 **PUBLIC UTILITIES**
- 32 - Urge continued support of policies granting
33 preference to publicly owned power systems
34 and rural electric cooperatives.
35
36 - Support wholeheartedly the financing and
37 continuation of our Rural Electric
38 Cooperatives and Rural Telephone
39 Associations.
40
41 - Support legislation enacting, upon adequate
42 research, a National Power Grid linking all
43 power planning agencies, including any new
44 sources of power development.
45
46 - Urge that authority of any grid system
47 should never supersede or circumvent
48 Montana Laws on facility siting rate structure,
49 pollution, or reclamation.
50
51 - Favor expanding the universal service fund
52 for both landline and cellular at a reasonable
53 cost. (2013 & 2021)
54
55 - Favor universal telephone service at
56 reasonable cost.
57
58 - Rural telephone and electric co-ops should
59 be exempt from paying fees for right of way
60 on state and federal lands. (1999)
61
62 - Urge continuation of district-based elections
63 for the Montana Public Service Commission.
64
65 - We oppose any efforts to regulate our rural
66 electric cooperatives and rural telephone
67 cooperatives by the Public Service
68 Commission. (2012)
69
70 - Oppose wireless broadband networks that
71 interfere with GPS operations. (2011)
72
73 - Support net neutrality. (2014)
74
75 - Support broadband development to increase
76 access to high-speed internet in rural
77 Montana. (2015)
78
79 - Support disclosure of public utilities
80 executive salaries. (2013)
81
82 - Support renewable energy programs and
83 projects. (2020)
84

1 - Encourage rural electric co-ops to support
2 installation of distributed renewable systems
3 and give preference to power purchases from
4 their members vs. large-scale energy systems.
5 (2024)

6
7 **- Any data center development proposal**
8 **would require an affirmative vote from**
9 **impacted voters prior to any approval or**
10 **permitting. (2025)**

11
12 **- Require any data centers to be off-grid**
13 **and closed loop. (2025)**

14 **FOOD AND FOOD SAFETY**

15 - Food safety policies can and should protect
16 consumers without limiting farmers, ranchers,
17 and small food processors who sell into local
18 and regional markets. (2009)

19
20 - USDA and FDA should deliver educational
21 programs to assist in understanding and
22 meeting Food Safety Modernization Act
23 (FSMA) requirements. (2017)

24
25 - Urge closer control of additives, non-food
26 substitutes, and fillers in foods, which lessen
27 nutritional value.

28
29 - Food and off-farm sales must be protected
30 from excessive government regulations.
31 (2009)

32
33 - Support funding of the Montana Food and
34 Agricultural Development Centers. (2009)

35
36 - Support the development of local and
37 regional food systems and infrastructure that
38 shorten the distance between the farm and
39 table. (2009 and 2011)

40
41 - Support the Departments of Agriculture,
42 Public Health and Human Services, and
43 Livestock creating and monitoring

44 standardized state programs for food safety at
45 farmers' markets and within the "cottage"
46 food industry. (2013)

47
48 - Products entering the U.S. must be produced
49 and processed under the same sanitary and
50 phytosanitary restrictions as those imposed on
51 American family farmers and clearly labeled
52 with country of origin (2021).

53
54 - Support banning production, sale, and
55 import of lab grown meat, lab created fish,
56 and synthetic milk to protect our food culture,
57 farmers, and public health. (2024)

58 **TRUTH IN LABELING**

59 **Imitation of Meat:**

- 60 • Support meat being defined as flesh
61 from an animal harvested in a
62 traditional way being used as food.
63 (2018)
- 64 • Oppose cellular cultured food being
65 defined as agriculture. (2018)
- 66 • Require products containing protein
67 derived from insects to be labeled.
68 (2024)

69
70 - Support that foods be labeled as bio-
71 engineered or contain bio-engineered
72 ingredients based on the National
73 Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard.
74 (2024)

75 **PUBLIC POLICY**

76 - We recognize that there are many ethical,
77 moral, economic, and societal issues which
78 are important to us as citizens, but don't relate
79 directly to our organizational purpose. In
80 these areas we encourage our members to
81 utilize, where applicable, this public
82 philosophy when participating in the
83 formulation of such public policy, whether
84 individually or as a part of other groups
85 dedicated to responsible investigation and

1 solutions to these issues. But where public
2 policy involves us as rural citizens and as
3 Farmers Union members, we accept our
4 responsibility to speak to these issues whether
5 in the global arena, on the national scene, or
6 in our state, cities, and rural communities.
7

8 - The United States enjoys the safest, highest
9 quality, and most economical food supply in
10 the world. We request our state and national
11 organizations insist that government maintain
12 the high inspection standards for foreign
13 vegetables, meats, and food products, which
14 apply to U.S. producers.
15

16 - We encourage consumers, businesses, state,
17 and federal agencies to buy locally sourced or
18 produced products. (2013)
19

20 - The strength of the United States is rooted in
21 self-sufficiency in natural resources,
22 particularly food, energy, and fiber
23 production. These are essential to national
24 security. We must not become dependent on
25 imported food, energy, or fiber, which would
26 increase our vulnerability to threats.
27

28 - Federal spending priorities must not
29 shortchange our domestic family farm
30 agriculture.
31

32 - Encourage removing term limits for public
33 office of Montana office holders.
34

35 - Support universal rates, rules, and
36 regulations on federal land leases.
37

38 - Support further multi-lateral trade
39 negotiations involving agricultural products,
40 provided the following concerns are satisfied
41 before negotiations enter the final phase:

- 42 • Global trade should not drain the
43 wealth of one country for the benefit
44 of others. (2003)
- 45 • Oppose the outsourcing of State and
46 Federal Government jobs. (2004)
- 47 • There must be a mechanism in place
48 to mitigate the adverse effects of
49 currency exchange rate fluctuations.
- 50 • The sovereignty of the USA and its
51 states to govern within their borders
52 must not be diluted or
53 internationalized at all.
- 54 • We demand a transparent democratic
55 process in trade negotiations and
56 oppose the abdication of
57 congressional responsibility by
58 granting fast track in the approval of
59 any trade agreement. (2013)
- 60 • Oppose currency manipulation
61 regarding trade. (2015)
- 62
- 63 - Oppose misuse of eminent domain laws by
64 private companies and government. Any
65 person or entity should not be allowed to
66 install another system on the taken property
67 unless the owners of each parcel of the
68 condemned property consent and are
69 compensated in an amount negotiated by the
70 owner. The person who lost possession of the
71 land through eminent domain should be
72 released from liability for any damage. (1999)
- 73
- 74 - We support National Security. We appreciate
75 the importance of the mission at Malstrom
76 Airforce Base and the Montana National
77 Guard. We oppose the objection by the
78 military to instillations of communication
79 towers, windmills, solar panels, or other
80 privately funded projects on private property
81 without fair compensation to the landowner.
82 (2024)
- 83

1 - We support efforts to reform eminent
2 domain law. It must include liability of
3 developers for damage to the land. There
4 must be clear evidence that the project will
5 serve Montana's public interest, enforcement
6 of a mitigation plan, and a just compensation
7 for damages. Landowners and tenants should
8 both be involved in the process of granting
9 the easement. (2012)

10

11 - Landowners should also have the option of
12 leasing, rather than deeding the land
13 condemned, with appropriate safeguards for
14 the landowner should the land be eventually
15 returned. (2000)

16

17 - Support reform to Montana's eminent
18 domain laws related to just compensation that
19 provides the landowner with the option to
20 receive payment for their condemned
21 property as an annual rental payment or as a
22 one-time lump sum payment. (2012)

23

24 - Oppose expanding trends to massive land
25 holdings in America by foreign individuals
26 and corporations and foreign and domestic
27 non-profits.

28

29 - Support review of land purchased by foreign
30 individuals and urge legislation to form
31 policy to limit land purchased by out-of-state
32 foreign individuals or organizations. (2010)

33

34 - Eliminate foreign ownership of large food
35 processing entities. (2020)

36

37 - Encourage the FTC and DOJ to investigate
38 agriculture industry corporate mergers for
39 violations under anti-monopolization and pro-
40 competition laws. (2017)

41

42 - Support volunteer fire departments and
43 EMTs. (2019)

44 - Support state, local, and tribal involvement
45 in the creation of any national monument or
46 other federal designations. (2023)

47

48 - Support and protect the US Antiquities Act
49 of 1906. (2011)

50

51 - We support legislation to reverse the
52 Supreme Court's ruling that overturned the
53 Chevron Deference Doctrine. Agencies,
54 scientists, and experts should create rules to
55 carry out goals established through law by
56 Congress. Judges do not have expertise for
57 establishing these rules and are not granted
58 this power by the Constitution. (2024)

59

60 - **National budgets must be passed that
61 support fair taxation by closing loopholes
62 that let higher-tax bracket individuals
63 avoid paying their fair share, investing the
64 recovered revenue in middle-class
65 priorities like health care, food assistance,
66 and reducing the national debt. (2025)**

67 **DATA OWNERSHIP AND ACQUISITION**

68 - All data collected on an agricultural
69 operation is the exclusive property of the
70 operation and its management. (2015)

71

72 - Storage and use of such data should be
73 strictly prohibited without the well-defined
74 legal consent of individuals. (2015)

75

76 - MFU believes aggregated agricultural data
77 being harvested from producers should be
78 made immediately and publicly available to
79 avoid market manipulation. (2024)

80

81 - Oppose businesses profiting from the
82 collection or sale of personal and aggregated
83 data. (2024)

84

1 - Support a “do not collect” provision
2 regarding data collection and storage. (2024)
3
4 - Farmers should have the right to opt out of
5 data harvest, and all harvested data should
6 have strict oversight. (2022)
7
8 - Oppose the use of drones for unauthorized
9 surveillance of agricultural operations and
10 invasion of personal privacy. (2013)

11 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

12 - Urge federal and state government to
13 expand, invest, and improve the in-state
14 investment and loan programs.
15
16 - Urge federal and state government to invest
17 in infrastructure needed for rural communities
18 to meet their economic opportunities.
19
20 - Continue to support federal and statewide
21 efforts by regional economic development
22 programs that benefit agriculture such as the
23 Food and Agriculture Development Centers
24 (FADC) and the Montana Cooperative
25 Development Center (MCDC).
26
27 - Encourage federal and state government to
28 help fund the startup or continuation of local
29 food processors. (2020)
30
31 - We support grant programs that fairly
32 distribute general fund dollars back to rural
33 communities for locally owned small business
34 and local development and preservation.
35 (2024)
36
37 - **We urge reinstatement and funding for
38 Regional Food Business Centers. (2025)**
39 **TAXATION**
40 - Support the concept that taxes are levied to
41 provide services people cannot provide

42 efficiently for themselves based on the
43 following principles: (1990)
44 • Property taxes are a stable source of
45 revenue and should be based on
46 equitable appraisal. (1990)
47 • Income taxes based on ability to pay
48 are the fairest method to generate
49 revenue. (1990)
50 • Taxes on business should not be
51 restrictive, but appropriate to their use
52 of public services. (1990)
53
54 - Support rebalancing the tax burden between
55 corporate, small business, residential, and
56 agricultural taxpayers. (2023)
57
58 - We support ongoing research regarding
59 taxation laws, and distribution back into rural
60 communities and family farms. (2024)
61
62 - Oppose any effort to limit the right of states
63 to tax their natural resources.
64
65 - Agricultural "inventories" should not be
66 taxed if business inventories are exempt from
67 taxation.
68
69 - Support Rural Microbusiness Tax Credit
70 values that are inflation-adjusted. (2010)
71
72 - Request development of methods requiring
73 absentee mineral interest owners to share the
74 tax burden now borne solely by the surface
75 owner.
76
77 - Encourage tax exemptions for energy saving
78 devices.
79
80 - Oppose any general sales or value added tax
81 at either the state or federal level
82
83 - Urge the Montana legislature to remove all
84 tax advantages that are intended for

1 agriculture from being utilized by non-
2 agricultural operations. (2023)
3
4 - Support a fair and equitable timber tax.
5
6 - Support fair and equitable taxation of
7 marijuana.
8
9 - Encourage increases in marijuana and
10 tobacco taxes for uses that would benefit the
11 public good. (2020)
12
13 - Urge the creation of an oversight agency
14 that collects and reports data on the
15 effectiveness of opportunity zones that
16 "benefit" rural communities. (2024)
17
18 - Support accountability standards for
19 opportunity zone projects. (2024)
20
21 - Support incentives for Montana businesses
22 that buy local, fresh, and seasonably available
23 products.
24
25 Fair Market Value
26 - Support fair and equitable valuations for all
27 agricultural operations.
28
29 - Support a land classification system which
30 assures uniform and equitable assessed
31 values, which must be straightforward and
32 easy for taxpayers to understand.
33
34 - Classification should be based on productive
35 capacity of the different soil types, based on
36 sound science and taking into consideration
37 the influence of climate on agricultural
38 production.
39
40 - We support property tax reform to more
41 adequately reflect land use. We seek to have
42 material participation as the basis for

43 classification as agricultural production land.
44 (2018)
45
46 - Expand the tax credit to include leasing land
47 to beginning farmers. (2014)
48
49 - Ask that property owners be granted the
50 lowest land classification on all private land
51 used for public roads and stream beds which
52 are required to be open for public use.
53
54 - Support a continual review of all tax-exempt
55 property.
56
57 Estate
58 - We support estate tax relief for family-
59 owned farms, ranches, and small businesses
60 in order to facilitate the transfer of those
61 enterprises to the next generation. We also
62 recommend:
63 • Opposing any reductions to any
64 federal estate tax exemptions. (2016)
65 • Simplify the exemption qualification
66 rules and requirements.
67 • Implement graduated rates.
68 • Retain reasonable agriculture
69 exemptions. (2005)
70
71 - Encourage that inheritance taxes on
72 agricultural land be eliminated if land is
73 passed to heirs and remains in agricultural
74 use, operated by them, for at least five years.
75
76 - Support tax incentives for agricultural
77 estates that transfer at a reduced market value
78 to young or beginning producers. (2024)
79
80 - Support estate transfers at fair market value.
81 (2017)
82
83 - Support a reasonable federal gift tax credit
84 to children of farm families in recognition of

1 their contribution to the business when the
2 farm is incorporated and stock is distributed.
3

4 - Oppose the repeal of agriculture homestead
5 exemption. (2018)

6

7 **Utilities**

8 - Support the Montana Electric Cooperatives'
9 Association in its efforts to retain the existing
10 property tax rates on electric transmission and
11 distribution facilities. We oppose imposition
12 of an excise or sales tax on electric utility
13 customers.

14

15 - Call on the State of Montana to require
16 investor-owned utilities and corporations to
17 pay taxes on the declared value of the
18 property, which is then used for the purpose
19 of ratemaking.

20

21 **Transportation**

22 - Oppose any increase in the Farm Gross
23 Vehicle Weight (GVW) tax.

24

25 - Urge that full, realistic, and accurate values
26 be used for taxing railroads operating
27 property in the State of Montana.

28

29 - Oppose suspension of the fuel tax due to the
30 fact that fuel taxes generated are being spent
31 to match Federal highway monies that create
32 good paying jobs and a healthy highway
33 construction program in Montana. (2005)

34

35 - Oppose any effort to increase motor fuel
36 taxes and divert the revenue into the general
37 fund at either the state or national level.

38

39 **Worker's Compensation**

40 - Urge continued efforts to improve the
41 operation of the Workman's Compensation
42 program, including closing "fraud loopholes."

43

44 - Support a single classification for all
45 agricultural operations within Montana for
46 Worker's Compensation. (2015)

47

48 - Oppose the privatization of the Montana
49 State Fund. (2021)

50 **MEDICAL CARE**

51 - Support increased telehealth and
52 telemedicine access. (2023)

53

54 - Support 100% deductions for health
55 insurance premiums of the self-employed and
56 retired. (1994)

57

58 - Urge a cooperative effort between all health
59 care and educational agencies to seek a
60 solution to the critical shortages of health care
61 personnel, particularly in our rural health care
62 facilities. (1991)

63

64 - Urge cost containment be an element in any
65 health care plan.

66

67 - Urge the Congress of the United States to
68 enact comprehensive health care reform that
69 provides all American citizens an affordable
70 public option. (2009)

71

72 - Increase access to and oppose cuts in health
73 care benefits and all premium rate increases
74 to all Medicare and Medicaid recipients and
75 veterans. (2023)

76

77 - Urge recruitment of primary care physicians
78 **and other essential health care providers** to
79 rural Montana communities. (2013)

80

81 - Increase support for rural emergency
82 medical services. (2023)

83

84 - Urge increased support of and access to
85 home health care for rural Montanans. (2013)

1 - Increase support for critical access hospitals,
2 rural health clinics, and assisted living
3 facilities. (2023)

4
5 - Support increased funding for home health,
6 emergency medicine, increased use of
7 telemedicine, population health, and care
8 coordination for our rural communities.
9 (2023)

10
11 - Support funding for mental health,
12 substance abuse, and addiction resources
13 especially for rural communities. (2019)

14
15 - Support Medicare and Medicaid's ability to
16 negotiate for lower prescription drug costs.

17
18 - Support allowing importation of generic and
19 name brand prescription drugs from countries
20 with similar or equal to regulatory oversight
21 as compared to the United States. (2021)

22
23 - Support funding for research and
24 implementation of food prescription
25 interventions. (2024)

26
27 - Support nutritional interventions and
28 produce prescriptions to be funded through
29 health care streams. (2024)

30
31 - Support federal and state government
32 funding of programs and facilities for
33 children and adults with developmental
34 disabilities. (2024)

35 SOCIAL SECURITY

36 - Oppose any cuts in either benefits or cost of
37 living increases for Social Security recipients.
38 (2021)

39
40 - Oppose any changes in the program, which
41 would raise or move the retirement age.

42 - Oppose deferral or cutting of payroll taxes,
43 which would jeopardize the sustainability of
44 Social Security. (2020)

45
46 - Oppose taxing of Social Security benefits by
47 the state of Montana.

48
49 - Support raising the maximum income level
50 upon which a person is required to pay social
51 security taxes in order to maintain solvency of
52 the Social Security System. (1999)

53 RURAL SOCIAL ISSUES AND CIVIL 54 RIGHTS

55 - A strong democracy is foundational for
56 achieving successful implementation of
57 policy that MFU members support. (2024)

58
59 - Success of our democracy requires a judicial
60 system that upholds our Constitution and our
61 established law and order system. (2024)

62
63 - **Supreme Court rulings that take place
64 through the emergency docket (known as
65 the shadow docket) must be required to
66 give a full written explanation on how their
67 ruling is based on federal law or the
68 Constitution. This is necessary information
69 for federal appeal court judges in future
70 rulings and for the general public. (2025)**

71
72 - Support equality under law for all citizens
73 regardless of race, age, gender, sexual
74 orientation, ability, and religion. (2014)

75
76 - **Anyone in the U.S. must receive due
77 process, where they are informed of the
78 law they may have broken, their rights are
79 explained to them, and they are provided
80 the opportunity for legal representation
81 and the right to a hearing. (2025)**

1 - Urge the federal and state government to
2 continue funding the Experience Works
3 Program.
4
5 - Support and urge recognition of the
6 importance of Senior Citizen's Centers as a
7 vital function in our communities.
8
9 - Support the continuation of nutrition
10 programs for people of all ages as well as
11 other beneficial programs.
12
13 - The United States Postal Service provides
14 critical services to Montanans, and we
15 demand a financially solvent, widespread,
16 reliable, and timely system through:
17 • Retaining existing rural Post Offices.
18 • Support reforms to the Postal Service
19 that would increase solvency by
20 changing the congressional mandate
21 that pensions be prepaid in advance.
22 • Support fair and equitable service
23 fees.
24 • Insist on current services through
25 offices and blue boxes be maintained
26 or expanded.
27 • Oppose any privatization of the Postal
28 Service. (2020)
29
30 - Oppose right-to-work legislation.
31
32 - Support an equitable minimum wage. (1990)
33
34 - Oppose the intimidation and harassment of
35 federal, state, county, and local officials while
36 carrying out their appointed duties. (2021)
37
38 - The right to vote is fundamental for our
39 democracy and must be preserved and
40 encouraged. (2022)
41
42 - Our democracy must provide the
43 opportunity for all our citizens to vote and

44 have their vote counted by restoring the full
45 power of the Voting Rights Act. (2024)
46
47 - Promote voting processes which secures the
48 ease of access to voting by all citizens,
49 including but not limited to: mail-in ballots,
50 ballot drop boxes, early voting, convenient
51 access to polling places, and same day
52 registration. (2022)
53
54 - Oppose the intimidation and/or harassment
55 of voters, in local, state, and national
56 elections, while exercising their right to vote.
57 (2022)
58
59 - Oppose undermining the will of the people,
60 as expressed by the public vote, by state
61 legislators, and other public officials. (2022)
62 **FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND
REGULATIONS**
63
64 - Require adequate compensation for land
65 and/or relocation of facilities condemned
66 under the Flood Plain Act by the federal
67 government.
68
69 - Urge setting fair and equitable rental fees on
70 state land, and an accurate evaluation of
71 production potential based upon land
72 classification.
73
74 - Urge redefinition of "Public Use" to curb
75 abuses by questionable "Public Need"
76 applications.
77
78 - Request a study of the cost of liability
79 insurance, including both high punitive
80 damage awards and limitation of awards.
81
82 - Ask that federally funded food programs in
83 schools and at institutions and military
84 installations use meat and dairy products
85 produced and purchased in the United States.

1 - Support current child labor regulations for
2 agriculture. (2011)
3
4 - An exemption for agricultural use for above-
5 ground petroleum storage of up to 10,000
6 gallons should be granted by the EPA. (2014)
7
8 - Oppose the transfer of all federal lands to
9 state and local control. (2014)
10
11 - Support farm equipment owners and
12 operators having the right and ability to repair
13 their own equipment. (2016)
14
15 - Oppose Federal requirements to have a
16 locator service check every spot that a soil
17 sample is to be taken. (2016)

18 FOREIGN POLICY

19 - Oppose withholding agricultural food
20 products, exported or imported, at the State
21 Department level as a tool in foreign policy.
22
23 - Support eliminating Investor-State Dispute
24 Settlements (ISDS) in existing free trade
25 agreements and bilateral investment treaties.
26 (2024)
27

28 - **Support the reinstatement of the United
29 States Agency for International
30 Development (USAID). (2025)**

31 ORGANIZATION POLICY

32 - We believe in the benefits of a grassroots
33 organization.
34
35 - Montana Farmers Union is non-partisan and
36 does not endorse candidates or provide
37 financial support; members are encouraged to
38 participate in the activities of the political
39 party of their choice.
40
41 - To be an effective force, members must be
42 involved in the organization. Such

43 involvement demands communication and
44 motivational focus from its leadership in
45 order to accomplish its goals, to develop the
46 talents of the membership, and to foster
47 feelings of self-worth as individuals and as a
48 group.
49
50 - Develop programs to increase interaction of
51 agricultural and non-agricultural groups with
52 the purpose of achieving common goals.
53 (2013)
54
55 - Support legislation and initiatives that help
56 increase the number of family farms by 25%
57 by 2055. (2024)

58 ORGANIZATION PROGRAM 59 RECOMMENDATIONS

60 National Farmers Union

61 - Urge the establishment of affiliate member
62 relationships with like-minded organizations.
63 Such relationships could enhance lobbying
64 efforts and government policy preparation.
65 (2005)
66
67 - Strengthen ties and communication with
68 member state organizations.
69
70 - Encourage membership and other
71 organizations to explore and develop long
72 range farm programs.
73

74 - Hold conventions in states with a large rural
75 population and with significant Farmers
76 Union membership amenable to farmer and
77 rancher seasonal schedules.
78

79 - Hold Convention before Congress returns to
80 session so that national policy is consistent
81 throughout the time that Congress is in
82 session for that calendar year. (2015)
83
84

1 **Montana Farmers Union**

2 - Encourage MFU members to run for office
3 and to participate in community, state, and
4 national activities and offices.

5

6 - Implement the expansion of all facets of
7 traditional and non-traditional membership,
8 including associate memberships.

9

10 - Hold seminars for leadership development.

11

12 - Encourage coverage of agricultural
13 information and education in Montana media,
14 and show appreciation when such coverage
15 appears.

16

17 - Provide an arena for dialogue among the
18 membership and between farm organizations
19 concerning farm programs.

20

21 - Continue a positive public relations role
22 with other organizations, groups, and
23 individuals to further the understanding of
24 agricultural issues.

25

26 - Keep membership informed as to state and
27 national legislative and organizational
28 developments.

29

30 - Provide non-partisan information on all
31 candidates for public office together with
32 judicial candidates and include voting records
33 on issues pertinent to the Farmers Union and
34 its policies and programs.

35

36 - Urge expansion of agricultural coalition to
37 include all agricultural organizations. (2013)

38

39 - Support and continue to use social media as
40 a channel of communication for MFU news
41 and events. (2012)

42

43 - Encourage member and youth to use their
44 talents in the Farmers Union and in civic
45 affairs.

46

47 - Support creation, expansion, and
48 communication of and with active locals.
49 (2013 & 2021).

50 **ORGANIZATION EDUCATION POLICY**

51 - An educated, involved membership is the
52 essential ingredient in the Farmers Union if
53 our membership participation and governance
54 is to be effective.

55

56 - Support organizational education
57 incorporating Farmers Union philosophy as a
58 source of renewed commitment and as a
59 means of organizational development so that
60 our agricultural vocation and our rural
61 communities may benefit.

62

63 - Promote programs designed to assist
64 Montana Farmers Union members in areas
65 pertinent to their lives as agriculturists:
66 economics, money creation, consumer
67 education, and the broad range of problems
68 faced by producers and to assist improving
69 the system of marketing.

70

71 - Install a program to educate the public about
72 the accomplishments of the American family
73 farmer, including their high-quality
74 productivity and environmental awareness.
75 The program is to include how the U.S. farm
76 policy works to ensure affordable food for the
77 entire nation and the small part of the
78 agriculture budget the farmer receives.

79

80 - Promote member attendance at conferences
81 to educate themselves about the importance
82 of their involvement in family farming.

1 - Urge continued support of land transfer
2 programs to connect beginning farmers with
3 retiring farmers. (1992 & 2021)
4
5 - Link with other state and national groups to
6 research and develop farm programs and
7 policies.
8
9 - Support the development and use of
10 Arrowpeak Camp for cooperative, legislative,
11 educational opportunities, and membership
12 use.
13
14 - Establish short-term and long-term
15 educational goals for all age groups.
16

17 **2025 Policy Committee**
18 Chair, Mark Siderius – Kalispell
19 Montana Caise – Wilsall
20 Tammy Copenhaver – Rudyard
21 Doug Crabtree – Havre
22 John Ferrat – Toston
23 Samantha Ferrat – Toston
24 Beau Milton – Ovando
25 Ben Peterson – Judith Gap
26 Kim Robinson – Kila
27 Carah Ronan – Laurel
28 Lisa Schmidt – Conrad
29 John Wicks – Ledger
30 Walter Schweitzer – Geyser (MFU President)
31 Rachel Prevost – Great Falls (MFU Staff)
32 Bella Folino – Geyser (MFU Staff)
33

1 **2026 SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

2 **Right to Repair**

3 Montana Farmers Union demands the right
4 for farmers to repair our own equipment.
5 Equipment manufacturers refuse access or
6 charge exorbitant prices for technical advisor
7 software needed to troubleshoot equipment.
8 Almost all newer equipment utilizes
9 electronic control units to control equipment
10 operation. Without the software and hardware
11 needed to troubleshoot, farmers and ranchers
12 are forced to use the dealer for minor and
13 major repairs. The cost of repairs and
14 downtime has a severe impact on our bottom
15 line and adds undue stress to our lives.
16 Farmers, ranchers, and independent repair
17 technicians need fair access to the tools
18 necessary for repairing equipment.

19
20 **Meat Processors Curriculum**

21 Local butchers are struggling to find skilled
22 labor to keep up with demand. MFU supports
23 developing and funding curriculum and
24 apprenticeship programs at the postsecondary
25 and high school levels to train people in all
26 facets of meat processing.

27
28 **Fairness for Farmers**

29 Food security is of major concern to
30 American consumers in a changing world.
31 Adopting policies that address food security
32 will be of great benefit to our producers and
33 offer protections to consumers. For too long,
34 producers and consumers have been subject
35 to “cheap food policy,” which gives corporate
36 monopolies control of our food dollar and
37 furthers food inequality.

38
39 Supply chain issues will continue into the
40 future caused in part by corporate
41 consolidation and trade wars.

42

43 Foreign nations and large corporate
44 monopolies have been allowed to manipulate
45 markets and supply chains for far too long,
46 endangering the sustainability of family
47 agriculture and putting consumers at risk of
48 food shortages. We resolve that:

- 49 • Increase price discovery and
50 transparency in cattle markets.
- 51 • Require mandatory country of origin
52 labeling (COOL) for beef and pork.
- 53 • A reinstatement and strengthened
54 enforcement of the Grain Inspection,
55 Packers and Stockyards
56 Administration (GIPSA).
- 57 • Promote diverse and value-added
58 market opportunities and livestock
59 processing.
- 60 • Urge the DOJ to follow through with
61 antitrust investigations in the
62 agricultural sector and prosecute any
63 violators of the laws in place.
- 64 • We must minimize the foreign
65 influence and control of crop
66 production supplies in the United
67 States.
- 68 • Encourage domestic production of
69 commodity inputs.
- 70 • The commodity loan program must be
71 changed to include more crops and a
72 loan rate that reflects 85% of the
73 parity price for a given commodity.
74 This will both provide producers with
75 a higher, more stable price and refill
76 our strategic commodity reserves,
77 furthering our food security.
- 78 • Communities and local governments
79 should be involved in aiding
80 policymakers in the creation of local
81 supply chains.
- 82 • Encourage federal and state
83 governments to help fund the startup
84 or continuation of local food
85 processors and distributors.

1 **Farm Bill**

2 We urge the passage of a Farm Bill to provide
3 certainty for Montana family farmers and
4 ranchers. The Farm Bill includes important
5 farm safety net programs and nutrition
6 programs that impact millions of Americans
7 nationwide – whether they are producers or
8 consumers. We need the right farm bill in
9 order for farm families and rural communities
10 to thrive.

- 11 • Strengthen the farm safety net through
12 increased profitability-based triggers.
- 13 • Expand and enhance permanent
14 disaster programs so that family
15 farmers and ranchers can recover
16 quickly.
- 17 • Expand conservation programs to help
18 family farmers and ranchers enhance
19 good conservation practices to support
20 a healthy climate.
- 21 • Promote resilient regional food
22 systems and diverse markets.
- 23 • Support adding a Competition Title to
24 the Farm Bill.
- 25 • Support a permanent Special
26 Investigator and Chief Competition
27 Officer within USDA.
- 28 • Support a strong Nutrition Title.
- 29 • Increased baseline funding is needed.
- 30 • Expand Livestock Risk Protection
31 (LRP) to include species other than
32 just cattle.
- 33 • Support reinstatement of the positions
34 of federal employees lost during the
35 “deferred resignation program” and
36 probationary employment positions.
- 37 • Encourage full staffing levels to
38 adequately administer USDA
39 programs.

41 **Farm Labor**

42 Farmers need a skilled and reliable
43 workforce. The H-2A visa program allows
44 farmers to hire workers for seasonal work.
45 Congress needs to reform H-2A legislation to
46 bring the H-2A program more in line with
47 current agriculture needs.

48

49 **USDA Reorganization**

50 USDA must be well-funded and fully staffed
51 to serve the needs of all family farmers,
52 ranchers, and our communities. Any
53 reorganization of USDA, or other changes to
54 the department and its programs, should be
55 made only after thorough and transparent
56 consultation with family farmers, ranchers,
57 and others serving the agricultural
58 community.

59

60 **Separation of Powers**

61 MFU supports the constitutional duties
62 allocated to Congress, the courts, the
63 executive branch, and the states and their
64 separation of power, along with the checks
65 and balances herein.

66

67 **Tariffs & Trade**

68 American producers have spent a tremendous
69 amount of their check-off dollars and a
70 significant amount of time building trust
71 between us and the countries buying our
72 agricultural commodities. Those gains
73 quickly evaporate when our administration
74 adopts chaotic and overly aggressive trade
75 policy.

76

77 Whereas: The U.S. Constitution gives
78 Congress authority over tariffs and
79 international trade and Congress has only
80 relinquished some of that authority to the
81 president in emergency situations. Two major
82 courts have ruled the president does not have
83 authority to levy tariffs under the

1 International Emergency Economic Powers
2 Act, with a Supreme Court ruling likely in
3 spring.
4 Whereas: Tariffs are a sales tax on U.S.
5 businesses importing goods into our country,
6 with a large portion passed on to U.S.
7 consumers. Those sales taxes on our
8 businesses and consumers raise prices,
9 contributing to inflation. Current tariffs would
10 amount to the largest tax increase on our
11 middle class in U.S. history.
12 Whereas: Countries will retaliate against U.S.
13 tariffs, with their retaliation often focused on
14 U.S. agricultural exports, causing great harm
15 to American farmers.
16 Whereas: Wide-spread, general tariffs are
17 harmful because they destabilize world
18 economies. Effective tariffs must be
19 narrowly focused on the goal of protecting
20 national security.
21 Therefore, be it resolved that MFU supports:
22 • robust international trade.
23 • negotiations that eliminate the use of
24 wide-spread general tariffs.
25 • limited and strategic or targeted use of
26 retaliatory tariffs.
27 • tariffs must be reviewed and approved
28 by Congress.
29 • negotiations that require movement
30 towards a level playing field where
31 other countries improve their labor
32 and environmental standards closer to
33 U.S. standards.
34 MFU recognizes that our Constitution grants
35 trade and tariff authority to Congress.
36

37 **Immigration Reform**

38 Immigration and legislated labor standards in
39 the U.S. built the strongest middle class and
40 economy in the world. Comprehensive
41 immigration reform must be passed to grow
42 our economy and provide necessary
43 agricultural workers. These immigrants must

44 have a pathway to citizenship and/or
45 residency.
46
47 **Due Process**
48 Anyone in the U.S. must receive due process
49 where they are informed of the law they may
50 have broken, their rights are explained to
51 them, and they are provided the opportunity
52 for legal representation and the right to a
53 hearing.
54
55 **Monetary Policy**
56 Stagflation, currently caused by tariffs, is a
57 concern as the economy weakens and
58 inflation increases. This makes it difficult for
59 the Federal Reserve to stimulate the economy
60 to improve job growth, and at the same time
61 weakens the economy to combat inflation
62 with monetary policy.
63 Effective fiscal policy by the administration
64 and Congress should work in tandem with
65 Federal Reserve monetary policy.
66
67 **Medicaid**
68 Medicaid funding must be restored and
69 increased if necessary to maintain rural
70 hospitals. Current tax credits and/or premium
71 assistance for the Affordable Care Act must
72 be permanently extended without any
73 reductions.
74
75 **Supporting Ukraine and Democracy**
76 MFU supports democracy, the territorial
77 integrity of friendly democracies, and the
78 rights to liberty of family farmers the world
79 over. MFU supports continued aid to Ukraine,
80 in support of its defense against the Russian
81 invasion. Further, MFU supports that any
82 proposed peace accord respects the full
83 territorial integrity of Ukraine and
84 unconditional withdraw of all foreign
85 adversarial troops from Ukrainian territory.
86

1 **Misleading Statements by the USDA**
2 During the current federal government
3 shutdown, several USDA agencies have
4 published on their websites false and
5 misleading statements assigning blame for the
6 shutdown to a single political party. These
7 statements are illegal under the Hatch Act.
8 MFU objects to the USDA illegally
9 publishing false and misleading information
10 about the federal government shutdown.

GLOSSARY

- 1000 Bird Exemption** – Limited provisions of the Poultry Product Inspection Act (PPIA) apply to poultry growers who slaughter no more than 1,000 poultry in a calendar year for use as human food. A person may slaughter and process poultry that he or she raised on his or her premises and they may distribute such poultry without mandatory inspection when five criteria are met.
- Agritourism** – A commercial enterprise that links agricultural operations with tourism, allowing visitors to engage in recreational, educational, or entertainment activities on a farm or ranch.
- Antitrust** – Relating to legislation preventing or controlling trusts or other monopolies, with the intention of promoting competition in business.
- APH** – Actual Production History
- ARC** – Agriculture Risk Coverage
- Biofuels** – Renewable fuels derived from biomass, such as plants, algae, or animal waste.
- BCTP** – Bison Conservation Transfer Program
- BSE** – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
- CAFO** – Concentrated animal feeding operations
- CBB** – Cattlemen's Beef Board
- CCC** – Commodity Credit Corporation
- CDL** – Commercial Driver's License
- CIS** – Cooperative Interstate Shipment
- Commodity loan** – A loan for agricultural producers, where their stored crop is used as collateral.
- Cooperative** – A business owned and operated by its members to meet their common economic, social, or cultural needs through a democratically controlled enterprise
- COOL** – Country of Origin Labeling
- CRP** – Conservation Reserve Program
- CSP** – Conservation Stewardship Program
- DEQ** – Department of Environmental Quality
- DOJ** – Department of Justice
- DSA** – Designated Surveillance Area
- EIA** – Environmental Impact Assessment
- EIS** – Environmental Impact Statement
- EPA** – Environmental Protection Agency
- EQIP** – Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- ESA** – Endangered Species Act
- FADC** – Food and Agriculture Development Center
- Farm Bill** – The Farm Bill is a package of legislation passed roughly once every five years that has a tremendous impact on farming livelihoods, how food is grown, and what kinds of foods are grown. The current Farm Bill is called the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. It was enacted into law in December 2018 and expired in 2023 and has since been extended through 2026.
- FDA** – Food and Drug Administration
- FDIC** – Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- FSA** – Farm Service Agency
- FSMA** – Food Safety Modernization Act

GIPSA – Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

GE – Genetically engineered

GMO – Genetically modified organism

Good Neighbor Authority – The Good Neighbor Authority allows the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to authorize states, counties, and federally recognized Indian tribes to conduct certain projects on federal lands in pursuit of specified land management goals.

GPS – Global positioning system

GRAS – Generally Recognized As Safe

GTA – Growth Through Agriculture

GVW – Gross Vehicle Weight

ISDS – Investor-State Dispute Settlement

LRP – Livestock Risk Protection

MCDC – Montana Cooperative Development Center

Medicaid – Provides health coverage for people with low incomes.

Medicare – Provides health coverage to those older than 65 and to some younger individuals with certain disabilities.

MEPA – Montana Environmental Policy Act

MFU – Montana Farmers Union

NAIS – National Animal Identification System

NFU – National Farmers Union

NPS – National Park Service

NRCS – Natural Resource and Conservation Service

Packers and Stockyards Act – A U.S. federal law designed to ensure fair competition and fair trade practices in the livestock, meat, and poultry industries for the benefit of producers, growers, and consumers. It prohibits unfair, deceptive, unjustly discriminatory, and monopolistic practices.

Parity – The average regional cost of production of a commodity

PLC – Price Loss Coverage

RECD – Rural Economic Community Development programs

RFS – Renewable Fuel Standard

RMA – Risk Management Agency

SCB – Specialty Crop Block

Subsidy – A sum of money granted by the government or a public body to assist an industry or business so that the price of a commodity or service may remain low or competitive.

Telehealth – The use of technology to support and promote a wide range of health care services, including both clinical and non-clinical services.

TIP – Transition Incentive Program. The 2008 Farm Bill includes a brand new provision in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for a transition option for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

USAID – United States Agency for International Development

US Antiquities Act of 1906 – An Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities is an act passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by Theodore Roosevelt on June 8, 1906, giving the President of the United States authority to, by executive order restrict the use of particular public land owned by the federal government.

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

Universal Service Fund – “The Telecommunications Act of 1996 expanded the traditional definition of universal service - affordable, nationwide telephone service to include among other things rural health care providers and eligible schools and libraries.” (Source: Federal Communications Commission)

Universal Telephone Service – “Prior to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Universal Service Fund (USF) operated as a mechanism by which interstate long distance carriers were assessed to subsidize telephone service to low-income households and high-cost areas” (Source: Federal Communications Commission)

WICHE – Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

WSA – Wilderness Study Area

WWAMI – Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho medical education program

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PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES CRIB SHEET

Types of Motions

- Main Motion: Introduce a new item
- Subsidiary Motion: Change or affect how to handle a main motion (vote on this before main motion)
- Privileged Motion: Urgent or important matter unrelated to pending business
- Incidental Motion: Questions procedure of other motions (must consider before the other motion)
- Motion to Table: Kills a motion
- Motion to Postpone: Delays a vote (can reopen debate on the main motion)

Every Motion Has 6 Steps

- Motion: A member rises or raises a hand to signal the chairperson.
- Second: Another member seconds the motion.
- Restate motion: The chairperson restates the motion.
- Debate: The members debate the motion.
- Vote: The chairperson restates the motion, and then first asks for affirmative votes, and then negative votes.
- Announce the vote: The chairperson announces the result of the vote and any instructions.

Requesting Points of Something

Certain situations need attention during the meeting, but they don't require a motion, second, debate or voting. It's permissible to state a point during a meeting where the chairperson needs to handle a situation right away.

Point of Order: Draws attention to a breach of rules, improper procedure, breaching of established practices, etc.

Point of Information: A member may need to bring up an additional point or additional information (in the form of a nondebatable statement) so that the other members can make fully informed votes.

Point of Inquiry: A member may use point of inquiry to ask for clarification in a report to make better voting decisions.

Point of Personal Privilege: A member may use point of personal privilege to address the physical comfort of the setting such as temperature or noise. Members may also use it to address the accuracy of published reports or the accuracy of a member's conduct.

Action	What to say	Can interrupt speaker?	Need a second?	Can be debated?	Can be amended?	Votes needed
Introduce main motion	"I move to..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move to amend the motion by..." (add or strike words or both)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Move item to committee	"I move that we refer the matter to committee."	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Postpone item	"I move to postpone the matter until..."	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
End debate	"I move the previous question."	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Object to procedure	"Point of order."	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decision
Recess the meeting	"I move that we recess until..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Adjourn the meeting	"I move to adjourn the meeting."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Request information	"Point of information."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote
Overrule the chair's ruling	"I move to overrule the chair's ruling."	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Extend the allotted time	"I move to extend the time by _ minutes."	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
Enforce the rules or point out incorrect procedure	"Point of order."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote
Table a motion	"I move to table..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Verify voice vote with count	"I call for a division."	No	No	No	No	No vote

Action	What to say	Can interrupt speaker?	Need a second?	Can be debated?	Can be amended?	Votes needed
Object to considering some undiplomatic matter	"I object to consideration of this matter..."	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Take up a previously tabled item	"I move to take from the table..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Reconsider something already disposed of	"I move to reconsider our action to..."	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Consider something out of its scheduled order	"I move to suspend the rules and consider.."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Close the meeting for executive session	"I move to go into executive session."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Personal Preference- noise, room temperature, distractions	"Point of privilege"	Yes	No	No	No	No vote