

AMERICAN
FARMERS & RANCHERS
Oklahoma Farmers Union



Rich Heritage, Bright Future

AFR/OFU State Convention 2015

2015 Policy Statement

Adopted by the delegates
to the 110th AFR/OFU Convention
February 13-14, 2015 - Norman, Okla.

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American Farmers & Ranchers is a general farm organization, which has been representing family farmers, ranchers and rural Americans since 1905. It is the oldest and one of the largest general farm and rural organizations in the state where it is headquartered, with nearly 100,000 members.

With its broadly based farm, ranch, rural and community membership, American Farmers & Ranchers is known as the “Voice of the Family Farmer and Rural America.”

The members themselves make AFR policy. They do this through a system of annual conventions. Local and county organizations send platform recommendations to the state/national level for the policy committee’s review. The local and county organizations also send delegates to the annual convention to approve the program, which guides the organization’s policies.

Our policy directs the legislative action of the organization and represents the diverse and complex interests of the people of rural Oklahoma and affiliated states. AFR represents these issues in a non-partisan manner on a local, state and national level.

AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS
2015 PROPOSED POLICY POSITIONS
Adopted February 13, 2015

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AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS

PREAMBLE

We believe in this nation, under God, and for the great hope for eternal freedom, which it holds for humanity everywhere.

We re-affirm our convictions of the truth and the rightness of the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and its Bill of Rights.

We pray our state and national leaders place national security and the preservation of our form of government as their foremost responsibility.

We support programs that will preserve the American system of family farms and encourage all commodity groups and all farmers and ranchers to cooperate in formulating solutions and promoting such.

Under our economic and political system, the family farm system of agriculture is the most productive and efficient in the world. Since the nation's beginning, family farmers and ranchers have brought forth from the soil new wealth in abundant production of food and fiber and even today agriculture remains the number one industry.

PURPOSE

The American Farmers & Ranchers' mission is to provide effective grassroots leadership for the enhancement and protection of farmers and ranchers, so their rural communities may thrive and prosper. Guided by its educational, cooperative and legislative principles, American Farmers & Ranchers is committed to work for the advancement of the quality of life for its membership and people everywhere.

We are also committed to providing a continuing, safe and stable supply of high quality food and fiber for consumers.

We support the right of farmers and ranchers to engage in modern farming and ranching practices which shall be forever guaranteed in this state. No law shall be enacted which abridges the right of farmers and ranchers to employ agricultural technology, modern livestock production and ranching practices.

American Farmers & Ranchers makes a concerted effort to properly inform consumers, legislative leaders and members of Congress of the problems confronting farmers and ranchers.

American Farmers & Ranchers strives to make aggressive efforts at the national, state and local levels to educate farmers and the general public on the policy and issue positions of other organizations when the position will benefit family farmers, ranchers or our rural communities, and oppose those issues which would negatively impact them.

The role of the family agricultural producer must be that of leadership and stewardship in preserving our natural resources.

The farm and ranch family and its welfare, therefore, is the keystone of our policy. To ensure its continuation, we support a competitive market with fair price discovery.

These families have always been, and remain, the foremost stewards of this land. We have the responsibility to assure that this legacy, with its broad dispersion of land ownership, is passed on to our children and grandchildren.

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50

1 **SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS OF**
2 **AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS**

3
4
5 **FEDERAL**

6
7 **NUTRITIONAL GUIDELINES**

8 We encourage the United States Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to utilize the abundant
9 and thorough evidence suggesting that Americans should consume a balanced diet rich in
10 nutrients which includes lean meats and dairy products.

11
12 **FARM BILL**

13 We support provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments
14 (SURE) program be included in the next farm bill effective retroactive to the Oct. 1, 2013,
15 extension.

16
17 We support efforts to maximize the amount of dollars appropriated in the farm bill for the
18 purpose of farm program payments to help farmers and ranchers.

19
20 **USDA STANDARDS**

21 To protect U.S. food safety standards and the availability of domestically-produced agricultural
22 products, we oppose lowering any U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) standard to accommodate
23 any foreign country's food and fiber import products.

24
25 **DISASTER PROGRAMS**

26 We support continued funding of federal agriculture disaster programs.

27
28 **FEDERAL FUNDING**

29 We oppose disproportionate cuts which would adversely impact all agriculture programs at the
30 federal level.

31
32 **WATER PROPERTY RIGHTS**

33 We oppose any Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal now, or in the future, to
34 expand jurisdiction in a federal takeover of all waters in the U.S. All necessary action should be
35 taken to preserve the water rights of the individual citizen and prevent further usurpation of those
36 rights.

37
38
39 **STATE**

40
41 **ANIMAL WELFARE**

42 We support animal welfare, as opposed to animal rights. We support scientifically sound
43 methods of herdsmanhip and the continued use of technological advancements in livestock
44 production for American meat producers to efficiently supply protein to the world. We oppose
45 any encroachment on traditional animal production practices.

46
47
48 **STATE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM**

49 We support the proposal to move the school nutrition program from the Oklahoma State Dept. of
50 Education (SDE) to the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF).

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SCHOOL BONDS

We support further investigation by the Oklahoma Attorney General into the legalities of series bonds for schools.

DROUGHT INITIATIVE

We support state-wide efforts in development of a drought assistance and fire control package, including, but not limited to, insurance department plan, conservation plan and ODAFF. Additional funding for cost share programs, such as pasture taps, building/repairing ponds, drilling water wells, soil erosion control, grass restoration and cedar tree removal, should continue to be delivered by conservation entities.

SCHOOL SECURITY

We strongly support the implementation of school security protection initiatives with state funding, including, but not limited to, safe rooms.

NATURAL RESOURCES FUNDING

We support a match of state money from the rainy day fund or a bond issue for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to match currently available federal funding.

We oppose disproportionate cuts which would adversely impact all natural resource agencies including, but not limited to, ODAFF and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

PRISONS

We urge that state prison facilities be maintained to meet present and future needs, including prison population, with adequate staffing levels and competitive compensation for employees.

COMMENDATIONS

We commend the Honorable Frank Lucas for his leadership, as chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee, to develop farm policy which recognizes the issues relevant to Oklahoma farmers and ranchers and those of the nation. We further commend Representatives Cole and Mullin for their support of Congressman Lucas in his efforts in passing the Agricultural Act of 2014.

We commend Congressman Lucas and the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee for amending the Internal Revenue Code to create a 501(c)(3) organization to conduct agricultural research and advance agriculture through public and private tax-exempt donations.

We commend the state and federal agricultural agencies for their continuing efforts to support Oklahoma agriculture.

We commend the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, veterans and veterans groups with much appreciation and applause for their contributions around the world. We further support additional behavioral health treatment for returning veterans and family members impacted by this or the loss of a loved one.

1 We commend each member, officer, local and county organization which participated in the
2 AFR policy development process which led to the policy document developed and submitted to
3 the membership for consideration and adoption.
4

6 **COOPERATIVES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

7
8 We support partnering with only those groups who embrace policies that are favorable to
9 family agriculture and are considered pro-agriculture by the members we represent.
10

11 We support bona fide farm cooperatives and urge all farmers to support such in their locals
12 to the fullest extent.
13

14 We encourage our members to participate in specialty commodity organizations, with
15 respect to the commodities they grow or produce.
16

17 We support continuation of the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922 that limits each member of a
18 cooperative to one vote, regardless of the amount of stock or membership capital the
19 membership owns.
20

21 We reaffirm our support for rural electric cooperatives and urge Congress to provide ample
22 insured and guaranteed loan funds to meet the bona fide needs of the rural electric cooperative
23 system and its customers.
24

25 We strongly encourage the U.S. Congress to oppose electric deregulation.
26

27 The U.S. Congress and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) are steadfastly
28 moving toward restructuring the electric utility industry. We believe Oklahoma decisions are
29 best left to the state and that any restructuring of Oklahoma's electric industry should embrace
30 the following criteria:
31

- 32 1. Make certain we have continued universal access to electric power.
33
- 34 2. Make certain safeguards are in place to protect all Oklahomans from significantly
35 increased rates and line costs from electric restructuring.
36
- 37 3. All classes of customers should be treated fairly.
38
- 39 4. Make certain rural Oklahomans gain the benefits of "competition," while prohibiting
40 the discriminatory aspects of "competition" that left rural Oklahomans in the dark a
41 few decades ago.
42
- 43 5. Make sure revenues generated by the electric industry remain revenue-neutral to all
44 receiving entities as much as possible.
45
- 46 6. Equalize the cost of distributing electric energy statewide, and
47
- 48 7. Make certain the environment is protected and preserved.
49

1 We urge the preference clause be continued as a means of assuring the people will benefit
2 from the sale of electric power from the federal dams, not just a few stockholders.

3
4 We support the principle that recreation pays a share of the cost of these projects.

5
6 We urge Congress, state legislators and ratemaking authorities to use their powers to
7 protect the rights of rural cooperatives to generate their own power where they consider it best to
8 do so.

9
10 We urge Congress to continue to recognize the right of cooperatives to serve defense and
11 other installations in their service areas.

12
13 We oppose any effort, congressional or administrative, to weaken or dispose of our rural
14 electric cooperatives or government-owned power-generating facilities.

15
16 We support legislation to allow water associations and rural water districts to redeem loans
17 before a sale to outside investors.

18
19 We continue our support for the Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

20
21 We support the concept of cooperative wind projects which further benefits member
22 landowners and such projects which remain as cooperative ventures once construction is
23 completed without resale to other private entities.

24 25 26 **FAMILY LIFE AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

27
28 We oppose any changes to our national anthem or Pledge of Allegiance.

29
30 We urge active involvement in the effort to preserve the fundamental moral values of our
31 society and uphold the Biblical principles upon which our nation was founded.

32
33 We support the traditional family structure and believe that marriage is comprised of one
34 man and one woman.

35
36 American Farmers & Ranchers does not discriminate against any person on the basis of
37 race, color, religion, national origin, sex/gender, age, disability or veteran status.

38
39 We support all programs promoting Christian life.

40
41 We oppose programs or practices promoting Satanism or witchcraft, and the recognition of
42 such as valid religions.

43
44 We support the groups that are currently fighting to stop the spread of pornography and
45 sales of pornographic materials in our state, along with stronger penalties for violators.

46
47 We strongly oppose television programming, electronic games and Internet sites not suited
48 for full-family viewing.

1 We oppose Federal Communication Commission (FCC) rulings that liberalize the use of
2 offensive, explicit or profane language and gestures on network television.

3
4 We support the people’s right for quality, free television.

5
6 We believe that determining whether life-sustaining procedures should be withheld or
7 withdrawn for illness, disease, injury or extreme mental deterioration (such that there is no
8 reasonable expectation of recovering or regaining a meaningful quality of life) should be made
9 by the attending physicians and immediate members of the family.

10
11 We encourage the use of the “Advanced Directive” by everyone.

12
13 We recommend the changing of adoption laws to make it easier for U.S. citizens to adopt
14 babies born in the United States.

15
16 We support continuation of the Oklahoma Agricultural Mediation Program (OAMP) and
17 expansion of services to provide stress relief counseling for producers impacted by weather and
18 economic disasters.

19
20
21 **EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS**

22
23 We support public education.

24
25 We strongly support leaving all agricultural education and FFA programs in
26 comprehensive high schools only, not in career and technology centers.

27
28 We strongly oppose the relocation of the Oklahoma Dept. of Career and Technology
29 Education headquarters from Stillwater.

30
31 We support all public education-designated revenue from ad valorem taxation remain in
32 the public school system and not be used for private school funding.

33
34 We support the continued use of meat in school lunch programs.

35
36 We recognize the need for a closer active relationship between AFR and early childhood
37 agricultural education in Oklahoma. We recommend the establishment of a part-time AFR
38 position with the sole purpose of assisting early childhood teachers with agricultural curriculum
39 development and programs that will instill the importance of the relationship between agriculture
40 and food.

41
42 We support adequate school security funding assistance with the help of state or federal
43 government levels.

44
45 We support the creation of a representative statewide education task force with stakeholders
46 to include education, farmers, ranchers and other rural constituents to determine options which
47 would direct funding to the classrooms and the students, increase teacher pay, including reforms,
48 and provide a means for paying for such increases or other educational expenditures for the
49 duration of the increase.

1 In order to avoid the consolidation of power, we support the continued public election of
2 the Oklahoma State Superintendent.

3
4 We support the state fulfilling their obligations to teachers receiving certification as
5 national board-certified teachers.

6
7 We support making drivers' training available for all public and private school students.

8
9 We oppose attracting new business and industry with tax incentives which adversely affect
10 funding for education, unless "in lieu of" provisions are available for the impacted area from the
11 business or industry receiving incentives.

12
13 We support one credit hour of general agriculture be included as a high school graduation
14 requirement and a similar requirement in the curriculum at any Oklahoma land grant institution.

15
16 Driver's license eligibility for minors should be limited to enrolled students, high school
17 graduates or recipients of a GED.

18
19 We favor voluntary Bible reading and prayer in our public schools.

20
21 School children should begin each day with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, including
22 the wording "under God."

23
24 We support education of all citizens on the proper care and protocol of the flag of the
25 United States of America.

26
27 Early childhood development should be a parental choice.

28
29 We urge our members to work to eliminate textbooks used in public schools that are anti-
30 American, anti-God and anti-family.

31
32 We support the study of creationism as a portion of the curriculum in public schools.

33
34 We encourage the use of more volunteer workers, such as senior citizens, parents and
35 retired business people, in the local schools.

36
37 We favor school boards and administrators having flexibility in rewarding teachers of
38 excellence and discharging teachers with poor performance records, including those considered
39 as certified staff.

40
41 We ask the Oklahoma Legislature to pass legislation allowing local school districts to vote
42 by super majority an incentive millage of up to five mills for the betterment of education within
43 the school district, and that these monies be non-chargeable against existing or further school aid
44 formulas.

45
46 When local schools are required to provide foreign language, we propose it be state or
47 federally funded.

48
49 We support exercising all influence possible to avoid the use of false or misleading
50 textbooks on animal rights and/or environmental issues.

1
2 We support broad-based representation on the state textbook committee by a diverse group
3 of stakeholders.

4
5 We endorse the “Ag in the Classroom” project.

6
7 We support teaching animal welfare, as opposed to animal rights, through the “Ag in the
8 Classroom” program.

9
10 The restrictions on daycare centers for preschoolers should not be so rigid that they prevent
11 neighbors and/or relatives cooperatively caring for children or the rights of parents to choose
12 daycare services.

13
14 We support Congress designating English as the official language of the United States and
15 the Oklahoma Legislature designating English as our state language.

16
17 We oppose distribution of contraceptives and abortion referrals in school health programs.

18
19 We believe the choice of AIDS education curriculum and materials should be controlled by
20 local school officials.

21
22 Any mandated programs beyond the basics in the Oklahoma public schools should be fully
23 funded by the Oklahoma Legislature.

24
25 Rural areas of school districts should be adequately represented on all boards of education.

26
27 The State of Oklahoma must continue to expand its educational assistance to farmers who
28 are in financial difficulty and/or trying to establish a new career.

29
30 We support the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program (OALP) and annual line-item
31 funding by the Oklahoma Legislature which is combined with private sector funding.

32
33 We respectfully request that the Oklahoma Legislature move very cautiously in funding,
34 making sure that all funding is “fair” to rural, as well as urban school districts.

35
36 We oppose consolidation of schools, forced or otherwise, dependent and independent, by
37 whatever means to meet arbitrary standards. Any assessments relative to consolidation should be
38 an equitable comparison of all relevant factors. We support voluntary consolidation and/or
39 innovative classroom approaches, providing incentives for such consolidations come from new
40 money.

41
42 We oppose consolidation of schools solely based on student enrollment.

43
44 We oppose mandated consolidation of administration.

45
46 We support patrons’ right to vote to annex or consolidate with another school district
47 voluntarily.

48
49 We support cooperative initiatives by small schools to improve efficiencies.

50

1 Small rural schools should be provided telecommunication service and cooperative
2 programs developed to provide a curriculum that meets the requirements for high school
3 graduation and college entrance.

4
5 We suggest our county organizations and/or members consider assisting local school
6 districts in purchasing distance learning equipment.

7
8 Any transfer fee charged to dependent schools for the transfer of their students to
9 independent schools should be limited to the actual net cost to the independent school, after
10 considering all sources of revenue which an independent school receives.

11
12 We support state-approved core curriculum in all private schools.

13
14 We support allowing schools to be given credit for average daily attendance of students
15 participating in virtual learning. However, we support the number of credits counting towards
16 graduation requirements from online instruction be totally at the discretion of the local school
17 board. We recognize the value of online learning for schools which may not be able to provide
18 certain advanced subjects.

19
20 We oppose tax credits and/or vouchers for transfer between public and/or private schools.

21
22 We support the Oklahoma career and technical education system as one of the best in this
23 nation for training, re-training and future employment of our youth and adults.

24
25 We support additional recruitment efforts to maintain an available pool of agriculture
26 education instructors to meet the demand resulting from anticipated retirements in future years.

27
28 We support the work of, and adequate funding for, the 4-H, FFA, FCCLA and AFR youth
29 programs. We will, therefore, actively oppose any attempt to curtail the activities of these
30 deserving groups.

31
32 We encourage including, as an academic requirement, entrepreneurial training for high
33 school students, such as the skills training demonstrated in agriculture education/FFA and career
34 and technical education programs and 4-H Clubs.

35
36 We oppose discrimination against career and technical education toward meeting
37 requirements of high school graduation and college entrance.

38
39 We strongly encourage a minimum of two appointees made by the Governor to the
40 Oklahoma Career and Technology Education Board have an agricultural background and/or
41 career and technical education programs background.

42
43 We support the Oklahoma Legislature fully funding mandated increases in teachers'
44 salaries or other educational expenditures for the duration of the increase.

45
46 We support adequate funding for research and development through land grant colleges
47 and universities.

48
49 We support following the constitutional requirement and state statute that a majority of the
50 members appointed by the Governor to the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and

1 Mechanical Colleges shall be farmers who are actually engaged in farming and/or livestock
2 growing as their principal business or occupation in earning a livelihood.

3
4 We oppose any new legislative or State Department of Education mandates without full
5 funding for such mandates.

6 7 8 **CRIME**

9
10 We support the victim's rights to be strongly protected by law at the local, state or federal
11 level.

12
13 We favor expediting the appeal process of convicted criminals.

14
15 We recommend severe penalties and strict enforcement of laws governing all drivers,
16 including juveniles under the influence of alcohol and drugs. We also recommend mandatory
17 incarceration of transporters of illegal drugs, pending trial.

18
19 We support changes in the juvenile justice system to provide adequate juvenile detention
20 facilities with adequate counseling and rehabilitation programs.

21
22 We call for greater emphasis on controlling alcohol and drug use.

23
24 School officials and law enforcement officers in schools must be given adequate latitude to
25 address disciplinary problems in schools.

26
27 We encourage random drug testing of anyone responsible for the safety of others and
28 support the crack-down on any abusive use of drugs, illegal or prescription.

29
30 We encourage adequate funds be appropriated for the treatment and incarceration of drug
31 users.

32
33 Convicted narcotic dealers should be given maximum sentences with a "no parole"
34 provision being added to the law.

35
36 We oppose the sale of liquor by the drink.

37
38 We support the Amber and Silver Alert System.

39
40 We support the establishment of a rural crime unit. We prefer that such a unit be under the
41 jurisdiction of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) in cooperation with the
42 Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) where applicable.

43
44 We oppose attempts to consolidate civilian surveillance and intelligence, such as the OSBI
45 and the FBI, under military control.

46
47 We support the action of local, state and federal departments and agencies to combat
48 terrorism, including any agrarian-related terrorism attack.

49
50 Due to the threat posed by terrorists to the security and welfare of the United States, we

1 support the actions taken through the Dept. of Homeland Security to require foreign students in
2 the U.S. on student visas to show proof of enrollment and academic participation.

3
4 We support increasing penalties for acts of agricultural terrorism.

5
6 We urge support for local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

7
8 We support additional efforts to protect our federal borders from the growing and/or import
9 of illegal drugs and potential terrorist activity.

10
11 We support the use of trained dogs for drug detection.

12
13 We recommend that current laws be rewritten and strengthened concerning child abuse and
14 sexual crimes against children so that children will be better protected. We favor providing law
15 enforcement agencies with the resources needed to apprehend, prosecute and monitor sex
16 offenders.

17
18 Parents and minors should be held legally and financially responsible for all costs and
19 damages incurred by a minor's criminal activities.

20 We urge our members to join and/or organize their communities into neighborhood watch-
21 type programs and cooperate with local law enforcement agencies for identification of all
22 personal property.

23
24 After an accident involving property damage to fences, buildings or equipment, the
25 investigating law enforcement officer(s) should be required to notify landowners or tenants of
26 such damage immediately after it occurs.

27
28 The DOC should pay the county jails of Oklahoma at a rate commensurate with state
29 incarceration costs for state offenders after judicial sentences are imposed.

30
31 We recommend uniform and prompt sentencing for the same type of offenses and
32 mandatory minimum sentences be provided by law for repeat offenders.

33
34 Hardened criminals should be segregated from first offenders and efforts should be made to
35 rehabilitate first offenders.

36
37 We support legislation that would limit early release of prison inmates to those convicted
38 of non-violent crimes only.

39
40 We favor work programs whereby inmate labor would be used to maintain and improve
41 public facilities, such as roads, bridges, parks, buildings and other such public property.

42
43 More consideration should be given to restitution, rather than confinement, when the risk to
44 the public is minimal.

45
46 We encourage use of electronic monitoring, rather than incarceration, for non-violent
47 offenders.

48
49 More emphasis should be placed on the supervision of parolees.

50

1 A jail meeting standards when built should not be in violation when new regulations or
2 standards are issued, unless the total cost of updating is provided by the state or federal
3 government.

4
5 To help alleviate the ever-increasing tax burden on rural residents, we support a concept of
6 regional, centrally-located jails, funded by the state, to serve multiple cities, towns and counties,
7 only when these entities and the voters wish to participate jointly.

8
9 We support adequate funding for multiple-county rural crime task forces.

10
11 We support action to prevent or minimize frivolous lawsuits.

12
13 We oppose firearms registration or any other invasion or limitation of our Second
14 Amendment rights.

15
16 We support protecting one's self and family with necessary force, particularly when a
17 perpetrator intrudes upon their property.

18
19 We favor a rehabilitation center for minor juvenile offenders and an alternative school
20 environment for repeat offenders who constantly disrupt the classroom and cause problems.

21
22 We support coordination of local, state and federal governments in prosecution of crimes
23 committed with electronic media.

24
25 We support adequate funding for ODAFF for investigation of livestock and other
26 agriculture commodities, products and supplies theft.

27
28 We encourage the state develop guidelines for buyers of scrap metal to enable tracking of
29 sellers to help prevent and discourage thefts.

30
31
32 **SAFETY**

33
34 We encourage additional annual funding allocations for volunteer fire departments to build
35 adequate local firefighting capacity. We oppose insurance companies/agents being the source
36 point of collections for fire department assessments.

37
38 We support county officials' authority to declare a burn ban during times of high fire risks
39 and support the enforcement thereof.

40
41 We support public funding and installation of dry fire hydrants.

42
43 We encourage the voluntary effort of producers to put reflective tape and slow moving
44 vehicles symbols on farm tractors and equipment.

45
46 We support education and training efforts related to farm and all-terrain vehicle (ATV)
47 safety.

1 We support a statewide coordinated communications network system and an enhanced 9-1-
2 1 system which would improve the efficiency of ambulance and emergency medical services in
3 rural areas.

4
5 We urge the state not to over-regulate rural fire departments. We recommend a multi-tiered
6 program for the rural volunteer fire departments in the state regarding their regulation.
7

8 9 **SOCIAL SECURITY AND SENIORS**

10
11 We support a strong Social Security system.
12

13 We oppose any negative net adjustments of the current Social Security system and support
14 adequate continued federal funding of the Social Security program.
15

16 We oppose the government borrowing Social Security funds to pay other U.S. obligations.
17

18 The spouse or family of a deceased person should be able to keep the month's social
19 security check in the month that the individual became deceased.
20

21 We believe only U.S. citizens should be eligible to receive Social Security benefits, but
22 non-citizens lawfully working with a visa or work permit should be required to pay into the
23 Social Security system.
24

25 We oppose any cuts in Social Security benefits and furthermore urge an increase of the
26 death benefit to the beneficiary.
27

28 We support the Older Americans Act. We commend the efforts of senior service programs,
29 which serve senior citizens in Oklahoma, and further, we urge funding these programs,
30 continuance and expansion into all counties in our state.
31

32 33 **HEALTH CARE**

34
35 We support continuation of an Oklahoma State University (OSU) teaching hospital and
36 associated osteopathic doctor training which primarily returns physicians to rural Oklahoma.
37

38 We support adequate health care, in a timely manner, for veterans with close scrutiny and
39 continued oversight of U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs by the federal government.
40

41 We support health care reform that does not disproportionately burden small, family-owned
42 farms and businesses with additional costs.
43

44 We support health care reform to cover all Americans with affordable and available basic
45 health-care coverage.
46

47 We support affordable prescription drugs for senior citizens.
48

49 We encourage the federal government to simplify the information on and enrollment of
50 Medicare Part D and provide more affordable coverage without gaps.

1
2 We support the right to enroll in Medicare Part D at any given time after the age of 65
3 without penalty.

4
5 We oppose funding reductions to Medicare, but support a process for establishing a means
6 test for program eligibility.

7
8 We support expanding qualifications to allow more people eligibility for the medical
9 savings plan, including employees with no health plan benefits.

10
11 We encourage the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to continue their efforts
12 to expand the education and training provided by regional hospitals to encompass the entire state
13 and provide care at low cost to indigent patients as well as to train interns in rural areas.

14
15 We support providing equal pay for equal services claims reimbursement, whether in a city
16 or rural health care facility.

17
18 We oppose changes in regulations which would impose unrealistic demands on rural
19 hospitals and rural physicians, threatening survival of small hospitals and discouraging
20 physicians from establishing or maintaining rural practices.

21
22 We support funding of rural medical scholarship programs that encourages young doctors
23 to practice in rural areas upon completion of their training.

24
25 Training for emergency medical technicians should be fostered in regional areas utilizing
26 local volunteer fire departments, hospitals, Oklahoma Career and Technology Education centers
27 and other entities utilizing grant funds to accomplish the effort.

28
29 We support legislation to allow 100 percent federal and state income tax credits or tax
30 deductions for those who self-finance their health insurance and are self-employed.

31
32
33 **TRANSPORTATION**

34
35 We favor the close monitoring of the proposed border-to-border superhighway projects.

36
37 We support the reauthorization of the federal highway fund and oppose such funding being
38 redirected to other non-roads and non-bridges projects.

39
40 County roads and bridges should maintain a high funding priority by the Oklahoma
41 Legislature.

42
43 All motor vehicle excise tax should be earmarked for county roads, state highways and city
44 streets, rather than going into the general revenue fund.

45
46 We oppose the use of state funds and federal gas tax monies in promoting and assisting in
47 the construction or maintenance of toll roads.

48
49 The Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) should pay for repairing county roads used
50 for detours when building or repairing state highways.

1
2 Access roads around lakes that have been built by the state should be maintained by the
3 state and not by the counties.

4
5 We support new bridges being built on the original right-of-way and not off-set.

6
7 We support ODOT being responsible for maintaining their fences along limited access
8 highways.

9
10 We encourage the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to work with property owners
11 to find common sense solutions when disputes arise over highway signage regulations.

12
13 We favor a law requiring all road intersections to be cleared of weeds and brush to
14 eliminate blind corners and thus prevent accidents.

15
16 The Oklahoma Legislature and Governor should do everything possible to maintain
17 railroad services and all existing transportation facilities in all of Oklahoma.

18
19 We support legislation that would provide for adequate rail competition and oppose rate
20 increases by railroads for agricultural products.

21
22 We support full-contract rate disclosure, including all pertinent contract provisions.

23
24 We support the state assisting in railroad right-of-way purchases and maintenance for rail
25 services and the enhancement, expansion and continuation of short-lines for the continued
26 viability of the state economy.

27 We oppose state or federal regulation regarding the transportation of hazardous materials
28 by farmers who do so in the course of their own farming operation.

29
30 We support an agriculture exemption from federal and state regulations regarding
31 displaying of Dept. of Transportation (DOT) numbers.

32
33 We support the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) in their efforts to educate farmers and
34 ranchers on current Federal Commercial Motor Carrier Safety Administration requirements.

35
36 We support Oklahoma residents being allowed to renew their commercial driver's licenses
37 (CDL) at tag agencies.

38
39 We support variances for natural disasters in "hours of service" regulations for drivers with
40 CDLs with respect to restoring emergency services.

41
42 In order to continue receiving federal transportation funds, permits for hauling loads of hay
43 should be free and easily obtainable, since the federal government requires the State of
44 Oklahoma to issue such permits for use on federal roads.

45
46 We oppose federal requirements to install lighting on farm equipment that was not
47 originally equipped with such devices.

48
49 We encourage designating one central agency for issuing permits and enforcement of truck
50 weights and measures.

1
2 We support reasonable reform of Oklahoma Transportation laws regarding increasing
3 weights and measures when transporting farm commodities.
4

5 6 **CREDIT AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** 7

8 We recognize and support the value of community banks and lending institutions to rural
9 areas and realize that the broad-based economic stress of the Nation has impacted these entities.
10 We trust that they will not be ignored for future assistance when they are negatively impacted.
11

12 We strongly oppose legislation which negatively impacts rural America banks and lending
13 institutions.
14

15 We oppose the Basel III proposal which fundamentally changes how all banks' holding
16 companies calculate their capital ratios which impacts loan volume.
17

18 Assistance to rural banks can be provided by allowing Federal Deposit Insurance
19 Corporation (FDIC) tolerance in working with local bankers.
20

21 We oppose further relaxation of the branch banking laws.
22

23 We oppose the continuing increase of regulations on home mortgages lending and support
24 relaxation of regulations relative to community lending for home mortgages.
25

26 We oppose further closure and/or consolidation of existing Oklahoma Farm Service
27 Agency (FSA) county offices, support adequate staffing commensurate with work load levels
28 evaluated annually, and support updated technology for expediting delivery of programs.
29

30 We oppose recall of short-term FSA farm loans until termination date.
31

32 We support a two year extension on the 15-year limit on FSA loans until the issue can be
33 reconsidered.
34

35 FSA should be more adequately funded for emergency farm ownership and operating
36 loans.
37

38 All FSA applications and credit for farming activities should be fairly and equitably
39 considered and acted upon in a timely manner to maintain the integrity of the program.
40

41 We oppose the privatization of FSA loan programs.
42

43 We support continuation of the limited resource loan program through FSA and oppose
44 loan time limits as the only disqualifying factor.
45

46 FSA should accomplish its original mission with emphasis on agriculture loans and provide
47 adequate funds for both guaranteed and direct loans return to the direct loan concept.
48

49 We support lower interest rates on agriculture loans from FSA.

1
2 We support FSA regulations, which would give delinquent FSA borrowers additional time
3 to complete the loan servicing documents.
4

5 We support the amount of write downs on FSA loans to not be below current fair market
6 value and to be determined by a minimum of three certified land appraisers using the
7 comparative sales approach.
8

9 We strongly support jurisdiction of the Farm Credit System (FCS) remain under the
10 authority of the U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committees.
11

12 We support legislation to close the exit provision of the FCS that would allow the sale,
13 acquisition or merger to any private entity that is not a cooperative.
14

15 We urge the FCS to provide long-term, low-interest-rate loans in a timely fashion to young
16 people who want to start farming.
17

18 We support the continued cooperative ownership of the FCS and its status as a government
19 sponsored enterprise. We support maintaining the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) as the
20 FCS's independent regulator and the agency's focus on FCS safety and soundness and mission
21 fulfillment.
22

23 The Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer MAC) could be a new source of
24 long-term, fixed-rate credit for family farmers if properly administered. We urge Congress to
25 review the effects of Farmer MAC on the availability of credit to borrowers whose loans would
26 not qualify to be pooled or who would choose not to have their loan pooled.
27

28 We urge continuance of the program authorizing matching grants to states with qualified
29 mediation programs.
30

31 We favor continuing the Agricultural Link Deposit Program as administered by the
32 Oklahoma State Treasurer. The program should be limited to family farmers, as defined herein,
33 and on the ability to repay. The program should be expanded by providing additional funds for
34 lending.
35

36 We encourage Oklahoma Bankers Association members to get involved with farm
37 organizations on issues related to the farm bill.
38
39

40 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

41
42 We support state legislation that enhances economic development in rural Oklahoma. We
43 urge local and county Oklahoma Farmers Union organizations to cooperatively work with city,
44 county and state agencies to take advantage of economic development opportunities.
45

46 We support the continued funding of the Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) program
47 that provides the infusion of capital to assist small towns, rural communities and rural water
48 districts.
49

1 We support the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry's (ODAFF) Made in
2 Oklahoma program.

3
4 We also support any effort to expand, enhance or assist the "added value" industry in
5 Oklahoma, including tax incentives for investors in value added agricultural incentives, and that
6 they be transferable and minimize negative impacts to education.

7
8 We encourage increased funding for the Oklahoma Agriculture Enhancement and
9 Diversification Program.

10
11 We encourage legislation that would establish a state program for investing and/or
12 financing rural business growth within the state.

13
14 We support American Farmers & Ranchers' continuing to pursue agricultural value-added
15 venture opportunities for our membership.

16
17 We support efforts to promote agritourism opportunities for rural Oklahomans as another
18 means of complimenting their existing agricultural enterprises.

19 20 21 **FOOD PROCESSING**

22
23 We support interstate or intrastate shipment of beverages or processed foods if the state
24 inspections meet or exceed federal standards.

25
26 We support increasing the funding commensurate with the increased number of inspectors
27 needed to adequately inspect intrastate, interstate and international food.

28
29 We urge the Oklahoma Legislature to secure federal grants and to appropriate the necessary
30 funding for operation of the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Food and Agricultural Products
31 Research and Technology Center (FAPC).

32
33 We support irradiation as a means of purifying food products.

34 35 36 **LABOR**

37
38 We support cities or towns of less than 25,000 population, and counties less than 60,000, be
39 exempted from provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act. This act provides that prevailing wages be
40 paid on any construction job where public money is involved.

41
42 We support a common sense approach to child labor regulations and laws relative to
43 agriculture.

44 45 46 **COMMUNICATIONS**

47
48 We support agvocacy initiatives and communication efforts to promote agriculture to the
49 non-agriculture audience and to educate uninformed consumers.

1 We support federally funded access to broadband communication in rural areas.

2
3 We strongly support legislative efforts to secure access to programming at non-
4 discriminatory rates for home satellite dish owners in rural America. The Federal
5 Communications Commission (FCC) should give consideration to rural residents to obtain local
6 channels by dish when the mailing address conflicts with regulations which prevent them from
7 receiving the nearest local channel.

8
9 We support preservation of satellite-based augmentation system (SBAS) guidance
10 opportunities for agriculture and protection of investments made by producers in existing
11 technologies.

12
13 We support the enforcement of the telephone solicitors no call list.

14 15 16 **INSURANCE**

17 18 **A. GENERAL**

19
20 Market conditions and competitive pricing will lead to innovation in developing solutions
21 to problems relating to multi-peril crop insurance and mitigation. Competitive pricing and risk-
22 based underwriting are essential to developing and maintaining a viable disaster insurance
23 market and should be originated and enforced at the state level.

24
25 Insurance legal liability minimum limits should be enforced and motor vehicle registration
26 and tags pulled if they are not in compliance.

27
28 We support the removal of the drop-down liability clause on AFR auto policies.

29
30 We encourage drivers age 55 and older to take a safe driving course in order to receive
31 additional insurance policy discounts.

32
33 We support delivery of insurance services by full-time, stand-alone professionals.

34
35 We oppose mandatory workers' compensation being extended to family-size production
36 agricultural operations and small businesses.

37
38 We favor farmers being exempt from personal liability when using contractors and contract
39 labor.

40
41 We oppose frivolous lawsuits. If the court finds in favor of an insured defendant, we
42 believe the plaintiff and/or their lawyer(s) should be made responsible for defendant's costs.

43
44 We support legislation to strengthen and amend the current tort reform law. Injured parties
45 should be compensated only for the actual loss incurred, plus expenses of recovery.

46
47 Reasonable limits of liability exposure should be placed on corporate boards of directors
48 for actions of the corporation made without their prior knowledge or consent.

1 Reasonable limits of liability exposure should be placed on state, county and municipal
2 government.

3
4 We favor justifiable evidence of merit being presented to the court before filing a product
5 or malpractice liability lawsuit.

6
7 We favor the establishment of certain statutes of limitations pertaining to liability lawsuits,
8 not to exceed five years.

9
10 We favor legislation limiting liability of any individual to the extent of their contributory
11 negligence.

12
13 The AFR Mutual Insurance Company (AFRMIC) was originally established (Oklahoma
14 Farmers Union) to serve its rural membership. We urge that, when decisions must be made
15 regarding reduction of insurance services, preference be given to rural, over metropolitan,
16 insureds.

17
18 We do not discourage the use of the windmill by local/county organizations and AFR
19 insurance agents in promotional efforts.

20
21 We support limiting property owners liability exposure engaged in agritourism.

22
23 We support the National Fire Protection Association Firewise Communities Program and
24 associated educational initiatives to property owners. We encourage the participation of
25 AFRMIC agents in the program which will result in reduced risks for company insureds.

26 27 28 **B. CROP INSURANCE/RISK MANAGEMENT**

29
30 We support development of federal crop insurance policies providing dollar-per-acre multi-
31 peril option similar to policies that exist for single-peril type coverage such as hail.

32
33 Multi-peril federal crop insurance programs should apply to all crops in all counties. The
34 program should include optional coverage plans, one of which would be at least the cost of
35 production.

36
37 Farmers should not be penalized on their crop insurance average yield as a result of natural
38 disasters.

39
40 We encourage increased premium assistance for producers who purchase higher levels of
41 coverage.

42
43 We support private vendors handling federal crop insurance.

44 We oppose mandatory federal crop insurance as a requirement for participating in price
45 support programs.

46
47 We oppose any new restrictions on crop insurance related to livestock grazing.

48
49 We oppose any new insurance restrictions on broadcast wheat.

50

1 We encourage risk management training.

2
3 We encourage a review of current risk management regulations to complement each farm
4 bill.

5
6 We support crop insurance premium payments being due after average harvest dates.

7
8 We support the continued availability of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
9 (NAP) for dual-purpose crop and grazing winter crops.

10 11 12 **PROPERTY RIGHTS**

13
14 Biological surveys, including the cataloging of plant and animal species, and water samples
15 should not be conducted on private property without prior written consent from the landowner.

16
17 Micro-management of watersheds and streams and new user fees that the U.S. Fish and
18 Wildlife Service (FWS) is implementing should not infringe on a producer's ability to build
19 ponds and till soils, nor impact technical assistance to these producers by the Natural Resources
20 Conservation Service (NRCS).

21
22 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be restricted from writing arbitrary policies and
23 regulations that interfere with the private rights of citizens.

24
25 We are opposed to municipalities imposing land-use restrictions outside city limits.

26
27 We are opposed to the state and federal government owning and controlling billboards and
28 regulating billboards that are not in a purchased right-of-way area.

29
30 Land acquired by condemnation under the eminent domain statutes should have a
31 settlement value of not less than 100 percent of replacement costs for like property plus
32 intangible damages. We support mediation in eminent domain proceedings.

33
34 All necessary action should be taken to:

- 35
- 36 1. Preserve the water rights of the individual citizen and prevent further usurpation of
37 those rights,
 - 38 2. To see that legislation is initiated and supported recognizing the rights of individuals,
39 from which water has been taken, and
40
 - 41 3. Reaffirm, renew and defend the concepts that water rights are property rights, and
42 these established rights to the use of water by an individual should not be taken away
43 without the due process of law and adequate compensation.
44

45
46 We oppose the use of eminent domain to acquire land believed to be the habitat of
47 endangered species. We oppose the acquisition of large tracts being acquired by private funds for
48 the purpose of donating or selling it to a government agency at a profit.
49

1 We support governmental financial compensation for protection of endangered habitats on
2 private land.

3
4 The threatened species designation and critical habitat determined by U.S. Dept. of the
5 Interior agencies (i.e. FWS) for certain species could infringe upon the property rights of
6 agricultural producers and other landowners. The impacting agency must produce proven
7 scientific data indicating need, an economic impact statement and a benefit to cost ratio for the
8 action being taken before a designation determination becomes final.

9
10 All impacted public and private entities and individuals shall be compensated from the
11 budget of the impacting agency for actual annual losses as a result of the designation. Payments
12 shall be annualized immediately or prior to the loss.

13
14 We favor legislation that limits broad condemnation authority and in particular for private
15 business purposes.

16
17 We oppose the use of eminent domain for the acquisition of lands for parks and recreation,
18 and non-public utilities that are non-cooperatives.

19
20 We oppose federal legislation that would enable the federal government to acquire land
21 outside the normal congressional appropriations process for use as outdoor recreation and
22 historical preservation. Congress should maintain control and oversight of such programs in the
23 interest of all citizens.

24
25 We urge clarification of federal and state statutes that would allow all railroad rights-of-
26 way resulting from reversionary easements to revert back to the present property owner if
27 abandoned. If the rights-of-way were purchased and then abandoned, the first right to purchase
28 the property should be offered to the current owner of the tract of land from which it was
29 originally separated.

30
31 We support adequate funding for an agricultural land trust or foundation for the
32 preservation of agriculture land use.

33
34 We propose any pipeline or utility “right-of-way” grant shall expire (null and void) after
35 abandonment or period of non-use for the original grant.

36
37 We support further education of property owners in setting terms relative to compensation
38 of easements or leases of surface or subsurface property rights. We further support development
39 of model leases relative to the activity.

40
41 We encourage the development of model contractual instruments which allow landowners
42 to receive annual payments for compensation of damages and royalties relative to continued
43 generation and/or transmission of energy instead of or addition to a one-time easement payment.

44
45 We support the right of surface owners to control what occurs on their property.

46
47 We support Oklahoma being a title insurance state without requiring abstracts.

48
49 When change in land use is proposed, the planning body should be required to notify, by
50 recognized notification procedures, the owners of adjacent land.

1 We propose that the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) be the lead agency in matters
2 pertaining to wetlands.
3

4 **ENERGY**

5
6
7 We encourage greater emphasis on research and development and increased government
8 support to reduce U.S. dependency on foreign oil.
9

10 We encourage universities and state and federal agencies to cooperate and investigate
11 alternative processes to produce more conservation-reliable alternatives, including biofuels,
12 ethanol, biomass, fuel cells, wind power, heat transfer and other sustainable energy sources.
13

14 We support continuation for 640 acres or less unit spacing for an individual vertical or
15 horizontal oil or gas well in Oklahoma.
16

17 We support the continuation of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) as a means of extraction of
18 energy resources.
19

20 We urge further development in the use of compressed natural gas (CNG), ethanol blended
21 gasoline, bio-diesel and propane as alternate motor fuels.
22

23 We support the use of nuclear power plants as an alternative energy source and continued
24 research and development for encapsulation methods for spent fuel.
25

26 We support the use of wind as an alternative energy source and the continuation of energy
27 incentives.
28

29 We support local communities' ability to provide primary, supplemental or back-up power
30 utilizing all power resources available.
31

32 Oklahoma public utilities, municipalities and/or state-owned vehicles and school districts
33 with several buses, should be encouraged to use Oklahoma natural gas, ethanol blended gasoline,
34 bio-diesel and propane for fuel.
35

36 Coal produced in Oklahoma should be permitted to be used for the generation of electricity
37 within the state.
38

39 We support continuing research and construction of ethanol fuel plants and oilseed
40 extraction plants. Registration, permitting and licensing fees should be held to a minimum. We
41 encourage streamlining the permitting process for inland energy refineries, alternative energy
42 production, and food-grade oils.
43

44 We support research for energy alternatives appropriate to its area and environment.
45

46 We believe state and national legislation should provide tax incentives for exploration,
47 development and production of sustainable energy sources, including the development of
48 alternative fuels from our natural resources.
49

1 We support anti-trust actions to increase competition among private industries involved in
2 energy production.

3
4 We favor retaining oil and gas depletion allowances.

5
6 Intangible drilling costs should be maintained as a deductible expense, as an
7 encouragement to potential drillers.

8
9 We favor responsible drilling and exploration for oil and gas in the United States and its
10 territories.

11
12 In the case of fuel shortages, fuel for agriculture purposes should be given top priority after
13 domestic heating and cooling needs have been met.

14
15 We oppose creation of federal oil and gas corporations.

16
17 We support an oil import fee on foreign produced oil.

18
19 We oppose the importation of refined petroleum products.

20
21 We support legislation requiring all oil companies operating in Oklahoma to make
22 available to the royalty owner and the Oklahoma Tax Commission an annual audit of production
23 of gas or oil if requested from any well.

24
25 To relieve the ad valorem burden on landowners and to support and enhance schools and
26 local and county governments, we support the measurement and appropriate taxation of all gas
27 types of energy production that leave the State of Oklahoma.

28
29 Energy and energy related companies should be jointly and severally responsible for
30 damages to property and for incidental expenses such as transactional costs of updating abstracts.

31
32 AFR encourages protection of mineral owners with rights to participate and be involved
33 and included in class action suits to protect their income. We oppose mineral owners having to
34 opt into a lawsuit but rather support current law which considers the mineral owner automatically
35 part of the class action lawsuit.

36
37 All buried transmission lines should be clearly marked at frequent, visible locations
38 showing current company contact information.

39
40 Legislation should be enacted which provides that all easements automatically revert to the
41 surface owner of record and be restored no later than three years after the land ceases to be used
42 for the original intent of the easement.

43
44 We support making it mandatory that oil producers maintain the roads, when they cross
45 private property to get to their lease.

46
47 We support gas balancing (proper accounting of production). Gas being gas balanced,
48 should be balanced in million cubic feet (MMcf).

49

1 We support the required use of electronic meters and unannounced inspection of such
2 metering devices on gas wells by Oklahoma Corporation Commission employees to ensure more
3 accurate measurement and proper payment for all production.
4

5 Verified reports and records of production maintained and indexed by the Oklahoma
6 Corporation Commission should be available for the general public and royalty owners or their
7 attorneys inspection.
8

9 We propose increasing fines for inaccurate measurement and improper payment of gas and
10 oil wells and to use the penalties to fund the monitoring program.
11

12 We oppose any effort or decision that would permit an oil company to charge the mineral
13 owner a portion of production or transportation costs incurred in the production or sale of oil or
14 gas.
15

16 We support a procedure to allow a current landowner to reclaim minute mineral interests.
17 Any monies held in escrow as unclaimed mineral proceeds should also revert back to the surface
18 owner.
19

20 We oppose any lending institution that forecloses on any land separating the minerals from
21 surface when selling that property.
22

23 When mineral leases expire on land or when a well ceases production, the lessee should be
24 required to clear the records.
25

26 We encourage all mineral owners participate in mineral owners' association organizations.
27

28 We support new legislation to make forced pooling laws fair to both the mineral owner and
29 producer. "Good faith negotiations" should be clearly defined through legislation.
30

31 We favor the Oklahoma Corporation Commission requiring that spacing be based on
32 characteristics of the producing zone. If an acreage is forced-pooled and another formation is
33 produced, permitting smaller spacing, that acreage pool in excess of the smaller spacing should
34 be released from the pooling order.
35

36 We urge continued monitoring of all legislation and activity on natural gas deregulation.
37

38 We urge drilling companies who are issued a drilling permit be held accountable to the
39 government agency or agencies for properly casing and cementing the hole to safe levels and
40 violators should have their right to operate within the State of Oklahoma terminated.
41

42 We support an Oklahoma Corporation Commission rule change requiring the removal of
43 drilling fluids from reserve pits at the landowner's request.
44

45 Public funds should be used as a last resort to plug all abandoned oil and gas wells that
46 have been improperly plugged, with the abandoning company having primary liability.
47

48 We support efforts to get oil companies to use closed pit drilling systems.
49

1 We recommend that water discharge and other natural extractants, including mud and shale
2 resulting from oil and gas drilling, not be classified as hazardous or toxic waste.
3

4 ENVIRONMENT

5
6
7 We oppose the consolidation of the Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and
8 the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB).
9

10 We support a cost-share program through DEQ to assist rural Oklahomans in proper septic
11 systems installation and updating to address water quality concerns, to existing installations.
12

13 We support research and testing of drilling mud used in soil farming prior to application in
14 addition to other permitting required.
15

16 We oppose any increases in emissions standards for agriculture unless compliance can be
17 achieved at no net cost to the owner.
18

19 We oppose climate change legislation until sound science conclusively determines the
20 contributing influences for atmospheric changes. However, should legislation be passed against
21 our opposition, we firmly support the inclusion of provisions that are advantageous to agriculture
22 while minimizing potential negative effects such as increased inputs costs, elevated electricity
23 costs and decreased global competitiveness.
24

25 We oppose the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposing and implementing
26 climate control regulations as a back door method to achieving climate change in the absence of
27 passage of federal legislation.
28

29 We oppose international indirect land use in calculation of carbon footprints.
30

31 We support citizens taking the lead in bringing about sound, reasonable and effective
32 solutions to the problem of pollution and favor a cooperative and voluntary approach.
33

34 We support efforts to limit pollution and run-off in urban developments.
35

36 We oppose the classification of agricultural lands as “point sources” of pollution, unless
37 scientifically proven.
38

39 We support agriculture producers in their efforts to establish soil and water conservation
40 practices for producing food and fiber. However, we oppose regulatory rules by EPA or DEQ
41 dealing with non-point water quality and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that unduly
42 burdens agriculture and is not scientifically proven.
43

44 We support only scientifically based water quality standards in streams or water bodies
45 listed on EPA’s 303(d) list in determining the need for a TMDL. In addition, we favor sufficient
46 funding for a 90 percent cost-share for best management practice implementation must be in
47 place before any regulatory TMDL is implemented.
48

1 We believe a landowner who has been issued a resource conservation management plan by
2 the environmental agency with jurisdiction over non-source pollution shall be considered in
3 compliance with the law and not polluting.

4
5 We oppose rules by EPA dealing with air particulate matter regulation regarding
6 production agriculture. We favor exemption for production agriculture.

7
8 We oppose any EPA policy directive, which would mandate the testing and/or certification
9 of farmland, unless a federal fund is established to pay necessary costs of meeting certification
10 requirements.

11
12 We recommend that agriculture no longer be regulated by the EPA, but solely regulated by
13 the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA).

14
15 We support an amendment to the EPA's authority requiring that scientific proof be
16 provided that a situation detrimental to the public's health exists prior to exercising its
17 administrative authority, unless deemed by local, state or national governing bodies as an
18 emergency.

19
20 We encourage using licensed or trained individuals to do repair on air conditioning units
21 for machinery and vehicles used in normal operation of a farming business.

22
23 We support exemption of on-farm fuel tanks from EPA and state agency regulation.

24
25 Counties that adopt a "green box" program should ensure that the sites are maintained and
26 that they do not create a public nuisance to adjoining landowners.

27
28 We urge the Oklahoma Legislature to appropriate funds for a state solid waste disposal
29 program administered by each county.

30
31 We oppose permits being issued for any dump or landfill located within five miles of a
32 public school or in a flood plain.

33
34 We strongly believe it is in the nation's best interest to have a partnership of federal and
35 state governments vested with the authority to make and carry out regulations concerning the use
36 of any agricultural pesticides and/or herbicides.

37
38 We support the Oklahoma beautification program for planting flowers, trees and shrubs and
39 urge our members, local and county organizations to participate in the program.

40
41 We favor enforcing existing laws and penalties on littering and illegal dumping on the
42 highway and county roads and private property.

43
44 We are in favor of continued environmental monitoring on industrial and municipal waste
45 disposal sites.

46
47 We strongly encourage DEQ to regulate state waste transported into the state in the same
48 way that intrastate waste is regulated.

49

1 We support a fee structure for imported waste that is at minimum equal to the exporting
2 state.

3
4 We oppose the split flow of Fayetteville, Ark., sewage into the scenic Illinois River.

5
6 We support prohibiting any person, firm or corporation from polluting the land, ponds,
7 lakes or streams and that those in violation restore the polluted area to original condition and be
8 subject to punishment by appropriate fines.

9
10 We strongly support the efforts of the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) to clean
11 up abandoned well sites, unused equipment and non-producing wells upon request of the
12 landowner.

13
14 We support restoration of land to the original condition at the request of landowners
15 following oil, gas, mineral or electricity production and/or transmission activity.

16
17 We support matters of mineral litigation to be considered in the local court system rather
18 than the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

19
20 We propose that just compensation be given to those individuals whose homes have been
21 damaged or made unlivable by commercial entities.

22
23 We propose applicants for construction of future commercial waste disposal sites should
24 notify every surface owner within one mile of the proposed disposal site and such permit
25 application notice should be run three times in the newspaper located closest to such sites.

26
27 When the location of an industrial waste disposal site is considered, the adverse financial
28 impact on the surrounding property must be considered. We oppose waste disposal wells,
29 including those for commercial salt water or toxic chemical disposal sites, being permitted on
30 land which overlays a major source of fresh water.

31
32 We favor a law that would make any person or company found guilty of dumping salt
33 water on public and private lands subject to a minimum fine of \$2,500, with a right for citizens'
34 damage suits, except in state roadbed construction when covered by asphalt or pavement.

35
36 A family-owned and operated confined animal and/or poultry farm should be subjected to
37 only those anti-pollution laws enforced by the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry
38 (ODAFF). State law and ODAFF rules on confined animal and poultry operations should not be
39 more restrictive than federal law, rules and regulations. We encourage reasonable, yet effective,
40 standards for protection of underground and surface water from confined animal and poultry
41 operations. We support ODAFF obtaining delegated authority for the National Pollution
42 Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). We support state funding to achieve the
43 implementation of delegated authority.

44
45 We support incidental grazing of conservation buffer strips.

46
47 We favor protecting landowners who purchased their property after conducting an
48 environmental audit which found no contamination from liability from contamination later
49 discovered. The purpose for the protection would be that the landowners had completed due
50 diligence prior to purchase.

1
2 We support a mandatory refundable deposit placed on any recyclable beverage container.

3
4 We encourage Oklahoma to develop recycling programs and encourage biodegradable
5 packaging.

6
7 We support adding agriculture tires to the state recycling program on a voluntary basis.
8

9 10 **TRIBAL ISSUES**

11
12 We encourage tribes not to impose air and water quality standards contradictory to state
13 and federal standards.

14 15 **WATER**

16
17 Water quality tests mandated by state or federal agencies should be paid for by the agency
18 requiring such test.

19
20 We support the minimum flow of water should be allowed at all times from federal dams,
21 with notice given to news media in the area affected when an excessive amount of water is to be
22 released. The minimum flow should be based on the average flow of water in the streams before
23 the dam was built.

24
25 We ask that Congress define “navigable water” to mean waters that can be reasonably
26 navigated for the movement of goods including agricultural products.

27
28 We oppose the deletion of the word “navigable” waters from the federal Clean Water Act
29 (CWA) which expands the taking of private property and provides additional intrusiveness.

30
31 Currently a set gross production tax funding amount is dedicated to a water Rural
32 Economic Assistance Program (REAP) and is divided equally between the Oklahoma Water
33 Resources Board (OWRB), the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the Oklahoma Tourism
34 and Recreation Dept. for water related initiatives. We strongly support the continuation of this
35 effort and lifting the cap on this fund and making it a permanent dedicated revenue source.

36
37 State water quality statutes affecting agricultural water use should be administered and
38 enforced by the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF).

39
40 We support transparency and the application of the open meetings law with respect to
41 negotiations by the Governor, his/her designee and/or OWRB with other states, tribes,
42 municipalities, authorities and/or individuals for the sale or transfer of ownership of Oklahoma
43 water from the originating basin of origin.

44
45 We support the water rights of long-term water users being protected from having their
46 water depleted or polluted.

47
48 We support developing and continuing local, regional comprehensive state water plans on a
49 local, state and regional basis.
50

1 We support mineral and groundwater rights remaining with the surface rights unless
2 otherwise specified and noted.

3
4 We support a complete ban on fresh underground water being used or sold for use by the
5 permit holder of water rights for secondary oil recovery.

6
7 We support reclaiming water utilized in energy development for reuse instead of using
8 fresh water.

9
10 To preserve our fresh water resources, we encourage research and development of filtration
11 processes to utilize non-fresh water resources to be utilized in energy exploration and
12 development.

13
14 We urge drilling companies, who are issued a drilling permit, be held accountable to the
15 government agency or agencies for properly casing and cementing the hole to safe levels to
16 prevent any possibility of contamination of drinking water. If the drilling company is found in
17 violation, the proper government agency should be responsible for terminating their right to
18 operate within the State of Oklahoma or drilling wells in the State of Oklahoma.

19
20 The people in the area of a reservoir should have first priority concerning the use of the
21 water or revenue from that water.

22
23 We believe that the regional watershed from which water may be utilized or transferred
24 and/or sold should receive at least a reasonable portion of any economic benefit from the sale or
25 transfer of water out of or within the borders of the watershed through a pre-established trust
26 fund.

27
28 “Excess water” should be clearly defined by the OWRB.

29
30 We support all conservation techniques in the State of Oklahoma.

31
32 We oppose the sale of Oklahoma water out-of-state without meeting the needs of the state
33 and local area and encourage federally recognized Indian tribes to do likewise.

34
35 We support adequate time being allowed for public scrutiny on all compacts dealing with
36 public interest, including, but not limited to, water issues.

37
38 We believe any sale of water across the state boundaries should be voted on by the citizens
39 within the counties in the watershed from which water will be taken.

40
41 We encourage a fair and equitable assessment and not a flat fee assessment relative to
42 annual renewals of water usage.

43
44 We support agricultural use of water from Altus-Lugert Lake.

45
46 If a comprehensive water plan passed by the Legislature includes monitoring of wells, we
47 support public funding for the cost of such activity.

48

1 We support Congressional action mandating the implementation of conservation practices
2 of municipal water consumption prior to draw-down from U.S. Army Corps of Engineer
3 reservoirs.
4

5 6 **A. RURAL WATER** 7

8 We support the Oklahoma Rural Water Association (ORWA) in their efforts to restrict
9 encroachment from municipal water districts into rural water districts.
10

11 Construction of rural water and sewer systems should be expanded and more federal and
12 state grant money should be made available for the program, proportionate to that being used by
13 cities and municipalities.
14

15 Rural water systems should provide for future growth and the first years of repayment
16 schedule should be at a reduced rate.
17

18 We support programs to provide water for rural water districts, and municipal or industrial
19 use in rural areas, provided the water rights of local landowners are protected.
20

21 We oppose any restriction on farmers and ranchers drilling their own water wells.
22

23 We support the concept of “dry fire hydrants” in rural areas and the Insurance Services
24 Office (ISO) to allow appropriate fire credits.
25

26 We support state grant funds for added fire protection through rural water districts.
27

28 We oppose any new rules from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that add to the
29 list of contaminants and that decrease the acceptable levels of contaminants that municipalities
30 and rural water districts must test for, unless backed by sound science.
31
32

33 **TAXATION** 34

35 Oklahoma lands acquired by the state or federal government, municipalities or by non-
36 profit organizations, including commercial real property and farm and ranch land owned by
37 religious institutions, should be subject to ad valorem tax, except worship centers and parsonages
38 should remain exempt.
39

40 We support a vote of the people for any fuel tax increase, and we believe all fuel tax
41 revenues should be directed to the original intended purpose of improving highways, roads and
42 bridges.
43

44 We recommend legislation allowing farmers to use funds from the sale of their family farm
45 to create a retirement fund similar to a 401K or Keogh plan. Taxes would be paid on income as it
46 is withdrawn, rather than on a lump sum as a capital gain tax.
47

48 We support maintaining the current capital gains tax at 15 percent or less.
49

50 We support harmonizing state laws on combine entry from one state to another.

1
2 We support harmonizing and reciprocating Oklahoma state law with other states' farm tax
3 exemptions.

4
5 We oppose taxes being levied on stored grain.

6
7 We oppose the imposition of any additional and/or movement of the federal motor fuel tax
8 to achieve budget deficit reduction.

9
10 We support the collection of road use fuel taxes at the terminal point.

11
12 Capital gains (now taxable income) must be eliminated for farmers and ranchers on "write-
13 down" portion of their loans when they restructure their loans through voluntary conveyances to
14 stay in business.

15 We support the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Chapter 12 bankruptcy reorganization for
16 farmers however the IRC must be amended to create separate tax status for the Chapter 12 estate.

17
18 We support state tax provisions favorable to producers forced to liquidate livestock and
19 which will not conflict with federal tax provisions.

20
21 We support the current federal tax provisions granted by the Internal Revenue Service
22 (IRS) for producers forced to liquidate livestock.

23
24 We support allowing a tax deduction for farmers for hay and grain donated to disaster
25 areas. This deduction should be extended to food commodities donated to hungry and needy
26 people.

27 We support tax incentives or tax credits for producers who purchase or have purchased
28 equipment to convert from conventional till farming to no-till or minimum till for controlling
29 wind erosion and water conservation.

30
31 We support providing tax credit incentives to retiring farmers who sell their agriculture
32 operations to a young farmer to further encourage new operators to enter production agriculture.

33
34 We oppose the federal sales tax called "value added tax."

35
36 Whenever land is purchased under the threat of eminent domain, capital gains taxes should
37 not be required.

38
39 We oppose interest rates being imputed by the IRS to individuals who sell their property
40 and provide financing at a rate lower than the rate being charged by financial institutions. The
41 IRS should not be permitted to charge that individual the difference between the lower rate being
42 charged and the going rate being charged by financial institutions.

43
44 We support a more strict definition of IRC Sec. 1031 land exchanges limiting non-taxable
45 events to the current use of both properties and the intended use for the next five years.

46
47 We favor taxing the money earned in the United States by any citizen of another country.

48
49 We favor increasing the state income tax exemption to match the federal amount.

50

1 We support a constitutional amendment providing additional millage for county
2 governments, subject to 60 percent approval by voters of individual counties.

3
4 We oppose replacing state income tax with increased property taxes and/or taxes on
5 services.

6
7 For state revenue development we support fair and equitable treatment of all minerals.

8
9 In the absence of total elimination, we recommend a federal estate tax exemption be set at
10 \$5 million and indexed thereafter to inflation.

11
12 We support increasing the annual gift tax exemption level.

13
14 We strongly encourage American Farmers & Ranchers Life to educate our membership
15 through estate planning seminars across the state.

16
17 We request that an additional person, with an agricultural background, be placed on any ad
18 valorem task force. This person is to be appointed by the County Assessors Association and
19 confirmed by the Oklahoma Senate.

20
21 We support property taxes being based on fair market value.

22
23 We recommend use of county soil conservation maps and surveys to tax agriculture land as
24 to its use.

25
26 We call for an accounting to the people of Oklahoma by the Oklahoma Tax Commission
27 and/or State Auditor of all tax revenue generated by liquor by the drink, pari-mutual betting,
28 Indian compacts and lottery tickets.

29
30 We ask the Oklahoma Legislature to continue the present practice of assessing agricultural
31 land based on 75 percent of rental income, 25 percent of comparable sales, to arrive at a per point
32 value.

33
34 We strongly support continuation of the sales tax exemption, tax credits and income tax
35 deductions used in agriculture.

36
37 We support a state-wide, sales tax-free weekend for consumers.

38
39 We do not support an increase in ad valorem taxes as a means to solve a state revenue
40 shortfall.

41
42 We support vehicle excise tax being collected only on the vehicle's first sale. We support
43 repeal of the re-registration fee.

44
45 The Constitution of the State of Oklahoma should be adhered to in the use of ad valorem
46 taxes, with oversight by the Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector Office.

47
48 We oppose any attempts by oil, gas and wind power companies to exempt their production
49 equipment from tax rolls.

50

1 We oppose the mandatory licensing of farm trailers for any purpose with the exception of
2 commercial use.

3
4 The Oklahoma Tax Commission should notify and clarify with businesses concerning farm
5 items that are tax exempt.

6
7 We support putting all road user taxes in a trust fund for the construction and maintenance
8 of roads. The road user funds now going to other uses should be replaced, dollar for dollar, from
9 the general fund.

10
11 We support the return of investment tax credit on all American-made products.

12
13 Because the collection of taxes falls within the purview of the Oklahoma Tax Commission
14 and the IRS, we believe a farmer's responsibility, with respect to assisting these state and federal
15 agencies, should be limited to a single, annual reporting of wages paid to farm workers.

16
17 We oppose attempts to reduce the percentage of voters necessary to pass school bond
18 issues from 60 percent to a majority vote.

19 20 21 **GOVERNMENT**

22
23 We fully support the usage of "God" on government buildings, legal documents and legal
24 tender and we oppose the removal of existing references.

25
26 We unanimously encourage all elected officials to vote the issues rather than partisan
27 voting.

28 We believe that fees or taxes collected by government for a specific purpose should be used
29 for that intended purpose.

30
31 We support the education and enforcement of the military code for the proper care and use
32 of the flag of the United States. Any intentional defamation or destruction of the flag should be
33 considered a felony. We oppose protesters at all military and civilian funerals.

34 35 36 **A. IMMIGRATION**

37
38 We favor immigration laws that continue to embody our creed of acceptance of
39 immigrants, while not burdening our governments' and citizens' social and other resources.

40
41 We support opportunities to immigrants to earn citizenship that are willing to make a
42 positive social, economic and patriotic contribution as U.S. citizens.

43
44 We support a documented guest worker program for immigrant laborers that results in
45 these individuals paying taxes, obeying local, state and federal laws and have the option of
46 returning to their home country.

47
48 We support immigration laws that provide a system of identification, classification and
49 taxation.

1 We oppose requiring agriculture employers to pay more than the state minimum wage rate
2 and, in addition, oppose the requirement that agriculture employers be required to provide
3 housing, transportation and other benefits to employees hired through the H-2A visa program.
4

5 We support the development of new authorization documents that cannot be manipulated
6 or duplicated and include biometric identifiers. Until such a system is developed we oppose
7 employers of guest workers to be responsible for the authenticity of guest worker documentation.
8

9
10 **B. POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES (PAC's)**

11
12 We support an opportunity to be implemented through the AFR billing process for
13 members/policyholders to be able to make a voluntary contribution to the American Farmers &
14 Ranchers Association Political Action Committee (PAC) to support candidates that support our
15 policies and issues.
16

17 We oppose the use of super PACs during the election process and find their intrusion to
18 be detrimental.
19

20
21 **C. FEDERAL**

22
23 We support the Constitution of the United States.
24

25 We strongly urge Congress to move forward on the construction of U.S. Army Corp of
26 Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation lakes and reservoirs.
27

28 We oppose any efforts to convert U.S. land descriptions to the metric system.
29

30 The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and other government agencies should be held liable to
31 pay attorney fees of both parties when the government loses the case.

32 We support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring a balanced federal budget.
33

34 We believe the United States should not loan money to any entity of government or a
35 foreign power for less than that it must pay to borrow the money.
36

37 We oppose approval of any additional national holidays.
38

39 We favor legislation to require disclosure of foreign ownership and control of American
40 real estate and business firms.
41

42 We support federal policies and programs which encourage U.S. investors to invest in
43 America. We oppose programs such as those administered by the U.S. Agency for International
44 Development (USAID), which provides monetary incentives for U.S.-based businesses to
45 relocate in foreign countries.
46

47 We oppose the placing of U.S. troops under the command of the United Nations
48 commanders.
49

1 We support reimbursement by any foreign country to the United States for the assistance
2 given. Restitution could be monetary or oil equivalency payments.

3
4 We support legislation that clearly defines “strikes” as any work action which disrupts
5 services performed by public employees, without regard to what it might be called, such as “slow
6 down,” “mass resignation,” “report-in-sick,” “blue flu,” “voluntary suspension,” etc. Penalties
7 provided by law should be mandatory and not negotiable by the government entity involved.

8
9 We believe the bonus compensation used by the federal government should be used as an
10 incentive and reward program for excellence instead of part of the salary package and the
11 expectations of employees. Bonus compensation should be separate and apart from the regular
12 salary.

13
14 We oppose the efforts of the state and federal government to take over any part or branch
15 of county government.

16
17 We must have more meaningful, comprehensive campaign finance reform in the election of
18 our state and national legislators, officials and president. We encourage further study of public
19 campaign financing as a means of limiting the influence of large corporations, self interest
20 groups and the wealthiest individuals.

21
22 We believe it should be illegal for non-citizens, foreign companies and/or foreign countries
23 to provide money for candidates for offices in the United States.

24
25 We oppose granting congressional representation to the District of Columbia.

26
27 We support amending the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act so that reasonable
28 tolerances can be established for food production; and that absolute proof must be established
29 that food and additives will not adversely affect animal and human health by its use.

30
31 We oppose the political appointments of “czars” in the White House which often have
32 more political power than secretarial appointments which require more congressional scrutiny
33 and confirmation. We believe such appointments should be sharply curtailed and require
34 additional oversight by Congress.

35
36 We support appointed federal judges being subject to congressional review and re-
37 confirmed periodically, every six years.

38
39 We support legislation that Congress cannot receive a salary raise to take effect during their
40 current term of office or change their retirement status to take effect during their current term of
41 office.

42
43 We support retaining the present U.S. Electoral College method of electing the U.S.
44 President and Vice-President. We oppose restricting our right to vote by limiting terms of our
45 national legislators. We support repeal of current term restrictions on state legislators.

46
47 We support a re-assessment of all retirement programs for county, state and federal
48 employees and elected officials to assure that they are fair to both the employee and the taxpayer.

1 **D. STATE**

2
3 We oppose any move that would encourage consolidation of power, more specifically into
4 the office of the Governor.

5
6 Recognizing the dedication and excellence of our local state employees, the services they
7 provide and the benefits they bring to help support our rural communities and schools, we
8 oppose contracting out or privatization of state services when it results in lower wages, provides
9 no benefits for our rural residents and costs the state more money.

10
11 We oppose the removal or transfer of inspection on any agriculture practices from the
12 Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) to any other state agency.

13
14 We support adequate funding for ODAFF to meet staffing requirements of day to day
15 needs and to utilize these personnel to address catastrophic occurrences. We oppose
16 disproportionate cuts which would adversely impact all natural resource agencies.

17
18 We encourage legislation that prohibits the discharge of fireworks from or onto private
19 property, without prior written permission from the landowner.

20
21 We support legislation to simplify the probate of estates including the excessive costs of
22 abstracting.

23
24 We oppose the Oklahoma Attorney General's circumvention of the proper regulatory
25 agencies relating to the investigation and litigation of potential environmental compliance.

26
27 We support the Oklahoma Ethics Commission's efforts to affect standards of behavior
28 which will result in more public confidence. However, to encourage public service on boards and
29 commissions we recommend that reporting requirements be not overly intrusive.

30
31 We support the removal of the straight party voting option on election ballots in the state of
32 Oklahoma.

33
34 We support a 60 percent favorable approval vote by citizens for the passage of all bond
35 issues.

36
37 We oppose land use planning and zoning, unless controlled at the local level by the cities
38 and counties affected, with family farmers and ranchers adequately represented on all boards and
39 commissions dealing with zoning, land purchase, leasing transfer, environment, health and
40 planning in recognition of the need to preserve agriculture land in the future.

41
42 We encourage ODAFF to serve as an intermediary for producers with export opportunities.

43
44 The Oklahoma Legislature should be prohibited from diverting funds from various state
45 retirement systems to fund state government, and honor existing obligations.

46
47 We support efficiencies in all state agencies. We object to the state legislature removing
48 money from state agency revolving funds to balance the budget; particularly, from non-
49 appropriated state agencies whose funds are received from entities they regulate, not state tax
50 revenue.

1
2 We oppose a state constitutional convention. Any amendments for the state constitution
3 should be submitted to a vote of the people in the form of a single-issue state question.
4

5 With respect to ballot initiatives, we support a constitutional amendment which would
6 provide fairness to both rural and urban constituencies and require all initiative petition signature
7 drives achieve the requisite percent as prescribed in the constitution—in each of the
8 congressional districts as opposed to statewide—to be deemed as having sufficient signatures to
9 be placed on the ballot for voter consideration.
10

11 We will work to prevent and repeal excessive rules, regulations and legislation which levy
12 rigid requirements in the name of “the public interest,” but that instead, penalize citizens or deny
13 them needed services by such excessive regulations.
14

15 We support the enforcement of state laws concerning the displaying and removal of
16 campaign signs.
17

18 19 **E. COUNTY**

20
21 County governments should be given a greater role in initiating environmental safeguards
22 and in developing economic opportunities within their counties.
23

24 State and federal funds allocated to support county and municipal governments should not
25 be diverted to other governmental entities or programs.
26

27 When the Oklahoma Legislature mandates additional services or expenditures by the
28 counties, the state must provide funding.
29

30 The reevaluation of property for tax purposes should be left as the responsibility of the
31 county assessors.
32

33 We support the present form of county government.
34

35 We oppose any elected state or county position being changed to an appointed position.
36

37 We support legislation requiring proposed salaries for county officers be publicized before
38 being finalized.
39

40 We favor intra-county district cooperative ownership and use of county road equipment.
41

42 We urge that travel expenses for official business of county officers and county
43 commissioners be by verified claims rather than paid by a set travel/expense allowance.
44

45 46 **F. FEDERAL AGENCIES**

47
48 We recommend that Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other government
49 agencies’ rules and regulations be reviewed to alleviate the negative effects on small businesses

1 and recommend compensation for loss of business income due to the aforementioned rules and
2 regulations.

3
4 We support maintaining the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Animal and
5 Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) within the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA). We
6 oppose any attempts to move these or any part of these programs to any other federal agency
7 outside USDA.

8
9 We oppose efforts to fragment the USDA by shifting traditional agencies to other
10 departments.

11
12 We support the USDA National Appeals Division as being the final decision on producer
13 appeal cases.

14 15 16 **UTILITIES**

17
18 We favor a requirement that towers 50-200 feet tall be visibly identified.

19
20 We favor that final authority for utility rate making remain with officials elected by the
21 people, namely the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. But, we oppose special rate treatment
22 by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

23
24 We oppose unjustified rate increases.

25
26 We support legislation to direct the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to regulate
27 telephone rates for Oklahoma in such a way that intrastate rates will be no more than comparable
28 to interstate rates.

29
30 We oppose the sale of federally-owned hydroelectric plants that serve our cooperatives and
31 municipalities.

32 33 34 **FARM POLICY**

35
36 To establish a foundation for achieving our long-term goal of returning profitability to the
37 family farm system of agriculture and economic stability to rural areas, we recommend that the
38 following principles be incorporated within U.S. farm policy:

- 39
- 40 1. We oppose the use of embargoes and sanctions of agricultural goods, unless
41 agriculture producers are properly compensated.
 - 42 2. We encourage the development of a farm program that is simplified and
43 economically beneficial for producers.
 - 44 3. Farm programs and regulations should be finalized prior to the sowing/planting
45 seasons of all crops.
 - 46 4. Commodity program payments should be delivered to participating farmers in a
47 timely fashion.
 - 48
 - 49
 - 50

- 1
2 5. State and county Farm Service Agency (FSA) / Natural Resources Conservation
3 Service (NRCS) committees should be granted greater authority in determining
4 county and district needs.
5
- 6 6. We support retention of the present historical formula (1910-1914 base) as a
7 yardstick for measuring farm costs and income compared to present day.
8
- 9 7. We support the administration of farm programs through elected community and
10 county farmer committees.
11
- 12 8. We support adequate federal participation in funding soil and water conservation
13 programs. Land diversion programs should not discourage long-term conservation
14 and soil building practices.
15
- 16 9. We support the school breakfast, lunch, farm-to-school and milk programs.
17
- 18 10. We support use and expansion of the Office of Food for Peace (PL 480) programs
19 with proper oversight of food commodities distributed.
20
- 21 11. We strongly believe that all food and fiber products imported into the United States
22 must comply with U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) quality, safety and health
23 standards.
24
- 25 12. We support indexing of commodity target prices to reflect cost of production and a
26 reasonable return.
27
- 28 13. Low interest loans and financial assistance should be available to family farmers
29 and ranchers to help them establish viable farming and ranching operations.
30
- 31 14. We support the farmers' right to update their proven yields and receive reflective
32 farm program benefits based on proven yields in lieu of FSA program yields.
33
- 34 15. We oppose payment limitations merely based on the size of the operation.
35
- 36 16. We support future farm policy that recognizes our geographical differences and pro-
37 vides flexibility regardless of the agriculture operation whether crops or livestock.
38
- 39 17. We support the continuing of farm program payments to producers who graze-out
40 their grain rather than mechanically harvest their grain.
41
- 42 18. We support reinstatement of federal disaster programs for livestock and crop prod-
43 uction.
44
- 45 19. While we believe in traditional program payments, in lieu of these we support an en-
46 hancement of revenue assurance and crop insurance programs which encourages part-
47 icipation by producers.
48

- 1 20. We support restoration of the following items without budget baseline, and if possible
2 to be included as part of the permanent budget baseline: Small watershed rehabilita-
3 tion; grasslands reserve program; wetlands reserve program; supplemental agricult-
4 ural disaster assistance; livestock indemnity payments; livestock forage disaster pro-
5 gram; emergency assistance for livestock, honeybees and farm-raised catfish; funding
6 of pending rural development loan and grant applications; value-added agricultural
7 market development program grants and rural micro-entrepreneur assistance program.
8
- 9 21. We support permanent disaster authority assistance programs that provide quick and
10 adequate compensation.
11
- 12 22. We support enhancing, improving and strengthening crop insurance programs—
13 without further program cuts—as a risk management tool for producers.
14
- 15 23. We support continued funding of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Con-
16 servation Stewardship Program (CSP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Pro-
17 gram (CREP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); and cap-
18 ping CRP at 40 million acres and restoring the crop base after contract expiration.
19
- 20 24. We support establishment of a per acre payment on CRP which limits the payment
21 to the fair rental value.
22
- 23 25. Any cropland converted to grassland with a prior established crop base will have that
24 base protected until such time that the land is restored back to cropland use, and
25
- 26 26. In the interest of good conservation practices and not destroying residue which would
27 encourage erosion, we support allowing producers to qualify for prevented planting
28 for crop insurance/Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for acres in
29 areas categorized as severe drought.
30
- 31 27. We support Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) contracts be allowed to qualify for
32 livestock feed assistance in times of severe drought to reduce the grazing pressure on
33 enrolled lands which could cause erosion.
34
- 35 28. We support higher emphasis on NRCS technical and financial assistance for EQIP con-
36 version to no-till and water conservation assistance, including pond clean-out and new
37 construction, and support FSA additional resources through the Emergency Conser-
38 vation Program for hooking up pasture taps, drilling wells, etc.
39
- 40 29. We support delivery of cost-share programs to the local level utilizing a network of
41 conservation districts' non-federal employees.
42
- 43 30. We support restoration of funding for technical assistance at FSA and NRCS to help
44 effectively implement the farm bill.
45

- 1 31. We support programs which reward producers for how they farm and not how much
2 they farm, such as the CSP.
3
- 4 32. We support cost share programs to improve irrigation systems and other methods of
5 water conservation.
6
- 7 33. We support restoration of authority to allow producers to extend beyond 15-year direct
8 or guaranteed loan borrowing from FSA.
9
- 10 34. We support reducing the paperwork requirements for young farmers to comply with
11 beginning farmer and rancher development loans and grants programs.
12
- 13 35. We support the federal government using available technology to monitor crop
14 production around the world and report both quantity and quality to American
15 producers in a timely manner.
16

17 We oppose concentration and vertical integration that is detrimental to the family farm and
18 ranch operation in agriculture, with the exception of producer-owned cooperatives.
19

20 In an effort to promote homeland security and food safety, we strongly support only
21 products “born, raised, slaughtered and processed” or “sprouted, harvested, grown and
22 processed” in this country to be eligible to receive a U.S. label including products sold at eating
23 establishments.
24

25 As “family farmer” is defined in this document, we support family farms as opposed to
26 mega farming operations and believe that program benefits, such as FSA guaranteed and direct
27 loans, should be directed to assist the family operator.
28

29 Current production information should be obtained from farmer-elected county FSA
30 committee members.
31

32 We support programs which educate the media on the function of agriculture.
33

34 We encourage the executive branch to make available to family farmers and ranchers any
35 funds appropriated for intended agricultural purposes by Congress.
36

37 We oppose the USDA selling government-held surplus commodity, which artificially
38 depresses the price received by producers.
39

40 We favor storage paid farmer-owned reserves not to exceed 25 percent of production.
41

42 Individuals holding warehouse receipts or scale tickets marked for storage will have
43 customer's priority in recovering their property when storage facilities file for bankruptcy.
44

45 Fixed land costs should be included as a cost of production in government calculations.
46

1 Land owned or leased by foreign governments or persons not citizens of the United States
2 should not be eligible for any U.S. farm policy programs.

3
4 We appreciate the action of the Administration and Congress with respect to changes on
5 the implementation of new federal guidelines for the school lunch and breakfast program. We
6 encourage the continued oversight of the program by Congress to reduce obesity, consider the
7 impact on local school budgets, caloric intake needs relative to student needs and participation
8 by students.

11 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

12
13 All engineering work, on family farms or family owned corporation farms, mandated by
14 the Oklahoma Feedyard Act should be performed by Natural Resources Conservation Service
15 (NRCS) engineers within their respective districts.

16
17 Final authority over required conservation practices should be vested in the local soil
18 conservation districts and the county Farm Service Agency (FSA) committee.

19
20 We support the continuation of a state cost-share program for soil and water conservation
21 practices.

22
23 We support the established state fund for the purpose of matching federal funds and for
24 state maintenance funds to be administered by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to repair
25 and maintain those watershed structures constructed by the conservation districts for the purpose
26 of flood control within the boundaries of the state of Oklahoma. We support national efforts to
27 provide rehabilitation funds for watershed structures.

28
29 We urge continuation of soil conservation districts and FSA programs with full authority
30 residing in the farmer-elected county and community committees.

31
32 We support and encourage Congress to reinstate the small upstream flood control projects
33 administered by NRCS. Since government has made conservation compliance a condition of
34 eligibility for farm program benefits, all funds should be provided by the government to pay for
35 this cost. We support funding for traditional cost-share programs.

36
37 We support the establishment and cost-share of shelterbelts and windbreaks.

38
39 We oppose conservation program provisions which penalize producers for early adaption
40 of stewardship practices.

41
42 We ask that a conservation program be designed with sufficient incentive to retire marginal
43 cropland from production.

44
45 We support and encourage the continued voluntary installation of best management
46 practices under the Clean Water Act (CWA) as it pertains to agricultural non-point sources of
47 pollution. Reasonable conservation compliance standards should be established by the local FSA
48 county committee and the local conservation district board based on the unique characteristics of
49 the soils in that county.

1 We oppose any and all efforts to re-direct CWA Sec. 319 funds away from the Oklahoma
2 Conservation Commission.

3
4 We support any legislative efforts to solidify the position of the Oklahoma Conservation
5 Commission as the state agency that receives and administers CWA Sec. 319 funds.

6
7 We encourage the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation to pursue any and all action to hold
8 the water quality work of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, local conservation districts
9 and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) NRCS in Oklahoma as a potential model for all states
10 to follow to address nonpoint source pollution through locally-led, voluntary, cooperative
11 conservation instead of through regulations or lawsuits.

12 13 14 **COMPETITION AND FAIR MARKETS**

15
16 We oppose non-family corporations which negatively impact production agriculture.

17
18 We support the ability for family agriculture to voluntarily contract with integrators in
19 order to maintain their family farm operation.

20
21 We support appropriate bonding requirements to ensure clean up by out-of-state and
22 foreign limited liability companies, corporations or partnerships.

23
24 We support state nuisance laws which provide rural residents with immunity from nuisance
25 claims for agricultural activities including marketing.

26
27 Only the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) should be charged
28 with the enforcement and administration of all rules and regulations pertaining to production
29 agriculture.

30
31 We support legislation restricting investment and ownership or leasing of land and natural
32 resources by foreign nations and non-citizens.

33
34 We support poultry, swine and other contract growers in their efforts to enhance their
35 bargaining and negotiating positions so they may negotiate fair and equitable contracts with
36 corporate processors and integrators.

37 38 39 **MARKETING OF AG COMMODITIES**

40
41 We favor increased farmer-operator representation on exchange boards, specifically on
42 those committees responsible for rule-making on agricultural commodity contracts.

43
44 We support keeping the oversight and authorization of the Commodity Futures Trade
45 Commission (CFTC) within the U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committees, and believe that
46 the CFTC should:

- 47
48 1. Guard against insider trading by individuals or firms which possess foreknowledge of
49 significant price changes due to large market transactions;

1
2 We urge protection against the loss of American jobs.
3

4 We support a proposal that all foreign aid be in the form of credits to be used to buy
5 American goods and commodities.
6

7 We oppose export of fertilizer and other materials necessary for agricultural productions
8 when a definite need for these materials is evident in this country.
9

10 We support the initiation of tariffs to ensure a stable food supply.
11

12 We oppose importation of duty free renewable fuel.
13

14 We oppose any reduction of duties or tariffs on agricultural products imported to the
15 United States.
16

17 Food safety legislation must include a substantial increase in the inspection of imported
18 food and feed products. The cost of inspection should come from fees on imports. All imported
19 food and feed products should be inspected.
20

21 All beef imports should be counted under the beef import quota system and the current beef
22 import cap should be maintained.
23

24 We oppose the importation of products from countries that do not accept the importation of
25 U.S. agricultural products.
26

27 We favor increasing the per capita income limitation for countries eligible to receive aid
28 under the Food for Peace Program (PL 480).
29

30 When possible all U.S. military installations, government agencies and schools should be
31 required to use only food produced by American farmers and ranchers.
32

33 Contract sales for agriculture exports should be guaranteed.
34

35 We support exempting agriculture from trade sanctions. Food should not be used as a
36 weapon. If embargoes or sanctions are implemented, producers should be compensated for the
37 loss of markets.
38

39 We oppose the establishment of the “department of trade” as a cabinet office.
40

41 We support legislation to review the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and
42 World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements because the agreements do not meet the original
43 expectations when signed by the United States
44

45 We believe all participating countries of the NAFTA agreement should abide by U.S.
46 safety standards for trucking when operating on U.S. highways.
47

48 We support agriculture organization representatives be included early in the process when
49 considering future trade agreements.
50

1 We oppose the WTO and specific trade agreements having undue influence on U.S. farm
2 policy which conflicts with the sovereignty and laws of the citizens of the United States.

3
4 We support full congressional deliberation prior to the enactment of any trade agreement.
5

6 7 **COMMODITIES** 8

9 We support research and promotion programs financed by mandatorily paid and voluntarily
10 refundable deductions from the proceeds of sales by producers of agricultural commodities with
11 disbursement of funds controlled solely by boards of domestic producers elected by those
12 domestic producers assessed. The producer boards also solely control the operations of the
13 programs.
14

15 We support producing biotech commodities for a continued efficient and abundant food
16 and fiber supply as long as food safety is ensured, barriers are not created to interrupt trade
17 between nations or that negatively affect export possibilities for any commodity.
18

19 We support check-off programs for imported commodities being the same as domestic
20 commodities.
21

22 We support all weather disasters be treated equal with respect to indemnifying producers
23 and citizens.
24

25 We support the retention of the basic agribusiness infrastructure critical to rural America
26 which has been impacted by adverse weather conditions (i.e. grain elevators, livestock auctions
27 and cotton gins).
28

29 In order to protect agriculture producers we support the concept of indemnity funds and
30 being actively engaged in making certain indemnity funds are sufficient and flexible to keep up
31 with increasing market value.
32

33 We believe the news media should use utilize scientific terminology when reporting issues
34 relevant to the agriculture industry which has the potential to impact commodity market prices to
35 agriculture producers. For example, instead of using "swine flu," "H1N1" should be used, or
36 "BSE" instead of "mad cow."
37

38 Be it resolved that all licensing entities for in-state and out-of-state custom harvesters, and
39 for-hire transporters of agriculture commodities and products collaborate to establish a
40 centralized permitting process.
41

42 43 **A. WHEAT** 44

45 We encourage Congress to initiate legislation to control price-depressing sales of
46 government-owned wheat and the flood of price-depressing wheat imports.
47

48 We support inspection and compensation for producers, custom harvesters and handlers to
49 reduce losses caused by diseases such as Karnal Bunt.
50

1 No foreign materials whatsoever should be allowed to be added into wheat or feed grains
2 for export prior to or during the loading of ships for export.

3
4 Since grain buyers levy a discount on grain below a certain quality standard, they should
5 also pay a premium for grain that is better than standard with both discounts and premiums
6 posted.

7
8 We support a coordinated effort among wheat producing countries to develop a genetically
9 enhanced variety with adequate research to ensure food safety and consumer acceptance.

10
11 We encourage the U.S. Wheat Associates to become more active in addressing domestic
12 concerns.

13 14 15 **B. COTTON**

16
17 Price support loan on cotton should be based on a domestic profitability concept, rather
18 than a foreign cotton exchange. As long as the present price support level is based on the
19 Liverpool Cotton Exchange, we ask that it be based on a six-month marketing period.

20
21 We support continuation of the boll weevil eradication program.

22
23 We favor keeping the cotton gins under the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

24
25 We support cotton gin trash research, including fuel pelleting and cattle feed.

26 27 28 **C. LIVESTOCK**

29
30 We oppose the defining of animal manure, waste or nutrients as being considered
31 hazardous and regulated under state law or federal "Superfund" law, the Comprehensive
32 Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA).

33
34 We support reform and time reduction for record retention for all confined animal feeding
35 operations (CAFOs).

36
37 We support clarification of the rules on the closure of lagoons of current operating facilities
38 and for existing non-operating facilities.

39
40 We support continuing education requirements for CAFOs producers be on a basis of every
41 third year.

42
43 We support implementation of a livestock disaster program that compensates producers
44 when imports or disease affect the reduction of price by more than 10 percent.

45
46 We support keeping Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) in place and establishing a fund
47 so the payment factor can be kept at 100 percent to insure timely payments.

48
49 We support funding a cost share program to build hay barns to increase our state hay
50 storage capacity for times of emergency such as drought and wildfires.

1
2 We recommend enrollment in the Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health
3 Sciences (OSU-CVHS) be expanded. Preference should be given to rural Oklahoma residents.
4

5 We support an initiative to address the shortage of state large animal practice veterinarians
6 that focuses on financial assistance for vet school education. We additionally support a low
7 interest loan or guaranteed loan for purchasing an existing practice or construction of a new large
8 animal clinic in rural Oklahoma. In exchange for both considerations the veterinarian will
9 practice a specified number of years in a rural area.
10

11 We oppose a move by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) to require veterinary drugs, now
12 sold over the counter, to be sold by prescription only by veterinarians. We support full
13 availability of veterinary drugs to agriculture producers in order to provide adequate animal
14 health care.
15

16 We support retaining the option of using antibiotics in medicines or feeds for animal health
17 preventative measures or when treating livestock that are sick.
18

19 We support the livestock owners' personal property right to treat their own animals and/or
20 engage veterinarians or lay people to do the same.
21

22 We support state programs which promote livestock palpation training (pregnancy check)
23 to be taught to producers in the State of Oklahoma.
24

25 We support the continued use of growth hormones in cattle, provided there is not a
26 negative human health impact scientifically proven to be directly related to the hormones.
27

28 We strongly support enforcement of anti-trust laws currently on the books, and anti-trust
29 laws must be strengthened and enforced to prevent the continued corporate dominance of
30 agriculture markets including but not limited to livestock feeding operations.
31

32 We urge more responsible enforcement of Sherman and Clayton Anti-Trust Acts.
33

34 We support accurate and effective mandatory price reporting, reflective of actual prices of
35 the major meat packers.
36

37 We support programs to educate producers on animal identification methods in order to
38 identify and assist in retrieving stolen livestock.
39

40 We support and encourage a livestock owner's right to identify their livestock with hot iron
41 branding, tattooing, tagging or other types of identification.
42

43 We support the concept of a premise identification program. Any future programs dealing
44 with animal identification should be least burdensome to producers and maintain producer
45 confidentiality.
46

47 We support a producer's voluntary application of technology, age verification and trace
48 back methods which can enhance producer profits.
49

1 We propose strengthening the cattle branding system by encouraging that the brand on
2 branded livestock be reflected on the bill of sale in all sales transactions.

3
4 To deter livestock and rural theft, we support stronger penalties with forfeiture of assets
5 going into a revolving fund within the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry
6 (ODAFF) and support continued efforts by ODAFF to investigate livestock and rural thefts and
7 the prosecution of offenders.

8
9 We encourage the leadership of the various livestock species and general farm
10 organizations to work together to create a USDA approved established disaster plan to help
11 protect the future of our farmers and ranchers.

12
13 We support a mandatorily paid and voluntarily refundable check-off for lamb and wool.

14
15 We support an adequately funded beef check-off to continue the mission of market
16 promotion, research, nutrition, product safety and education.

17
18 We oppose an automatic referendum on the beef-check every five years.

19
20 We support pork and beef initiatives funded through check-off programs which educate
21 youth and adults about these industries and products.

22
23 We strongly oppose the re-introduction of predatory animals by any government agency.

24
25 We strongly favor legislative or regulatory changes that will give the right to any owner to
26 control any predatory animals when the owner and/or tenant, the owner's family or the owner's
27 property is in danger.

28
29 We favor competition in the marketplace; therefore, be it resolved that the following be
30 adopted and implemented through legislation:

- 31
- 32 1. A ban on packer ownership more than 14 days prior to slaughter.
 - 33
 - 34 2. Establish provisions for transparency in the market relating to base and forward
35 contracting, including a federal protection plan for whistleblowers and witnesses.
 - 36
 - 37 3. Clear delineation of spot markets and its functions.
 - 38
 - 39 4. Establish parameters for treble damages and recovery of attorney fees from consumers
40 and producers.
 - 41
 - 42 5. Ensure grade transparency uniformity at state inspections.
 - 43
 - 44 6. Modernize, re-codify, and enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act to meet the standards
45 and expectations of today's consumers and producers for their protection.
 - 46
 - 47 7. Establish and implement a country-of-origin labeling program utilizing data from a
48 voluntary national animal identification system.
 - 49

- 1 8. Create a USDA “Office of Special Counsel for Competition” to aggressively investigate
2 anti-competitive practices and market manipulation occurring in the agriculture sector
3 and have the authority and subpoena power to collect concentration-related information.
4

5 We demand that USDA reinstate its prohibition of ownership or control of custom feedlots
6 by packers.
7

8 We support the appropriate harvesting of equine in USDA inspected facilities and oppose
9 any legislation prohibiting transportation of equine for harvest.
10

11 We oppose a tax on methane gas released by livestock.
12

13 We encourage ODAFF to increase monitoring and testing for tuberculosis in livestock and
14 other species as required.
15

16 **D. DAIRY AND DAIRY PRODUCTS** 17

18 We support a stabilized supply of milk and milk products, at levels which will adequately
19 meet the needs of consumers. We further support improving the level of income for dairy
20 farmers to better meet their increased cost of production, in order to maintain a productive
21 capacity to meet anticipated future needs. Therefore, we support the Dairy Security Act in its
22 entirety.
23
24

25 Imitation products should not be allowed to be labeled or advertised using dairy terms or
26 names. We oppose redefining the products currently set up with the USDA.
27

28 The present pricing method should be continued for fresh, reconstituted milk.
29

30 We support a stabilized supply of milk and milk products, at levels which will adequately
31 meet the needs of consumers.
32

33 We support improving the level of income for dairy farmers to better meet their increased
34 cost of production, in order to maintain a productive capacity to meet anticipated future needs.
35

36 We support raising the minimum standards for fluid whole milk to 10 percent solids; non-
37 fat and skim milk to 99 percent solids non-fat.
38

39 We oppose raising the import quota on dairy products and removing tariffs on imported
40 dairy products.
41

42 We encourage the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) to make efforts to return milk protein
43 casein plants to foster domestic use in the United States.
44
45

46 **E. PEANUTS** 47

48 We support a more accurate price discovery in the marketplace for peanuts.
49

50 We support an annual target price cost of production adjustment for peanuts.

1
2 We believe storage and handling fees for peanuts in the government loan program should
3 be paid by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA).
4

5
6 **F. OTHERS**
7

8 We urge and encourage all farmers to explore producing alternate cash crops where soil,
9 water and climate permits, and urge research and extension services at land grant universities to
10 supply valuable help in these areas.
11

12 We support a ban on castor bean production in the State of Oklahoma.
13

14 We oppose the growing, harvesting and processing of any crop which produces ricin, a
15 toxic substance which can be lethal to humans and animals, can be market disrupting and
16 considered a prime tool for use by terrorists to harm U.S. citizens.
17

18 Due to expanding canola production in Oklahoma, we support the creation of actuarial
19 rates that are put in place without prior written agreement requirements.
20

21
22 **FEED, SEED, FERTILIZER, FUEL**
23

24 We support research on the use of crops for pharmaceutical and nutraceutical purposes.
25

26 We support a program of adequate testing and sampling of commercial fertilizer and feed
27 and seed with penalties being assessed when analysis is below specifications.
28

29 We support educating farmers and grain handlers on the Plant Variety Protection Act
30 (PVPA).
31

32 We support modification of the PVPA of 1994 with respect to royalty fees taking in to
33 consideration sound science, a reasonable period of time for specific commodities and on
34 percentage of purity of seed.
35

36 We support immunity from legal action for grain handlers from consequences of the PVPA
37 when handling grain.
38

39 We oppose agricultural producers being included in the Environmental Protection Agency's
40 (EPA) enforcement of the spill prevention containment and control system.
41

42 We believe that no state or federal executive order affecting the use of farm equipment or
43 farm chemicals should be issued without prior notice and public hearings.
44

45 Anhydrous ammonia should continue to be classified as non-hazardous for the purpose of
46 transporting nurse tanks on public roadways.
47

48 We encourage privately owned anhydrous ammonia facilities and equipment to meet the
49 same safety requirements and standards as that of licensed dealers. Furthermore, we encourage
50 private owners to attend anhydrous ammonia safety training classes.

1
2 We support funding for animal waste nutrients research.
3

4 5 COMMISSIONS

6 7 **B. COMMODITIES COMMISSION** 8

9 We support the commodity commissions, provided that the funds collected by force of law
10 are used for research, promotion, education and policy development, and that their use for
11 political purposes be strictly prohibited.
12

13 We oppose state government taking commodity check-off funds to balance budgets.
14

15 We support check-off programs on all commodities and periodic reporting to those paying
16 for the check-off. We support mandatorily paid and voluntarily refundable check-off programs.
17

18 We support the collection of royalty fees on the sale of products developed by commodity
19 check-off research dollars.
20

21 We support the right of referendum by securing signatures of 10 percent of qualified
22 producers of a commodity.
23

24 All referenda should be conducted by mail or electronic media to ensure maximum
25 participation by producers. Only eligible producers of a commodity shall have a vote on who is
26 chosen for the promotion board that oversees collection and spending of funds. The eligible
27 producer who receives the greatest number of producer votes must be seated.
28

29 We support the right of referendum for a district to recall the appointment of the
30 commissioner from that district.
31

32 We urge the commissions to direct greater effort toward removing restrictions or
33 obstructions that unduly limit the flow of agriculture commodities into domestic and foreign
34 markets (such as embargoes, sanctions, strikes, grading standards, unreasonable inspection rules,
35 and banning farm chemicals without sufficient cause and inequitable quality standards on
36 imports).
37

38 We oppose the consolidation of commodity commissions and/or any commission being
39 placed under the control of any state agency.
40

41 We support the ability of commodity commissions to develop a trust in which to deposit
42 and utilize commission funds.
43

44 We support exempting all agricultural commodity commissions from the Office of
45 Management and Enterprise Services state purchasing system.
46

47 We favor at least 20 percent of commodity commissions' gross income being used for
48 research in Oklahoma.
49
50

1 **B. SCHOOL LAND COMMISSION**

2
3 Leaseholders of school lands should be notified of a sale or re-lease.

4
5 We support the sale of school land if no more than 5 percent of the school lands in any
6 county are sold within a 12-month period and if all sales of school land are deposited within the
7 trust fund, invested and not made available for use by the Oklahoma Legislature for
8 appropriation purposes. All dividends should be returned to be used for the school children of
9 Oklahoma.

10
11 Lessees, who have made improvements on state school lands, should be reimbursed the fair
12 market value for those improvements. Adjoining landowners also should be reimbursed for the
13 portion that he or she paid for when the improvement was made, such as for building a fence.

14
15
16 **C. WILDLIFE COMMISSION**

17
18 We support hunter safety education courses take place in a classroom setting with
19 instruction by a qualified instructor.

20
21 We believe licenses should not be required for activities not related to hunting/fishing on
22 Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) land.

23
24 We support legislation to require at least four farmers or ranchers, by occupation, to be
25 members of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission.

26
27 We oppose the listing of species as an endangered or threatened species without
28 consideration to private property rights and without a study of the economic impact to the
29 citizens of the state of Oklahoma. We additionally oppose the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
30 critical habitat rules for threatened species.

31
32 We support voluntary pro-active cooperative efforts by the private sector landowner to
33 restore potential threatened species by working with groups like the ODWC rather than a federal
34 regulatory approach which could be counterproductive.

35
36 We oppose the ODWC taking control of more land in the State of Oklahoma.

37
38 We oppose non-native wildlife species introduction in Oklahoma.

39
40 We encourage game rangers to conduct their duties in a professional and courteous manner
41 and to respect the landowner and their property rights at all times.

42
43 Hunting licenses for the State of Oklahoma should have the following requirement printed
44 on the back of the form: "This license can be canceled if the holder violates the present law of
45 hunting or fishing on private property without permission from the owner, landlord or operator.
46 It is hereby understood that the owner of the property is not responsible for any accident or
47 injury sustained by persons entering land with or without permission."
48

49
50 We recommend that an unlimited number of deer, either sex, be taken in overpopulated
areas. Also, we support control of other wildlife species including geese, ducks, cattle egrets,

1 feral hogs, and elk on depredation of farmers’ crops. We support the enforcement of legislation
2 prohibiting the deliberate release of swine to become feral hogs and agricultural producers’ right
3 to protect crops, livestock and fences from elk in all Oklahoma counties.
4

5 We encourage the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) to test and
6 track deer and elk harvested for chronic wasting disease.
7

8 **ANIMAL WELFARE**

9
10
11 We oppose further laws or state questions, which would limit production agriculture by
12 imposing restrictions on traditional methods of producing swine, poultry, equine and cattle.
13

14 We urge our members to continue to educate the public on the fact that animals do not
15 possess the same “rights” as humans.
16

17 **PEST, WEED AND DISEASE CONTROL**

18
19
20 We support funding aggressive actions to prevent human, animal and plant diseases from
21 entering the United States. We support effective strategies for dealing with diseases, should these
22 enter the United States.
23

24 We urge immediate action to adequately fund a program to eradicate noxious plants
25 including, but not limited to, all species of mesquite and cedars from Oklahoma. Such a program
26 should include spraying of right-of-ways by federal, state and county agencies where needed.
27

28 In the event that castor beans have been produced prior to a ban, we support a one-year
29 moratorium on the production of other crops on the same location following prior year castor
30 beans production.
31

32 As a general farm organization representing producers with a variety of commodities, we
33 recognize the diversity of views regarding application of certain chemicals. Therefore we support
34 continued education and responsible use regarding the use of all herbicides and pesticides.
35

36 We further encourage voluntary record-keeping of all crop enhancement products
37 (chemical applications) as a best management practice.
38

39 We encourage the Oklahoma Mesonet and/or the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food &
40 Forestry (ODAFF) be provided funding to create and make available to producers adequate
41 climatic information for the application of herbicides, insecticides and burning.
42

43 We encourage implementation of an approved burn plan when doing prescribed burns and
44 if followed precisely, landowners should be provided some degree of liability protection. We
45 encourage educational programs to inform landowners of the proper way to develop and
46 implement a prescribed burn plan.
47

48 We support funding of a prescribed burn indemnity fund to be administered at the ODAFF.
49

1 Before an agricultural chemical can be removed from the market, factual evidence must be
2 obtained by the agency with jurisdiction that its use will adversely affect human and animal
3 health or that it is hazardous to the environment and the economic impact be considered when no
4 alternative exists.

5
6 We favor enforcement of the law requiring all harvesting equipment be thoroughly cleaned
7 prior to interstate travel.

8
9 We support the continued use of phostoxin as pest control in grain storage facilities, until a
10 suitable and affordable replacement is provided.

11
12 We urge continued support of the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and
13 the Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences (OSU-CVHS).

14
15 Now that Oklahoma is a Brucellosis-free state, efforts must continue to ensure that we
16 remain Brucellosis-free.

17
18 We support a joint effort between OSU and ODAFF in requesting additional state and
19 federal funds for the control and eradication of ticks, fire ants, killer bees and parasitic mites in
20 domestic bees in Oklahoma.

21
22 We support the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS)
23 area-wide research efforts in Oklahoma and across the nation to control imported fire ants, using
24 a combination of treatment methods, including natural predators.

25
26 We urge the Oklahoma Legislature to continue to appropriate monies to provide for the
27 control and/or eradication of crows, blackbirds, skunks, prairie dogs, beavers, coyotes, raccoons,
28 feral hogs and other predatory animals in areas where they have become destructive or a menace
29 to crops and livestock.

30
31 We support ODAFF taking steps to control disease among feral hogs.

32
33 We support the right of a private property landowner to use whatever means possible by
34 permit during the Oklahoma growing season (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) to protect any agricultural crop or
35 species of livestock of market value, and or processed feed, seed or other materials used in the
36 production of an agricultural commodity from depredation, damage or destruction by any
37 nuisance animal species. This provision includes but is not limited to feral hogs, raccoons,
38 opossums, armadillos, crows or any other animal recognized as a nuisance or posing a threat by
39 joint agreement with the Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) and ODAFF.

40
41 We urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to continue to support predator control and
42 limit any restrictive rule that affects the ability of the field men to do their work in predator
43 control.

44
45 Farmers and ranchers should be allowed to control predators or varmints on their land by
46 the most effective, safe and economical means.

47
48 We recommend that any wildlife, or other exotic birds and animals transported to, within,
49 or through the State of Oklahoma, be certified by ODAFF to be free of infectious, contagious
50 and communicable diseases and/or parasites.

1
2 We support boll weevil eradication funding efforts on the state and national levels.
3
4

5 **AG RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

6

7 We call for a minimum of one agricultural educator and one family and consumer science
8 educator in each county for continuing adult education for farmers, ranchers and homemakers.
9 We also encourage a strong 4-H club program in each county.
10

11 We support utilizing a citizen county, district and state advisory system as a means to
12 provide grassroots input to the leadership of the cooperative extension and research service.
13

14 We support a concerted effort to obtain adequate funding for Oklahoma State University
15 (OSU), the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station (OAES) and the Oklahoma Cooperative
16 Extension Service (OCES) in every county.
17

18 We support developing a national clearinghouse for compiling and making available a
19 database with all agriculture research being conducted by state land-grant universities.
20

21 We support the GrazingLands Research Laboratory at Fort Reno and the Southern Plains
22 Research Lab in Woodward. This research in livestock grazing and erosion control is vital to
23 Southwest United States agriculture.
24

25 We support the funding of the Lane Agricultural Center and the cooperative efforts of
26 OSU and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) and its
27 mission of alternative crops research for the area. We additionally support expansion of the
28 mission into bio-fuels crops.
29

30 We support funding for the Expanded Wheat Pasture Research Unit at Oklahoma State
31 University.
32

33 We support state funding for the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project to be matched with federal
34 or private funding.
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1 **DEFINITIONS**

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3 **A. HISTORICAL PARITY DEFINED:**

4
5 Congress has, by law, defined “fair” as the economic relationship that existed between
6 prices received by farmers and their production costs, including family living expenses, during
7 the five-year period 1910-1914.

8
9 The prices received by farmers are said to be at “100 percent of parity” (or “fairness”)
10 when they have the same relationship to production and living expenses as they did during that
11 period. The parity formula is kept up-to-date continuously, by:

- 12 (1) revising the list of services and items purchased by farmers for production and family
13 living to reflect today’s technology; and
- 14 (2) by adjusting the parity prices for each farm commodity to take into account the 10-year
15 moving average of changes that occur in the relationship to each other by the actual market
16 prices received by farmers for the respective commodities.

17
18 **B. FAMILY FARM DEFINED:**

19
20 Characteristically, a family farm is owned and operated by a farm family, with the family
21 providing the base of the labor needed for the farming operation, assuming the economic risk,
22 making most of the management decisions and depending on farming and/or ranching for a
23 significant portion of their living.
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OKLAHOMA STATE GOVERNMENT

Get involved in AFR/OFU legislative efforts...

You can make a difference!

Join AFR state staff and other cooperative members as they lobby for issues that are important to AFR/OFU, rural communities and our great state. Contact Steve Thompson at (405)218-5563 or sthompson@afrmic.com for more information on how to get involved and make a difference!

Want to stay up to date on all things legislative?

Send your preferred email contact information to news@afrmic.com to be added to the AFR/OFU legislative newsletter email list!



State Government Contacts

Oklahoma Executives

To schedule a visit with the governor or lieutenant governor, contact her/his executive secretary at the phone number provided.

To address Governor Mary Fallin:

The Honorable Mary Fallin (405)521-2342
Governor
State Capitol Building, Room 212
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Dear Governor Fallin:

To address Lieutenant Governor Todd Lamb:

The Honorable Todd Lamb (405)521-2161
Lt. Governor
State Capitol Building, Room 211
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Dear Lt. Governor Lamb:

Oklahoma State Agencies

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry

(405)521-3864 — www.ag.ok.gov

Oklahoma Corporation Commission

(405)521-2211 — www.occ.state.ok.us

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

(405)521-3851 — www.wildlifedepartment.com

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

(405)530-8800 — www.owrb.ok.gov

Commissioners of the Land Office

(405)521-4000 — www.clo.ok.gov

Oklahoma Secretary of State

(405)521-3911 — www.sos.ok.gov

Oklahoma Tax Commission

(405)521-3160 — www.tax.ok.gov

Oklahoma Highway Patrol

(405)425-2424 — www.ohptroopers.com

2015 Oklahoma Senators

All phone numbers listed require a 405 area code. All written correspondence will reach the intended legislator when addressed to them personally; no office number is needed. Send all written correspondence to:

The Honorable (Senator Name)

Oklahoma State Senate

2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

NAME	HOMETOWN	OFFICE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Allen, Mark (R)	Spiro	521-5576	allen@oksenate.gov
Anderson, Patrick (R)	Enid	521-5630	anderson@oksenate.gov
Barrington, Don (R)	Lawton	521-5563	barrington@oksenate.gov
Bass, Randy (D)	Lawton	521-5567	bass@oksenate.gov
Bice, Stephanie (R)	OKC	521-5592	bice@oksenate.gov
Bingman, Brian (R)	Sapulpa	521-5528	bingman@oksenate.gov
Boggs, Larry (R)	Wilburton	521-5604	boggs@oksenate.gov
Brecheen, Josh (R)	Coalgate	521-5586	brecheen@oksenate.gov
Brinkley, Rick (R)	Owasso	521-5566	brinkley@oksenate.gov
Brooks, Corey (R)	Washington	521-5522	brooks@oksenate.gov
Brown, Bill (R)	Brkn Arrow	521-5602	brownb@oksenate.gov
Crain, Brian (R)	Tulsa	521-5620	crain@oksenate.gov
Dahm, Nathan (R)	Brkn Arrow	521-5551	dahm@oksenate.gov
David, Kim (R)	Wagoner	521-5590	david@oksenate.gov
Ellis, Jerry (D)	Valliant	521-5614	ellis@oksenate.gov
Fields, Eddie (R)	Wynona	521-5581	efields@oksenate.gov
Floyd, Kay (D)	OKC	521-5610	floyd@oksenate.gov
Fry, Jack	Midwest City	521-5584	fry@oksenate.gov
Ford, John (R)	Bartlesville	521-5634	fordj@oksenate.gov
Garrison, Earl (D)	Muskogee	521-5533	garrione@oksenate.gov
Griffin, A J (R)	Guthrie	521-5628	griffin@oksenate.gov
Halligan, Jim (R)	Stillwater	521-5572	halligan@oksenate.gov
Holt, David (R)	OKC	521-5636	holt@oksenate.gov
Jech, Darcy	Kingfisher	521-5545	jech@oksenate.gov
Jolley, Clark (R)	Edmond	521-5622	jolley@oksenate.gov
Justice, Ron (R)	Chickasha	521-5537	justice@oksenate.gov
Loveless, Kyle (R)	OKC	521-5618	loveless@oksenate.gov
Marlatt, Bryce (R)	Woodward	521-5626	marlatt@oksenate.gov
Mazzei, Mike (R)	Tulsa	521-5675	mazzei@oksenate.gov
Newberry, Dan (R)	Tulsa	521-5600	newberry@oksenate.gov
Paddack, Susan (D)	Ada	521-5541	paddack@oksenate.gov
Pittman, Anastasia (R)	OKC	521-5531	pittman@oksenate.gov

NAME	HOMETOWN OFFICE	EMAIL ADDRESS	NAME	HOMETOWN OFFICE	EMAIL (@okhouse.gov)
Quinn, Marty (R)	Claremore	521-5555 quinn@oksenate.gov	Jordan, John Paul (R)	Yukon	557-7352 jp.jordan@
Schulz, Mike (R)	Altus	521-5612 schulz@oksenate.gov	Joyner, Charles (R)	Midwest City	557-7314 charlie.joyner@
Sharp, Ron (R)	Shawnee	521-5539 sharp@oksenate.gov	Kannady, Chris (R)	OKC	557-7337 chris.kannady@
Shaw, Wayne (R)	Grove	521-5574 shaw@oksenate.gov	Kern, Sally (R)	OKC	557-7348 sallykern@
Silk, Joseph (R)	Broken Bow	521-5614 silk@oksenate.gov	Kirby, Dan (R)	Tulsa	557-7356 dan.kirby@
Shortey, Ralph (R)	OKC	521-5557 shortey@oksenate.gov	Kouplun, Steve (D)	Beggs	557-7306 steve.kouplun@
Smalley, Jason (R)	Stroud	521-5547 smalley@oksenate.gov	Leewright, James (R)	Bristow	557-7353 james.leewright@
Simpson, Frank (R)	Ardmore	521-5607 simpson@oksenate.gov	Lepak, Mark (R)	Claremore	557-7380 mark.lepak@
Sparks, John (D)	Norman	521-5553 sparks@oksenate.gov	Lockhart, James (D)	Heavener	557-7413 james.lockhart@
Standridge, Robert (R)	Norman	521-5535 standridge@oksenate.gov	Loring, Ben (D)	Miami	557-7399 ben.loring@
Stanislawski, Gary (R)	Tulsa	521-5624 stanislawski@oksenate.gov	Martin, Scott (R)	Norman	557-7329 scott.martin@
Sykes, Anthony (R)	Moore	521-5569 lewis@oksenate.gov	Matthews, Kevin (D)	Tulsa	557-7406 kevin.matthews@
Thompson, Roger (R)	Okemah	521-5588 thompson@oksenate.gov	McBride, Mark (R)	Moore	557-7346 mark.mcbride@
Treat, Greg (R)	OKC	521-5632 treat@oksenate.gov	McCall, Charles (R)	Atoka	557-7412 charles.mccall@
Wyrick, Charles (D)	Fairland	521-5561 wyrick@oksenate.gov	McCullough, Mark (R)	Sapulpa	557-7414 mark.mccullough@
Yen, Ervin (R)	OKC	521-5543 yen@oksenate.gov	McDaniel, Jeannie (D)	Tulsa	557-7334 jeanniemcdaniel@

2015 Oklahoma Representatives

All phone numbers listed require a 405 area code. All written correspondence will reach the intended legislator when addressed to them personally; no office number is needed. Send all written correspondence to:

The Honorable (Representative Name)
Oklahoma House of Representatives
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

NAME	HOMETOWN OFFICE	EMAIL (@okhouse.gov)	NAME	HOMETOWN OFFICE	EMAIL (@okhouse.gov)
Banz, Gary (R)	Midwest City	557-7395 garybanz@	Nollan, Jadine (R)	Sand Springs	557-7390 jadine.nollan@
Bennett, John (R)	Sallisaw	557-7315 john.bennett@	O'Donnell, Terry (R)	Catoosa	557-7379 terry.odonnell@
Biggs, Scott (R)	Chickasha	557-7405 scott.biggs@	Ortega, Charles (R)	Altus	557-7369 charles.ortega@
Billy, Lisa (R)	Purcell	557-7365 lisajbilly@	Osborn, Leslie (R)	Mustang	557-7333 leslie.osborn@
Brown, Mike (D)	Tahlequah	557-7408 mikebrown@	Ownbey, Pat (R)	Ardmore	557-7326 pat.ownbey@
Brumbaugh, David (R)	Brkn Arrow	557-7347 david.brumbaugh@	Park, Scooter (R)	Devol	557-7305 scooter.park@
Caldwell, Chad (R)	Enid	557-7317 chad.caldwell@	Perryman, David (D)	Chickasha	557-7401 david.perryman@
Calvey, Kevin (R)	OKC	557-7357 kevin.calvey@	Peterson, Pam (R)	Tulsa	557-7341 pampeterson@
Cannaday, Edward (D)	Porum	557-7375 ed.cannaday@	Pfeiffer, John (R)	Mulhall	557-7332 john.pfeiffer@
Casey, Dennis (R)	Morrison	557-7344 dennis.casey@	Proctor, Eric (D)	Tulsa	557-7410 eric.proctor@
Christian, Mike (R)	OKC	557-7371 mike.christian@	Pruett, R.C. (D)	Antlers	557-7382 rcpruett@
Cleveland, Bobby (R)	Slaughterville	557-7308 bob.cleveland@	Renegar, Brian (D)	McAlester	557-7381 brian.renegar@
Cockroft, Josh (R)	McLoud	557-7349 josh.cockroft@	Ritze, Mike (R)	Brkn Arrow	557-7338 mike.ritze@
Condit, Donnie (D)	McAlester	557-7376 donnie.condit@	Roberts, Dustin (R)	Durant	557-7366 dustin.roberts@
Coody, Ann (R)	Lawton	557-7398 anncoody@	Roberts, Sean (R)	Hominy	557-7322 sean.roberts@
Coody, Jeff (R)	Grandfield	557-7307 jeff.coody@	Rogers, Michael (R)	Broken Arrow	557-7362 michael.rogers@
Cooksey, Marian (R)	Edmond	557-7342 mariancooksey@	Rousselot, Wade (D)	Wagoner	557-7312 waderousselot@
Cox, Doug (R)	Grove	557-7415 dougcox@	Russ, Todd (R)	Cordell	557-7362 todd.russ@
Dank, David (R)	OKC	557-7332 david.dank@	Sanders, Mike (R)	Kingfisher	557-7388 mike.sanders@
Denney, Lee (R)	Cushing	557-7304 leedenney@	Scott, Seneca (D)	Tulsa	557-7391 seneca.scott@
Derby, David (R)	Owasso	557-7377 david.derby@	Sears, Earl (R)	Bartlesville	557-7358 earl.sears@
Dunlap, Travis (R)	Bartlesville	557-7402 travis.dunlap@	Shelton, Mike (D)	OKC	557-7367 mikeshelton@
Dunnington, Jason (D)	OKC	557-7396 jason.dunnington@	Sherrer, Ben (D)	Chouteau	557-7364 benscherrer@
Echols, Jon (R)	OKC	557-7354 jon.echols@	Shoemaker, Jerry (D)	Morris	557-7373 jerryshoemaker@
Enns, John (R)	Enid	557-7321 john.enns@	Stone, Shane (D)	OKC	557-7397 shane.stone@
Faught, George (R)	Muskogee	557-7310 george.faught@	Strohm, Chuck (R)	Jenks	557-7331 chuck.strohm@
Fisher, Dan (R)	El Reno	557-7311 dan.fisher@	Tadlock, Johnny (D)	Idabel	557-7363 johnny.tadlock@
Fourkiller, William (D)	Stilwell	557-7394 will.fourkiller@	Thomsen, Todd (R)	Ada	557-7336 todd.thomsen@
Grau, Randy (R)	Edmond	557-7360 randy.grau@	Vaughan, Steve (R)	Ponca City	557-7355 steve.vaughan@
Griffith, Claudia (D)	Norman	557-7386 claudia.griffith@	Virgin, Emily (D)	Norman	557-7323 emily.virgin@
Hall, Elise (R)	OKC	557-7403 elise.hall@	Walker, Ken (R)	Tulsa	557-7359 ken.walker@
Hardin, Tommy (R)	Madill	557-7383 tommy.hardin@	Wallace, Kevin (R)	Wellston	557-7368 kevin.wallace@
Henke, Katie (R)	Tulsa	557-7361 katie.henke@	Watson, Weldon (R)	Tulsa	557-7330 weldon.watson@
Hickman, Jeff (R)	Dacoma	557-7339 jwhickman@	Wesselhoft, Paul (R)	Moore	557-7343 paulwesselhoft@
Hoskin, Chuck (D)	Vinita	557-7319 chuck.hoskin@	Williams, Cory (D)	Stillwater	557-7411 cory.williams@
Inman, Scott (D)	Del City	557-7370 scott.inman@	Wood, Justin (R)	Shawnee	557-7345 justin.wood@
Johnson, Dennis (R)	Duncan	557-7327 dennis.johnson@	Wright, Harold (R)	Weatherford	557-7325 harold.wright@
			Young, George (D)	OKC	557-7393 george.young@

STAY CONNECTED TO CAPITOL HILL

Contact Information for Oklahoma Congressmen

Phone numbers require a 202 area code. All post correspondence addresses must be followed by Washington, DC, and the zip code provided.

Senate

NAME	HOMETOWN OFFICE	MAILING ADDRESS (20510)
Inhofe, Jim	Tulsa	224-4721 205 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Lankford, James	OKC	224-5754 B40C Dirksen Senate Office Bldg

House of Representatives

NAME	HOMETOWN OFFICE	MAILING ADDRESS (20515)
Bridenstine, Jim	Tulsa	225-2211 216 Cannon House Office Bldg
Mullin, Markwayne	Westville	225-2701 1113 Longworth House Ofc. Bldg
Lucas, Frank	Cheyenne	225-5565 2311 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Cole, Tom	Moore	225-6165 2467 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Russell, Steve	OKC	225-2132 128 Cannon House Office Bldg

Communicating with Congress

Tips for E-Mailing Congress

Heightened security measures have dramatically increased the time it takes for a letter sent by post to reach a congressional office. Citizens now often use e-mail and fax to communicate their concerns. Increasingly, congressional offices prefer electronic communication for constituent contact.

As a general rule, members of Congress are far more likely to heed your message if you are one of their constituents.

Purpose of Your E-Mail:

- Be courteous.
- Address only one issue in each e-mail.
- State your purpose for writing in the first sentence of the e-mail.
- If your e-mail pertains to a specific piece of legislation, identify it. Be sure to reference the correct legislation to the correct body of Congress. House bills are H.R.____; Senate bills are S.____.
- If appropriate, include personal information about why the issue matters to you.

Addressing Your Correspondence:

To a Senator: The Honorable (Full Name) U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510 Dear Senator (Last Name):	To a Representative: The Honorable (Full Name) U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms. (Last Name):
--	--

When writing to the chair of a committee or to the speaker of the House, it is proper to address them as Mr. Chairman or Madam Chairwoman or Mr./Madam Speaker.

Tips for Phoning Congress

Telephone calls are usually taken by a staff member. Ask to speak with the aide who handles the issue about which you wish to comment.

After identifying yourself as a constituent, tell the aide you would like to leave a brief message, such as: "Please tell Senator/Representative (Last Name) that I support/oppose (S.____/H.R.____)."

State reasons for your support or opposition to the bill. Ask for your senator's or representative's position on the bill. You may also request a written response to your telephone call.

Suggestions for a Personal Visit

Meeting with a member of Congress or their staff is an effective way to convey your message about a specific issue. Below are suggestions to consider when planning a visit to a congressional office.

•**Plan Your Visit Carefully:** Be clear about what you want to achieve; determine in advance which member or committee staff you need to meet with to achieve your purpose.

•**Make an Appointment:** When attempting to meet with a member, contact the appointment secretary/scheduler. Explain your purpose and who you represent. It is easier for congressional staff to

arrange a meeting if they know what you wish to discuss and your relationship to the area of interest represented by the member.

•**Be Prompt and Patient:** When it is time to meet with a member, be punctual and patient. It is not uncommon for a legislator to be late or to have a meeting interrupted due to their crowded schedule. If interruptions do occur, be flexible. When the opportunity presents itself, continue your meeting with the member's staff.

•**Be Prepared:** When possible, bring information and materials that support your position. Members are required to take positions on many different issues. In some instances, a member may lack details about the pros and cons of a particular matter; therefore, it is helpful to share information and examples that clearly demonstrate the impact of a particular issue or piece of legislation.

•**Be Political:** Members want to represent the best interests of their district or state. When possible, demonstrate the connection between what you are requesting and the interests of the member's constituency. If possible, describe how you or your group can be of assistance. When it is appropriate, remember to ask for a commitment.

•**Be Responsive:** Be prepared to answer questions or provide information if the member expresses interest or asks questions. Follow up with a thank-you letter that outlines the points covered during the meeting and send any additional information and materials requested.

The Role of Congressional Staff

To be most effective in communicating with Congress, it is helpful to know the titles and principal functions of key staff members.

•**Administrative Assistant (AA) or Chief of Staff (CoS):** The AA reports directly to the Congressman. He/she usually has responsibility for evaluating political outcomes of legislative proposals and constituent requests, and is usually in charge of overall office operations, including the assignment of work and the supervision of key staff.

•**Legislative Director (LD), Senior Legislative Assistant (Sr LA), or Legislative Counsel (LC):** The LD monitors the legislative schedule and makes recommendations regarding the pros/cons of particular issues. In some congressional offices, there are several LAs and responsibilities are assigned to staff with expertise in specific areas (e.g. health issues, environmental matters, taxes, etc.).

•**Appointment Secretary (Appt), Personal Secretary or Scheduler (Sch):** The appointment secretary is usually responsible for allocating a member's time among congressional responsibilities, staff requirements and constituent requests. He/she may also be responsible for travel arrangements, speaking dates, visits to the district, etc.

•**Caseworker:** The caseworker helps with constituent requests by preparing replies for the member's signature. His/her responsibilities may include helping resolve problems in relation to federal agencies (e.g. Social Security and Medicare issues, veteran's benefits, passports, etc.). There are often several caseworkers in an office.



4400 Will Rogers Pkwy
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
P.O. Box 24000
Oklahoma City, OK 73124
(405) 218-5400

Terry Detrick, President

(405) 218-5555
tdetrick@afrmic.com

Paul Jackson, State Secretary

(405) 218-5545
pjackson@afrmic.com

Steve Thompson, Policy/Membership Development

(405) 218-5563
sthompson@afrmic.com

Danielle Rogers, Chief of Staff/Communications

(405) 218-5590
drogers@afrmic.com

Megan Albright, LEAD Coordinator

(405) 218-5416
malbright@afrmic.com

Mike Robison, Northwest District Field Rep

(580) 541-4933
robison.mr.mike@gmail.com

John Porter, Vice President

(405) 348-3750
johnp9624@yahoo.com

Marilyn Sanders, Executive Administrative Asst.

(405) 218-5567
msanders@afrmic.com

Tommy Thomas, AFR Legislative Consultant

(580) 889-0937
tommy@okgov.us

Blaire Boyer, Youth & Education Coordinator

(405) 218-5561
bboyer@afrmic.com

Jim Pilkington, Northeast District Field Rep

(918) 830-0017
jpilkington@smithco-eng.com

AJ Bristow, Southeast District Field Rep

(918) 469-2360

Pete McDaniel, Southwest District Field Rep

(405) 638-0078

We are here to serve **YOU**. Call us anytime!



MEMBER BENEFITS

This is what you get with your AFR/OFU dues:

GENERAL BENEFITS

- Access to quality farm, home, auto and life insurance
- Media response, information, promotion and public relations services
- Legislative representation at national, state and local levels
- Policy development and education
- \$5,000 reward program for arson, theft or vandalism to AFR property insureds

MEDIA BENEFITS

- Subscription to the quarterly AFR/OFU News & Views
- Subscription to the News & Views Insider e-newsletter
- Subscription to the National Farmers Union e-newsletter
- Free classified advertising in quarterly publication

DISCOUNT BENEFITS

- Discount medical flight membership program
- Discounts on rental cars and hotels
- Discounts on dental and vision plan
- Discounts on Constant Contact e-mail marketing
- Discounts on office and school supplies
- Discounts on legal services

YOUTH BENEFITS

- Speech and poster contests
- State and county educational scholarships
- Youth leadership summit
- Agricultural contests
- Youth sponsorships