

## **NFACT: Sacramento – 2/20/2001**

### **Animal and Plant Health**

1. Provide increased funding to APHIS.
2. Allow compromise on Congressional access to AQI funds to expire and assure that APHIS has 100 percent access to these funds.
3. Provide for more equitable allocation of funds among states for trapping, detection, and exclusion of imported pests and diseases.
4. Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)
  - Improve implementation re Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act of 1999.
  - Ensure USEPA uses actual data and realistic models in risk calculations.
  - Use sound science.
5. Increased programs to exclude, detect, and eradicate exotic pests.
6. Increase funding and focus on detection and prevention of plant smuggling.
7. Increase funding for port of entry exclusion programs.
8. Maintain plant protection mechanisms through quarantine provisions in trade negotiations.
9. Harmonize funding and policy of control and eradication programs among states.
10. Economic incentives for utilization of reduced pest management approaches.
11. Compensation for utilizing innovative pest management approaches if not successful and damage occurs.
12. Provide funding and assistance to commodity groups for creation and updating Pest Management Strategic Plans to include linking problems identified with USDA funding sources.
13. Increased funding for USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services program on predators.
14. Assure accessibility to animal health care products.
15. Ensure availability of cost effective diagnostic capabilities to detect and eliminate emerging pests and diseases.
16. Provide for “Pest Risk” analyses where potential pests are identified with the probability of its introduction and establishment.
17. Quarantines should be based on sound science.
18. Promote cooperation and partnerships in pest and disease programs among federal, state, and local jurisdictions and programs.
19. Evaluate impact of control and eradication activities to non-target organisms, endangered species, and natural resources.

### **Conservation**

1. Farm Bill Core: Commitment to assisting farmers to stay on land.
2. Farm Bill Focus: Programs to assist farmers and ranchers change their practices to good stewardship while remaining economically viable.
3. Farm Bill Focus: Encourage agricultural production choices more compatible with habitat conservation.
4. Forestry
  - Farm Bill language to clarify agriculture includes forestry.

- Provide federal cost share funds for reduction and modification of forest fuels.
  - Encourage development of bio-mass fueled power generation facilities.
  - Provide federal cost share funds to assist in costs of complying with TMDL regulations.
  - Provide federal support to collect and disseminate information on watershed issues.
  - Enhance forest land management through “safe harbor” agreements and tax incentives.
  - Continuance of livestock grazing on public lands.
5. Use holistic approach to resource management rather than single issue approach.
  6. Continue and increase funding:
    - EQIP
    - Wetlands Reserve Program
    - Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program
    - Conservation Reserve Program
  7. Expansion of Farmland Protection Program to \$500 million per year.
  8. Enactment of Conservation Security Program to provide payment for practices that provide environmental benefits and are compatible with ongoing agricultural practices.
  9. Increased technical and administrative assistance for both NRCS and FSA.
  10. Establish a program to reward all producers for good stewardship practices.
  11. Increased field staff in FSA, NRCS, and UC Cooperative Extension to provide assistance in regulatory requirements and permits.
  12. Establishment of a Grasslands Reserve Program.
  13. Establish program to combat exotic and invasive weeds that threaten natural resources.
  14. Provide transitional organic labeling for organic products during certification waiting period.

### **Domestic and International Marketing**

1. Country of origin labeling.
2. Provide for “transitional organic” labeling to bridge the organic certification waiting period.
3. Trade
  - Access to foreign markets.
  - No trade agreements unless equal access to markets.
  - Harmonize tariffs among trading partners.
  - Elimination of restraints based on standards influenced by social or public policy and not sound science.
  - Elimination or reduction of domestic subsidies on product basis and not on aggregate basis.
  - Substantial percentage reductions in subsidies based on value of aggregate measure of support (AMS) for each product.

- Eliminate export subsidies.
  - Eliminate “Peace Clause”.
  - Clarification and harmonization of domestic support terms used in WTO notification.
  - More transparency in WTO required notifications to clearly determine if support is green, amber, or blue box.
  - Symmetry in safeguard measures.
4. Reauthorize Market Access Program (MAP) at \$200 million.
  5. Funding continued and increased for Foreign Market Development Program.
  6. Increased funding for USDA Foreign Agriculture Service to monitor trade agreement compliance and other export enhancing services.
  7. Establishment and funding of a “restitution fund” to recover losses from illegal activities of federal employees that impact shippers.
  8. Update facilities and procedures of USDA Fresh Products Branch Inspection Program and provide ethics training.
  9. APHIS provide greater assistance to exporters in resolving phytosanitary barriers.
  10. Provide for study and application of antitrust laws on retail consolidation.
  11. Provide incentives for schools to purchase directly from growers and shippers, with priority given to local growers and shippers
  12. National initiative implementing farm to school salad bar program.
  13. Evaluate consumption habits of federal nutrition program recipients and impacts on diet and health.
  14. Facilitate increased sales between schools and farms.
  15. Provide incentives for purchase of fruits and vegetables with food stamps.
  16. Public relations and education campaign on the importance, health, safety, and wholesomeness of U.S. food supply.
  17. WIC checks used at farmers’ markets be exempt from bank deposit fees.
  18. Define state match in USDA Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program.
  19. Convert pilot project of Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program to permanent status.
  20. USDA provide funds to assist farmers’ markets make transition to electronic system.
  21. Increased funding levels for the USDA Commodity Distribution Program.
  22. Provide commodities under USDA purchase programs to all school nutrition programs.
  23. Amendment to Farm Bill and School Lunch Act to permanently reverse Commodity Budget reduction.
  24. Establish pilot program for commodity surplus removal to statewide school meal programs.
  25. Increase school meal program reimbursement rates.
  26. Provide incentives for agriculture and agribusiness to enhance access to healthful foods for school meal programs.

### **Research and Education**

1. Provide research and education funds relating to questions and issues of converting to organic production methods.

2. USDA and Land Grant University focus should be on biologically based production methods.
3. Increase research funds into organic and sustainable production methods.
4. Increase research funds for marketing.
5. Increase funding for agricultural research.
6. Increase funding for agricultural extension.
7. Increased focus on applied research.
8. Research into market opportunities for organic products in U.S. and export.
9. Research into tools for farmers to convert to organic methods.
10. Increased research into exotic pests.
11. Increased research funding for specialty crops.
12. Increased research into mitigating environmental impacts of pesticides.
13. Increase support for IR-4 program dealing with minor use crop pesticide registrations.
14. Expand support for USDA Office of Pest Management Policy.
15. Increase research funds and grants to groups outside of land grant universities.
16. Funds for technology transfer.
17. Research into development of practical solutions to regulatory changes imposed by USEPA risk assessments.
18. Evaluate pesticide research delivery systems.
19. Research into the development of alternatives to meet export quarantine requirements.
20. Provide educational programs that ensure the future of U.S. farming and ranching.
21. Educate urban consumers on regional agriculture's importance through master gardener and school garden programs.
22. Provide programs for agriculture literacy among students and general public.

### **Risk Management**

1. Reauthorize FAIR Act with following provisions
  - Continue flexibility in 1996 FAIR Act.
  - Continue marketing loan, deficiency payments (LDP) structure, and certificate program.
  - Ensure programs are not contingent on mandatory idled acres.
  - Provide basic AMTA-type payment with counter cyclical feature.
  - Eliminate payment limitations
  - Rice loan rate at minimum \$6.50/cwt.
  - Cotton loan rate at minimum 55 cents/lb.
  - Maintain Pima cotton loan rate at current floor.
  - Maintain cotton seed program.
  - Programs must meet WTO requirements.
  - Additional enrollment in Conservation Reserve Program with shorter time commitment.
2. Reduce government red tape.
3. Tax reform: eliminate death tax and capital gains tax.
4. No planting fruits and vegetables on acreage receiving subsidized payments.
5. Provide for guest worker program.

6. Provide crop insurance programs that do not disrupt or distort markets, especially fruit and vegetables.
7. Extend crop insurance provisions to all crops, livestock, and regions.
8. Programs developed and implemented on national basis.
9. Do not provide incentives to increase or shift production.
10. Do not encourage below market sales.
11. Uniform notification of pilot programs.
12. Recognition of differences in local growing conditions and cultural practices.
13. Limited to insuring against catastrophic risks.
14. Establish wool market loss assistance program to include system of automatic price adjustments when unfair international competition occurs.
15. Enforce Packers and Stockyards to remedy unfair trade practices from packer concentration.
16. Expansion of pilot programs in crop insurance to assist specialty crop producers.
17. Repeal of Estate Taxes.