

Texas NFACT

Animal and Plant Health

1. Harmonize rules and regulations among states.
2. Minor use chemicals need to be made available to agriculture.
3. Provide emergency/disaster payments for foreign animal diseases introduced into U.S.
4. Foster cooperative state – federal programs such as the Boll Weevil Eradication Program.

Conservation

1. Farm Bill Goal: Assist farmers to stay on land.
2. Farm Bill top priority: Conservation of private lands.
3. Conservation programs should be applied to all farmers, not only producers of commodity supported crops.
4. Expand Farmland Protection Program to \$500 million annually.
5. Bridge conservation programs and farm economic viability.
6. Pay producers for provision of environmental benefits, eg. Proposed Conservation Security Program..
7. Locally led conservation: decisions in hands of farmer committees.
8. Reduce administrative costs through unification of conservation programs and single application process.
9. Cooperative incentive based approaches to conservation.
10. State and local governments focal points for program delivery.
11. NRCS lead USDA agency for non- Forest Service Conservation Programs.
12. NRCS report to separate undersecretary (Private Lands Conservation).
13. Streamline USDA operations to make them more efficient.
14. Priorities for Conservation Districts: increase nation's investment in private lands conservation programs, and, strengthen local, state, and federal partnership for delivery of programs.
15. Recognition of "historical use" in water conservation programs.
16. Credit for past implementation of water conservation measures when setting water allocations.
17. Financial assistance through loans or incentives to defray cost of more efficient irrigation equipment.
18. Agricultural representation on all political bodies that regulate agricultural water use.
19. Emergency "Court of Last Resort" to mitigate onerous water allocations.
20. When society requires water use reduction, it should reimburse agriculture for its reductions.
21. Provide funds for industry developed manure management programs.
22. Develop Conservation Incentives Program to reward producers practicing good stewardship.
23. Provide "green payments" to producers for conservation practices.
24. Farm Bill: Preserve highly erodible and unproductive lands.
25. Increase conservation technical assistance programs.
26. Expand CRP.

27. Idling farm land through CRP expands production among competitors.
28. Environmental and conservation regulations based on sound science.
29. Increase funding for EQIP.
30. Regulatory agencies assess economic impact of regulations on property owners.

Research and Education

1. Educate youth and consumers on the importance of agriculture.
2. Increase funding for agricultural research.
3. Educate consumers on benefits of research, especially GMO's.
4. Increase educational programs for students and consumers to foster improved understanding of agriculture and food safety.

International and Domestic Markets

1. Farm Bill: Foster competition and growth in agriculture.
2. Multinational trade agreements that eliminate trade distorting barriers.
3. Enforcement of trade agreement provisions.
4. Provide producer support to offset unfair trade practices such as subsidies.
5. Increase and expand EEP program.
6. Continue Marketing Loan provisions to assure competitiveness in world markets.
7. Establish program to offset currency fluctuations that impact trade.
8. Shorten WTO dispute resolution process.
9. Lift trade sanctions, especially those on Cuba.
10. Expand U.S. humanitarian food aid assistance.
11. Farm Bill provide for study of concentration in agriculture.
12. Enforce antitrust laws.
13. Farm Policy: Should not distort the market system.
14. Farm Policy: Should not benefit one segment of agriculture at expense of another.
15. Trade regulations based on sound science, not politics.
16. Develop ethanol program.
17. Retain U.S. sugar program.
18. Police sugar imports to keep countries from "re-exporting" sugar.
19. Enforce NAFTA side agreement with Mexico on sugar.
20. Foreign products imported into U.S. should meet same safety and environmental standards as domestic.
21. Establish GMO certification program similar to organic certification.
22. Wage and worker protection laws should be taken into account when estimating tariffs on imports.
23. Rules of origin should be applied to imports.(peanuts)
24. Continue and increase Market Access Program (MAP).
25. Mandatory price reporting.
26. Increase market transparency through price reporting, product labeling, contract disclosures, and limits on upstream ownership of commodities.
27. Provide assistance to producers to capture larger share of local urban markets.

Risk Management

1. Risk management plans expanded to all agricultural products.

2. Assistance programs should take into account impacts on agribusiness and the maintenance of an infrastructure.
3. Finance income support programs through “Commodity Value Enhancement Fund” as a tax on consumer food purchases.
4. Establish a “counter cyclical” income support payment scheme.
5. Decoupled AMTA payments retained and increased.
6. Fixed payment program, decoupled from production, with flexibility to defer support payment when not needed and accelerated in emergency situations.
7. Continue LDP program payments and tie them to local market prices.
8. Drought and emergency assistance programs that do not interfere or distort markets, or, reward bad business practices.
9. Replace current crop insurance with guaranteed disaster program set at percentage of production at the loan value.
10. Insurance programs should guarantee both price and yield (revenue).
11. Adjust loan rates to better reflect balance between income and costs.
12. Provide safety net for dairy that accommodates seasonal and cyclical nature of production.
13. Increase minimum support price for milk & couple with variable level of processing assistance (make allowance).
14. Continue no net cost peanut support program.
15. Adjust peanut support price to account for production cost increases.
16. Contracting of additional peanuts by handlers allowed only for export.
17. Establish a peanut trust fund to be funded from accrual of revenues from unused peanut marketing assessments.
18. Disaster programs should reflect quality losses in addition to quantity losses.
19. Raise the limits on eligibility for disaster programs.
20. Target Farm Bill benefits to family sized producers.
21. Remove payment limits.
22. Continue planting flexibility.
23. Continue an emergency livestock feed program.
24. Marketing Loan Program for wool and mohair.
25. Eliminate Farmer Owned Reserve (FOR) Program.
26. Establish farm-stored renewable energy conservation reserve.
27. Establish farm-stored humanitarian food security reserve.
28. “Voluntary Herd Reduction Program” for reduction of milk supplies.
29. Full deduction of health care costs for farmers and self insured.
30. \$500,000 exclusion from capital gains tax for sale of primary residence or farm.
31. Create Farmer and Rancher Risk Management tax deferred accounts for accessing funds in low price years (similar to IRA).
32. General Accounting Office study of costs of complying with regulations with recommendations of alternatives.
33. Continued Risk Management education.
34. Reduce taxes, eliminate death tax.