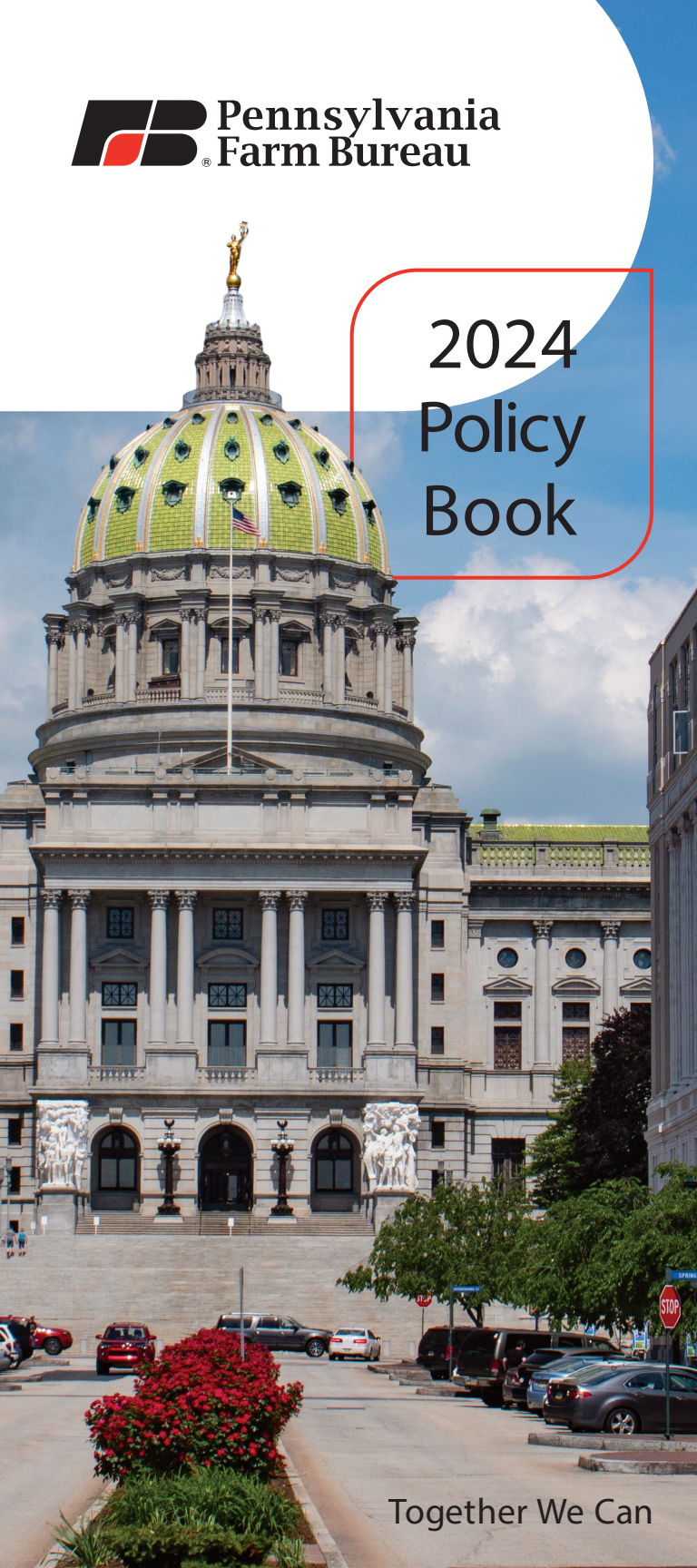




2024 Policy Book

Together We Can

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Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

www.pfb.com

Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statement: Growing Communities. Many Voices. United Vision.

Vision Statement: People united around food, environment, and community.

Membership

Farm families formed our organization in 1950 as a means of working together to secure a bright future for agriculture and rural communities. Our members volunteer countless hours and great energy to implement Farm Bureau's policies and programs. Programs and services are aimed at solving farm-related problems, tackling issues which threaten agriculture's future, increasing net farm income, enlightening the non-farm public about modern-day agriculture and advancing rural life in the Commonwealth. Members decide our organization's priorities and related activity. All members have the opportunity to participate in the development of Farm Bureau's policies on a broad range of issues. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has grown to become the state's largest farm organization, with member families in 54 County Farm Bureaus.

There is one type of membership: Voting Members.

Farm Bureau membership is with an individual's county Farm Bureau and state organization. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Voting members have one vote per membership on all policy positions put forth at business meetings of the organization. The organization's position on issues is determined by an extensive annual policy development process. Policy resolutions start at the grassroots county level and are adopted by majority rule of voting members. Resolutions related to state and national issues are recommended to delegate bodies of the state and national organizations, where they are considered and adopted by majority rule of voting delegates chosen by the membership.

Policy Implementation

Nearly 1,000 Farm Bureau members serve on state and national legislative committees. Through continuous interaction with elected and appointed officials of government, they work to achieve adoption of Farm Bureau's policy recommendations.

All members are urged to support, in every way possible, the policies adopted by a majority vote of the delegates at the annual meetings of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Women's Leadership/Leadership Development Committee

This committee creates programs and projects which enhance the ability of county Farm Bureaus to surface and develop new leadership for the organization. The committee will identify, recruit, and guide farmer members into meaningful roles in their county Farm Bureau. If a county does not wish to have a Women's Leadership Committee, it may organize a Leadership Development Committee, comprised of both men and women.

Political Education and Action

All members are urged to be part of political processes, actively supporting the affairs of their political party, assisting candidates of their choice and participating in all elections. County Farm Bureaus are also encouraged to sponsor events and distribute information enabling members and the general public to become better acquainted with candidates for public office.

Agriculture Promotion Committee

This committee assists county Farm Bureaus in the development of projects designed to educate members and the general public. The committee also supports and promotes the programs of the PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation.

Young Ag Professionals Committee

This committee develops leadership and communications skills in young farmers and young ag professionals (ages 18–35), and also helps to surface new individuals for future leadership roles within Farm Bureau. The committee also recognizes outstanding farming practices and contributions to the community by young farmers.

Effective Advocacy for Agriculture

Effective representation of agriculture and rural interests in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. is recognized as one of the greatest assets of our organization. Members serving on state and national legislative committees develop productive working relationships with their elected representatives. Farm Bureau also has a professional staff of full-time lobbyists who work closely with lawmakers in the General Assembly and the United States Congress to advance the policy positions adopted by our members.

Regulatory Affairs and Information

Regulations approved by government agencies have far-reaching effects on agriculture and its related industries. Farm Bureau works with all state government agencies to ensure regulations are reasonable in dealing with farming operations and seeks repeal or revision of regulations adverse to the business of farming. Farm Bureau also provides assistance to county Farm Bureaus and other associations to help ensure that local ordinances and regulations are reasonable and workable.

Political Action Committee

Farm Bureau has a Political Action Committee that raises funds to help FARMER-friendly candidates win election to the Pennsylvania General Assembly. The committee, called FARMER (Farmers Allied for Responsive, More Effective Representation), is a bipartisan approach to better government, and is a legal way to collect funds for contribution to candidates for public office. FARMER is controlled by a committee of farmers and is funded by voluntary contributions.

Communications

Farm Bureau works to foster a better understanding of agriculture among the non-farm public. Farm Bureau maintains close working relationships with the news media to help ensure accurate and extensive coverage of complex issues related to agriculture.

Publications

Members are kept up to date on farm and rural issues, emerging topics of interest and the work of their organization through the *Grassroots Advocate* section of the *Positively Pennsylvania* magazine, which is produced five times per year and released in January, March, May, July, and September. *Positively Pennsylvania* features articles of consumer interest, as well as general insight about agriculture in Pennsylvania. A biweekly newsletter, *Farm Bureau Express*, is distributed electronically to Farm Bureau leaders and members. Members can access electronic versions of *Positively Pennsylvania* through the “members only” section of pfb.com.

Farm Bureau Website

PFB’s comprehensive website (www.pfb.com) provides members access to organizational events and legislative issues, county Farm Bureau information, and member programs and services. A PDF version of the policy book is available in the “members only” section of pfb.com.

Issue Advisory Committees

Agricultural issues important to Farm Bureau members are addressed by PFB Issue Advisory Committees (IAC), which provide insight and guidance for future Farm Bureau policy. The IACs are organized in areas of labor, wildlife, dairy/farm policy, environment, beef, animal health, and other areas of concern that arise on an ad-hoc basis. Pennsylvania is also represented by members serving on American Farm Bureau Federation committees.

MEMBER SERVICES

Membership in Farm Bureau provides members with access to many economically beneficial services that fit farming operations, small businesses, and friends of agriculture. These services include:

1. PFB Health Services provides health care coverage. As a health insurance agency, PFB Health Services offers coverage through all major health insurance carriers in the state of Pennsylvania. The Health Services staff of licensed and dedicated professionals has been providing our subscribers with the guidance they need to make informed decisions when selecting a health care plan. We can help our members protect their family, or their business employees, by researching and comparing options for a benefit package specifically to meet their needs. Farm Bureau offers Individual and Family plans, Employer Group plans, and Senior Medicare plans. Farm Bureau Members are also able to enroll in one of our group dental and/or vision plans.

2. Nationwide® is proud to be the exclusive insurance provider of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, offering a full range of insurance and financial services. As a company with a deep agricultural history, Nationwide offers voting members of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau a discount on farm insurance. Nationwide also offers a variety of other insurance and financial services to Farm Bureau members including auto*, home, pet*, travel* powersports, commercial and life insurance. *Select discounts may apply. To learn more, contact your local Nationwide agent or visit www.nationwide.com/pfb.

3. Contract Benefits. Farm Bureau members have access to other cost-saving benefits including: Ford rebates on purchases; NRG electricity savings; Grainger discounts; PFB Visa card with no annual fee; Choice and Wyndham Hotel discounts; ScriptSave prescriptions and supplies; and discounts on Avis and Budget car rentals, ClearValue hearing instruments, CaseIH, John Deere and Caterpillar equipment, mydeals.com, Jiffy-Lube, Sherwin Williams, and My Free Pharmacy. As an added benefit, every membership includes an accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy.

4. Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation manages and provides funding for educational projects including the Mobile Ag Education Science Programs, Educator's Ag Institute, and Ag Literacy Week. The Mobile Ag Ed Science Programs include the Mobile Ag Lab and Ag on the Go. Both programs educate students on agricultural commodities and concepts, using hands-on science experiments. The Ag Institute attracts educators each summer who meet to learn how to incorporate agriculture and its major concepts into their classroom curriculum. Pennsylvania Ag Literacy Week gives volunteers from the agriculture industry the opportunity to read a related book and complete an activity with students. Each year, the book focuses on different commodities or concepts. The Foundation has also raised funds to endow three different scholarships for the following institutions: The Pennsylvania State University, Delaware Valley University and University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. These scholarships are awarded annually to students pursuing careers in agriculture and large animal veterinary studies. Members contribute to the Foundation and support these worthy projects.

Table of Contents

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH	1
Grape and Wine Production	1
AGRICULTURE, PENNSYLVANIA DEPT. OF	1
Administration	1
Agricultural Program Funding	1
Agritourism	1
Certification and Inspection Programs	1
Disaster Assistance Program	2
Dog and Kennel Regulation and Enforcement	2
Fairs and Shows	2
Honey and Apiculture	2
Promotion of Pennsylvania Products	2
Regulation of Animals Other Than Livestock	2
Weights and Measures	3
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	3
Alcoholic Beverage Sales	3
Underage Drinking	3
Wineries	3
ANIMAL HEALTH	3
Animal Care	3
Animal Drugs	4
Animal Health	4
Chronic Wasting Disease	4
Cruelty to Animals Law Enforcement	4
Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease	5
Equine Herpes Virus	5
Johne's Disease	5
Regulation of Animals Other Than Traditional Livestock	5
ANIMAL PROGRAMS	5
Beef	5
Equine	5
DAIRY	6
Biosecurity	6
Milk Marketing Law	6
Milk Quality	6
Over-Order Premiums	6
Processing Facilities	6
Producer Pricing	7
Raw Milk	7
School and Government Milk Sales	7
EDUCATION	7
Agricultural Education	7
Charter Schools	7
Curriculum	7
Funding of Public Education	7
Higher Education	8
Prayer	8
School Building Construction	8
School Districts	8
Teacher Training	9
Vocational Education	9
ELECTIONS AND ELECTED OFFICE	9
Candidate Requirements	9
Judges	9
Terms of Office	9
Voting	9
EMINENT DOMAIN	9
Eminent Domain	9
Farmland Taking	9
Landfills	10
ENERGY	10
Energy Alternatives	10

Energy Cost	11
Windmills	11
FAMILY AND RURAL LIFE	11
Abortion	11
FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES	11
Fertilizer Regulation	11
Pesticide Regulation	11
GAS AND OIL DRILLING	11
Inspection and Testing	11
Leases	12
Metering.....	13
Pooling.....	13
Sub-surface Rights	13
Transmission and Storage	13
Well Drilling and Operation.....	13
HEALTH AND SAFETY	14
Automobile Safety	14
Disease Control and Prevention.....	14
Fireworks	14
Healthcare	14
Medical Testing.....	15
Pest Control	15
Safety	15
HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE	16
Fuel Surcharges.....	16
Maintenance	16
Motor License and Liquid Fuels Revenues.....	17
Privatization	17
Railroads	17
Road and Bridge Construction	17
Road and Bridge Weight Limits	17
Road Signs and Markers.....	18
Toll Roads and Bridges.....	18
HUNTING AND FISHING LAWS	18
Bird Shooting Events	18
Cooperating Farmland Program	18
Damage by Birds	18
Damage by Game Animals	18
Deer Depredation Permit Program	19
Deer Management Assistance Program	20
Enforcement of Game and Fish Laws	20
Fencing for Damage Control	20
Firearms for Hunting	21
Game and Fish Commissions	21
Harvest Reports	21
Hunting and Fishing Rights	21
Hunting on Private Property	21
Hunting and Trapping Safety.....	22
Licenses	22
Purchase of Wildlife	22
Seasons and Bag Limits	23
Spotlighting	24
Tree Stands	24
Trophies.....	24
Youth Hunting	24
Wildlife Management	24
INSURANCE.....	25
Automobile Insurance	25
Fire and Casualty Insurance	25
LABOR	25
Agricultural Employment	25
Industrial Homework	25
Minimum Wage and Overtime	26
Prevailing Wage Rate	26

Public Employee Act	26
Right-to-Work.....	26
Unemployment Compensation	26
Unionization	26
Workers' Compensation	26
Workers' Compensation and Agriculture	27
LAND USE.....	27
Agricultural Land Preservation	27
Easements, General	28
Local Zoning	28
Rails-to-Trails.....	28
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	28
Children and Youth Programs	28
Impact Fees.....	29
Legal Notices and Recordkeeping.....	29
Legislation and Programs Impacting Municipalities	29
Local Regulation of Agriculture Enterprises.....	29
Municipal Airport Authorities.....	30
Planning and Zoning Commissions	30
Township Supervisors.....	30
MARKETING	30
Marketing and Sales	30
Grain Brokers and Dealers.....	30
MOTOR VEHICLE CODE	30
Non-motorized Vehicles	30
Oversize and Overweight Vehicles.....	30
State Emergencies.....	31
Unmarked Cars.....	31
Vehicle Code and Agriculture	31
Vehicle Code, General	33
Vehicle Weight.....	34
NATURAL RESOURCES	34
Air Quality	34
Biosolids	34
Bottles and Cans.....	34
Chesapeake Bay TMDL	34
Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of.....	34
Conservation Districts	35
Dams	35
Environmental Enforcement.....	35
Environmental Laws and Regulations	35
Habitat	36
Impact on Agriculture	36
Littering.....	36
Manure and Nutrient Management.....	36
Mining Reclamation Bonds.....	37
Mushroom Industry Regulation	37
No-Till	37
Public Dumping on Private Land	37
Public Ownership of Waterways.....	37
Non-Coal Mining	37
Recycling Programs.....	37
River and Stream Control.....	37
Scrap Yards.....	38
Sewage Systems	38
Soil Health	38
Solid Waste Management	38
State Conservation Commission	39
Storage Tank Regulation	39
Stormwater and Erosion Control	39
Water Quality	40
Water Rights	41
Water Wells and Structures.....	41
Weed Control.....	42

Wetlands.....	42
PUBLIC LAND AND FACILITIES	42
Game Lands	42
Public Construction Projects and Facilities	42
Public Land Acquisition and Management.....	42
Public Land Use.....	42
Revenue Distribution.....	43
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND BROADBAND	43
Broadband	43
Electrical Utility Rates	43
Net Metering	43
Public Utility Commission	43
Soil and Property Damage	43
Stray Voltage	44
Utility Lines and Structures.....	44
Utility Marking Flags.....	44
STATE GOVERNMENT	45
Agricultural Classification	45
Agroterrorism and Homeland Security.....	45
Budget	45
Building Codes.....	45
Building Contracts.....	45
Civil Suits.....	45
Compliance Audits	46
Court Documents	46
Disaster Declarations	46
Executive Branch	47
Fair Dealership Law	47
False Complaints to Government Agencies.....	47
Farm Size Limitation	47
Firearms and Weapons Regulation	47
Gambling	48
General Assembly.....	48
Grants, Loans, and Financial Programs	48
Immigration	48
Penn State Trustees	48
Property Rights	48
Public Records.....	49
Real Estate Transfers	49
Salaries and Benefits of Governmental Officials.....	49
State Aid Eligibility	50
State Police and Law Enforcement	50
Surveying Standards.....	50
Timber Harvest	50
Warranty and Repair Laws.....	50
Young and Beginning Farmers.....	50
TAXES.....	50
Clean and Green Act Administration	50
Depreciation.....	52
Income Tax	52
Inheritance Tax	52
Liquid Fuels Tax.....	53
Local Taxation	53
Real Property Taxes	53
Realty Transfer Tax	54
Sales Tax.....	54
Severance Tax.....	54
Tax Assessment Administration	55
Time of Payment.....	55
TRESPASSING	55
Agricultural Trespass	55
General Trespass	55
Hunting-Related Trespass	56

**POLICIES ON STATE ISSUES ADOPTED BY
THE VOTING DELEGATES
OF THE MEMBER COUNTY FARM BUREAUS
TO THE 73rd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU
NOVEMBER 13–15, 2023.**

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Grape and Wine Production

We recommend the Liquor Control Board dedicate a percentage of revenue from all wines sold in Pennsylvania for funding extension, research, and development programs in oenology and viticulture, and for marketing and promotion of Pennsylvania wines. ('21)

AGRICULTURE, PENNSYLVANIA DEPT. OF

Administration

We recommend the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau be involved in the development of any policy or quarantines implemented by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. ('21)

We oppose non-US citizens and companies and their subsidiaries financially benefiting from PA Department of Agriculture programs. ('21)

Agricultural Program Funding

General Program Funding

We recommend:

1. The State Food Purchase Program be increased by \$5 million to allow food banks to process more Pennsylvania surplus food products. ('21)
2. Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers be issued in denominations of five dollars. ('23)

Agritourism

We recommend:

1. Hayride attractions not be recognized as an amusement ride, and therefore should not be considered under the Amusement Ride Inspection Act. ('22)
2. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture develop an online portal to provide safety resources, requirements and online training for conducting agritourism operations. ('22)
3. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture publish size and weight requirements for tow vehicles involved in hayride agritourism operations. ('22)
4. All hayride attraction owners that do not operate a farm receive a one time/one hour of mandatory training on safety and liability. ('22)

Certification and Inspection Programs

We recommend:

1. The Department of Agriculture institute a standard for weed-free hay, straw and mulch products that meets the standards required for state and federal land use by the Bureau of Land Management. ('21)
2. The Department of Agriculture establish a program for labeling of PA Preferred grass fed beef. ('21)
3. Legislation to develop a state meat inspection program to promote local processing and retail sale of livestock and venison. ('21)
4. The creation of a state meat inspection program that complies with the Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program. ('21)
5. The creation of a comprehensive guide to the initiation, licensure, and operation of both custom exempt and USDA slaughter facilities in Pennsylvania. ('23)

6. Pennsylvania give tax credits to start up or existing “small” (as defined by USDA) meat and poultry slaughter facilities in amounts equal to the amount that the business spends on upgrading or purchasing slaughter or processing equipment. (‘21)

7. Incentives, both including tax, grant funding, and others, be made available for independent meat and poultry processing facilities, or other capital improvements in Pennsylvania. (‘22)

Disaster Assistance Program

We recommend Pennsylvania develop an agricultural disaster assistance program for all commodities, including equine, to include grants, low interest loans and the distribution of surplus feedstuffs which includes free transportation. (‘21)

Dog and Kennel Regulation and Enforcement

Dog Law, General

We recommend:

1. Dog law enforcement continue to be performed by the Department of Agriculture. (‘21)

2. That Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania townships be prohibited from enacting ordinances that impose more stringent requirements and standards than currently required under the Pennsylvania Dog Law. (‘23)

3. Farm dogs not be required to be restrained while riding in a vehicle during normal farm operations. (‘21)

4. Continued allowance of pet shop kennels that are licensed and inspected by the state to purchase animals from multiple sources. (‘21)

5. All kennels licensed and inspected by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture abide by the same regulatory standards, regardless of status (e.g., commercial, non-commercial, non-profit or boarding). (‘21)

6. The price of individual dog licenses be increased. (‘21)

Fairs and Shows

We recommend any action regarding the Farm Show Complex be approved by the Farm Show Commission. (‘21)

Honey and Apiculture

We recommend establishing uniform guidelines for urban beekeepers using best management practices developed by the PA Apiary Advisory Board. These guidelines should be enforced through state law and supersede local regulations. (‘21)

Promotion of Pennsylvania Products

We recommend:

1. All state and county prisons, government centers, schools, colleges, senior housing, juvenile facilities and other institutions utilize at least 40 percent of their dairy, fruit, vegetable, meat and wood products from Pennsylvania producers. (‘21)

2. Companies that receive state grants for the purpose of building, expanding or updating an agricultural processing plant use a minimum of 25 percent Pennsylvania agricultural products when available. (‘21)

Regulation of Animals Other Than Livestock

We recommend:

1. All currently approved exotic species in private control be identified with tattoo or microchip. (‘21)

2. The Department of Agriculture streamline and computerize record keeping for deer farm activities. (‘21)

3. That captive/farm cervidae be considered livestock under PA Law. (‘22)

4. No restrictions be placed on farmed fish stocking without approval by the Pennsylvania Aquaculture Advisory Committee. (‘21)

Weights and Measures

We recommend:

1. Commercial scales be certified yearly. ('21)
2. Commercial grain moisture testers be certified yearly. ('21)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Alcoholic Beverage Sales

We recommend:

1. The legal drinking age remain at 21 years of age. ('21)
2. The tax on alcoholic beverages be increased 10 percent and that these additional revenues be used to promote programs to combat drunken driving. ('21)
3. Liquor stores be state regulated but privately owned and operated. ('21)
4. Limited distilleries be able to sell liquor produced on their licensed premises at a price lower than that charged by the PLCB. ('21)

Underage Drinking

We recommend \$5,000 minimum fines as well as increased jail time for offenders who provide alcohol to minors. ('21)

Wineries

We recommend:

1. Pennsylvania beer distributors be allowed to stock, sell and promote products made by Pennsylvania Limited Wineries. ('21)
2. Pennsylvania wineries not be required to obtain a PLCB amusement permit to host events with live entertainment. ('21)

ANIMAL HEALTH

Animal Care

We recommend:

1. The continued rights of farmers to keep and confine poultry and livestock for agricultural production purposes. ('21)
2. Allowing animal owners to prove an animal's value is greater than the purchase price or fair market value for purposes of determining economic damages in court actions. ('21)
3. Law enforcement officers not be permitted to detain vehicles hauling livestock more than 15 minutes. ('21)
4. A protocol of standards of care be developed for voluntary implementation by equine rescue organizations/facilities. ('21)
5. Farmers be allowed to humanely dock tails and dehorn cattle. ('21)
6. The One Health Task force not be converted to a commission or have the ability to enact regulations. ('21)
7. USDA licensed guinea pig breeders be able to euthanize their own animals. ('21)
8. Once an animal is delivered at the meat processing plant, and the animal exits the delivery vehicle under its own power without assistance, the animal becomes the responsibility of the meat processing plant, and any charges that may be incurred after that point for a rendering company are not the responsibility of the original owner should that animal become a "down cow." ('22)
9. Relief grants provided by the government to assist poultry farmers should be available to all poultry farmers affected by Avian Influenza even if out of the quarantine area. ('23)
10. Law enforcement officers employed by the Commonwealth or municipality have standing authority to euthanize injured wildlife. ('23)

We oppose:

1. Any state law that would prohibit the use of a firearm by the animal's owner to euthanize an animal. ('21)
2. State funding for equine rescue facilities. ('21)

Animal Drugs

We recommend:

1. Farmers continue to be permitted to administer inoculations and medications to animals on their farms and kennels. ('21)
2. The Department of Agriculture develop a livestock antibiotics, pharmaceutical supplies and medications residue and waste collection program, similar to ChemSweep. ('21)

Animal Health

We recommend standardized testing requirements for all animals exhibited in the State. ('21)

We oppose any legislation or ordinance requiring a farmer to maintain an animal's veterinary records after the animal has been sold, traded, given away or transferred to a new owner, or when the animal is no longer residing on the farm or kennel. ('21)

Chronic Wasting Disease

We recommend:

1. State agencies assist in funding for genetic resistance research to eliminate Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in cervidae. ('21)
2. A CWD eradication program which utilizes state and federal assistance and provides compensation for cervid and livestock producers affected by CWD. ('21)

Cruelty to Animals Law Enforcement

We recommend:

1. There be no change to the State's Cruelty to Animals Law which would make it more restrictive. ('21)
2. A private organization be prohibited from having any authority to enforce the Cruelty to Animals Law unless the organization's meetings and other business affairs are fully open to the public, members of the public are afforded fair opportunity to discuss affairs of the organization at organization meetings, and eligibility of the public to become members and to elect the organization's governing body is unrestricted. ('21)
3. Humane society police officers be responsible for injuries or damages to property that may occur in the course of investigation or enforcement of animal cruelty laws. ('21)
4. Humane officers be prohibited from superseding recommendations and guidelines set in place by a USDA inspector regarding any animal production regulated by the USDA. ('21)
5. Animal cruelty organizations not be able to investigate without a signed complaint. ('21)
6. A farmer be prohibited from indictment for the condition of purchased animals before being given a reasonable rehabilitation time. ('21)
7. Upon investigation of a cruelty to animals complaint, if an offense is found by the SPCA/Humane Society, the offender must be given three months from the time of written notification to correct the issues found if the issues found do not present an immediate danger to the animals, as determined by one of two other independent expert witnesses (one either a large animal veterinarian, and/or an expert pertaining to species in question from Penn State Extension). The other independent expert must accompany the animal humane law enforcement officer to site of alleged violation before any citation is issued. ('21)
8. Large Animal Protection Societies and humane societies be prohibited from issuing any citations or violations against a breeder if the breeder's licensed veterinarian declares the animal to be in good health or under the veterinarian's care. ('21)
9. If animals are seized by a humane society, the boarding rate to be assessed cannot be greater than the average rate in the county of origin of the animal. ('21)

10. A humane officer not be allowed to remove livestock and equines to another premise with livestock and equines until animal health and disease tests have been completed by a veterinarian. ('21)

11. In the case of a humane officer confiscating an animal, they must provide a comprehensive and transparent management plan for transportation and care of the animals being confiscated. ('22)

12. The Humane Society Police Officer Advisory Board be changed from a non-binding authority to an authority with binding power to allow for more control over Humane Society Police Officers. ('21)

13. If any governmental advisory councils should be formed regarding animal welfare that Pennsylvania Animal Welfare Society and Pennsylvania Professional Pet Breeders Association be represented on such councils. ('22)

14. Additional funding not be provided to the Pennsylvania State Police for administration of animal cruelty investigations. ('21)

15. The standard of "clean and sanitary" shelter be removed from the Animal Cruelty Law. ('21)

16. The repeal of Libre's Law. ('21)

We oppose the creation of an animal abuser registry. ('21)

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease

We recommend extensive research for eradication measures to control EHD. ('21)

Equine Herpes Virus

We recommend that Pennsylvania require mandatory reporting to the state veterinarian of horses that test positive for EHV-1. ('21)

Johne's Disease

We recommend the Department of Agriculture:

1. Develop an accurate blood test for Johne's disease;
2. Develop a mandatory program to control and/or eradicate Johne's disease in cattle. ('21)

Regulation of Animals Other Than Traditional Livestock

We recommend no feral swine be allowed kept in captivity. ('21)

ANIMAL PROGRAMS

Beef

We support funding for the Center for Beef Excellence. ('21)

Equine

We recommend:

1. Establishing an equine slaughter facility in Pennsylvania to be subject to state animal laws. ('21)
2. All equine rescue facilities be licensed by the Department of Agriculture and be subject to an annual health and safety inspection. ('21)
3. A veterinarian not be required to be present for performance of equine dentistry. ('21)

Horseracing

We recommend:

1. Oversight over the Pennsylvania Horse and Harness Racing Commission not be taken away from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. ('21)
2. The Department of Agriculture appoint members of diversified horseracing backgrounds to the State Racing Commissions. ('21)
3. The formation of an advisory group to offer advice to the Department on horse and harness racing issues such as: more races written for Pennsylvania Sired horses at all levels from claiming to stakes. ('21)

DAIRY

Biosecurity

We recommend Pennsylvania develop an educational plan for dairy producers, haulers and processors to review and determine voluntarily bio-security procedures to be implemented for transportation of raw milk from non-infected premises in the event of hoof and mouth or similar emergencies. ('21)

Milk Marketing Law

We recommend:

1. Continuance of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Law as a means of orderly marketing of Pennsylvania's dairy products. ('21)
2. A minimum wholesale and retail price that: a) does not burden PA consumers with a price for dairy products that is significantly higher than surrounding states, and b) helps to support small and local independent bottlers to compete with large national brands. ('22)
3. The name of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board be changed to the Pennsylvania Milk Regulatory Board. ('21)
4. The PMMB account for all the money collected on all milk sold in Pennsylvania through the licensing of distributors for retail fluid milk sales. ('22)
5. Funding be restored for a Secretary and/or Bureau of Consumer Affairs as provided for in the Milk Marketing Law. ('21)
6. The PA Milk Marketing Law be amended to allow milk to be included in shopping reward programs. ('21)

Milk Quality

We recommend:

1. The penalty level for Somatic Cell Counts in milk be changed to the 400,000 level. ('21)
2. During public health inspections for dairy farms, only the farms that score less than a 90 be penalized. ('21)

Over-Order Premiums

We recommend:

1. Eliminating the over-order premium and replacing it with a PMMB-regulated surcharge per gallon of milk retailed in Pennsylvania, with proceeds placed in a pool fund to be evenly distributed to all Pennsylvania producers regardless of where the milk was produced or processed. ('21)
2. An over order premium that: (1) distributes premium dollars uniformly per CWT among all Pennsylvania dairy producers, (2) the amount charged to Pennsylvania consumers not be substantially more than is distributed back to Pennsylvania dairy farmers, and (3) the distributing system must not provide incentives to move raw milk across state lines to avoid the over order premium from reaching Pennsylvania dairy producers; and the OOP is not supported indefinitely in the event this cannot be achieved. ('22)
3. Over-order premium money be collected by a state agency with the distribution of the money to farmers based on total hundredweight (CWT) shipped per year minus administration fees of three to five percent. ('23)

Processing Facilities

We recommend:

1. Incentives, both tax and others, be made available for milk and milk-product plant construction and expansion or other capital improvements in Pennsylvania. ('21)

2. The Pennsylvania General Assembly commission a study of environmental, zoning, taxation and regulatory requirements that impact dairy manufacturing and processing plants decisions when selecting a location for a plant or upgrading an existing plant. ('21)

Producer Pricing

We recommend Pennsylvania work cooperatively with surrounding states to establish higher Class I over-order premiums for producers. ('21)

Raw Milk

We recommend the intrastate sale of raw milk and all other dairy products from permitted and inspected facilities and that each state be permitted to regulate raw milk sales without federal intervention. ('21)

School and Government Milk Sales

We recommend:

1. All milk in Pennsylvania schools and prisons be 2% or whole milk, including flavored milk. ('21)
2. The PMMB consider blend pricing for all half pint milk containers for schools. ('21)

EDUCATION

Agricultural Education

We recommend:

1. Public schools allow for excused absences for children to participate in agricultural education activities. ('21)
2. Agricultural science curriculums be offered in all school districts. ('21)
3. Schools be required to provide all students with introductory agriculture education and wildlife conservation. ('21)
4. The PA Department of Education, when calculating hours for state reimbursement of agricultural programs, allow general education to count toward 40 percent of the required hours for agricultural education. ('21)
5. Funding for the Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence. ('22)

Charter Schools

We recommend charter schools that have operated in good standing for at least 10 years not be subject to a 5-year charter renewal process unless a material incident warranting charter revocation occurs. ('21)

Curriculum

We recommend:

1. All Commonwealth schools adopt a cursive reading and writing curriculum. ('21)
2. The Pennsylvania Department of Education establish a priority list of programs to preserve for school districts, with intracurricular activities ranking higher than extracurricular sports. Schools that eliminate priority programs would result in further capping of local taxing ability. ('21)
3. Driver education be required curriculum in public schools, with a component educating drivers on the hazards of agricultural and horse drawn equipment on the road. ('23)
4. Critical race theory not be taught in schools. ('21)
5. The development of a civics/government curriculum to teach students about local, state, and national government. ('22)
6. Schools be required to offer curriculum on personal finances. ('23)

Funding of Public Education

We recommend:

1. Funding for cyber schools be prorated in consideration of their lower overhead costs. ('21)

2. Schools should not be paying any more than the average tuition rate per child to any cyber school, if a cyber school for that district is not provided. ('21)
3. School district tax dollars follow the student and be distributed proportionately to the cost of the education system—public, private, charter, cyber and homeschool options. ('22)
4. Local school board budget approval mandates be moved until after June 30. ('21)

Higher Education

We recommend:

1. Grants and loans be based on net income for eligibility requirements. ('21)
 2. Reinstatement of funding for the PHEAA Agriculture Loan Forgiveness program. ('21)
 3. PHEAA loan forgiveness be expanded to include Food Animal Veterinarians under the following limitations:
 - a. The veterinary practice is composed of at least 50 percent large animals.
 - b. Must work for at least one year to be eligible.
 - c. Loan forgiveness be based on a 10-year period.
 - d. Loan forgiveness provides \$10-\$20,000 per year. ('21)
 4. The establishment of credit-based, student-run college farms that provide food to school dining halls. ('21)
 5. State-funded higher education institutions work together to share resources. ('21)
 6. Legislation that would increase funding to the Penn State Meat Science School to allow class size increase, or to another accredited program within the state of Pennsylvania. ('22)
 7. Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences have a researcher dedicated to crop and livestock damage from wildlife. ('23)
 8. Penn State Extension Service be more relevant to productive agriculture in Pennsylvania by having a "hands on" local presence and by being more accessible as a grassroots resource. ('22)
 9. Adoption of legislation to forgive up to \$16,000 in student debt loan debt for those who have served a minimum of five years as an active member of a volunteer fire company, volunteer rescue company or an emergency medical service agency. ('21)
- We oppose:
1. Any proposal that would require state funding of tuition and related college costs for all residents. ('21)
 2. The state government mandating the forgiveness of student debts. ('22)

Prayer

We recommend student led prayer and bible reading in public schools at the discretion of the students. ('21)

School Building Construction

We recommend expenditure of tax revenue meeting the following conditions be considered by public referendum:

1. Construction of any new public school facilities ('21), or
2. Construction or improvement of any school sport facilities costing more than \$500,000. ('21)

School Districts

We recommend:

1. School district consolidation not be mandated by the State. ('21)
2. If a school district elects to reduce its financial responsibility by relocating students to surrounding school districts, the school districts accepting those students be reimbursed by the State for all associated costs and not incur any additional debt. ('21)

Teacher Training

We recommend “Act 48” hours start after certified teachers begin teaching full time in public schools, accredited private schools and secular schools. (‘21)

Vocational Education

We recommend state income and inheritance tax credits be available to donors of equipment or other materials to vocational technical schools. (‘21)

ELECTIONS AND ELECTED OFFICE

Candidate Requirements

We recommend nominating petitions:

1. Require candidates to disclose if they have been convicted of a felony, and (‘21)
2. State that convicted felons cannot legally hold office. (‘21)

Judges

We recommend:

1. Judges be elected, not appointed. (‘21)
2. Judges should stand for reelection not retention. (‘21)
3. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justices be elected by regional Districts. (‘21)

Terms of Office

We recommend:

1. All state elected officials shall not serve more than 12 years. (‘21)
2. The term of office for County Commissioners be six years, with one Commissioner being elected every two years. (‘21)
3. The Pennsylvania legislature adopt a recall system for all elected officials. (‘21)

Voting

We recommend:

1. Voting in the Commonwealth only be permitted in-person or by absentee ballot, and that early voting or mail-in ballot options not be permitted. (‘21)
 2. No additional boxes of ballots for mail in ballots be permitted in the voting location following election closing. (‘21)
 3. Election ballot drop boxes be located in a secure location such as a courthouse. (‘22)
 4. There be no change to Pennsylvania voter registration law, so that it remain an opt-in option. (‘23)
 5. Judges be required to hear election fraud cases. (‘21)
- We oppose rank choice voting. (‘23)

EMINENT DOMAIN

Eminent Domain

We recommend:

1. A law be enacted that when a property is condemned and the price disputed (and/or ends up in court) if any additional money is awarded to the property owner, the condemner pays all costs (court, lawyer’s fees, appraiser fees, etc.) and that this prevent the costs coming out of the award to the owner. (‘21)
2. Changing the Eminent Domain Code to compensate farms for their entire enterprise value, including “Goodwill”. (‘22)
3. State and local governments not be authorized to exercise eminent domain powers for purposes of flood control. (‘21)

Farmland Taking

We recommend:

1. Municipalities and utilities be prohibited from acquiring by eminent domain any property interest in a farm subject to an agricultural conservation easement. (‘21)

2. The farmer representative on Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board (ALCAB) have a pre-approved alternate representative if they are unable to attend a hearing. ('21)
3. The highway condemnation standard for land in an agricultural security area and active farmland be strengthened and that the condemnation exception for activities relating to existing highways be eliminated. ('21)
4. All condemnation "takings" from active farm operations for transportation projects be subject to a Board of View, no exceptions. ('22)

Landfills

We recommend eminent domain not be used to acquire land for landfills. ('21)

ENERGY

Energy Alternatives

We recommend:

1. The state government:
 - a. Provide state tax incentives for ethanol reformulated fuels to match federal tax incentives. ('21)
 - b. Provide tax incentives to businesses, industries, governments, homeowners and non-profit organizations who convert their furnaces and equipment to natural gas. ('21)
 - c. Provide tax credits for conversion of farm trucks and equipment to run on compressed natural gas. ('21)
 - d. Provide tax credits for farmers to host community energy generation projects, so long as landowners receive the majority share of compensation for available energy, despite any community, financial or other input. ('21)
 - e. Provide tax credits for agricultural and other businesses that implement the use of any renewable sources of energy in their operations, including:
 - i. Geo Thermal;
 - ii. Methane digesters, farm or sewage plants;
 - iii. Wood;
 - iv. Biodiesel fuel;
 - v. Solar. ('21)
 - f. Establish a loan guarantee program for renewable liquid fuels projects at the rate of \$2 per gallon of annual production. ('21)
 - g. Work to implement the production of ethanol from whey. ('21)
 - h. Research to find ways of making co-products of alternative fuels into edible food products. ('21)
2. Nuclear power plants be eligible to receive alternative energy credits. ('21)
3. Companies who lease land for solar and wind energy projects be required to pay decommissioned bonds that cover all of the disposal costs for equipment once it is no longer useful or operational. ('21)
4. Pennsylvania close its borders to outside Solar Renewable Energy Credits and raise the solar requirements. ('21)
5. A fee on commercial solar farms that would go into the PA Agricultural Land Preservation Fund to provide more funding for farmland preservation. ('23)
6. Solar projects be placed on marginal or non-prime farmland by providing economic and tax incentives to developers and landowners. ('21)
7. Utility scale solar projects not be allowed on productive Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 Pennsylvania farmland. ('23)

8. Solar panels should be encouraged for installation on existing or new structures. Large solar panel projects 1MW systems or larger should be regulated as a commercial industry to preserve open space and agricultural land. ('22)
9. Solar panels be placed on new warehouses of at least 100,000 square feet where construction permits have not been declared completed by the enforcing agency. For existing warehouses, we recommend providing 40% tax credits on their corporate business tax. ('23)
10. Pennsylvania legalize community solar facilities. ('23)
11. Eliminating state funding for solar projects producing electricity for the grid unless placed on existing structures. ('21)

Energy Cost

We oppose utilities recovering renewable compliance costs as a stranded cost. ('21)

Windmills

We recommend:

1. Windmills have a minimum setback of 1,000 feet from any residence unless voluntarily agreed to by the resident. ('21)
2. State laws and regulations on windmills supersede local regulations. ('21)

FAMILY AND RURAL LIFE

Abortion

We recommend efforts be undertaken to enact a Pennsylvania law to ban partial-birth abortion if court decisions overturn the Partial-Birth Abortion Act of 2004. ('21)

FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES

Fertilizer Regulation

We oppose:

1. Requiring the registration of persons who sell or distribute commercial fertilizers and agricultural minerals for agricultural purposes. ('21)
2. Requiring the certification of persons authorized to apply commercial manufactured fertilizers and agricultural minerals for agricultural purposes. ('21)

Pesticide Regulation

We recommend:

1. Farmer members be included on PDA and Extension committees established to administer funds allocated to research and control of invasive species. ('21)
2. Regulation of pesticide-treated seed remain with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture seed program. ('23)
3. The pesticide regulatory structure established within the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture be the sole approach to addressing health and environmental concerns with the use of pesticides. ('23)
4. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Pesticide program be the lead on any proposed oversight or regulation of PFAS in pesticides, pesticide containers, adjuvants, and other pesticide additives. ('23)

GAS AND OIL DRILLING

Inspection and Testing

We recommend:

1. Mandatory baseline and post well completion tests of surface water and water wells in a 2,500-foot radius of gas and oil well drilling sites. ('21)

2. Gas and gas storage companies be required to pay for independent testing of surface water and water wells by a DEP certified laboratory with the results delivered directly to the landowner in a 2,500-foot radius of drilling and storage/retrieval sites. ('21)

3. The PUC oversee the amount of production cost and the production cost expenses associated with gathering lines, hydration, processing, compression and production fees. ('21)

Leases

We recommend:

1. Gas and oil companies who break a lease for any reason be required to remove all records of the lease from the County Recorder of Deeds Office in the Courthouse within 90 days. ('21)

2. A lessee of an oil or gas lease be required to notify the lessor in writing of any sale or transfer of any portion of the lessee's interest in the lease. ('21)

3. The lessee be required to have expired leases removed from property records within six months of lease expiration. ('21)

4. The value of oil or gas from which required minimum royalty (of 12.5 percent) payments to lessors are determined not allow for reductions for costs of oil or gas extraction, processing or transmission, severance or extraction taxes, post production, market enhancement or other costs and that the value be determined under the first marketable product doctrine. ('21)

5. Automatic renewal clauses for oil and gas leases require material drilling activity to have taken place to be valid. ('21)

6. Royalty payments be required to be paid initially on or before the 60th day after production and transmission begins. ('21)

7. Gas well operators who are delinquent on royalty payments be required to pay the landowner or royalty owner an additional 10 percent penalty based on the most recent cost within the calendar month to the landowner or royalty owner on amount of delinquent payment of any royalties. ('21)

8. Royalty payment check stubs be required to provide the following for each separate well:

- a. The name of the lessor;
- b. The lessor's identification number (the account number or payee number utilized by producer);
- c. The lease number, property name and tax parcel number, well name and American Petroleum Institute number used to identify the lease and well;
- d. The month and year during which the sale occurred for which payment is being made;
- e. The total volume of oil and gas produced by the well at the wellhead;
- f. If the well is operated under a joint operating agreement and multiple payors are responsible for payment to the lessor, all payors must be listed and applicable percentages shown on each payor's monthly statement;
- g. The total volume of oil represented by the payment measured in barrels;
- h. The total volume of gas represented by the payment, measured in mcf and the btu value;
- i. The total volume of natural gas liquids (NGL) represented by the payment, measured in gallons or barrels;
- j. The price per barrel of oil sold or mcf of gas sold or the price per barrel (or price by gallon, if applicable) of NGL sold, as applicable;
- k. Total amount of the state severance and production taxes;
- l. Lessor's interest in the sale expressed as a decimal;
- m. Lessor's share of the sale before any deductions or adjustments;

- n. Lessor's share of the sale after deductions or adjustments;
 - o. Specific deduction code to account for any deduction shown (including, without limitation: transportation, tax, line loss, compression, processing, treatment, marketing, gathering, third party charge); and
 - p. An address and telephone number for which additional information may be obtained and questions answered. ('21)
9. Statutory establishment of rebuttable presumption of legal abandonment of any subsurface interest whose subsurface owner has continuously failed to engage in any physical activity or pay any taxes related to the interest for 50 years. ('21)

Metering

We recommend all gas and oil wells be required to:

1. Have a meter that measures quantities of gas or oil extracted or stored, and that these meters be standardized, easily read and display measurements in numerical form. ('21)
2. Be calibrated and certified for accuracy of gas and oil well meters under a program similar to certification of public scales by a third-party agency at prescribed intervals. ('21)

Pooling

We recommend government not have the power to impose forced pooling without protection of correlative rights under the conservation law. ('21)

Sub-surface Rights

We recommend owners of surface rights receive direct notification by certified registered mail of the tax sale of oil, gas, and mineral rights related to property they own. ('21)

Transmission and Storage

We recommend:

1. Private gas companies not have authority to acquire gas transmission easements by eminent domain. ('21)
2. Gas companies be required to inform landowners and local authorities of the geological horizons, or strata, of gas storage and how the gas will be stored and retrieved. ('21)
3. All businesses performing pipeline construction activities be required to be registered and bonded with the Commonwealth. ('21)

Well Drilling and Operation

We recommend:

1. The minimum amounts of bonding required for permitted oil and gas wells be \$25,000 per well and \$250,000 per blanket bond. ('21)
2. Gas and oil well setbacks from unleased property boundaries be established at 200 feet. ('21)
3. Local governments not be permitted to adopt ordinances against research and drilling of gas wells on private property. ('21)
4. Surface owner consent be required for extension beyond the nine-month requirement for site restoration. ('21)
5. That any gas well, energy production work, or maintenance performed on private property that causes water or any other damage on cultivated production ground must be restored to original contour and use within 60 days of completion of the energy company's production or maintenance work or a time period otherwise agreed upon by the landowner. ('22)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Automobile Safety

We recommend:

1. Use of hand-held cellular phones by the driver of a car for holding a conversation be prohibited while the vehicle is in motion. ('21)
2. All pet animals traveling in vehicles be restricted to the back seat or passenger side of a vehicle. ('21)

Disease Control and Prevention

We recommend:

1. Use of deer tick killing stations as a Lyme Disease control measure. ('21)
 2. Agencies and organizations receiving blood donations for public use in transfusions be required to test all blood received for babesia. ('21)
 3. The State provide funding for Lyme Disease education and to accelerate research on Lyme Disease vaccines, treatment and eradication. ('23)
 4. Health insurers be required to provide insurance coverage for testing, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme or other tick-borne diseases and co-infections, when prescribed by a physician, even when not FDA approved. ('23)
 5. A health care practitioner be immune from disciplinary action if treating a patient for Lyme or other tick-borne diseases in accordance with National Guidelines Clearinghouse (NGC) published guidelines of International Lyme and Associated Disease (ILADS). ('21)
 6. Health care providers' continuing education requirements include Lyme disease and other tick-borne illness education. ('21)
 7. Health insurers be required to cover any expenses incurred for the treatment of potential rabies exposure determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. ('21)
 8. Not withholding any state funding from local schools for not complying with state or federal health mandates. ('21)
- We oppose mask mandates and support exemptions from such mandates for individuals with health conditions, hearing impairment and mental health disabilities with no requirement of proof from the individual. ('21)

Fireworks

We recommend:

1. Launch sites for fireworks used for entertainment purposes be minimum of 1,500 feet from adjoining farms unless written permission is obtained from the property owner. ('21)
2. The setback for private explosive fireworks be a minimum of 500 feet from animal housing units. ('21)

Healthcare

We recommend:

1. The Pennsylvania legislature provide incentives for the delivery of medical and mental health services in rural areas, including financial incentives to Pennsylvania medical students training to become family practitioners, general surgeons, or other primary care physicians, who intend to practice in rural Pennsylvania. ('21)
2. The State continue operating mental institutions and allowing new admissions. ('21)
3. Non-financial (clinical) eligibility determinations for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services remain under the Department of Aging. ('21)
4. Oversight and implementation of Older Adults Protective Services (aged 60 and above) remain under the Department of Aging. ('21)

5. The provisions of Act 22 of 2011 granting the Department of Human Services the broad authority to change Medicare and provider reimbursement rates without oversight by the General Assembly or the Independent Regulatory Review Commission be repealed. ('21)
6. Requiring emergency service providers that offer their members amnesty from any fees or charges for services provided that are not covered by the member's insurance, to be required, when responding to, treating or transporting a member of another similar organization that offers the same or similar amnesty to honor the other emergency services provider's amnesty. ('22)
7. Pennsylvania reinstate group health insurance. ('23)

Medical Testing

We recommend:

1. Random drug testing, including blood alcohol levels, be mandatory for all public and private personnel who are responsible for the safety of the public. ('21)
2. Unannounced drug testing of individuals (students and staff) be allowed in all public and private schools that accept public funding. ('21)

Pest Control

We recommend:

1. The legalization of products like "Rodenator" to control burrowing pests. ('21)
2. State and county agencies cooperate on implementing invasive species control such as spongy moth and spotted lanternfly. ('22)

Safety

We recommend:

1. Used farm equipment being sold by dealers be required to have manufacturer-recommended safety shields. ('21)
2. Liquid manure pits be required to be fenced in a manner to prevent accidental human entry. ('21)
3. Fencing with signage be required warning of possible toxic gases in and around permanent manure storage facilities. ('21)
4. Increased funding for training of local emergency response teams in agricultural emergencies, including grain bin rescues, and that ongoing training options for the grain rescue tube be available every two to three years. ('21)
5. All first responders (including volunteer and paid firefighters, ambulance crews, local police, and regional state police) be properly trained to handle animals that are involved in barn fires and road accidents. ('21)
6. County and municipal employees that visit farms be educated to comply with biosecurity regulations and practices. ('21)
7. An increase in spraying and funding, through DEP and annual appropriations, for black flies. ('21)
8. Non-solicited computer-generated phone calls be limited to bona fide public interest issues and emergencies. ('21)
9. The creation of a dedicated funding pool for assistive devices for farmers with disabilities. ('23)
10. Financial assistance for farmers with disabilities even if farming isn't their primary occupation or if they are new farmers. ('23)
11. State funding to support training for experts in human trafficking for non-governmental organizations, non-profits, and other expert groups. ('23)

We oppose any mandate to require installing seat belts or roll bars on tractors not originally equipped with such safety products. ('21)

Food Safety

We recommend:

1. All nonprofit member organizations be exempt from regulatory standards imposed on commercial food retailers. ('21)
2. We recommend the Retail Food Facility Safety Act be amended to require proprietors to obtain only one food market stand license, rather than multiple licenses, for each farmers market attended. ('21)

HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Fuel Surcharges

We recommend that proceeds of fuel surcharges paid under a government contract be passed on to the independent truckers that pay for the fuel. ('21)

Maintenance

Infrastructure

We recommend:

1. Maintenance of highways, roads and bridges be given priority over new construction, especially rural state routes. ('21)
2. The State maintain the State roads to accommodate trucks loaded with maximum weight limits. ('21)
3. All road culverts be inspected and problems corrected before roads are resurfaced. ('21)
4. Any new construction of guide rails be placed with enough width to meet the new equipment width laws for implements of husbandry. ('22)
5. Property owners have first opportunity to use soil removed along the road right-of-way from the property. ('21)
6. The State use a supervised work release program for non-risk prisoners to pick up garbage along the highways. ('21)
7. PennDOT separate its winter and summer maintenance budgets, so that northern counties do not lose their highway expenditures after costly winter expenses. ('21)
8. The state provide a grant program for snow scrapers in locations easily accessible for tractor trailer use. ('23)
9. Financing for interstate highway maintenance come out of general statewide funding without reducing funding for road maintenance at the county level. ('21)
10. Second class townships with a population of 2000 or less, whose liquid fuel budget is equal to or five times less than the general fund annual budget be provided a high priority classification for funding. ('22)
11. PennDOT return retention ponds, built to slow water runoff along state roads, to their originally engineered depths by removing sediment buildup. ('21)
12. Municipalities be able to use salt brine directly from wells for dust control on their dirt roads. ('22)
13. Municipalities be able to use liquid fuel funds for dust control. ('22)

Weeds and Brush

We recommend:

1. The responsible government agencies keep the corridor of travel clear of limbs and branches to a height of 16 feet, and to the edge of the right-of-way, and/or at least 6 feet from the edge of the road. ('21)
2. PennDOT work with regional utility line tree trimmers and the public identifying imminent changes of trees falling into the roadway. ('22)
3. Allowing PennDOT to contract with townships to trim trees on state roads in their townships. ('23)

4. PennDOT be held accountable for damages to private property caused by lack of up-keep and maintenance of highway rights-of-way that were taken through eminent domain or purchased. ('23)
5. Farmers with property adjoining highways not be held liable for tree damage to motorists. ('23)
6. Agricultural vehicles that are less than 14 feet in height traveling on the road or in the road right-of-way not be liable for any damage resulting from knocking down low hanging tree limbs or branches encroaching the road right-of-way. ('21)
7. Additional funding be provided for safe removal of Emerald Ash Borer damaged trees along PennDOT-maintained roadways. ('21)

Motor License and Liquid Fuels Revenues

We recommend:

1. All monies in the Motor License Fund received from fuel taxes, registration of vehicles, licenses and other taxes, be used solely for the improvement of the highway system. ('21)
2. The gasoline fuel tax be capped at \$0.576 per gallon and the diesel fuel tax be capped at \$0.741 per gallon. ('22)

Privatization

We recommend that if the Turnpike Commission assets are leased privately, local governments be able to receive property tax base compensation. ('21)

Railroads

We recommend:

1. Keeping and upgrading rail lines and spur lines to facilitate the transportation of grain, feed, fertilizer and other agricultural products. ('21)
2. Exempting private, farm railroad crossings, used for the purposes of agricultural production, from user fees, maintenance charges and liability insurance requirements. ('21)
3. Railroad crossings to farm fields remain open and maintained by the railroad. ('21)

Road and Bridge Construction

We recommend:

1. Private contractors, engineers and inspectors involved in private highway and bridge construction be held responsible for the work done for five years after completion of the project. ('21)
2. Bridge inspection programs eliminate conflicts of interest by prohibiting companies that inspect and recommend bridge repairs to also bid on performing repairs for that bridge project. ('21)
3. When bridges need replacement, use culverts when feasible. ('21)
4. All temporary roadways used for highway construction projects in rural areas be a minimum of 18 feet wide including shoulders to accommodate agricultural equipment. ('22)
5. Any bridge being rebuilt have a minimum of 20 feet open travel lane. ('22)
6. Once a bridge has been assessed by the governing authority and deemed to be structurally inadequate causing either a decreased weight limit or bridge closure, the planning process for repair and or replacement of that bridge must begin within six months. ('22)
7. Funding for a long-term Penn State study of the sociological impact of any proposed highway corridor realignment. ('22)
8. To help the need of reducing the need of taxes all for road and bridge maintenance and replacement, that all work be done with engineer approval only, minus all government interference. ('22)

Road and Bridge Weight Limits

We recommend:

1. Local municipalities be prohibited from revoking the local traffic exemptions from posted weight limits. ('21)

2. Legislation to prohibit local municipalities from exceeding PennDOT regulations and arbitrarily lowering road weight limits to prevent the establishment of agricultural operations that have entered into a verifiable planning process. ('21)
3. Bonding monies paid by the bondor for road repairs be used for the road which has been damaged, and the road be kept in repair during the time the road is under bond. ('21)
4. The "local traffic" exemption from bonding requirements apply to vehicles used in the performance of logging and harvesting of trees and collection of sugar water on farms. ('21)

Road Signs and Markers

We recommend:

1. Farmers who request traffic control signs to be erected by PennDOT or township supervisors not be required to pay for such signs. ('21)
2. Upon replacement or repair, all county and township roads that intersect with state routes have name signs of a minimum height of 8 inches in zones under 45 miles per hour zone, and a minimum of 12 inches in zones above 45 miles per hour. ('21)

Toll Roads and Bridges

We recommend:

1. The Turnpike Commission be abolished with management and tolling transferred to PennDOT. ('21)
2. A 3 percent annual cap on Pennsylvania Turnpike toll increases. ('21)
3. All Pennsylvania Turnpike toll money be used for turnpike use only. ('21)
4. The Turnpike Commission create a reduced-rate EZ-Pass for agricultural vehicles. ('22)

We oppose tolls on any existing federally funded interstate highways, including I-80. ('21)

HUNTING AND FISHING LAWS

Bird Shooting Events

We recommend:

1. All commercial regulated hunting grounds for game birds be permitted to offer Sunday hunts. ('21)
2. Pheasants be able to be harvested on regulated game preserves on Sunday. ('22)

We oppose any legislation that would restrict the use of live birds in sporting or competition events of any kind, as long as there is no conflict with the Game Code. ('21)

Cooperating Farmland Program

We recommend:

1. A landowner's minimum acreage to obtain a reduced-cost hunting license be reduced from 80 to 40 acres. ('21)
2. A farm family receive two free hunting licenses if they participate in the program. ('21)

Damage by Birds

We support legislation that would expand state funding for USDA Wildlife Services in blackbird and starling damage programs. ('21)

Damage by Game Animals

Bear

We recommend:

1. The Game Commission provide compensation for second and subsequent claims for bear damages to beehives (with a minimum payment of \$50), field crops, and animal losses. ('21)
2. A special permit hunting program similar to the DMAP program to address specific problem bear population areas. ('21)
3. The Game Commission allow for depredation permit program for black bear. ('23)

Deer

We recommend:

1. Upon the verification of crop damage by the Game Commission, farmers be permitted to bait deer to facilitate their harvest.
2. Farmers be allowed to contract licensed hunters to harvest deer for crop damage. ('21)
3. Persons lawfully killing deer for crop damage, that will not be utilized for food consumption, not be required to:
 - a. Provide cold storage for compliance with standards of "safekeeping";
 - b. Perform field dressing or gutting; or
 - c. Surrender deer harvested. ('21)

Damage by Game, General

We recommend:

1. The Game Commission be authorized to fund cost sharing for wildlife crop damage control methods other than fencing, such as invisible fencing to contain guardian dogs on cropland and/or use of spray deterrents. ('21)
2. The Game Commission use funds to mitigate crop damage. ('23)
3. The PGC not restrict the current uses of rifles, shot guns, bows, cross bows, for the killing of wildlife for crop damage. ('21)
4. The PA Department of Agriculture to set aside funding to create a cost share basis with the producer being responsible for up to 50% of the cost of fencing for specialty crops once wildlife damage has been shown. ('23)
5. Rigorous and scientific study of the amount of yearly wildlife damage to crops and livestock in Pennsylvania, such as study to be conducted by NASS, PDA and/or Penn State or other industry recognized institutions. ('23)
6. The Pennsylvania Tax Code be changed to allow farmers to claim un-reimbursed documented losses from wildlife damage. ('21)
7. The Game Commission food and cover program address adjacent farm crop damage problems. ('21)
8. Christmas trees be classified and treated as un-harvested crops by the Game Commission. ('21)
9. Standing timber covered by an approved forest management/stewardship plan be classified and treated as un-harvested crops by the Game Commission. ('21)
10. Crop damage by wildlife include any harvested and stockpiled feed left in a field, including wrapped and bagged forages that can be damaged after harvest. ('21)
11. Persons lawfully killing elk for crop damage, that will not be used for food consumption, not be required to:
 - a. Provide cold storage for compliance with standards of "safekeeping";
 - b. Perform field dressing or gutting; or
 - c. Surrender elk harvested. ('21)

Deer Depredation Permit Program

We recommend:

1. The Ag Tag program be accessible regardless of landowner use of PGC cooperator programs. ('21)
2. Farm operators be allowed to contract or appoint a delegate licensed hunters to harvest wildlife for crop damage without opening it to the public. ('23)
3. The deer depredation permit program, known as Ag Tag, not be eliminated, nor farmer ability to enroll diminished. ('21)
4. Non-resident licensed hunters be permitted to participate in the Deer Depredation Permit program. ('21)
5. Agricultural deer permits be available at no cost to eligible hunters and be distributed by the landowner. ('23)

6. Monthly reporting requirements of farmers enrolled in the Deer Depredation Permit Program (Ag Tag) be eliminated. ('21)
7. Ag Tag permits be expanded to four permits per-parcel per-hunter statewide. ('21)
8. An individual hunter be able to use multiple Ag tags on the same farm parcel. ('21)
9. The Game Commission allow landowners to enroll and reenroll for Ag Tag online. ('21)
10. The Game Commission not expand the presently closed dates of the Agricultural Deer Control Program (Ag Tag). ('21)
11. The Ag Tag Program be expanded to allow taking deer on Sundays. ('22)

Deer Management Assistance Program

We recommend:

1. Non-resident DMAP doe permits be the same price as regular non-resident doe permits. ('21)
2. Non-resident deer hunters with Pennsylvania licenses be allowed to hunt with DMAP. ('21)
3. Resident DMAP permits be the same price as resident doe permits. ('21)
4. The Game Commission allow landowners to enroll for DMAP online. ('21)

Enforcement of Game and Fish Laws

We recommend:

1. Only Game Wardens, not Deputy Game Wardens, administer and supervise red tag programs. ('21)
2. Repealing the provision of the Game Code which makes it illegal to refuse to answer any question asked by a game officer pertaining to the killing or wounding of wildlife or the keeping of a wildlife carcass. ('21)
3. The Fish Commission have no enforcement authority over man-made ponds and other bodies of water located on private lands and having no inlet or outlet surface water stream. ('21)
4. An exemption be added to allow for fishing tournaments and derbies the entire year with a permit approved by the Fish and Boat Commission under Section 63.40 of the Commission's regulations. ('23)

We oppose:

1. The requirement of permitting and/or reporting private stocking plans to the Fish and Boat Commission by individuals and/or organizations. ('22)
2. Mandated stocking reports of privately-owned, closed waterways. ('22)

Fencing for Damage Control

We recommend:

1. The Game Commission pay for the construction of platforms, as well as electric fences, to protect stationary beehives from destruction by bears. ('21)
2. Funding be restored to the Game Commission Deterrent Fence Program. ('21)
3. The following changes to the Game Commission Deterrent Fence Program:
 - a. Participating farms have the choice to post their land. ('21)
 - b. Requirements under the program respect farmers' needs regarding fence location, type, quality, openings with gates, etc. ('21)
 - c. For pre-existing farms within or adjacent to Pennsylvania Game Commission Big Game enhancement areas:
 - i. The Game Commission provide free fence materials, construction, and maintenance of fence; and

- ii. The Game Commission pay an easement when the fence location is more than 10 feet within boundaries of open fields. ('21)

Firearms for Hunting

We recommend:

1. Semiautomatic rifles be permitted only for hunting coyotes, foxes, woodchucks, and big game. ('21)
2. Authorizing the use of gas or air powered long guns for hunting. ('21)

Game and Fish Commissions

We recommend:

1. Agriculture be represented on any commission responsible for the management of fish and/or wildlife. ('21)
2. Adding a Commissioner-at-Large to both the PA Game Commission and the PA Fish and Boat Commission to represent agricultural interests. ('23)
3. Game Commissioner appointments be for an eight-year term on a two-year rotation with one position up yearly. ('21)
4. Former Game Commission employees and Game Commission enforcement officers not be considered for appointment as members of the Game Commission Board of Commissioners. ('21)
5. A ninth position be added to the Game Commission representing the counties: Berks, Lehigh, Northampton & Schuylkill as the Ninth district, Southeast Region. ('21)
6. Commissioners of the Game Commission not be replaced with an advisory board or state legislators taking the decision-making powers of Commissioners. ('21)
7. The Game Commission request nominations from Pennsylvania Farm Bureau for any committees with public members. ('21)
8. Game and Fish Commission funds remain separate from the state General Fund. ('21)
9. An annual audit of the PA Game Commission be made public. ('23)

We oppose:

1. The Fish and Boat Commission gaining oversight and inspection of PA fish hatcheries. ('22)
2. Moving funds generated by PA Game Commission being transferred into any other agency's programs and/or actions that would jeopardize Federal Pittman Robertson Funding. ('23)

Harvest Reports

We recommend no legislation or Commission action extend reporting deer kills beyond 10 days for licensed hunters. ('21)

Hunting and Fishing Rights

We recommend:

1. The rights of the property owners to limit hunting, fishing and all other activities on their lands not be abridged. ('21)
2. Any game killed by a farmer for crop damage be kept by the farmer, to be used at his discretion. ('21)
3. The Game Commission reinstate sharecropping and allow farmers to utilize state game lands for agriculture production without a fee. ('21)
4. Farmers being allowed to shoot deer on their farm with a farm tag even if they have a license. ('21)
5. Farm owners and operators have standing authority to euthanize injured wildlife on property that they own and/or operate. ('23)
6. An amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution adding the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife. ('22)

Hunting on Private Property

We recommend:

1. No one be allowed to erect any type of tree stand on private property without the landowner's written consent. ('21)

2. Landowners be allowed to confiscate any and all tree stands that are erected on their property without the written consent of the landowner. ('21)
3. Amendments to the Game and Wildlife Code to prohibit any hunter from hunting on private property unless the hunter obtains and carries written permission from the landowner while hunting. ('21)
4. A one-year revocation of hunting and fishing privileges for anyone who hunts or fishes on private land without landowner permission. ('21)
5. Trail cameras not be placed on private property without written permission of the landowner, and notification of the location of the devices to the landowner. ('21)
6. Amending the private regulated hunting ground permit to require at least 50 acres.

Hunting and Trapping Safety

We recommend:

1. Safety zone signs be in place by September 1. ('21)
2. During big game seasons, users of public trails be required to wear blaze orange as required by hunters in areas open to public hunting. ('21)

Licenses

Antlerless and Antlered Deer Licenses

We recommend:

1. Anyone whose major source of income is cultivating land be entitled to a free doe license. ('21)
2. Adding resident senior hunters (65 and older), resident senior lifetime hunters (65 and older), and POW license holders to current Game Commission policy allowing certain license holders to harvest antlered deer with two or more points on one antler, or a spike three or more inches in length. ('22)
3. Hunting licenses and antlerless deer tags be made available for sale at the same time. ('21)
4. Increasing doe tags in an effort to reduce the deer herd. ('21)

Elk Licenses

We recommend:

1. Any applicants for the elk license lottery first purchase a resident or non-resident license and the lottery entry fee be increased to \$30 for resident and \$60 for non-resident and not be refundable. ('21)
2. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds from the lottery and sale of elk hunting licenses be used for compensation and/or prevention of elk damage. ('21)
3. A special permit hunting program similar to the DMAP program to address specific elk population problem areas. ('21)

Fishing Licenses

We recommend:

1. Property owners who own property along a stream and their families be allowed to fish on their own property without a license. ('21)
2. Any family member, tenant, employee or anyone with the owner's consent be allowed to fish on private man-made ponds and other similar bodies of water without requirements to obtain a fishing license or permit. ('21)

Furbearers Licenses

We recommend property owners not be required to have a furbearer's license while trapping on their own property. ('21)

Purchase of Wildlife

We recommend that when the Game Commission puts out bids to purchase wildlife in Pennsylvania, the first 75 percent of their quota must first be filled by Pennsylvania growers of wildlife when available. ('21)

Seasons and Bag Limits

Antlerless and Antlered Deer

We recommend:

1. An October rifle antlerless deer season. ('21)
2. Muzzle loader season for deer be held in conjunction with the last two weeks of archery season and prior to rifle season. ('21)
3. Antler and antlerless deer season be extended by one week, allowing more hunting time and more harvest of deer, without Sunday hunting. ('21)
4. The regular rifle whitetail season be extended one week. ('23)
5. The Game Commission open the antlerless season from September 1st to April 30th. ('23)
6. The Game Commission allow the use of percussion muzzleloaders during regular muzzleloader season. ('21)
7. A concurrent season for antlered and antlerless deer. ('21)
8. Deer season open on the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. ('21)
9. Deer hunters be able to apply for and obtain antlerless deer licenses online. ('21)
10. The adoption of an Earn-a-Buck Program allowing the harvesting of a second antlered deer within a license year if, before obtaining a tag for a second antlered deer, a hunter harvests and submits harvest tags for at least two antlerless deer in that CWD Management area.
11. In special regulation areas, hunters must harvest an antlerless deer before they can harvest a buck. ('22)
12. The Game Commission institute an antlerless only, shotgun only season before the archery season in special regulations areas. ('23)
13. Establishing check stations for whitetail deer harvests, which could be done via a combination of the internet, phone app, mail, and physical locations. ('23)

Bear

We recommend:

1. Bear hunting season remain open until the Game Commission's quota is met in each WMU. ('21)

Turkey

We recommend:

1. The bag limit for turkeys be increased to two for spring and two for fall. ('21)
2. The daily hunting hours for spring gobbler season be uniform, starting at one half hour before sunrise until one half hour after sunset. ('21)

General

We recommend:

1. That there be no further expansion of Sunday hunting beyond crow, coyote, fox, as well as woodchuck in cultivated fields with express written permission of the landowner. ('21)
2. Supporting Sunday hunting if multiple PFB policy priorities are included in the legislation. ('23)
3. The PGC provide "No Sunday Hunting" signage at no charge for private lands adjacent to state game lands and state forest at the owner's request. ('21)
4. Sunday hunting for antlerless deer be limited to:
 - i. 1st Sunday of archery,
 - ii. 1st Sunday of flintlock,
 - iii. Sunday after the Thanksgiving holiday. ('21)
5. Trapping season on muskrats be extended to February 21. ('21)
6. An open season be restored on raccoon and fox. ('21)
7. An open season for red squirrel. ('21)
8. An open season for porcupine. ('21)

9. PA Game Commissioners utilizing the Commission's biologist's recommendations when setting seasons and limits. ('22)

10. PA Game Commissioners utilize crop and livestock damage data from recognized sources when setting seasons and limits. ('23)

11. Wild game competitions remain legal. ('22)

Spotlighting

We recommend spotlighting for game animals be legal only when performed on state game lands and public land or when performed by farmers shooting wildlife for crop damage on their property and on rented land. ('21)

Tree Stands

We recommend hunter/owner identification be required on all tree stands, ground blinds and trail cameras. ('21)

Trophies

We recommend game or birds that have been hunted and killed lawfully and mounted or preserved at the owner's expense be allowed to be sold at private or public sales. ('21)

Youth Hunting

We recommend:

1. Opportunities for youth hunting be expanded for days other than Sunday. ('21)
2. The Game Commission offer free DMAP (Deer Management Assistance Program) permits to youth hunters. ('21)

Wildlife Management

We recommend:

1. Trapping of groundhogs with conibear traps be legalized. ('21)
2. The baiting of bear and deer be legal in the entire state of Pennsylvania. ('23)
3. The Pennsylvania Game Commission work with Penn State and other governmental agencies to develop an effective groundhog reduction program. ('21)
4. The Game Commission be financially responsible for all damage to personal property done by animals introduced into the area by the Commission. ('21)
5. The Game Commission educate the public about landowner's and farmers' rights, to control wildlife on their property. ('21)
6. The Game Commission provide outreach to the general public on the importance of conservation hunting as a wildlife management tool. ('23)
7. Sound science be used to manage wildlife populations. ('21)
8. Hunters, with landowner approval, be permitted to use motorized vehicles to hunt and control predatory animals that are killing farm animals. ('21)
9. The use of drones for hunting or disruption of hunting be illegal. ('21)
10. Drone usage be allowed for animal recovery during hunting. ('23)
11. Legal buck be defined as having antlers with a length three inches or more. ('21)
12. No elk be moved onto any PA Game Lands south of I-80. ('21)
13. No additional statewide or regional restrictions be imposed on current allowances for feeding wildlife or sale of wildlife feed products. ('21)
14. White tailed deer antler restrictions be removed in CWD Disease Management Areas. ('21)
15. The Game Commission alter WMU sizes to better reflect agriculture/wildlife. ('23)
16. Infrared night vision be allowed for depredation hunting. ('23)

17. Infrared night vision hunting equipment be legalized for livestock, and agricultural crop protection. ('21)
18. Infrared night vision equipment be legalized for use by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and law enforcement. ('21)
19. The use of dogs be allowed to pursue, chase, and track bears for hunting and training purposes. ('21)
20. For wildlife killed by vehicles on public roads:
 - a. Large game animals be removed within 48 hours of notification to the Game Commission. ('21)
 - b. The entire carcass (including antlers and/or hide) of wildlife killed be available to the vehicle owner at no cost. ('21)

We oppose:

1. Any legislation that would prohibit the use of steel traps for trapping wild animals. ('21)
2. The introduction or reintroduction of any predatory wildlife species by any government agency, including the Game Commission. ('23)

INSURANCE

Automobile Insurance

We recommend minimum limits of 15,000/30,000/5,000 for bodily injury and property damage be raised to 50,000/100,000/50,000. ('21)

Fire and Casualty Insurance

We recommend gross premium taxes paid by domestic fire insurance companies be distributed to fireman's relief pension or retirement services. ('21)

LABOR

Agricultural Employment

We recommend:

1. Family farm partnerships and family farm corporations be regulated under the same labor laws as sole proprietorships. ('21)
2. Employees of roadside stands, farmers' markets, etc. be classified as farm employees for purposes of unemployment compensation and insurance. ('21)
3. Farm proprietors, partnerships and corporations who directly employ farm laborers be exempt from state crew leader registration requirements. ('21)
4. Farmers who engage the services of a farm labor contractor be exempt from state crew leader registration requirements. ('21)
5. Liability between a farmer and a farm labor contractor with respect to labor law be severable. ('21)
6. The Pennsylvania Seasonal Farm Labor Act be amended to prohibit mandatory inspection of single-family housing. ('21)
7. Permanent sewer systems not be required when providing temporary housing for agricultural workers. ('23)
8. Mushroom operations growing year-round not be subject to the Pennsylvania Seasonal Farm Labor Act. ('21)
9. Farmers be exempt from providing mandatory paid sick leave to their employees. ('21)
10. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Department of Labor and Industry collaborate with the agriculture industry to identify ways to improve workforce development at the state and local level. ('21)

Industrial Homework

We recommend the Industrial Homework Law of 1937 be amended to permit the processing of food articles, and making of toys and dolls, in private homes. ('21)

Minimum Wage and Overtime

We recommend:

1. Pennsylvania's minimum wage not exceed the federal mandate. ('21)
2. Any employer hiring a person under 18 years of age be exempt from minimum wage law in regard to that employee. ('21)
3. Farmers are exempt from state mandated over-time pay. ('23)

Prevailing Wage Rate

We recommend:

1. Elimination of Pennsylvania prevailing wage rate. ('21)
2. Until repeal is achieved, the prevailing wage rate exemption for all public projects be \$500,000, and adjusted annually for inflation. ('21)

Public Employee Act

Public Employees

We recommend:

1. Public employees be required to vote by secret ballot in any vote related to contract negotiations. ('21)
2. Failure to reach agreement within contract period shall subject the parties to injunctive action by the courts to require continuation of work during the settlement period. ('21)
3. All public employees work under a no strike contract. ('21)

Teachers

We recommend:

1. Mandatory time frames for negotiation and settlement of contract disputes be implemented to prevent teacher strikes at the start of the new school year. ('21)
2. Teachers lose a full day's wage for each day they are on strike, and this amount be deducted from their annual wages upon resolution of the strike. ('21)
3. Teachers be required to teach during their contract without striking. ('21)

Right-to-Work

We recommend a right to work law be enacted in Pennsylvania. ('21)

Unemployment Compensation

We recommend:

1. All employees for whom unemployment compensation contributions are made be eligible to receive compensation only from the at-fault employer within the base year. ('21)
2. Unemployment benefits be taxed as ordinary income. ('21)

Unionization

We recommend:

1. Legislation be enacted to prohibit strikes in agriculture, or in an agriculture processing plant, during a critical period of production or harvest. ('21)
2. Public employees not have the right to unionize. ('21)

Workers' Compensation

We recommend:

1. Workers' compensation claims be settled within 36 months from the time the claim was presented. ('21)
2. All workers' compensation audits be conducted using the previous calendar year for a base. ('21)
3. Allowing sole proprietors and partners to obtain workers' compensation coverage in their businesses, including agriculture businesses, and establishing minimum compensation for proprietors and partners of 50 percent of the state-wide average weekly wage. ('21)

Workers' Compensation and Agriculture

We recommend:

1. The minimum fee charged to small-scale farmers with annual employee salaries of less than \$7,000 be reduced to a nominal fee of less than \$100. ('21)
2. Workers' Compensation, Section 302(c) of the Workers' Compensation Law be amended to increase the threshold pay amount of \$1,200 to \$2,500. ('21)

LAND USE

Agricultural Land Preservation

We recommend:

1. ½ of 1 percent of the realty transfer tax be earmarked for farmland preservation. ('21)
2. The farmland preservation law be amended to establish a program for landowners to preserve farmland with tax credits for a term of five years, with the annual option by the landowner to extend the preservation agreement for one year. ('21)
3. Mulch making be classified as a farming practice under the Right to Farm and Ag Preservation programs. ('21)
4. Establishing a state process for administrative appeals of county preservation decisions through the Department of Agriculture. ('21)
5. Farms in Farmland Preservation be allowed commercial rights for cell towers at the discretion of the County Farmland Preservation Board. ('21)
6. Farms enrolled in Farmland Preservation be allowed to have agritainment activities, such as trail rides, corn mazes, etc. ('21)
7. Preserved farms be allowed to produce and harvest energy (windmills, solar, methane digesters, natural gas wells, etc.) without penalty provided minimal preserved acreage is impacted. ('21)
8. Forested land that is treated as a crop for timber be included in the acreage of preserved farms. ('22)
9. Counties be prohibited from requiring deed consolidation as a condition for eligibility for agricultural conservation easement purchase. ('21)
10. A separately deeded property of proper acreage within an agricultural easement have the right to build a residence for the landowner, an immediate family member, or employee on no more than two acres of the subject parcel, despite the erection of a residence on another separately deeded parcel included in agricultural conservation easement. ('23)
11. Public use trails not be allowed on preserved farms. ('21)
12. Parcels less than 10 acres that are adjacent to preserved farmland be eligible for farmland preservation. ('21)
13. Parcels greater than 10 acres be eligible for farmland preservation. ('23)
14. Any leftover farm preservation money should be kept in the Farm Preservation Program and not go to any other program or non-profit organization at the end of program year. ('22)
15. The minimum subdivision size for preserved farmland be reduced to 25 acres. ('21)
16. County-wide transfer of development rights (TDR) programs for farmland preservation be established that:
 - a. Apply to any contiguous farmland parcel of 10 acres or more within a county's boundaries;
 - b. Allow an initial TDR unit to be sold by right, subject to the availability of funds;

- c. Allow subsequent TDR units to be eligible for sale, based on a ranking system similar to those used by county agricultural land preservation boards, subject to the payment of fees to the municipality in which the farmland is located;
- d. Require TDR fees paid to municipalities be restricted in use for the purchase of subsequent TDRs in that municipality;
- e. Allow development rights to be repurchased by the original TDR seller on a one-time basis, subject to a financial penalty equal to twice the current TDR value; and
- f. Provide incentives for the development of land with low farm potential or conservation value. ('21)

We oppose changes to county and state Farmland Preservation Program guidelines that would create buffer zones to future growth areas, buffer zones for water and sewer lines, and a one mile buffer zone for interstate highway exits. ('21)

Easements, General

We recommend:

- 1. Property owners who are burdened by public easements on their property be compensated on the full market value of the area burdened by the easement. ('21)
- 2. Pipeline, utility, mineral, oil, gas, and governmental easement rights be deemed terminated after five years if the easement is not used. ('21)

Local Zoning

We recommend:

- 1. Honey bee operations be authorized to function in all local zones when operating in accordance with best management practices recommended by the PA Department of Agriculture. ('21)
- 2. Bitcoin mining operations be prohibited in agriculture or residential zoned districts. ('22)
- 3. Bitcoin mining operations be housed in permanent structures only. ('22)
- 4. Bitcoin mining operation permits be required and reviewed by a Pennsylvania certified engineer for noise pollution and that said noise levels be less than or equal to levels recommended by the PA Department of Health for the general health and safety of the public. ('22)
- 5. A five-year statute of limitations for the enforcement of zoning and building permit violations. ('21)
- 6. Counties and municipalities be prohibited from enacting and enforcing zoning ordinances that require tracts or parcels of agricultural land, consisting of 10 or more acres, to be re-zoned if the agricultural land is being used for commercial purposes. ('21)

Rails-to-Trails

We recommend:

- 1. Government agencies be prohibited from taking private land by eminent domain to create or extend a recreational trail. ('21)
- 2. All tax money should be withdrawn from the funding of Rails to Trails. ('21)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Children and Youth Programs

We recommend the State provide full funding of any children and youth service the county is required by the state or federal government to provide. ('21)

Impact Fees

We recommend:

1. Persons proposing to engage in a multiple-unit residential or a major commercial development project be required to file a report of anticipated effects of the project upon local student enrollment before any land development plan or permits are filed. ('21)
2. Counties, school districts and townships be authorized to impose impact fees on new residential and nonagricultural commercial construction which reflect the increased costs the construction is likely to cause:
 - a. Counties in providing additional public services and farmland preservation.
 - b. School districts in servicing increased student enrollment, including school building construction.
 - c. Municipalities in constructing and maintaining additional roads and sewers. ('21)

Legal Notices and Recordkeeping

We recommend:

1. Municipalities be required to make public notices available through electronic media sources. ('21)
2. Local governments be required to post all proposed and current ordinances on publicly-accessible electronic sources. ('21)

Legislation and Programs Impacting Municipalities

We recommend:

1. Municipalities be prohibited from banning private use of solar panels, windmills and clotheslines. ('21)
2. Municipalities be prohibited from requiring landowners to escrow casualty insurance benefits payments. ('21)
3. Amending the Municipalities Planning Code to allow all agricultural commodities, including timber, to be harvested without requiring a permit. ('21)

Local Regulation of Agriculture Enterprises

We recommend:

1. Uniform minimum standards for agricultural, agritourism and farm marketing activities and structures authorized to be performed and constructed on farm properties be established, through the Department of Agriculture. ('21)
2. Local governments have no authority to prohibit any activity or construction that meets the minimum standards established for agricultural, agritourism and farm marketing activities and buildings. ('21)
3. Act 38 (ACRE Law) be amended to authorize local government units to submit proposed ordinances to the Attorney General for an opinion regarding being an unauthorized local ordinance. ('21)
4. The State Attorney General's office provide adequate staffing to handle ACRE appeals in 120 days. ('21)
5. A nonconforming use performed on a farm property meeting the minimum area or agricultural income of a normal agricultural operation not be considered legally abandoned until 10 years after the use has been discontinued. ('21)
6. Municipalities be required to regulate equine boarding and training and riding operations as agriculture in zoning, development and building construction ordinances. ('21)
7. Counties and municipalities not be allowed to regulate or require permitting or impose fees for operation of bee hives. ('21)

8. Regarding the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) and its application to agriculture, third party construction code administrators be authorized, upon request of the landowner, to inspect buildings on farms exempt from building code regulation for identification of any serious fire, safety or structural hazard. ('21)

Municipal Airport Authorities

We recommend municipal airport authorities be required to pay annual assessments to taxing districts based on the amount of property tax that would normally be paid. ('21)

Planning and Zoning Commissions

We recommend a mandatory review of township zoning ordinances to coincide with the Municipality Planning Code's requirement for review of comprehensive plans every 10 years. ('21)

Township Supervisors

We recommend:

1. Terms for township supervisors be three years. ('21)
2. The maximum compensation a township may provide under contract without bid to a supervisor for use of personal equipment be increased to \$3,000 per year. ('21)

MARKETING

Marketing and Sales

We recommend:

1. A referendum be required to be conducted according to either of the following two methods:
 - a. Referendum of individual producers, or
 - b. Bloc voting be permitted provided:
 - i. The policy making body has issued a certified resolution permitting bloc voting for its members.
 - ii. Individual members of a cooperative are mailed an individual ballot for the purpose of casting his or her vote.
 - iii. The votes cast by individual members of the cooperative are deducted from the bloc vote cast by the members' cooperative.
 - iv. It be stated on the ballot that if the individual member of the cooperative does not vote, his vote will be bloc voted by his cooperative. ('21)
2. Any product that is USDA certified can be sold anywhere in the United States. ('23)

Grain Brokers and Dealers

We recommend Pennsylvania require that grain dealers, brokers, feed mills, and elevators who buy or sell over 100,000 bushels per year of commodities in Pennsylvania to be bonded. ('22)

MOTOR VEHICLE CODE

Non-motorized Vehicles

We recommend:

1. All bicycles and mopeds traveling less than 25 miles per hour required to have a safety marker (orange flag) permanently displayed. ('21)
2. Legislation that cyclists must have reflective clothing when traveling on public roads. ('21)
3. No license or registration be required for horse drawn transportation or horse drawn implements. ('21)

Oversize and Overweight Vehicles

We recommend:

1. Farmers and custom operators be able to obtain a yearly over-width permit which would exceed the current width allowed by law to transport farm equipment on all highways. ('21)

2. Extending the gross maximum vehicle weight to 90,000 pounds for farmers hauling their own product, without the need to obtain a permit. ('21)
3. Supporting any state proposal that would expand permitting for an increase gross weight of trucks for the purpose of hauling any agricultural commodities. ('21)
4. Oversize permits to transport agricultural and custom farm equipment be required to be issued within one business day. ('21)
5. Farm equipment operating with over-width permits should be permitted to move on holidays. ('21)
6. Any farm licensed or farm stickered vehicle be exempt from the road weight restriction within the 50-mile farm radius. ('21)

State Emergencies

We recommend vehicles transporting essential supplies to farms or perishable farm products from farms be exempt from vehicle restrictions imposed during declared emergencies. ('21)

Unmarked Cars

We recommend vehicles that are not properly marked as police vehicles be prohibited from being used to stop motorists for Vehicle Code violations. ('21)

Vehicle Code and Agriculture

We recommend:

1. Bees be tarped or individually screened in some kind of container when transported by vehicles. ('21)
 2. The Pennsylvania driver's test include safety questions about driving in the presence of farm equipment, dump trucks, tractor trailers and other large machinery encountered on public roads, including a question on wide turns by large vehicles. ('21)
 3. Rural road safety educational material be included in driver's license renewals. ('23)
 4. Farm safety be prioritized by enforcing slow moving emblems, including where they can be utilized and when they are prohibited such as driveway markers. ('23)
 4. PennDOT and Municipal Drivers be required to complete a biennial physical like other CDL drivers. ('21)
 5. PennDOT clarify their interpretation of CDL requirements to minimize burdens on farmers who haul farm equipment and/or livestock, regardless of who owns the load. ('21)
 6. Farm exemption stickers be available for any vehicle, truck, car, atv, or utility vehicle that has a primary farm use. ('21)
 7. Vehicles titled as passenger vehicles, station wagons, and SUVs also qualify for farm tags. ('22)
 8. Pennsylvania have reciprocity agreements with other states regarding farm vehicles. ('21)
 9. Farmers be exempt from date sensitive tire-replacement mandates on farm vehicles. ('21)
 10. Farmers be permitted to tow registration-exempt implements, trailers, and semitrailers with a personal (non-farm) truck. ('21)
 11. Pennsylvania farmers be exempt from the IFTA and UCR regulations if they travel interstate less than 5,000 miles per year from the Pennsylvania borders. ('21)
 12. Livestock haulers be given priority over other vehicles in traffic situations, checks, and measures to limit the amount of time an animal is delayed inside the hauling vehicle. ('23)
- We oppose any marijuana legalization for commercial motor vehicle license holders. ('22)

Farm Implements and Agricultural Vehicles

We recommend:

1. Unlicensed farm tractors be permitted to be operated on roads in furtherance of parades, hayrides, tractor pulls and similar social events. ('21)

2. Farm equipment be permitted to be operated on non-interstate limited access highways when flashing warning lights be required to be in use by the farm equipment and by rear escort vehicles. ('21)
3. Commercial implements of husbandry be allowed an axle weight of 27,000 pounds and a gross vehicle weight of 96,000 pounds. ('21)
4. Equipment used by the custom farm operator have the same exemptions as those available to equipment used by the farmer on his own farm. ('21)
5. Tractors with steel cleats be banned from public highways. ('21)
6. Multipurpose agricultural vehicles be allowed to travel up to 50 miles between sunrise and sunset between parts of one farm owned or operated by the farmer or between a farm and place of business for the purpose of buying or selling agriculture commodities and supplies, or for the purpose of repairing or servicing the vehicle. ('21)
7. That kids 12 and up be allowed to operate multipurpose agricultural vehicles. ('22)
8. Any person operating farm machinery designed by a manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than 25 miles per hour being operated on local or state roadways be required to have a valid driver's license. ('21)
9. SMV emblem vehicles maximum speed be increased to 35 mph. ('23)
10. Agricultural machinery being used for snow removal be exempt from registration and/or licensing when driven on public roadways. ('21)
11. The use of four-way flashers on an agricultural vehicle not be required if amber beacon lights can be seen from 360 degrees. ('21)
12. Farm tractors manufactured without cabs prior to 2007 be exempt from requirements to display an amber beacon while traveling on public roadways. ('21)
13. Timber harvesting equipment be allowed to be moved and/or hauled with the same laws and regulations as other agricultural equipment. ('21)

Farm Trucks and Trailers

We recommend:

1. PennDOT issue a seasonal registration for farm vehicles with a GVW greater than 14,000 pounds at a prorated fee. ('21)
2. Placement of the Pennsylvania farm truck exempt from registration sticker be on the left driver's side of the windshield. ('21)
3. Farm vehicles with the Type B and Type C biennial certification of exemption have a 50-mile radius of operation from the farmer's farm. ('21)
4. Farm vehicles with the Type D biennial certificate of exemption have a 75-mile radius of operation from the farmer's farm. ('23)
5. Farm-stickered vehicles under 17,000 pounds with inspection be allowed to be driven after dark. ('23)
6. The definition of "farm use" be expanded to include produce deliveries from farm to market for farm tag availability. ('23)
7. The Department of Transportation issue a rear identification plate for registration-exempt farm vehicles to replace or supplement the sticker. ('21)
8. Notarized transit permits for farm exempt vehicles be available from point of purchase to the farm the vehicle will be used on. ('21)
9. The Vehicle Code be amended to allow a permanent exemption from registration for registration-exempt farm trucks. ('21)

10. The Department issue a receipt of proof that a farm truck is exempt from registration until the sticker arrives. ('21)
11. PennDOT send out notices for biennial registration exemption of farm vehicles. ('21)
12. Trees harvested by farmers on their own property be permitted to be hauled on farm exempt and farm registered trucks. ('21)
13. Farm truck operators be exempt from covering crop loads when traveling from field to farm for a distance of 10 miles or less. ('21)
14. Wagons being towed by farm trucks and implements of husbandry:
 - a. Be exempt from Vehicle Code requirements for lighting while being towed during daylight hours. ('21)
 - b. Be exempt from Vehicle Code requirements to be secured to the towing vehicle by safety chains. ('21)
 - c. Be exempt from Vehicle Code requirements for brakes if over 3,000 pounds. ('21)
15. Permanent trailer registrations be available for all trailers, regardless of gross weight. ('21)
16. Farm vehicles and trailers currently farm-exempt under the Vehicle Code be permitted to serve non-profit and charity usages within the current guidelines for farm vehicles. ('21)
17. Registered farm vehicles be allowed for personal use. ('21)
18. PennDOT make available exemption stickers from inspection for trailers for farm use with a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 pounds or less. ('21)
19. All farm vehicle registrations be immediately available and processed at a PennDOT authorized office. ('21)
20. Agricultural exemption registration renewals be made available online, in addition to mail. ('22)
21. Farm registration exempt vehicles hauling agricultural waste be exempt from permitting requirements under Act 90 of 2002. ('21)
22. Farm trucks only be required to register at a combination weight when the gross weight of the combination exceeds 26,000 pounds. ('21)
23. Fuel trailers for farm use be exempt from hazmat and registration requirements. ('21)
24. The creation of a transferable agricultural plate that is similar in privileges and uses to "dealer plates." ('21)

Vehicle Code, General

We recommend:

1. All 102-inch twin trailers and 102-inch trailers over 28.5 feet long be allowed to travel on all portions of primary roads. ('21)
2. PennDOT develop an intermediate driver's license for immigrant workers with proper documentation, e.g., tax identification or social security number, seeking employment or legal residence with an annual renewal. However, this will not qualify to register to vote until the immigrant become a U.S. citizen. ('23)
3. No separate class of reckless driving penalties for drivers involved in an accident with "vulnerable highway users." ('21)
4. All law enforcement officers conducting roadside inspections of commercial and/or farm trucks be trained and certified as inspection mechanics. ('21)
5. Increasing registration fees for electric and hybrid cars to offset the loss of gas tax revenue. ('21)
6. An annual road use tax on all electric vehicles titled in Pennsylvania to coincide with vehicle registration renewal. All renewals shall be contingent upon payment of the annual road use tax.

7. PennDOT be required to notify CDL drivers and commercial truck owners of spotted lanternfly regulations and penalties with their license and registration renewal. ('21)
8. That ATV/side-by-sides and other off-road vehicles be allowed to travel on the state secondary road system in rural areas (excluding boroughs and cities). Permitting or farm use tags may be required, excludes recreational use. ('22)
9. Eliminating annual inspection requirements for noncommercial vehicles 9000-pound gross weight and below and shifting to a state inspection every 3 years with exemption from inspection for vehicles 4 years old or newer under 50,000 miles. ('23)
10. Section 9019(g) of the Vehicle Code be amended to exempt non-commercially registered vehicles or fuel tanks from inspection unless probable cause that a crime has been committed exists. ('23)

Vehicle Weight

We recommend trucks exiting fields with agricultural products or exiting forests with wood products have a 10 percent gross weight tolerance. ('21)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Air Quality

We recommend:

1. Exempting from state air pollution laws off-farm drying of grain crops within 30 days of harvest. ('21)
2. Pennsylvania not enter into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. ('21)

Biosolids

We recommend:

1. Third party testing of biosolids be required before their application on farmland. ('21)
2. Application of biosolids be allowed on frozen ground 2% or less in slope with mature groundcover or cover development. ('21)
3. Continued research on PFAS substances known as “forever chemicals” in biosolids. ('23)

Bottles and Cans

We recommend:

1. All bottles and cans have a “returnable” value of no less than 5 cents. ('21)
2. Returnable container legislation contain provisions for redemption centers. ('21)

Chesapeake Bay TMDL

We recommend:

1. Operation of additional water quality monitoring and recording stations for nutrient and sediment in local tributaries of Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed. ('21)
2. Federal agencies coordinate with state agencies in administration of data collection and reporting activities to ensure agricultural conservation practices are duly captured and credited in the Chesapeake Bay Model. ('21)

Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of

We recommend:

1. DCNR’s Trail Advisory Committee include at least one agricultural representative. ('21)
2. DCNR’s Community Conservation Partnership Program be amended to allow agriculture production on the preserved open space. ('21)

Conservation Districts

We recommend:

1. County conservation districts receive an appropriation to the Conservation District Fund in an amount sufficient to meet the Commission's Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) 50 percent cost-share policy for all positions. ('21)
2. Conservation districts be the executing authorities for Chapter 102 (erosion & sediment control) regulation. ('21)
3. County conservation districts be funded to employ an in-house technician to write post-construction storm water management plans with 80 percent of the cost paid by the state and 20 percent by the active farmer. ('21)
4. All county conservation districts have trained and certified staff to write conservation plans. ('21)
5. Conservation districts not be compelled by DEP to serve in a regulatory enforcement capacity as a condition to receive state and federal funding. ('21)
6. Decisions on administratively complete agriculture construction plans be required to be made by conservation districts within 45 days of submission. ('21)
7. When requested, conservation districts be required to inform landowners of known wetland areas on the landowner's property . ('21)

Dams

We recommend bonding not be required for high hazard dams annually inspected and certified as safe by a professional engineer. ('21)

Environmental Enforcement

Complaints

We recommend:

1. Any complaint filed with the DEP or other state regulatory agencies be in writing and signed by the person making the complaint in order to be valid. ('21)
2. When any state agency receives a complaint against an agricultural operation for violation of environmental standard that will not cause imminent and catastrophic human or environmental harm:
 - a. The state official conducting the investigation contact the farmer and explain the nature of the complaint before entering the farm premises. ('21)
 - b. An appointment be scheduled at least 48 hours before entering the premises to address any bio-security concerns. ('21)
 - c. The party or parties initiating the complaint become part of the public record. ('21)
 - d. The state official complete and provide to the farmer a report of the official's investigation of the complaint before departing the premises. ('21)
 - e. The time frame for the initial investigative visit be limited to a maximum of two hours. ('21)

Landowner Notification and Private Property

We recommend:

1. Agency officials investigating suspected environmental violations provide proper identification to and obtain permission from the property owner before entering the property. ('21)
2. DEP be required to notify landowners of any water or air testing done on their land and be required to provide all test results to the landowner, if requested. ('21)

Environmental Laws and Regulations

We recommend:

1. Agricultural stream crossing permit fees not exceed \$100 per permit. ('21)

2. The Susquehanna River not be classified as an impaired watershed. ('21)
3. A sinkhole be defined for regulatory purposes as an open hole in the ground surface that provides direct access to the ground water. ('21)
4. DEP contract with engineering firms to accelerate the permit process. ('21)
5. DEP permit reviews be completed within 90 days. ('21)
6. Permit fees by all government agencies be waived for farmers to repair or replace non-public agricultural culverts, pipes or bridges. ('21)
7. All permits needing to be filed with DEP contain a tracking number. ('21)
8. Animal rescues/refuges be held to the same conservation standards as farmers. ('22)
9. The DEP/Growing Greener grant reimbursement process be reviewed to provide 30-day reimbursement to participating farm operations and county conservation districts. ('22)
10. The abolition of the PA Office of Environmental Justice. ('23)

Habitat

We recommend non-noxious, pollinator-friendly plantings in highway medians and on power and pipeline right-of-ways that are not returned to agricultural, commercial, or private use. ('21)

Impact on Agriculture

We recommend civil and criminal penalties for the introduction of new species, or the reintroduction of previously native species, of plants and animals into Pennsylvania that have an adverse impact on agriculture. ('21)

Littering

We recommend the littering fine be raised to \$1,000 and enforced. ('21)

Manure and Nutrient Management

We recommend:

1. Additional cost-share or grant funding be available to producers for constructing animal waste storage and handling facilities, including composters and separators, as well as for farmers forced into transportation of animal manure in order to comply with nutrient management requirements. ('21)
2. State conservation funding be available to farmers for the construction of and upgrades to manure storage facilities at 75 percent cost-share, up to \$80,000. For projects that exceed \$80,000, we recommend a 50 percent cost-share. ('21)
3. DEP create a formal CAFO Advisory Board, consisting of CAFO farmers, to provide insight and opinions to the department on new and existing CAFO regulations. ('21)
4. The maximum period for review and approval for nutrient management plans be reduced from 180 days to 90 days. ('21)
5. DEP and PDA publish and distribute to known farming operations all available state and federal funding to assist the operator in implementing legally required BMPs. ('21)
6. Winter land application restrictions established in the PA Manure Management Manual, be limited to actual environmental conditions (no snow cover and non-frozen ground) and not be imposed strictly on the basis of the calendar date. ('21)
7. A farm survey, similar to that conducted by Penn State for the Chesapeake Bay watershed, be conducted for other watersheds in the state to capture Best Management Practices that have not been cost shared to be credited to water quality improvement. ('21)
8. Farms managing seven animal equivalent units (as described in the Act 38 Nutrient Management Program Technical Manual) or less be exempt from the requirement to have a manure management plan. ('21)

9. Certified nutrient management planners receive direct notification of changes to Nutrient Management Program regulatory standards before they legally go into effect. ('21)
10. All state employees and local conservation district staff that handle nutrient management plans must receive current agronomic and production agricultural training. ('23)
11. Eliminating the PA Facility Odor Management Program. ('22)

We oppose:

1. Mandatory incorporation of manure. ('21)
2. Cost recovery for state agencies that conduct an investigation for non-compliance issues with the Manure Management Manual. ('21)
3. Any legislation that would ban or restrict livestock from streams or bodies of water in Pennsylvania. ('21).
4. Increases in individual and general CAFO permit fees that would make Pennsylvania agriculture less competitive when compared to other states. ('21)

Mining Reclamation Bonds

We recommend the bond for strip reclamation be set at \$6,000 minimum per acre. ('21)

Mushroom Industry Regulation

We recommend exemptions from state regulation that apply to agricultural operations also apply to composing operations that produce matter used exclusively by farmers in agricultural production. ('21)

No-Till

We recommend for conservation funding purposes, any definition of no-till must include provisions allowing the incorporation of manure as long as two-thirds of the residue stays on the ground. ('21)

Public Dumping on Private Land

We recommend farmers or landowners not be held liable for items dumped on their property by others without their knowledge. ('21)

Public Ownership of Waterways

We recommend:

1. For waterways under claim of public ownership, the Commonwealth be responsible for maintenance of the waterway. ('21)
2. State agencies be prohibited from claiming ownership of subsurface and royalty interests relative to natural resources underneath waterways. ('21)

Non-Coal Mining

We recommend:

1. Landowners quarrying on their own land and removing not more than 1,000 tons of saleable material per year be exempt from permit requirements. ('21)
2. Limestone mining activities be subject to the same legal requirements and landowner remedies as provided under the state Bituminous Mining law. ('21)

We oppose legislation that requires a farmer to restore quarry sites or shale pits until it can be proven that the quarry site or shale pit is no longer productive. ('21)

Recycling Programs

We recommend all counties provide a site for the recycling of all types of electronic devices and items not permitted for disposal in landfills. ('21)

River and Stream Control

We recommend:

1. The creation of a general permit for stream restoration that:
 - a. Does not limit the length of the stream authorized to be cleaned. ('21)

- b. Does not prevent removal of gravel bars because of existence of vegetation. ('21)
 - c. Allows a landowner to restore the stream bed back to its original channel. ('21)
 - d. Establishes an effective term of five years for the permit unless property ownership changes hands. ('21)
2. Guidelines be established to facilitate property owners and/or municipalities to immediately respond to public health and safety hazards and massive debris conditions. These guidelines would:
- a. Require the environmental agencies be notified prior to the removal of flood-related hazards or related stream clearing activities. ('21)
 - b. Not require permits or professional engineering services. ('21)
 - c. Provide that in situations deemed emergencies by local, county, or state authorities, flood-related hazards may be removed prior to any notification of the agencies with 12 months. ('21)
 - d. Provide an expedited regulatory review process for water system repairs, sewer system repairs and road repairs where public health and/or safety are impacted. ('21)
3. Township riparian buffer ordinances not require streambank buffers greater than 35 feet and buffers not be required to be completely forested. ('21)
4. Streambank riparian buffer width be proportional to the average stream flow. ('21)
5. Riparian buffers include a pollinator friendly and multifunctional variety of trees and shrubs. ('21)
6. DEP commit permanent and recurring funding for stream restoration and stabilization, including all gas royalty income received from all waters belonging to the Commonwealth. ('21)
7. All PA DEP Chapter 105—General Permits become available electronically on an automated system. Upon submittal, approval would immediately be sent electronically via email to all necessary parties and a hard copy mailed to the applicant. ('23)
- We oppose upgrading of the Delaware River and its tributaries from High Quality or lower classifications to "Exceptional Value." ('21)

Scrap Yards

We recommend:

- 1. A 14-day waiting period be established before dismantling or destroying agricultural equipment at a salvage or junk yard. ('21)
- 2. Scrap yards be required to take video of anyone who attempts to sell scrap and the scrap they are selling. ('21)

Sewage Systems

We recommend:

- 1. Landowners not be subject to requirements for septic service or septic fees on tracts that have no septic systems on the property. ('21)
- 2. DEP offer training for water plant and sewer plant employees on a yearly basis. ('22)

Soil Health

We recommend current science and farming practices be used to update soil survey recommendations for each county. ('21)

Solid Waste Management

We recommend:

- 1. Utilization of food waste on agricultural facilities, for digesters or composting, be regulated as agricultural waste rather than municipal waste under the Solid Waste Management Act. ('21)
- 2. Farmers not be prevented from burning and disposing of organic wastes and refuse on their farms, such as wood, weeds and brush. ('21)

3. Milk house waste be classified as agricultural waste. ('21)
 4. The intentional release of balloons and Chinese lanterns for recreation be banned. ('21)
 5. The Department of Agriculture offer a recycling program for agricultural plastics and farm implement tires. ('21)
 6. Municipalities that prohibit burning agriculture plastics be required to provide collection points for agriculture plastics at no costs to farmers. ('21)
 7. Blanket agricultural exemption for open burning of processed materials, such as plastic and paper. ('21)
- We oppose any new legislation or amendments to the Solid Waste Management Law or regulations that would restrict normal farming operations. ('21)

State Conservation Commission

We recommend:

1. The State Conservation Commission have a 60-day open comment period for farmers/Conservation District Boards to comment on proposed changes or additions to regulations and/or policies. ('21)
2. We support term limits for the State Conservation Commission Board of Directors to two terms or a maximum of eight years. ('21)

REAP

We recommend:

1. REAP be required to reassess qualified equipment into current "smart" technology sold in the past five years. This assessment should occur every five years to reflect current industry standards. ('21)
2. Current funding for the REAP program be maintained, but that the maximum funds for each applicant be increased to \$500,000 in an applicant's lifetime. ('21)
3. REAP reimbursements automatically or continuously be adjusted to current increases in material costs. ('22)
4. Reestablishment of eligibility for REAP credits for use of vertical tillage equipment for manure incorporation. ('21)
5. Agricultural drones, or small unmanned aircraft systems, with the ability to spread cover crop be eligible for REAP credits. ('22)
6. Subsoilers be eligible for REAP credits. ('22)
7. Revising the REAP program to make direct payments to farmers to cover investments for current and future REAP-approved practices instead of the current tax rebate system. ('22)

Storage Tank Regulation

We recommend all on-farm fuel tanks of 3,000 gallons or less used to store motor fuel be exempt from Department of Environmental Protection regulations. ('21)

Stormwater and Erosion Control

We recommend:

1. The impoundment area of manure storage facilities be exempt from stormwater requirements in Chapter 102 Regulations. ('21)
2. The impervious area threshold under Chapter 102 regulations recognize gravel as permeable and the minimum be greater than 5,000 square feet before a stormwater management plan be required. ('21)
3. Agencies of government be encouraged to use Reed Canary Grass as an alternative to planting trees along streams and rivers. ('21)
4. Structures used for growing crops in the field, such as low tunnels, high tunnels and greenhouses where crops are grown in the soil and no permanent changes have been made to soil or topography of site, be exempt from state stormwater regulations. ('21)

5. An agricultural exemption for stormwater management for building projects that are 10,000 square feet or less. ('22)
6. Stormwater credits be established before fees are levied and that such credits include currently implemented practices as well as new practices. ('22)
7. No stormwater fee be levied on properties with less than 20 percent impervious land area. ('22)
8. That for government agencies and authorities levying Stormwater Management Fees, unlimited offsetting credits to those fees be calculated, published and enacted for the following:
 - a. Each acre of compliance under each of the following:
 - i. an NRCS or County Conservation District approved Conservation Plan,
 - ii. an Erosion and Sediment Plan,
 - iii. an Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan, and/or an implemented NRCS Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan.
 - b. Each approved Manure Management Plan.
 - c. Erosion controlling structures including diversion ditches, grass waterways, stone waterways and terraces.
 - d. NRCS or County Conservation District approved manure holding structures.
 - e. Each acre of forested, wooded, or grass acres.
 - f. Positive ratios of pervious to impervious areas. ('21)
9. Pennsylvania agriculture be exempt from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements mandated under the Federal Clean Water Act, and that all mandated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) implementation be funded by the state. ('21)
10. DEP design Best Management Practice guidelines that would allow farmers to maintain and improve our drainage lines to protect the use of farmland without requiring of costly permits, delays and engineering costs. ('21)
11. The funds collected from Act 89 of 2013 be used for storm water projects for townships and municipalities, after county-owned bridges are repaired. ('21)
12. Increased funding from DEP for agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control plans. ('21)

We oppose:

1. Legislation that would authorize counties to jointly develop watershed-based stormwater management plans and require counties and municipalities to develop land use regulations that are consistent with these plans. ('21)
2. Any fee, tax, or ordinance based on stormwater runoff. ('21)

Water Quality

We recommend:

1. Legislation to provide for just and adequate compensation to landowners for the loss of water, or water damages by operations (such as mining, construction, drilling, logging or hazardous/toxic waste sites) due to said practices or activity. ('21)
2. The Good Samaritan Act be expanded to include any watershed clean-up activities in addition to those activities currently covered under the Act (i.e., acid mineral drainage and other mineral extraction). ('21)
3. More stringent categories of water standards not be created for the waters of PA than the existing Exceptional Value and High Quality standards. ('21)
4. DEP grant townships a waiver for permit fees associated with permit work performed by the township on or near High Quality or Exceptional Value streams. ('21)
5. Municipal and public water users over 10,000 gallons per day be assessed a fee no greater than \$.001 per gallon to fund water quality improvement projects. ('21)

6. Programs administered through the Center for Water Quality Excellence prioritize the enhancement and coordination of technical assistance to farmers for implementation of agricultural BMPs recommended in county-action plans. ('21)

7. Pennsylvania pay farmers for planting cover crops, which are not harvested or grazed, on acreage that is reported to the Farm Service Agency and verifiable by the FSA, NRCS or the Conservation District. ('21)

Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program

We recommend:

1. Establishment of an Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program that will provide a direct source of public and private funds to conservation districts for use in administration of agricultural conservation programs and practices that effectively improve local water quality. ('21)

2. Funding provided to conservation districts under an Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program be based on consideration of proportionate number of farms, cropland acres, livestock and poultry and level of agriculturally impaired streams. ('21)

3. State appropriations for an Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program be sufficient to reduce the level of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff estimated from agriculture by at least 50 percent by 2025. ('21)

We oppose legislation directing DEP to draft and model ordinances for critical water areas. ('21)

Water Rights

We recommend:

1. Agriculture be given priority in a drought emergency to assure essential amounts of water needed for production of food, fuel and fiber. ('21)

2. Withholding of all funding to the Delaware River Basin Commission until such time as it adopts regulations to allow gas drilling in the river basin. ('21)

3. Pennsylvania withdraw from the Delaware River Basin Commission. ('21)

4. The moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in the Delaware River Basin by the Delaware River Basin Commission be considered a "taking" of the property of the owners of the oil and gas estates in the Basin. ('21)

5. The Delaware River Basin Commission suspend its plan to permanently ban natural gas drilling in the Delaware River watershed. ('21)

6. No additional geographic or watershed-wide prohibitions be imposed on fracking activity. ('21)

We oppose:

1. The registration of private water wells. ('21)

2. Required metering of private wells and gravity-flow systems by government and all other agencies or organizations. ('21)

Water Wells and Structures

We recommend:

1. Legislation and/or regulation that specifies a setback for new wells or water sources adjoining farmland must be equal to the setback imposed on necessary farm practices needed to maintain soil fertility and control pests. ('21)

2. Any new well drilled within 150 feet of a property line record an exemption on their deed releasing a neighboring landowner from manure spreading setbacks for the well. ('21)

Weed Control

Plants

We recommend:

1. Wild cucumber, autumn olive, sow thistle, water hemlock, common teasel, wild teasel, maretail and bamboo be added to the noxious weed list, with 90 percent cost sharing for eradication on private land. ('21)
2. The State allocate funding at the county level for control and eradication of multi-flora rose. ('21)
3. PennDOT establish an online and paper no-spray registry for roadside spraying. ('21)
4. Seeding or planting of woody species be prohibited within 20 feet of a utility or highway right-of-way for government-funded conservation plantings. ('21)
5. All utilities, pipelines, and railway rights of way be required to comply with the Commonwealth's Noxious Weed and Invasive Species Act. ('23)

Seeds

We oppose the sale of thistle seed used in bird seed. ('21)

Wetlands

We recommend:

1. Determination that denial of wetlands utilization permit would be a "taking" of property in which just compensation would be required to be provided to landowners whose permit is denied. ('21)
2. Any designated wetlands be exempt from property tax. ('21)
3. Farmers be exempt from regulation for draining wet areas on croplands, if the area drained is 2 acres or less. ('21)
4. No "buffer" zones be required around wetlands. ('21)
5. Any surface wetlands created by mining be permanently exempt from all wetland regulations. ('21)
6. County conservation districts should be the sole agencies to regulate the building of ponds. ('21)

PUBLIC LAND AND FACILITIES

Game Lands

We recommend:

1. The Game Commission fully allow use of existing roads to access game lands during hunting season. ('21)
2. The Game Commission not charge a user fee or require permits for equine activities, or the use of designated trails and service roads used by horses, bicycles, and snowmobiles. ('21)
3. Changing the tax on Game Commission current rate/acre to two times per acre the following year with continued annual increases until reaching 60% of the local county assessment value. ('23)
4. Abolishing the current law which gives priority land acquisition to the Game Commission when property is sold. ('23)

Public Construction Projects and Facilities

We recommend any property purchased with tax revenue that is not being used for its intended public purpose be sold or donated for public or private use. ('21)

Public Land Acquisition and Management

We recommend a ban on the Game Commission purchasing or acquiring more land. ('21)

Public Land Use

We recommend:

1. State game preserves and state institution lands be opened for at least one day of hunting to protect neighboring farms. ('21)
2. All state game lands and state forests be opened to horseback riding. ('21)

We oppose any changes to the fees, or the adding of fees, by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for use public lands by the public. ('21)

Revenue Distribution

We recommend the State pay 25 percent of royalties from the government sales of gas, oil, timber, coal and other natural resources be paid locally to the county, municipality and school district. ('21)

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND BROADBAND

Broadband

We recommend:

1. Pennsylvania clarify existing broadband tower and other facility sharing mandates such that the sharing mandates occur on a non-discriminatory basis to allow all telecom providers (including municipal, cooperative, tribal, etc.) access and use of these facilities. ('21)
2. Requiring the Pennsylvania Department of General Services to inventory all state-owned assets that could host or assist in the development of broadband technology. ('21)
3. County and municipalities be able to construct broadband where private entities will not do so. ('21)
4. Broadband be considered a public utility regulated by the Public Utility Commission in order to expedite placement of fiber optic cable on poles belonging to other utilities. ('21)
5. That Pennsylvania update its broadband definition to match the federal definition of broadband. ('22)

Electrical Utility Rates

We recommend:

1. All farm use of electricity be classified as residential rather than commercial. ('21)
2. Farmers be exempt from electric utility demand charges. ('21)
3. Farm processors and other agricultural businesses be exempted from electric utility demand metering. ('21)
4. Anyone using electricity for a very limited time such as county fairs be exempted from electric utility demand charges. ('21)
5. Utility rate increases for commercial and industrial users be held to the same percentage change as residential user rates. ('21)
6. An owner not be responsible for a tenant's past due electric bill. ('21)

Net Metering

We recommend:

1. Farmers not be subject to any limitations of farm-generated electricity capacity in order to qualify for net metering. ('21)
2. The Public Utility Commission (PUC) not place limits on the quantity of farmer-generated electricity sold back to the power company. ('21)

Public Utility Commission

We recommend:

1. The appointment of a farmer or agribusiness person on the Public Utility Commission. ('21)
2. Telecommunications utilities be prohibited from denying or discontinuing landline service to customers. ('21)

Soil and Property Damage

We recommend:

1. The PUC establish guidelines for utilities to follow in determining amount and timing of payment for damages they cause to farmland, and that such guidelines require payment for damages be made within 90 days of the date a damage claim is filed. ('21)

2. The PUC develop a standardized form that landowners may use in submitting to public utilities claims of property damage resulting from the utility's activities. ('21)
3. The PUC establish an alternative procedure to court litigation for resolving damage claims between landowners and utilities resulting from utility activities, which establishes specified time periods for landowners to file and utilities to respond to claims and which promptly initiates the convening of a hearing panel to consider and determine the extent of damages incurred. ('21)
4. The PUC require utilities to reseed agricultural areas impacted by utility development with the same plant varieties that existed before development. ('21)
5. Utility and gas companies be required to compensate tenant farmers directly for crop damage caused by the utilities. ('21)

Stray Voltage

We recommend:

1. Power companies be required to bear all costs for elimination of stray voltage and be liable for all damages caused by stray voltage originating off the farm. ('21)
2. The PUC establish guidelines for utilities to follow in determining how to eliminate stray voltage. ('21)

Utility Lines and Structures

We recommend:

1. All new and replacement utility poles and lines be installed with a minimum 18-foot clearance to the lowest point. ('21)
2. All communications and utility wires be above 18 foot. If previously reported lower than that, the landowner, tenant, or subcontractor will not be held liable for any damage to the wires. ('21)
3. All newly installed or replacement underground utility lines be required to be a minimum of three-feet deep. ('21)
4. Any above-ground gas or utility lines structures on agricultural lands be marked at a minimum height of six feet and be a visible, reflective color. ('21)
5. Utilities be exclusively liable for damages or injuries resulting from interaction with an above-ground utility line that is below legally required minimum height. ('21)
6. Any company doing work on right-of-ways on private land be required to notify landowners, including identification and emergency contact numbers and email addresses of all contractors and the scope of the work performed, as follows:
 - a. For nonemergency work, by first-class mail at least 30 calendar days prior to the work. ('21)
 - b. For emergency work, within 48 hours of entry. ('21)
7. Where feasible, electric utilities be required to use monopoles on farmland. ('21)
8. Providing the availability of three-phase electricity to agricultural operations be a priority item for public grants and public expenditures for new infrastructure and upgrades. ('22)
9. Legislation to mandate consistent maintenance and/or removal of unused utility lines and associated poles. ('23)

Utility Marking Flags

We recommend biodegradable stakes/marketing flags be used to mark utility company lines, NRCS and Soil Conservation markers. ('21)

STATE GOVERNMENT

Agricultural Classification

We recommend mushroom growing, horticulture, aquaculture, viticulture and winemaking, Christmas trees, maple sap and sugar water, silviculture, production of cervids and animals other than traditional livestock, and all commodities and by-products which produce food, fiber, and oxygen and their composting as listed by the PA Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture be permanently classified as agriculture. ('21)

Agroterrorism and Homeland Security

We recommend:

1. Ammonium nitrate vendors be required to:
 - a. Warehouse the product in secure facilities;
 - b. Sell it to legitimate farmers; and
 - c. Store it in secured facilities until used. ('21)
2. Increased penalties, beyond restitution, against those convicted of acts of violence and/or vandalism against agricultural equipment, property, livestock or crops. ('21)

Budget

We recommend:

1. Continued funding of agriculture-based fairs. ('21)
2. In addition to current funding sources, monies from the PA Race Horse Development Fund be able to be used for funding of agricultural priorities. ('21)
3. When the State fails to enact a budget on time, funding be maintained for all line items at levels in the just expired budget until a new budget is enacted. ('21)
4. Pennsylvania designate funding to supplement the National ROPS Rebate Program. ('21)

We oppose:

1. Amending the state constitution to change the effective period for approved state budgets from one year to two years. ('21)
2. Transfers of any funds from the Recycling Fund to the Commonwealth's General Fund. ('21)

Building Codes

We recommend:

1. Individuals be authorized to have any state-approved building code inspector or sewage enforcement officer review and approve permits. ('21)
2. The Uniform Construction Code be changed to exempt small businesses whose operating structures are less than 2,500 square feet and whose volume of traffic does not exceed an average of 25 vehicles per day. ('21)
3. Existing barns used for agritourism purposes be exempt from sprinkler system requirements of the building code. ('21)
4. Deer farming operations and their structures related to animal husbandry be considered agricultural buildings under the Uniform Construction Code. ('21)

Building Contracts

We recommend:

1. Any public contracts be open for bids to non-union contractors. ('21)
2. Repealing the Pennsylvania Separations Act of 1913. ('21)

Civil Suits

We recommend:

1. The enactment of tort reform legislation which includes the following:
 - a. State courts have the authority to impose penalties upon persons or attorneys who bring frivolous law suits. ('21)

- b. A cap of \$100,000 in award for pain and suffering and mental anguish. ('21)
 - c. Legal compensation on a set fee basis, rather than a contingent fee. ('21)
 - d. Authority of a defendant to pay an award in installments rather than lump sum. ('21)
 - e. Denial of right to sue for injuries suffered on the land of another during the commission of a crime. ('21)
 - f. Denial of right to sue for injuries suffered on the land of another without the landowner's express authority or consent to be on the land. ('21)
 - g. Exemption of farmers from being sued by people visiting on a farm tour. ('21)
 - h. Anyone who visits a farm to see or use animals be held legally responsible for their own safety and health. ('21)
 - i. A defendant who prevails under Right to Farm Law protections or in other legal cases be reimbursed by the plaintiff for all legal fees and costs incurred by the defendant. ('21)
 - j. All expenses and legal fees incurred by an agricultural entity who brings a successful suit against a government entity for failure to comply with Right to Farm Law be reimbursed to the agricultural entity. ('21)
 - k. Juries in personal injury litigation be made aware of all the facts pertaining to the litigation including all forms of reimbursement received by the plaintiff from other sources. ('21)
- 2. Landowners not be held liable for injuries caused by wildlife to individuals on their property. ('21)
 - 3. Legislation be enacted that would statutorily recognize a participant in an agritourism or agritainment activity or other recreational activity on the farm is assuming the risk of inherent injury that may result from participation in that activity. ('21)
 - 4. Retail vendors not be held liable for manufacturing or design defects in products sold to consumers that have not been altered by the vendor. ('21)

Compliance Audits

We recommend:

- 1. Department of Labor and Industry audits be announced seven days in advance, in writing by registered mail. ('21)
- 2. All state officials visiting an agriculture entity, present a photo identification and one other form of identification, with one form being left on site. ('21)

Court Documents

We recommend any liens that are court registered be removed when liens are paid, at the expense of the party who had the lien registered. ('21)

Disaster Declarations

We recommend:

- 1. A disaster declaration can only be declared by the Governor for a maximum of 14 days, after that it must be approved by the State House and Senate. ('21)
- 2. The State Emergency Management Services Code be amended to prevent the Governor from unilaterally ordering the closure of private businesses and industries. ('21)
- 3. The legislature determine which businesses are deemed "essential" during a disaster emergency. ('21)
- 4. All agriculture and agriculturally-related businesses, including but not limited to greenhouses, veterinary and veterinary technicians, fee-fishing operations, and mental health activities such as equestrian and pet-therapy functions, be deemed "essential" during a disaster emergency. ('21)

5. Any state-imposed gathering limitation imposed for health-protection purposes, apply equally to all businesses, with the exception of religious services. ('21)
6. Prohibiting the closure of state-owned rest areas, service plazas, and welcome centers during declared disaster emergencies. ('21)
7. All patients be allowed a family member or friend as a patient advocate to be present always, regardless of a pandemic situation. ('21)
8. During a pandemic, only counties with a high percentage of cases, as determined by the state Department of Health, should be forced to quarantine. ('21)
9. Coroners and other local-government officials always be included in the process of death, particularly with the issuing of death certificate, during a disaster emergency. ('21)
10. The Governor or the Board of Corrections not be able to unilaterally release prisoners without the personal recommendation of the Board of Pardons during a disaster emergency. ('21)

Executive Branch

We recommend:

1. Appointees that have been denied confirmation by the Senate cannot serve in an acting position or make policy. ('21)
2. Public visibility into formal Agency Coordination Meetings between state and (if applicable) federal agencies, for example between PennDOT and DEP.

Fair Dealership Law

We recommend changes to the Fair Dealership Law that:

1. Ensure protection of farm equipment dealers from business practices by manufacturers and large-scale suppliers that limit the types of products a dealer may sell, require dealers to purchase parts and equipment not related to the products marketed by the dealer, discriminate or intentionally control marketing opportunities among dealers, fail to provide adequate compensation to dealers providing warranted repair services for the manufacturer. ('21)
2. In cases where the dealership agreements do not expressly establish the ending date of the agreement, allow the dealer to voluntarily terminate the agreement at any time, upon timely notice. ('21)
3. Extend the period for successors of a deceased or incapacitated dealer to exercise the option to continue the dealership agreement. ('21)

False Complaints to Government Agencies

We recommend:

1. Anyone who turns in an invalid nuisance complaint be liable for the cost of the investigation. ('21)
2. If an animal activist or animal control officer makes a false accusation of animal abuse against a farm, stable or kennel owner, the farmer shall be entitled to full reimbursement of legal costs and any lost income. ('21)
3. The public be enabled to obtain identification of individuals who make intentional, reckless, or repeatedly false claims to government agencies. ('21)

Farm Size Limitation

We oppose any legislative or regulatory practice that discriminates against increasing, or has the effect of limiting, the size of family farms. ('21)

Firearms and Weapons Regulation

We recommend:

1. Prohibiting government from seizing legal firearms from law-abiding citizens in times of local, state, or national emergency. ('21)
2. The continued use of lead in ammunition. ('21)

We oppose:

1. Registration of shotguns, long guns, rifles, handguns and pistols. ('21)
2. Any law that allows municipalities to regulate the ownership of guns and/or ammunition. ('21)

Gambling

We recommend:

1. Amendments to the Small Games of Chance Law to authorize non-profit organizations to engage in up to two gaming projects per year without requirement to obtain a license. ('21)
2. The use of state lottery fund appropriations remain exclusively for senior services and care. ('21)

General Assembly

We recommend:

1. The number of General Assembly members should remain at its present level of 203 House members and 50 Senate members. ('21)
2. A 2/3 vote of both chambers of the General Assembly be required to enact legislation increasing taxes during Lane Duck sessions. ('21)
3. Any proposed increase in the Commonwealth's long-term debt obligations require an analysis that quantifies effects of the bill on the ability of the Commonwealth to service its total debt obligations prior to passage. ('21)
4. All unused funds budgeted for the state legislature be returned to the state general fund at the end of the fiscal year. ('21)
5. Pennsylvania Senators and Representatives maintain and make public on their websites a monthly log of all meetings held with registered lobbyists. ('21)

We oppose:

1. Elimination of lame duck sessions in the legislature. ('21)
2. Convening a PA Constitutional Convention. ('21)

Grants, Loans, and Financial Programs

We recommend:

1. The title of all state grants clearly identify the source of money used for a particular grant program. ('21)
2. Foreign investors not be eligible for any government-funded low-interest loans to operate or develop agricultural production facilities. ('21)
3. The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, in partnership with financial institutions, create a campaign to make farmers aware of the loan programs that are available to new and beginning farmers and for the development and expansion of established farms. ('21)
4. It be unlawful to list or indicate race or ethnicity designations on applications and disbursements involving state funds, including grants, scholarships, and loans. ('22)

Immigration

We oppose state law regarding immigration in favor of national law. ('21)

Penn State Trustees

We recommend:

1. Keeping the number of Penn State Trustees elected by agriculture societies and organizations to a minimum of six. ('21)
2. Penn State county Trustee election delegates have the option to vote online from Extension Offices. ('21)

Property Rights

We recommend landowners be compensated for the taking of land or restricted use of land, including loss of current and future agricultural income, by all levels of government. ('21)

Privacy

We recommend:

1. Images of law-abiding humans, on private property, captured by game cameras be prohibited to be reproduced or transmitted without permission of the subjects or law enforcement. ('21)
 2. The Open Field's Doctrine be modified to have "reasonable suspicion" a crime is being committed before any government entity and/or any law enforcement agency can enter private lands without contacting the property owner or obtaining a warrant. ('22)
 3. Legislation requiring state officials to do the following before going onto private property:
 - a. Identify themselves;
 - b. Notify property owners; and
 - c. Obtain written or oral permission, or have a search warrant. ('21)
 4. All individual operator information contained in Geographic Information System mapping programs utilized by state and county Agencies be kept strictly confidential. ('21)
- We oppose surveillance of private property by any governmental agency without a warrant or probable cause. ('21)

Public Records

We recommend the legislature expand the "open record's law" to include Penn State, Pittsburgh, Temple and Lincoln Universities. ('21)

Real Estate Transfers

We recommend:

1. Contracts for sale of real property be required to include written disclosure that the property subject to sale is located within or adjacent to an agricultural security area. ('21)
2. Real estate purchasers next to active farms and Agricultural Security Areas be notified by the seller of protections for such farms. ('21)

Salaries and Benefits of Governmental Officials

We recommend:

1. In any year the state budget is not passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor prior to July 1, the elected officials of the state House and Senate and the Governor shall not receive their pro-rated salary, any per diem expenses, account mileage or any other expenses for each day there is not a budget. ('21)
2. All state employees be subject to random drug/alcohol testing. ('21)
3. The General Assembly secure funding to raise the pay scale of Soil Conservation employees to a competitive level consistent with identical commercial or governmental positions. ('21)

Gifts

We recommend:

1. A cap on all gifts and contributions to public officials. ('21)
2. State employees be allowed to accept small gratuities, such as food and drink, commonly provided to persons attending a meeting. ('21)

Health Insurance Premiums

We recommend state legislators, including retired legislators, pay 100 percent of their health insurance premiums. ('21)

Pensions

We recommend:

1. Government pension plans for new employees be changed from a Defined Benefit Plan to a Defined Contribution Plan. ('21)
2. State mandated teacher and county pension plans be changed from a defined benefit to a defined contribution. ('21)
3. Public sector employees contribute a higher percent toward their pension plan reducing the state and/or school district contribution by the same amount. ('21)

4. Pension reform start with current state legislators' pensions. ('21)
5. Reducing the benefit multiplier for state pension plans to 2 percent for state employees and legislators. ('21)
6. Selling of bonds to offset the deficit in the state pension plan. ('21)
7. State pension payments be based on base salary or a 40-hour work week and not include overtime. ('21)
8. Raising the minimum retirement age for receiving a public pension to be consistent with Social Security retirement. ('21)
9. Strengthening the Pension Forfeiture Act to apply to a wider range of felonies. ('21)
10. No funds from the State go to any pension plan that uses Environmental, Social, and Governance scores. ('22)

State Aid Eligibility

We recommend Pennsylvania welfare recipients be subject to random drug and alcohol testing and the loss of benefits for one year if the test is positive. ('21)

State Police and Law Enforcement

We recommend:

1. The State provide additional police protection in rural areas. ('21)
2. The position of PA Constable be supported in its continued enforcement of civil and criminal laws. ('22)

We oppose assessment of fees for State Police protection to rural municipalities that do not have a police force. ('21)

Surveying Standards

We recommend surveyors be held liable for any damages they cause on agricultural land, and landowners be notified prior to any land surveying on farmland. ('21)

Timber Harvest

We recommend:

1. The statute of limitation for civil actions for illegal cutting or removal of timber be increased to seven years. ('21)
2. Requiring logging operators who lease timber land to be bonded. ('21)

Warranty and Repair Laws

We recommend there be a lemon law established to protect new agricultural farm equipment from defects for at least 12 months or 1,000 hours. ('21)

Young and Beginning Farmers

We recommend:

1. Additional state funding for the FARMLINK program. ('21)
2. Championing farm succession by encouraging low-interest loans for journeyman farmers to purchase farms from retiring farmers. ('22)
3. The beginning farmer tax credit for the sale of property be increased to 10% of the selling price and that the maximum amount of funding per application be increased to \$75,000. ('22)
4. The beginning farmer tax credit for rental agreements be increased to 25% for each the first five years of the agreement and that the maximum be increased \$10,000 per year. ('22)

TAXES

Clean and Green Act Administration

We recommend:

1. Land tracts enrolled in Forest Reserve be open to public recreational use, except when a portion of the tract is enrolled in agricultural use. ('21)
2. Farmland and woodland should be valued equally in regards to Clean and Green. ('22)
3. Farms subject to conservation easements automatically receive Clean and Green assessment. ('21)

4. The annual deadline for filing Clean and Green applications not apply to applications filed in the year the land was purchased. ('21)
5. Counties be required to:
 - a. Periodically inspect agricultural reserve lands to ensure that their owners are not restricting public access for recreational purposes. ('21)
 - b. Terminate preferential assessment of those ag reserve lands in which public access is being denied. ('21)
 - c. Provide for an additional land valuation class that will assign no or negligible assessment value to portions of agricultural use land that are not economically feasible for use in crop production. ('21)
6. All county assessment officials administering county Clean and Green programs be required to demonstrate, through certification and continuing education and recertification, a thorough knowledge and understanding of Clean and Green statutes and regulations and administration guidelines. ('21)
7. The Clean and Green Act be amended to eliminate authority for annual adjustment of assessed use values of clean and green properties in years other than years that a county implements countywide reassessment of all properties. ('21)
8. The Department of Agriculture have clear authority and duty to take legal action to correct any administrative activity or interpretive position by a county that violates the Clean and Green statutes, regulations or state administrative guidelines. ('21)
9. Lands currently enrolled in Clean and Green not become ineligible because of future changes to enrollment standards. ('21)
10. Non-contiguous parcels used for selling agricultural products be eligible for Clean and Green enrollment if the majority of the products sold were produced on enrolled land by the same owner. ('21)

Rollback Taxes

We recommend:

1. The Clean and Green Act allow the use of clean and green land for commercial alternative energy production, with roll back taxes only imposed on the area used for such purposes. ('21)
2. Clean and Green standards for the non-coal mining industry align with the natural gas industry when it comes to roll back tax liability. ('23)
3. Counties be required to use the principal amount of Clean and Green rollback taxes received for the county's agricultural land preservation program. ('21)
4. Conveyances of a portion of a farm less than 10 acres enrolled in Clean and Green to an adjoining farm enrolled in Clean and Green not be subject to rollback taxes. ('21)
5. Owners of land enrolled in Clean and Green be given a six-month safe harbor from roll back taxes and interest to correct any deficiency arising from the unintentional change in a qualified land use or other enrollment criteria. ('21)
6. The Clean and Green Act be amended to authorize application of limited rollback tax on use of enrolled land for rural enterprises by persons other than the landowner or the landowner's immediate family. ('21)
7. The rate of interest on roll-back taxes be the lower of 1 percent over the U.S. prime interest rate or 5 percent. ('21)

We oppose:

1. Any amendment to the Clean and Green Act that would attempt to limit or restrict the type or extent of agricultural practices that may be performed on farms as a condition of eligibility for clean and green enrollment. ('21)

2. Any requirements for landowner verification of regularly enrolled Clean & Green properties. ('21)

Depreciation

We recommend accelerated depreciation for purchases of machinery and equipment, land improvements and buildings. ('21)

Income Tax

We recommend:

1. Health insurance premiums and medical expenses, including premiums and expenses for long-term care insurance, be fully deductible for income tax purposes. ('21)
2. Rules for determining taxable gain for state income tax purposes be the same as those applied under federal regulations. ('21)
3. State income tax laws be amended to exempt individuals 70 years of age and older from requirements to pay estimated tax on income received during a tax year. ('21)
4. State income tax laws provide for the same exclusion from capital gains in the sale of a primary residence (\$250,000/\$500,000) as provided in federal law and allow portions of the resident farm other than the immediate farm residence to be eligible for the exclusion. ('21)
5. Sales of ag conservation easements be exempt from state income taxes. ('21)
6. Social Security benefits remain exempt from state income taxes. ('21)
7. Allowing farm losses to offset other income on state and local returns. ('21)
8. Rules governing depreciation for state income tax be aligned with federal regulations. ('21)
9. The maximum level of business expense deduction from income tax allowed in the year of purchase of business equipment be increased to \$500,000. ('21)
10. There be no reduction in income tax exemptions provided to farm businesses under current law. ('21)
11. Employers be permitted to use the PALite format when required to electronically submit local tax filings. ('21)
12. Interest paid on a home mortgage loan of the taxpayer's primary residence be deductible from the state income tax. ('21)
13. Federal tax rules apply in determining the amount of depletion deduction from state income tax a natural gas/hydrocarbons royalty owner may receive under the percentage deduction method. ('21)
14. Quarterly state tax payments being due April 15th, July 15th, October 15th and January 15th to represent true quarterly payments. ('22)
15. Increasing the cap for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit fund to support Educational Improvement Organizations. ('22)

Inheritance Tax

We recommend:

1. Pennsylvania inheritance tax be eliminated. ('21)
2. In the absence of elimination of the inheritance tax, the inheritance tax law:
 - a. Provide a personal exclusion of \$1 million. ('21)
 - b. Increase to \$15,000 the total value of gifts received from a person within one year of death that are excluded from inheritance tax. ('21)
3. Transfers by will of any active farm to a person not a relative of the deceased owner be exempt from inheritance tax if the succeeding owner continues to operate the farm under ownership or lease for at least of seven years after transfer. ('21)

4. Life estate beneficiaries be notified by the Department of Revenue of any inheritance taxes due within one year of the decedent's death. ('21)

Liquid Fuels Tax

We recommend:

1. The area from the farm in which consumption of fuel by farm vehicles and equipment is eligible for state liquid fuels tax refund be extended to 100 miles. ('21)
2. The Pennsylvania Board of Finance and Review refund fuel tax monies within 45 days of the file date. ('21)

Local Taxation

We recommend:

1. State income tax laws be amended to provide for income tax credits to farmers for payment of local property taxes on their farms. ('21)
2. Local property taxes and school taxes not be assessed on a person age 62 or older if the person's income is at or below poverty level. ('21)
3. All agriculture related entertainment should be exempt from any municipal amusement tax. ('21)
4. Any future change to school district taxing authority ensure the change will not cause a reduction in amount of revenue currently provided to any individual school district. ('21)
5. Counties be authorized to replace real property tax with earned income tax or a county sales tax, consistent with state law. ('21)

Real Property Taxes

We recommend:

1. The elimination of school property taxes in Pennsylvania and that they be replaced with a menu of various revenue sources to fund school districts which may include a mixture of earned income, wage and/or an expanded state sales tax on goods and services except those covered by current business and agricultural exemptions. ('21)
2. Utility companies be fully responsible for real estate taxes with respect to the real estate under on land corridors that the utility has acquired any property interest for the use or operation of aboveground piping and structures. ('21)

We support a partial reduction of school property taxes as a possible needed step in the process to achieve the final result of eliminating school property taxes. ('21)

Exemptions from Property Tax

We recommend:

1. The following should be exempt from property tax:
 - a. Farm grain storage bins, even those not exclusively used for on-farm animal feed storage. ('21)
 - b. On-farm agricultural commodity cold storage facilities. ('21)
 - c. All farm buildings used solely for agricultural purposes. ('21)
 - d. Facilities that generate energy from waste primarily for on-farm use. ('21)
 - e. Cellular towers used exclusively for law enforcement and emergency service purposes. ('21)
 - f. Public roadways and public utility right-of-ways on private property. ('21)
3. New agriculture-related buildings be tax exempt from real estate taxes for five years. ('21)
4. Solar, wind and geothermal energy systems constructed for the purpose of on-site electricity or heating or cooling use be exempt from real property tax for eight years. ('21)
5. No increase in the maximum level of homestead exemption from real property tax that taxing districts may currently provide. ('21)

Realty Transfer Tax

We recommend:

1. Transfers of real property to or by a land conservancy be subject to realty transfer tax. ('21)
2. The farm exemption from realty transfer tax also include fur farms. ('21)
3. Changes in law or interpretive policy to ensure transfers of real property to a family farm business by an individual family member with any ownership interest in that business qualify for exemption from realty transfer tax if the family's total ownership interest is at least 75 percent of the business's total ownership. ('21)

Sales Tax

We recommend:

1. Parties with seasonal sales only be required file sales tax returns once per year. ('21)
 2. There be no reduction in sales tax exemptions provided to farm businesses under current law. ('21)
 3. The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue provide farmers with a sales tax exemption number for qualified purchases. ('21)
 4. The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue maintain a tele-file system for taxpayers who do not have computers or internet access that meets the Pennsylvania Broadband Authority standards for high-speed internet access to file their state sales tax and employer withholding tax. ('23)
- Exemptions from Sales Tax

We recommend the following be exempt from sales tax:

1. Commercial businesses and non-profit organizations engaged in breeding, boarding or raising of horses for recreation. ('21)
2. Purchases farm equipment and other specialized vehicles for use by custom farm service businesses. ('21)
3. Purchases by organizations operating fairs, including agricultural fair organizations. ('21)
4. Purchases of goods, services and equipment by a church for maintaining or improving a cemetery that the church owns and operates for religious purposes. ('21)
5. Concrete used in the construction of trench silos. ('21)
6. Tangible personal property purchased to construct, repair or maintain agricultural real estate, including buildings and fencing supplies to house livestock, and storage bins for feed or grain. ('21)
7. Rotary mowers and snow removal equipment used for maintaining the farm property. ('22)
8. Dog food purchases by all licensed breeding kennels inspected by the Department of Agriculture. ('21)
9. Repair parts, tires and farm licenses on vehicles over 17,000 pounds gross vehicle weight when purchased by farmers. ('21)
10. Christmas trees purchased in Pennsylvania and which originate from a Pennsylvania tree farm. ('21)
11. Purchases of equipment predominantly used for collection, handling or reprocessing of agricultural plastic. ('21)
12. Commercial raising in captivity of cervids and animals other than traditional livestock qualify for the farming exemption from sales tax. ('21)

Severance Tax

We recommend:

1. The imposition of a severance tax on gas and oil extraction not be imposed. ('21)
2. Any action to impose a severance tax not reduce the schedule of impact fees imposed on natural gas wells under Act 13 of 2012. ('21)

Tax Assessment Administration

We recommend:

1. Counties be required to identify and make available to farmers in writing the methodology used in calculating tax assessments of agricultural buildings. ('21)
2. County assessors be required to provide estimates of changes in assessed value to result from planned building construction projects. ('21)
3. Counties not be authorized to reassess whole farm properties because of sale of transfer of the property or construction or renovation of a farm building or structure. ('21)
4. Assessments issued for non-reported property improvements be reported yearly to all municipalities within a county. ('21)
5. Municipalities and school districts be prohibited from initiating tax assessment appeals of real property. ('21)
6. Immediate adjustments in tax assessment values to lands that become burdened by a publicly-authorized right-of-way easement. ('21)
7. No property tax assessment be authorized on gas, oil or minerals unless the subsurface real property has been separated in ownership from surface realty. ('21)
8. If a county uses fly over planes for assessment purposes that they do a physical site visit before increasing the assessment on a property. ('21)
9. Taxing districts be prohibited from paying commissions or other incentive or contingent fee payments for services to identify underassessed real property. ('21)

We oppose:

1. The appraisal of farmland values, for county tax purposes, in excess of fair market value for agricultural purposes. ('23)
2. The appraisal method, for county tax purposes, of adding the goodwill of the business to the value of commercial land and buildings. ('23)

Time of Payment

We recommend all businesses whose total annual payroll is \$100,000 or less have the option to pay all state and local employment taxes otherwise due during a tax year by the last day of the first month of the following tax year. ('21)

TRESPASSING

Agricultural Trespass

We recommend:

1. No statute be created to make large livestock escapes a criminal offense. ('21)
2. We recommend legislation that would make it a criminal act to seek employment or commit unauthorized access on an agricultural production facility in order to videotape farm operations. ('21)

General Trespass

We recommend:

1. A state commission be established to evaluate Pennsylvania's trespassing laws and their enforcement with the goal of effectively deterring trespassing on private properties. ('21)
2. Landowner permission be required prior to entrance onto private property. ('21)
3. Anyone entering a farm to steal or intent to steal livestock be charged with both trespass and second-degree burglary. ('23)
4. A training program be instituted for non-Game Commission law enforcement personnel (i.e., State Police et al.) on the importance of trespassing laws in Title 18 and Title 34. ('23)

Hunting-Related Trespass

We recommend penalties for private property and hunting trespass violations occurring on Sunday be doubled. ('21)

INDEX

Abortion	11
Above-Ground Utility Structures	44
ACRE.....	29
Ag Tag Program.....	20
Agricultural Area Security Law.....	10, 49
Agricultural Buildings.....	53
Agricultural Classification	45
Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program	41
Agricultural Conservation Easement Sales.....	52
Agricultural Education	7
Agricultural Land Preservation.....	10, 27
Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board (ALCAB).....	10
Agricultural Plastic.....	39, 54
Agricultural Research	1
Agricultural Reserve Lands	51
Agricultural Vehicles.....	18
Agriculture and Homeland Security	45
Agriculture, Pennsylvania Dept. of.....	1
Agriculture, Vehicle Code	31
Agritourism.....	1, 29, 45, 46
Agroterrorism	45
Air Quality	34
Alcoholic Beverage Sales.....	3
Alternative Fuels	10
Amusement Tax	53
Animal Abuser Registry	5
Animal Cruelty Law Enforcement	4
Animal Damage Control	18
Animal Drugs	4
Animal Feed.....	53
Animal Health.....	3
Animal Humane Organizations and Agents	4, 5
Animal Production Facilities	1, 2
Animal Rendering.....	3
Animal Research Programs, Funding for	4
Animal Welfare.....	3
Antler Restrictions	24
Antlerless and Antlered Deer.....	22, 23
Apiary.....	2
Application of Laws	25
Aquaculture.....	2
Assessment Value, Real Estate	42, 51, 55
Assistance for Young Farmers	48
Attorney General	29
Automobile Insurance.....	25
Automobile Safety	14
Autumn Olive	42
Avian Influenza.....	3
Babesia.....	14
Baiting.....	24
Balloons, Release of	39
Bamboo	42
Bear	18, 24, 44
Beef, Grassfed	1
Beer Distributors	3
Bees.....	28, 29, 31
Beginning Farmer Tax Credit	50
Best Management Practices (BMPs)	36, 40, 41
Beverage Containers.....	34
Bicyclists	30
Biosecurity	15
Biosolids	34
Bird Damage	18

Bird Shooting Events.....	18
Bloc Voting.....	30
Blood Donations.....	14
Board of Finance and Review	53
Boarding Rate, Humane Societies.....	4
Bonding.....	13, 18, 35
Bonds, Mining Reclamation.....	37
Bridges.....	16, 17, 36, 40
Broadband	43, 54
Budget	45
Buffer Zones	28
Building Codes.....	45
Building Construction, Referendums	8
Building Contracts.....	45
Burglary	55
Business Audits.....	26, 46
Campaign Financing	9
Candidate Requirements.....	9
Cellular Phones.....	14
Chapter 102 Regulations.....	39
Charity Usage, Farm Vehicles and Trailers	33
Charter Schools	7
Chesapeake Bay.....	34, 36
Children and Youth Services, Funding of.....	28
Chinese Lanterns, Release of	39
Christmas Tree Lands, Trespassing.....	19, 45, 54
Christmas Trees, Sales Tax	54
Chronic Wasting Disease	4, 23, 24
Civil Suits	45
Class I Over-Order Premiums	7
Clean and Green.....	50, 51
Clotheslines	29
Coldframes, Taxation of	19, 53
College Farms.....	8
Common Teasel.....	42
Compensation.....	46
Compensation to Farmers and Landowners	18, 42, 44, 48
Complaints to DEP	35
Compliance Audits	46
Composting.....	38, 45
Comprehensive Plans	30
Condemnation of Land	9, 10, 13, 17, 28
Connibear Traps	24
Conservancies, Subjection to Realty Transfer Tax	54
Conservation Districts	35, 36, 37, 41, 42
Conservation Easements	50
Construction, School Sport Facilities	8
Continuing Education	14, 51
Contracts.....	45, 49
Cooperating Farmland Program	18
Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program.....	1
Cooperatives.....	30
Coroners	47
Corridor of Travel	16
County Commissioners	9
County Taxation Authority	52, 53
Court Documents	46
Covering Crop Loads	33
Coyotes.....	23
Crop Damage.....	18, 19, 21, 24, 44
Cruelty to Animals	4
Cucumbers, Noxious Weed.....	42
Curriculum.....	7
Dairy	6

Dairy Farm Inspections	6
Dairy Pricing.....	6, 7
Dealers of Used Farm Equipment	15
Deed Consolidation	27
Deer	2, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 45
Deer Antler Length	22, 24
Deer Licenses	22
Deer Management	20, 24
Deer Raised Domestically, Regulation of.....	2
Deer Season	23
Dehorning, Cattle	3
Delaware River Basin Commission.....	41
Department of Aging	14
Department of Agriculture 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 19, 25, 27, 28, 29, 39, 45, 51, 54	
Department of Community and Economic Development.....	48
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	34
Department of Education.....	7
Department of Environmental Protection	12, 15, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 47
Department of General Services	43
Department of Health	14, 28, 47
Department of Human Services.....	15
Department of Labor and Industry	25, 46
Department of Revenue	53, 54
Depreciation.....	52
Deterrent Fence Program.....	20
Disabled Persons	14, 15
Disaster Assistance.....	2
Disaster Declarations	46, 47
Disease Management Areas	24
Distilleries.....	3
DMAP	18, 20, 22, 24
Doe Tags	22
Dog and Kennel Regulation and Enforcement.....	2
Dog Food	54
Dog Law.....	2
Drainage	42
Drainage Lines	40
Drilling.....	13
Driver's Knowledge Test	31
Drones	24, 39
Drug Testing	15
Dumping on Private Land.....	37
Easements.....	28
Education	7
Educational Improvement Tax Credit.....	52
Elections and Elected Office.....	9
Electrical Utility Rates.....	43
Elk 19, 22, 24	
Emerald Ash Borer	17
Emergencies, Agricultural.....	15
Emergencies, Transportation During	31
Emergency Management Services Code.....	46
Eminent Domain.....	9, 10, 13, 17, 28
Energy	10
Enforcement of Game and Fish Laws.....	20
Engineering Firms	36
Environmental Enforcement	35
Environmental Justice	36
Environmental Protection, PA Department of ...	12, 15, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 47
Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease.....	5
Equine Dentistry	5

Equine Herpes Virus	5
Equine Rescue Facilities	3, 5
Equipment, Markings on.....	32
Escort Vehicle	32
Ethanol.....	10
Executive Branch	47
Exemption from Sales Tax	54
Exotic Species.....	2
Extraction.....	12, 40, 54
Fairs.....	43, 45, 54
False Complaints to Government Agencies	47
Family and Rural Life	11
Farm Buildings, Exemption from Taxation	53
Farm Equipment Salvage.....	38
Farm Implements	31
Farm Labor Contractor	25
Farm Show Complex.....	2
Farm Size Limitation.....	47
Farm Trucks.....	10, 32, 33
Farm Vehicles	31, 33, 53
Farm Watershed Survey.....	36
Farmed Fish.....	2
Farmer Representation, Game Commission.....	21
Farmer Representation, P.U.C.	43
Farmers Market.....	1, 16
Farming Exemption from Sales Tax.....	54
Farmland Preservation	10, 27
Farmland Taking	9
Farmland, Government-Owned	42
FARMLINK.....	50
Farms, Disposal of Waste on	37
Farms, Electrical Rates for	43
Fencing for Damage Control	20
Fencing of Manure Pits	15
Feral Swine.....	5
Fertilizer	11
Filing Fees, Court Documents	46
Financial Aid	8
Fire and Casualty Insurance.....	25, 29
Fire Companies.....	53
Firearms and Weapons Regulation	47
Fireworks	14
First Marketable Product Doctrine	12
First Responders.....	15
Fish Commission.....	20, 21
Fishing License	22
Flies	15
Fox.....	21, 23
Fracturing, Hydraulic	41
Fuel Tax.....	17, 53
Fuels, Alternative/Renewable.....	10
Funding of Public Education.....	7
Gambling.....	48
Game and Fish Commissions.....	21
Game Code.....	18, 20
Game Commission.....	18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 42, 55
Game Lands	21, 23, 24, 42
Game Wardens.....	20
Gas and Oil Leases.....	12
Gas and Oil Wells	11
General Assembly.....	7, 15, 48, 49
Geographic Information System Mapping.....	49
Gifts to Public Officials	49
Good Samaritan Act.....	40

Goodwill Valuation	55
Grain Moisture Testers	3
Grain Storage Bin Rescues	15
Grain Storage Bins, Taxation of	53
Grants	2, 48
Grass Fed Beef	1
Gratuities, State Employees	49
Gravity-Flow Systems	41
Groundhogs	24
Gun Regulation	47
Hay Wagons	33
Hayrides	1
Health and Safety	14
Health Insurance	15, 49, 52
High Tunnels	39
Higher Education	8
Highway Fuel Taxes	53
Highway Lighting	33
Highway Maintenance	16
Highway Right-of-Way	16, 17, 36, 42, 44, 53, 55
Highways	16
Home Mortgage	52
Homework, Industrial	25
Horse Drawn Transportation	30
Horse Racing and Riding	5, 42
Horse Slaughter	5
Horticulture	45
Human Trafficking	15
Humane Societies	4
Hunting and Fishing Laws	18
Hunting License	18, 22
Hunting on Private Property	21
Hunting Safety	22
Immigration	48
Impact Fees and Studies	29, 54
Impaired Watershed	36
Income Tax	52, 53
Industrial Homework	25
Infrared Night Vision Equipment	24, 25
Inheritance Tax	9, 52, 53
Insurance	25
Interstate Highways	16, 18, 28, 31, 32
Introduction of Wildlife	24
Invasive Species	11, 15
Johne's Disease	5
Judges	9
Kennels, Exemption from Sales Tax	54
Kennels, Regulation of	2
Labor	25
Lame Duck	48
Land Surveys	50
Land Use	27
Landfills	10, 37
Landline Service	43
Law Enforcement	3, 4, 25, 33, 49, 53, 55
Legal Notices and Recordkeeping	29
Legislation and Programs Impacting Municipalities	29
Liability Protection	45
Libre's Law	5
Limited Access Highways	32
Limited Wineries	3
Liquid Fuels Tax	53
Liquor Control Board	1, 3
Liquor Stores	3

Litter, Poultry.....	2, 3, 41
Littering.....	36
Livestock and Poultry Confinement	3
Livestock Escapes	55
Loan Forgiveness.....	8
Loans, Low Interest.....	2
Lobbying	48
Local Government.....	28
Local Rail Lines.....	17
Local Tax Exemption for Older Citizens.....	53
Local Taxation.....	53
Local Traffic	17, 18
Local Zoning	28
Long-Term Care Insurance	52
Loss of Water.....	40
Lottery.....	22, 48
Lyme Disease	14
Mail-in Ballots.....	9
Maintenance, Highways	16
Manmade Ponds.....	20, 22
Manure and Nutrient Management	36
Manure Management Manual.....	36, 37
Manure Storage Facilities.....	15, 36, 39
Marketing	30
Marketing, Pennsylvania Products	2
Meat Inspection.....	1
Medical Testing	15
Medications.....	4
Mental Institutions	14
Milk House Waste	39
Milk Marketing.....	6
Milk Pricing.....	6, 7
Milk, Processing Facilities	6, 7
Milk, Sales in School and Government Facilities	7
Minimum Wage	26
Mining Reclamation.....	37
Mining Reclamation Bonds.....	37
Monopolies	44
Moped Regulation	30
Motor License and Liquid Fuels Revenues	17
Motor Vehicle Code.....	30
Mulch	27
Multi-Flora Rose.....	42
Multipurpose Agricultural Vehicle	32
Municipal Airport Authorities.....	30
Municipalities Planning Code	29, 30
Municipalities, Legislation and Programs Impacting.....	29
Mushroom Industry Regulation.....	37
Muskrat Trapping Season	23
Muzzle Loader Season.....	23
Natural Gas.....	10, 12, 27, 41, 51, 52, 54
Natural Resources	34
Net Metering	43
Night Vision Equipment	24, 25
Nitrogen	41
Non-Motorized Vehicles	30
Non-Profit Usage, Farm Vehicles and Usage	33
No-Till	37
Nuclear Power Plants.....	10
Nutrient Management.....	36, 37, 40
Oenology.....	1
Off-Track Betting.....	48
Oil and Gas Leases.....	12
Oil and Gas Wells	13

Oil Leases, Taxation of.....	55
Open Field's Doctrine.....	49
Ordinances.....	2, 13, 28, 29, 30, 38, 41
Over-Order Premiums.....	6
Oversize and Overweight Vehicles.....	30
Over-Width Permits.....	30, 31
PA Preferred.....	1
PALite.....	52
Partial-Birth Abortion.....	11
Patients of Mental Institutions.....	14
Penn State Trustees.....	48
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.....	16, 17, 18, 31, 32, 33, 34, 42, 47
Pennsylvania Horse and Harness Racing Commission.....	5
Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board.....	6, 7
Pennsylvania Turnpike.....	17, 18
Pension.....	25, 49, 50
Pension Forfeiture Act.....	50
Permits, Agricultural.....	36, 37
Permits, Stream Crossing.....	35
Permitted Vehicles.....	31, 32, 33, 54
Pesticides.....	11
PFAS.....	11, 34
Pharmaceutical Supplies.....	4
Photo Identification, State Officials.....	46
Physical Exam, CDL.....	31
Planning and Zoning Commissions.....	30
Police Cars, Unmarked.....	31
Police Officers.....	4, 5, 15, 31, 50, 55
Pollinator.....	36, 38
Pollution, Water.....	40, 41
Ponds.....	16, 42
Poultry and Livestock Confinement.....	3
Prayer.....	8
Preferential Assessment.....	51
Prevailing Wage Rate.....	26
Prime Farmland.....	10
Prison Inmates.....	16, 47
Private Property, Hunting on.....	21
Private Property, Trespassing.....	55
Producer Pricing, Dairy.....	7
Promotion of Pennsylvania Products.....	2
Property Damage.....	25, 44
Property Rights.....	48
Property Taxes.....	53
Protection from Liability.....	45
Public Acquisition of Land.....	42
Public Building Construction, Referendum Approval.....	8
Public Construction Projects and Facilities.....	42
Public Dumping on Private Land.....	37
Public Employee Act.....	26
Public Land.....	42, 43
Public Notices.....	29
Public Office, Requirements for.....	9
Public Projects and Facilities, Referendum Approval of.....	8
Public Records.....	49
Public Utilities.....	43
Public Utility Commission.....	12, 43, 44
Public Utility Property Interests, Taxation of.....	53
Purchase of Wildlife.....	22
Quarries.....	37
Rabies.....	14
Race Horse Development Fund.....	45
Railroad.....	17

Rails-to-Trails	28
Raw Milk	6, 7
Real Estate Assessment Appeals.....	53
Real Estate Transfers.....	49
Real Property Tax	53
Realty Transfer Tax.....	27, 54
REAP Tax Credit Program	39
Reassessment	51
Recall System	9
Reciprocity Agreements	31
Recreational Use of State Lands	42
Recycling	37, 45
Reed Canary Grass.....	39
Referendum	8, 42
Reflective Clothing, Bicyclists.....	30
Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative	34
Registration of Weapons	47
Registration-Exempt Farm Vehicles	32
Registry, Animal Abuser	5
Regulation of Animals Other Than Traditional Livestock..	5, 45, 54
Regulatory Review	15, 38
Renewable Compliance Costs.....	11
Representatives, Terms of Office	9
Research.....	1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 34
Retail Food Facility Safety Act.....	16
Retirement Age, Minimum	50
Returnable Container Legislation	34
Revenue Distribution	43
Rifle.....	23
Right-to-Farm Act.....	27, 46
Right-to-Work.....	26
Riparian Buffers	38
River and Stream Control	37
Rivers and Watersheds	37
Road and Bridge Construction.....	17
Road and Bridge Weight Limits	17
Road Maintenance	16
Road Signs and Markers	18
Road Width	17
Roadside Spraying.....	42
Roadside Stands.....	25
Rollback Taxes.....	51
Rollover Protective Structure	45
Royalty Payment	12, 38
Royalty Tax Deduction	52
Runoff	16, 40, 41
Rural Health Services, Incentives for	14
Safety.....	15, 16, 22
Safety Zone Signs, Postings of.....	22
Safety, Automobile	14
Safety, Hunting.....	22
Salaries and Benefits of Governmental Officials	49
Sales Tax	54
Salvage.....	38
Scales.....	3, 13
Scenic Waterways.....	37
School Building Construction.....	8
School Districts	8, 53
Scrap Yards	38
Search Warrant	49
Seasonal Farm Labor Programs.....	25
Seasonal Licenses for Farm Vehicles.....	32
Semiautomatic Rifle	21
Semi-Wild Animals, Regulation of	5

Senators, Terms of Office.....	9
Separations Act of 1913	45
Septic Service and Fees	38
Setback.....	11, 13, 14, 41
Severance Tax	12, 54
Sewage Systems	38
Sinkhole	36
Slow Moving Vehicles	31, 32
Small Games of Chance	48
Snow Removal	32, 54
Snowmobiles, Use of.....	42
Social Security Benefits.....	52
Soil Damage	43
Soil Health.....	38
Solar Energy	10, 11, 27, 29
Solid Waste Management	38, 39
Somatic Cell Counts.....	6
Sow Thistle	42
Spotlighting	24
Spotted Lanternfly	15, 34
Squirrel	23
Starlings	18
State Aid Eligibility.....	50
State Budget	45, 49
State Conservation Commission	39
State Emergencies	31
State Employees, Salaries and Benefits	49
State Food Purchase Program	1
State Game Lands	21, 23, 24, 42
State Government	45
State Income Tax	52
State Legislators, Salary and Benefits	49
State Police.....	50, 55
State Tax Incentives.....	10
State-Owned Property.....	42
Steel-Wheeled Tractors.....	32
Storage Tank Regulation.....	39
Stormwater.....	35, 39, 40
Stormwater Management Plans	40
Stray Voltage	44
Stream Restoration	37, 38
Student Farms.....	8
Sunday Hunting.....	23
Surveying Land	50
Surveys.....	50
Susquehanna River.....	36
Tail Docking	3
Tax Assessment.....	55
Tax Credits.....	10
Tax Credits, Donors to Vocational Technical Schools.....	9
Tax Exempt Land	53
Tax, Liquid Fuels.....	53
Taxes.....	12, 13, 17, 25, 48, 50, 51, 53, 55
Taxes, Time of Payment	55
Teachers.....	9
Terms of State Legislators.....	9
Testing of Biosolids	34
Thistle Seed	42
Timber.....	19, 27, 29, 32, 43, 50
Time of Payment	55
Tires.....	39, 54
TMDL	34
Toll Roads and Bridges	18
Tort Reform.....	45

Total Maximum Daily Load	34
Township Supervisors	30
Traffic Control Signs	18
Trail Cameras	22, 24, 49
Trailers	31, 32, 33
Training and Technical Assistance	26
Transfer of Development Rights	27
Traps	24, 25
Tree Stands	21, 22, 24
Trench Silos, Exemption from Sales Tax	54
Trespass	55, 56
Trophies	24
Turkey Hunting Season	23
Turnpike, Pennsylvania	17, 18
Underage Drinking	3
Unemployment Compensation	26
Uniform Construction Code	30, 45
Unionization	26
Unmarked Cars	31
Used Farm Equipment	15
Utility Lines and Structures	44
Utility Marking Flags	44
Vandalism	45
Vehicle Code and Agriculture	31
Vehicle Code, General	33
Vehicle Weight	1, 16, 17, 18, 31, 32, 33, 34, 54
Veterinarians	8
Veterinary Records	4
Viticulture	1, 45
Vocational Education	9
Voting	9, 30
Waste, Agricultural	33, 38, 39
Water Allocation for Farmers	41
Water Hemlock	42
Water Quality	34, 36, 40, 41
Water Rights	41
Water Use Registration	41
Water Wells and Structures	41
Weapons Regulation	47
Weed Control	42
Weed-Free Hay, Straw, Mulch	1
Weeds and Brush	16
Weight Allowance	34
Weight Limits, Road and Bridge	17
Weight Tolerance	34
Wetlands	42
Whey	10
Wild and Scenic Use Designation	37
Wild Teasel	42
Wildlife Management	24
Wildlife Services	18
Wildlife, Introduction of	24
Wildlife, Purchase of	22
Windmills	10, 11, 27, 29
Wineries	3
Winter Land Application Restrictions	36
Woodchucks	21, 23
Workers' Compensation	26
Workforce Development	25
Zoning	7, 28, 29, 30

Notes

PFB Philosophy

PFB Members Believe:

In the American competitive enterprise system.

*That mankind's search for progress
should be encouraged by maintenance of opportunity,
not hindered by illusions of security.*

*That every person should be rewarded
in accordance with his productive contribution to society.*

*That every person is entitled to own property, earn money honestly,
earn, save, invest and spend as he chooses.*

*That property rights cannot be taken away without infringing
on rights guaranteed by the Constitution.*

*That the Constitution is the basic law of the land, and that its
interpretation should be in accordance with the intent of its authors.*

That the government should operate impartially in the interest of all.

That government's regulatory functions should be based on law.

That government should provide only minimum aid and controls.

That government should stimulate, not discourage, individual initiative.

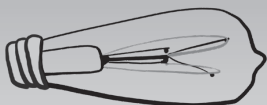
*That propagandizing by government is dangerous
to the maintenance of self-government.*

*That monopoly, whether by government, industry, labor
or agriculture, is dangerous.*

*That voluntary cooperation is part of the American system.
That all candidates for public office should state their beliefs
with respect to communism, socialism and capitalism.*

*That the most effective means to settle our differences is within our
own organization. The opinion of the majority should be expressed
through one voice, namely a farm organization voluntarily financed
by farmers, whose programs and policies are developed solely by
farmers as exemplified by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
and the American Farm Bureau Federation.*

Policy Development and You



 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

Step 1

A policy idea comes from you.



Step 2

The idea is developed into a formal resolution.



Step 3

County Farm Bureau members vote on resolutions. Approved local resolutions become county policy. Endorsed state and national resolutions are submitted for further consideration.



Step 4



The State Policy Development Committee ensures submitted resolutions are suitable for consideration by the state's voting delegates.

Step 5

State Delegates vote on resolutions. Approved state resolutions become state policy. Endorsed national resolutions are submitted for consideration to the American Farm Bureau Federation.



Step 6

Farm Bureau members and select employees advocate for our policy positions.





Growing Communities
Many Voices
United Vision

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Policies may be found in the
Members Only website
under Government Relations:
www.pfbmembers.org