

# KANSAS FARMERS UNION 2022 POLICY STATEMENT

Adopted by Kansas Farmers Union Delegates to the KFU State Convention on December 1, 2021

## 1 **Preamble**

2 *Kansas Farmers Union empowers and engages family farmers, ranchers, and communities through*  
3 *organization, education, cooperation and legislation.*

4 *The Kansas Farmers Union takes pride in defining our policy. We believe policy should address the*  
5 *needs of people and the environment. The moral and ethical decisions made by individuals and*  
6 *governments have an impact on our daily lives, and on the lives of future generations.*

7 *Recognizing that fact, our policy strives to assure those decisions maintain a just and ethical basis.*

8 *Our policy also addresses the use of our natural resources and environment with the same fervor.*

9 *We must not allow greed, ignorance, or carelessness to bring about exploitation of our natural*  
10 *resources, or of our fellow man.*

11 *We believe family ownership and maintaining family farms will preserve natural and human*  
12 *resources, and contribute to climate stability.*

13

## 14 **Agriculture Policy**

15 A policy of parity prices, fair trade, and humanitarian aid should be established by our country and  
16 promoted around the world. We support the following guidelines for a farm policy to enhance  
17 agriculture and communities, limiting the causes of climate change, limiting corporate power,  
18 strengthening democracy, and supporting human development.

- 19 1. Recognition of the dignity of Labor.
- 20 2. Farmer-owned reserve (Market-Driven Inventory System)
- 21 3. Safety net – affordable crop insurance, permanent disaster program
- 22 4. Farm program payment limits
- 23 5. Supply management
- 24 6. Conservation programs and stewardship
- 25 7. Renewable energy
- 26 8. Food, nutrition, and health programs
- 27 9. Public funded research
- 28 10. Community development
- 29 11. Country of origin labeling
- 30 12. Fair and competitive markets
- 31 13. Enhance public and rail transportation infrastructure
- 32 14. Accessible and affordable agricultural credit
- 33 15. Full funding of farm and conservation programs
- 34 16. Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) liability and oversight
- 35 17. Beginning and socially disadvantaged farmer and rancher programs.
- 36 18. Sustainable agricultural water use

## 37 **Farm Service Agency**

38 Kansas Farmers Union opposes efforts to dismantle the Farm Service Agency (FSA) delivery system  
39 through office closures, elimination of county office positions, or change employees' classification to  
40 civil service. We support adequate funding and staffing to support the FSA service centers.

41 We support the continuation of farmer-elected committees and strongly oppose any effort to reduce  
42 the number of such committees or any attempt to make the position of committee person appointed.

43 We oppose the formation of any national oversight committee which supersedes state or county  
44 committee jurisdictions.

45

1 Farm program benefits should be limited to family farmers.

## 2 **International Trade Agreements**

3 We urge congress and the administration to re-negotiate trade agreements to prioritize and support  
4 human development.

5 We oppose “Trade Promotion Authority” that circumvents the ability of Congress to negotiate trade  
6 agreements.

7 We oppose the fast-track authority for trade agreements/approval by Congress and that those should  
8 be fully aired and debated.

9 Trade agreements should reflect the need to limit corporate power, strengthen democracy, and  
10 promote human development.

## 11 **Food for Peace**

12 We support the P.L. 480 P peace and economic justice for all.

## 13 **Insurance and Disaster Programs**

14 We support a federal premium subsidy of at least fifty percent (50%) for all levels of coverage. Yields  
15 should be based on APH (Actual Production History) over a 5-year period. FSA yields should be  
16 updated to reflect the true county averages. We urge a minimum level of multi-peril crop insurance  
17 (50%) be provided as a benefit of farm program participation to traditional family farm sized units.

18 We support subsidy limits on crop insurance premiums, coupled with conservation compliance.

19 We support limiting crop insurance premium subsidies for any single business entity or individual to  
20 \$75,000.

21 We support expanded disaster programs along with continued improvements in crop insurance to  
22 make it a more fully functional program.

23 We support continuation of disaster programs until such time as crop insurance is fully a functional  
24 alternative.

25 Whenever a natural disaster strikes, destroying any programmed crops, affected producers should  
26 receive a loan deficiency payment (LDP) based on the county average yield.

27 We oppose the USDA Risk Management Agency allowing premium discounts promoting the use of  
28 specific crop inputs and/or farm equipment.

29 We support full disclosure of crop insurance subsidy payments received by participants in the crop  
30 insurance program.

31 We support the automatic “opt-out” designation of premium deduction prior to the due date of  
32 successive crop premiums.

33 Crop insurance coverage regions should reflect feasibility of crop production in the region.

34 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) ground should be ineligible for receiving crop insurance until  
35 five years of crop production history has been established or be subject to approval by the Natural  
36 Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) county committee.

37 We support the development and expansion of products that allow producers of non-program  
38 commodities, diversified farming operations of specialty and minor crops to have equitable insurance  
39 coverage based on the market for which it is produced.

40 We support the Livestock Gross Margin program.

41 We support publicly subsidized crop insurance for specialty food crops.

42 Crop insurance programs should support the use of cover crops and not penalize such use.

43 We support overhaul or replacement of the Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC) with a program  
44 that protects family dairy farms from price volatility.

## 45 **Food Safety**

46 Since the Kansas Farmers Union’s goal is a safe food supply, for all consumers we support the  
47 following:

- 1 1. Provide incentives for a more decentralized food system, processing and packing industries.
- 2 2. Ban Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) presumptive positive animals from the human food
- 3 supply.
- 4 3. Ban imports of live animals and processed meat without documented labeling and verification.
- 5 4. Remove all meat protein products and by-products from feed of all species, including poultry.
- 6 5. Implement a voluntary, affordable, and workable national animal identification program implemented
- 7 and administered by the federal government, and not by a private entity.
- 8 6. Implement a fully-funded Country-of-Origin-Labeling (COOL) program.
- 9 7. Ingredient labeling of processed feedstuffs.
- 10 8. Review the food processing system and add additional inspection.
- 11 9. We support continued funding for farmer education programs concerning food safety.

## 12 **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)**

13 We support full public disclosure of all GMO ingredients through food labels, and the right to label  
14 non-GMO.

15 We support compensation, by the patent holder, of producers experiencing income losses due to drift  
16 and cross-contamination. We support protection of traditional crop fish, animal, and insect genetics.

## 17 **Imported Foods**

18 We support the enforced United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection of all imported  
19 foods to meet the same requirements as inspected products in the United States.

20 We believe that in order for meat to be labeled a United States product, it must be bred, born, raised,  
21 processed, and packaged in the United States.

## 22 **Dairy Imports**

23 We oppose any reduction of import quotas on dairy products.

## 24 **Livestock and Poultry Imports**

25 All livestock entering the U.S. must be held in quarantine until such time there is proof positive the  
26 imported stock is disease free.

## 27 **Horse Slaughter**

28 We oppose a ban on the slaughter of unwanted horses and other meat species, and the  
29 criminalization of individuals processing, shipping, transporting, purchasing, selling, delivering, or  
30 receiving any meat, flesh, or carcass for the purpose of harvest. We call for the reinstatement of  
31 facilities to deal with the humane disposal of horses.

## 32 **Inter-state Marketing of Processed Meats**

33 We support federal legislation to allow the smaller independent meat packers, who meet state meat  
34 inspection standards, to market inter-state. We demand the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)  
35 to fully implement and allow interstate shipment of state inspected meat.

## 36 **Regenerative Sustainable Agriculture**

37 Regenerative, sustainable, agriculture is based on the three legged stool of being environmentally  
38 sound, economically viable, and socially just. We urge all educational institutions to pursue research  
39 and education to support sustainable agricultural endeavors including, but not limited to, organic  
40 farming, local food and sustainable regenerative agriculture practices, and to cooperate with other  
41 entities doing such research and education.

## 42 **Agricultural Research Funding Accountability**

43 A significant portion of agricultural research conducted at public institutions is funded by the private  
44 sector. Identification of all funding sources must be available to the public.

## 45 **Corporate Vertical and Horizontal Integration and Price Fixing**

46 We demand the strict enforcement of the anti-trust laws.

1 We fully support the Kansas Legislature establishing a comprehensive Producer’s Protection Act.  
2 We also call for state and federal legislation that would require binding mediation in the events of  
3 disputes between growers or their organizations and contracted processors or marketers. We  
4 support legislation to abolish packer/feeder combinations that control more than two percent (2%) of  
5 the market share.

#### 6 **Federal Anti-Corporation Farming Law**

7 The County Option, the last remaining protection of citizens’ rights when it comes to corporate  
8 agriculture, must be preserved and protected.

9 Kansas counties should be able to opt out of consideration by any corporation looking to relocate to  
10 the state. We also believe Kansas citizens should be able to petition registered voters and bring  
11 corporate farming issues to a public vote.

#### 12 **Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act**

13 We support the “Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act” (AFIDC).

#### 14 **Kansas Corporate Farming Law**

15 We believe the county option should be preserved in Kansas’ corporate farming laws. For over 80  
16 years, corporate farming laws have protected family farms and ranches from the threats of unfair  
17 competition by corporate and foreign interests, and all-out repeal threatens the future of family  
18 agriculture across Kansas.

19 The county option, the last remaining protection of citizens’ rights when it comes to corporate  
20 agriculture, must be preserved and protected. We find it very disconcerting that both elected and  
21 appointed officials, who have touted the virtues of local political control and smaller government, now  
22 feel the need to take away this last protection.

23 We believe Kansas counties should be able to opt out of consideration by any corporation looking to  
24 relocate to the state. We also believe Kansas citizens should be able to petition registered voters and  
25 bring corporate farming issues to a public vote.

26 We believe Kansas is better off when those who own and work the state’s farms and ranches are  
27 individuals and families who have the opportunity to control their own land and labor, and a desire to  
28 create a future for family farming and ranching, and for all of rural Kansas, that is socially just,  
29 economically equitable, and environmentally sound.

30 Family farms and ranches are the foundation that built this state, and they continue to drive and lead  
31 its economy. We believe Kansas’ family farmers and ranchers should expect every protection the  
32 state can provide.

#### 33 **United States Postal Service**

34 The Kansas Farmers Union has a long history in support of the USPS, including rural free delivery of  
35 mail. We are deeply concerned with the systematic dismantling of the postal service structure, based  
36 on fiscal pressure unduly inflicted upon the USPS by Congress. Recent operational restructuring has  
37 curtailed service across the nation, particularly in rural areas. Rural residents depend heavily on the  
38 USPS for daily business transactions, communications, and as a vehicle for growth of the rural  
39 economy. We believe the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act requiring the institution  
40 to pre-fund retiree pension funds decades in advance is unwarranted and the primary culprit in the  
41 financial issues facing the USPS.

42 We urge congress to restore adequate funding to the United States Postal Service. We also urge  
43 expansion of USPS services including, but not limited to, postal savings banks.

44 The potential elimination of Saturday and door-to-door delivery, coupled with the loss of good-paying  
45 postal jobs over the entire nation, will negatively affect the economy. Rural America will be dealt an  
46 additional first class blow under this misguided policy. Local and regional newspaper delivery to

1 outlying areas will be delayed for days. This not only damages the circulation numbers of the  
2 newspapers, but also devalues local information and advertising.

3 The USPS was established in the Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7, congress shall have the  
4 power to establish post offices and post roads.” We stand firm in our conviction to protect this great  
5 freedom and commonwealth from attacks and privatization.

6 To further promote local farm production and food security, USPS should establish a special rate for  
7 agricultural food products shipped directly from farms to end consumers.

### 8 **Commodity Futures Trading Commission**

9 We believe the historic system of commodity futures trading continues bankrupting family farmers,  
10 ranchers and consumers and is not a prudent risk management tool.

11 We oppose the continued consolidation and monopolization of the commodity futures trading  
12 process.

13 The following should be enacted:

- 14 1. Transfer regulatory authority of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to the Security  
15 Exchange Commission (SEC).
- 16 2. Support regulations that maintain prices above the cost of production.
- 17 3. We oppose ag commodity options as a substitute for farm programs.
- 18 4. We are opposed to any government involvement in agriculture options or futures trading as a substitute  
19 for or in conjunction with farm programs.
- 20 5. We oppose any speculative trading of commodities futures by any foreign governments, companies or  
21 individuals.
- 22 6. All commodities sold on futures or options shall be treated as a positive sale and taxed the same as  
23 any ordinary sale of the same commodity.
- 24 7. We support legislation requiring all speculative futures contracts to be assessed any federal check-off.
- 25 8. We support the elimination of speculative short selling of commodity futures contracts.

### 26 **Federal Grain Inspection Service**

27 We recommend that the percentage of allowable dockage be reduced. We support legislation to  
28 prohibit adding foreign material to any commodity.

29 Kansas Farmers Union requests that the state of Kansas require that the grain trade give equal  
30 credit to grain that exceeds the standard weight in direct proportion to the discount for grain under  
31 standard weight.

32 We oppose privatization of the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS).

### 33 **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)**

34 We support reestablishment and full funding of GIPSA, and the critical services provided to our  
35 nation’s farmers, ranchers, and consumers.

36 We oppose any effort to privatize the inspection and weighing of grains exported from the United  
37 States.

### 38 **Federal Taxation**

39 We support the principle of the progressive income tax.

40 The Kansas Farmers Union supports the phase-out of all tax preferences that made agriculture a tax  
41 shelter for outside, speculative investment.

42 We recommend a change in the federal income tax laws to eliminate income tax liabilities of forced  
43 liquidations.

44 Road tax on farm fuels should be exempt at point of sale.

45 We support the continuation of the deduction of state and local property taxes from federal tax  
46 returns.

1 We support income tax averaging for family farmers.  
2 We support increasing the number of tax brackets to facilitate a more equitable tax structure.  
3 We support the tax incentives to encourage the use of wind, solar and other renewable energy  
4 systems.  
5 Individuals should be allowed the same health insurance deductions as corporations.  
6 We support increasing the income limit on calculating social security tax.  
7 We support continuation of an estate tax with a five million dollar (\$5,000,000) exemption.  
8 We support the establishment of a financial transaction tax.  
9 We support investigation and elimination of both offshore and domestic tax shelters used to avoid  
10 federal income tax.

### 11 **State Taxation**

12 We support a balanced approach to the use of income, property, and sales tax for funding state and  
13 local government.  
14 We support the elimination of the sales tax on groceries.  
15 We support a state-wide property tax in conjunction with an income booster tax, to supplement  
16 education funding, and provide local property tax relief.  
17 We oppose an increase of state sales tax.  
18 We recommend a graduated state income tax.  
19 We support a fair and progressive state income tax.  
20 We oppose the elimination of the corporate income tax.  
21 We support exempting road tax on farm fuel at the point of sale in lieu of refund. We are in favor of  
22 the current homestead property tax exemption, and we support its increase to twenty-five thousand  
23 dollars (\$25,000).  
24 The Kansas Farmers Union supports the continuation of a mineral production tax on oil, gas, salt and  
25 coal to provide additional funding needed for school financing and road and highway construction  
26 and maintenance.  
27 We oppose the 10 year property tax exemption on pipelines and industrial wind/solar.  
28 We support a fair and reasonable tax on personal property.  
29 We support a state-wide intangible earnings tax to be used for property tax relief and funding  
30 education.  
31 We urge the reinstatement of the double exemption for individuals over the age of 65.  
32 We support an estate tax with a five million dollar (\$5,000,000) exemption.

### 33 **Social Security**

34 The Social Security fund should be held in its own entity and not be used to finance other  
35 government operations.  
36 To be viable and assure benefits into the future, Social Security must be a mandatory, universal  
37 system. We oppose proposals that would privatize any segment of the system.  
38 We support the removal of the income limit subject to social security taxation.  
39 Social security benefits are increasingly inadequate to meet basic living needs of beneficiaries. We  
40 support substantial increases in the basic level of social security benefits.

### 41 **Campaign Finance Reform**

42 We demand meaningful campaign finance reform, specifically public funding of congressional and  
43 presidential campaigns. We oppose the use of “soft” money (super political action committees, also  
44 referred to as super PACs) in campaigns.  
45 We support elimination of corporate campaign finance through “corporate citizenship.”  
46 We support reversal of the “Citizens United” U.S. Supreme Court decision.

1 We support full, timely disclosure of all campaign finance sources.

## 2 **Federal Commodity Check-Offs**

3 We believe that mandatory checkoff programs promote surplus production and exploitation of human  
4 and natural resources.

5 We support the elimination of all mandatory checkoff programs.

6 We call for audits investigating the use of check-off funds to promote political agendas. Fraud and  
7 abuse of check-off resources and/or money must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

8 All check-off programs must be subject to a referendum vote by mail ballot every three years.

9 We believe check-offs are conflicting by design, which offsets other check-off efforts.

10 No check-off funds should be used to the detriment of another agricultural commodity, farmer,  
11 rancher, or natural resource.

## 12 **State Commodity Check-offs**

13 We support voluntary check-offs at point of sale.

## 14 **Bankruptcy**

15 The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) should not have authority to “classify” loans due  
16 to reduction of land values.

17 We oppose any federal effort to eliminate Chapter 12 bankruptcy and any other action to further  
18 lessen a borrower’s rights. We support the right of mandatory mediation to prevent bankruptcy.

19 We support full permanent USDA funding of the state mediation programs.

## 20 **Energy**

21 We support conservation as the major effort to reduce energy requirements. We support the  
22 research and development of renewable energy resources such as solar, geothermal, wind,  
23 hydrogen, ethanol, biodiesel and algae with emphasis on community-owned generated power.

24 Federal and state low-interest loans and tax credits should be made available for these and other  
25 programs to develop energy self-sufficiency.

26 We urge producers to adopt farming practices and crop mixes that will permit efficient utilization of  
27 locally produced fuels and nitrogen fertilizers, thereby reducing agricultural dependence on the  
28 petroleum industry.

29 We favor rationing of fuel if needed. We are opposed to excessive taxes and/or price increases to  
30 control fuel use.

31 We favor the abolition of take-or-pay contracts. We oppose the deregulation of natural gas prices.

32 We support a resilient expanded electrical grid system that allows for dependable transmission  
33 nationwide.

34 We support securing 25% of the nation’s energy utilization from renewable sources by 2025 (25x25).

35 We are opposed to retail wheeling and deregulation of energy.

36 We support C-BED (Community-Based Energy Development).

37 We support net metering of electricity, with a 12-month averaging period.

38 We support storage of energy from renewable generation.

39 We support the renewable portfolio standard established by the Kansas Renewable Standards Act.

40 We support renewal of the National Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit.

41 We oppose discriminatory utility rates for customers who generate renewable energy.

## 42 **Hydraulic Fracturing Operations**

43 We support a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing operations in oil and gas recovery until an  
44 environmental impact study, guided by sound science, proves the activities safe.

## 45 **Rural Electrification Administration (REA)**

46 We oppose any effort to “privatize” the REA system.

1 We strongly oppose loss of rural electric territory to investor owned power companies.  
2 We urge rural electric cooperatives to investigate and take steps to enter into renewable energy  
3 production.

#### 4 **Telecommunication**

5 We urge the continuation and further development of reasonable priced, state of the art  
6 telecommunication service to rural customers.

7 We oppose consolidation of telecommunication providers.

8 We support net neutrality of the internet.

9 We encourage cooperative development and rural representation wherever broadband is being  
10 expanded in Kansas.

#### 11 **Health Care**

12 We support health care as a basic human right, and implementing a single-payer health insurance  
13 system.

14 Health care coverage must be comprehensive.

15 There should be public education to promote healthier lifestyle choices.

16 Until such time as universal single-payer coverage is enacted, we support a one hundred percent  
17 (100%) tax deduction for health insurance premium paid by the self-employed, and we support  
18 equalization of Medicare payments to rural and urban hospitals alike.

19 We support incentives for the purpose of encouraging doctors and other health care professionals to  
20 practice in rural and other under-served areas. Those who receive aid to practice in Kansas for a  
21 specified period of time should be required to fulfill their obligation. We support prescription coverage  
22 under the Medicare and Medicaid systems.

23 We oppose the sale of Kansas Blue Cross-Blue Shield.

24 We support Medicaid expansion in Kansas, and we oppose any of the initiatives to privatize  
25 Medicare.

26 We oppose privatization of the state mental health system.

27 We support the legalization of medical marijuana.

28 All healthcare plans should be under the oversight of the Insurance Commissioner.

29 We support an increase in market choice of insurance providers for the Kansas Healthcare  
30 Marketplace.

31 We recognize the critical role county health departments play in their communities and strongly urge  
32 the robust funding and support of these entities.

#### 33 **Transportation**

34 We urge the revitalization of our nation's passenger and freight railroad system. We oppose the  
35 closing of branch rail lines, which serve rural communities.

36 We oppose the deregulation of all non-competitive transportation enterprises.

37 We support the retention and expansion of existing Amtrak routes in Kansas and across the nation.

38 We oppose all coal slurry pipelines.

39 We oppose the cumbersome IRS regulation requiring farmers to log farm cars, pickup, and truck  
40 mileage.

41 We oppose foreign ownership of domestic railroad lines. We oppose the privatization of highways  
42 and bridges used in the agricultural transportation system.

43 We support increasing the transportation trust fund through higher gasoline taxes.

44 We believe the state of Kansas should adopt the federal transportation laws in regard to portable fuel  
45 containers.

46 We oppose the diversion of state highway trust funds to offset budget deficits.



1 **Farm Cooperatives**

2 Cooperatives create and continually re-create communities. The unique character of cooperatives is  
3 that they put the social well-being of their members and communities on par with their economic well-  
4 being. Agricultural cooperatives should be further strengthened in the American farming system to  
5 enable farmers to achieve greater bargaining power both in marketing and purchasing.

6 Farmers Union opposes any attempt to interfere with the present capital structure of the cooperative  
7 and its present tax status. We are opposed to any co-op manager or non-members serving on the  
8 board of directors of our local or regional co-ops.

9 We support current legislation that requires 10 members to form a co-op.

10 We oppose the distribution of severance pay to board members, chief executive officers, and other  
11 executives due to mergers or acquisitions.

12 We oppose changing regulations that require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members to change the  
13 articles of incorporation.

14 We oppose planned entry into livestock breeding and feeding facilities which will place our  
15 cooperative into a vertical integration position.

16 We must not use our cooperative's resources in any way which creates direct competition or  
17 weakens our membership's financial well-being.

18 We support the Rochdale Principle (one member/one vote).

19 We strongly oppose any cooperative entity from creating an alliance with any company that intends  
20 to control the market.

21 **Community Development**

22 We urge the Kansas Legislature and U.S. Congress to provide assistance in funding a program to  
23 provide information, consultation and referrals to rural residents. We support locally-owned and  
24 operated value-added endeavors.

25 We also call for the rejuvenation of a rural development initiative for the benefit of the local  
26 community.

27 We support federal and state infrastructure funding based on a priority of need rather than the ability  
28 to provide matching funds.

29 We support maintaining rural post offices.

30 We urge the Kansas Legislature to conduct public hearings on income and wealth disparity, in order  
31 to devise equitable tax policy.

32 **Foreign Investment in Agricultural Land and Enterprises**

33 We urge passage by the Kansas State Legislature of a law to prohibit entry into business of farming  
34 and ranching or the ownership of agricultural land and enterprises by alien investors, except those  
35 resident farm families or individuals seeking United States citizenship.

36 We urge passage of legislation strengthening the reporting of Kansas agricultural land owned by  
37 aliens, corporations, and/or limited partnerships.

38 **State Banking**

39 We urge the Kansas legislature to establish a state bank of Kansas modeled after the State Bank of  
40 North Dakota.

41 We support the system of independent rural banks and credit unions. We urge those banks to  
42 support Kansas family farmers and to serve the credit requirements of Kansas family farmers. We  
43 favor the same regulations for savings and loans.

44 **Federal Banking**

45 We support reform in the banking industry to establish equity. We support strengthening the Dodd-  
46 Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the Glass-Steagall Act.

1 We support strengthening the Community Reinvestment Act.

2 **Interstate Branch Banking**

3 We oppose the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Act, which mandates that an out-of-  
4 state bank be allowed to purchase banks across state lines without regard to individual state law.

5 We support state legislation to opt-out of the interstate branching provision of the Riegle-Neal  
6 Interstate Banking and Branching Act.

7 **Elevator bankruptcy**

8 State legislation should prohibit speculation in the futures market by grain elevator owners and  
9 operators, except in the case of legitimate hedging. State legislation should also prohibit involvement  
10 by elevators in delayed or deferred pricing schemes.

11 Grain elevator operators should be required to submit more detailed financial information to the  
12 Kansas Grain Inspection Department. We support timely and in depth audits.

13 We support the acceleration of the receivership process for financially troubled elevators, with  
14 provision for a temporary receiver to be named ensuring immediate supervision of a bankrupt  
15 elevator to guarantee that grain is protected while the courts appoint a permanent receiver.

16 We support farmers being given priority through “farmers first lien” in elevator bankruptcy  
17 proceedings.

18 We oppose the grain warehouse trust fund concept funded by a check-off assessed against grain  
19 sold by farmers.

20 We endorse a federal or state insurance program protecting any stored and/or priced grain for all  
21 state and federally inspected elevators, similar to the federal deposit insurance corporation for banks.

22 Warehouse receipts and scale tickets shall be recognized as legal proof of ownership of grain and  
23 should be guaranteed by the government.

24 We support similar protection for the sale of livestock through public auction.

25 **Voting and Democracy**

26 We support the concept of initiative and referendum which allows our citizens to vote on major issues  
27 and to initiate ballot questions by petition.

28 We encourage all eligible citizens to register and vote.

29 We oppose restrictive voter identification requirements.

30 We support an apolitical legislative redistricting process, removed from legislative control.

31 **Kansas Department of Agriculture**

32 We support the concept of a Secretary of Agriculture appointed by the Governor and confirmed by  
33 the Senate.

34 **Pharmaceutical Genetically Modified Organism Production**

35 We support strict regulation and public disclosure of any Kansas-grown pharmaceutical GMOs. All  
36 field research sites of such GMOs must be approved and have permits issued by the KDA.

37 **Specialty Crops**

38 Our communities are in need of developing a more diverse agricultural system and access to healthy  
39 food. We support further development and expansion of specialty crop production and marketing that  
40 will help address this critical need.

41 We support development and expansion of industrial hemp production in Kansas.

42 **Patent Laws**

43 We oppose the “patenting” of life forms.

44 **Kansas Seed Law**

45 Kansas seed law should not restrict producers of wheat, barley, oats, soybeans or alfalfa from  
46 replanting or selling seed produced on their farms.

1 We oppose any efforts to introduce or allow the use of the “terminator gene” on our nation’s seed  
2 supply.

### 3 **Brand Laws**

4 We urge the establishment of mandatory livestock brand inspection at all markets.

### 5 **Dairy**

6 An adequate safety net must remain the goal for federal dairy policy. Congress and the  
7 administration must act to protect more dairy farmers from going out of business.

8 We support a budget resolution to increase spending for an adequate dairy safety net; programs that  
9 account for actual costs of production; exploring incentive-based inventory management programs;  
10 Ad hoc disaster assistance; and trade policies that don’t disadvantage American dairy producers.

11 We support a floor on the basic formula price, i.e., the base price for determining the milk price for  
12 producers.

13 We support the use of the marketing order system in Kansas to effectively set a floor on dairy prices  
14 paid to the dairy farmers.

15 We support an appeal process for the American dairy farmers when an inspection is considered  
16 unjust by the farmer.

17 We oppose the practice of tail-docking on dairy cattle.

18 We oppose further consolidation of large dairy companies.

### 19 **State Meat and Poultry Inspection**

20 We oppose the elimination of the state’s Meat and Poultry Inspection Division.

### 21 **Noxious Weed Law**

22 We oppose any legislation that would discontinue the current practice of county noxious weed  
23 departments selling, distributing, and applying pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals.

### 24 **Industrial Water Use**

25 We recommend industries, which are heavy users of water, be required to use surface water instead  
26 of ground water, and to recycle, when possible.

27 We urge that all oil and natural gas producers be prohibited from using fresh water in flooding for  
28 secondary oil recovery (hydraulic fracturing). We oppose the use of any Kansas water for the  
29 transportation of coal slurry.

### 30 **Irrigation**

31 We strongly urge that present irrigation practices and future development conform to strict  
32 conservation principles to assure the wisest use of water to minimize the possibilities for adverse  
33 environmental and economic impact on affected communities.

34 We recommend any multi-year variable groundwater rights program include a mandatory reduction in  
35 total allocation as a conservation measure to offset potential unintended consequences.

36 We recommend that all wells have meters.

### 37 **Water Transfer**

38 We oppose the transfer of surface or ground water from one watershed to another, including the  
39 transfer of water from the Missouri River.

### 40 **Water, Wind, and Solar Rights**

41 Water, wind, and solar rights must not be severed from surface ownership.

### 42 **Water Retention Structures**

43 We support flood control by the use of area watershed projects as opposed to large general dams.

44 We support continuing tax benefits to remain in effect on lands with donated easements for the entire  
45 life of both new and existing structures.

### 46 **State Funding for Conservation Practices**

1 We support state funding and technical assistance for soil and water conservation practices.

2 **Construction Work in Progress (CWIP)**

3 The Kansas Farmers Union is opposed to costs for power generating facilities under construction  
4 being added to current utility rates.

5 **Property Rights**

6 **A. Eminent Domain**

7 We oppose the taking of private property without due process.

8 We oppose granting eminent domain power for private profit, including foreign entities.

9 We oppose the use of eminent domain by the department of wildlife and parks to acquire land that  
10 has been cultivated for more than 10 years, that has been designated wetlands.

11 **B. Zoning**

12 Preservation of farmland should be given a high priority in zoning decisions.

13 **C. Regional Planning**

14 Required appointment on zoning or planning boards for farmers, assuring them representation on a  
15 par with non-agricultural interests in the region.

16 **D. Wildlife**

17 We support legislation that allows farmers a voice in establishment of non-native or predator species  
18 in their area. We require the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to notify the public of  
19 any previous or future releases.

20 We support landowner's rights to convey conservation easements in perpetuity.

21 **Pollinators**

22 The need to take action on preserving pollinators is urgent. We support improving pollinator health  
23 and habitat. We urge strong private and public efforts to take action to protect pollinators through  
24 habitat protection and expansion. We also support reducing the systematic use of neonicotinoids.

25 **Climate Change**

26 We acknowledge the urgency to make dramatic changes in agriculture and other sectors to address  
27 the ongoing climate crisis.

28 We urge strong public and private efforts to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases and toxic  
29 pollutants from all sources.

30 We support research on, and implementation of, climate change adaptations.

31 We support carbon credits.

32 We strongly support programs promoting regenerative agriculture as a means for farmers to receive  
33 compensation for agricultural practices maximizing sequestering atmospheric carbon dioxide in  
34 agricultural soils. We demand a true accounting of carbon sequestration based on hard science.

35 This places farmers at the forefront of not merely coping with a continually deteriorating global  
36 climate, instead, restoring earth's natural climate systems.

37 We strongly support implementation of the goals of the Paris Climate Change Accords.

38 **Efficient Access to & Just Treatment of Immigrant Labor**

39 Immigrant labor is an important factor in agricultural operations. We recognize the need for  
40 specialized labor in agricultural production and processing, and support efforts to improve the  
41 process for such employment while insuring dignified and just treatment of employees.

42 We support open channels for legal immigration and access to work visas.

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# 2022 Special Orders of Business

All special orders must be renewed annually if the delegates wish to retain them. Otherwise, they automatically expire.

## 1 **Debt Relief for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers**

2 We support fair compensation under Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for all minority  
3 farmers and ranchers, both urban and rural, who have historically been denied fair access to USDA  
4 programs and benefits.

## 5 **Rebuilding Regional Economies**

6 Farm programs play a major role in what America's farms look like. Over the last few decades our  
7 farms have become more consolidated and focused on foreign markets, allowing monopolies and  
8 other entities to use farm products as bargaining chips. COVID-19 exacerbated the vulnerabilities our  
9 supply chain and economy. We urge the current administration to focus on farm policy that promotes  
10 local and regional markets for the wellbeing of all producers and consumers.  
11

## 12 **COVID-19 Pandemic**

13 Since early 2020, Kansas and the nation have faced the rapidly growing spread of the novel coronavirus,  
14 COVID-19. The pandemic threatens to overtake health care resources including personnel, ICU beds,  
15 equipment, supplies, etc. Rural areas – already with limited health resources, are hard hit. Bringing this  
16 disease under control is the top priority for protecting public health and maintaining a functional economy  
17 and the life of our communities – rural and urban.

18 Kansas Farmers Union (KFU) believes we must end the politicization of COVID-19, and support and  
19 practice the public health measures, grounded in science, known to effectively work: vaccinations, wear  
20 masks in public, practice physical distancing, avoid large crowds, limit social interactions in small groups,  
21 isolate when sick, and practice conscientious sanitization.

22  
23 Government at all levels has a critical role to protect people and the institutions essential for maintaining  
24 key community and economic functions.

25 KFU supports government cooperating at all levels to ensure:  
26

- 27 1. All people in the United States have adequate access to nutritious food;
- 28 2. All people involved in food production are recognized as essential workers;
- 29 3. Access to effective, affordable health care for all; availability of medical safety equipment to our  
30 health care providers; and rapid testing and free vaccines for the public.
- 31 4. Food security via support for small to mid-size meat processors; expansion of local and regional  
32 food production; marketing and distribution supply chains; and strengthening COVID-19 worker  
33 safety protections and oversight in large-scale food and meat processing facilities.
- 34 5. Schools and public education have funds to cover extra costs of COVID-19 prevention  
35 management and practices; broadband expansion coverage to all areas of Kansas to better  
36 manage remote learning formats; and bolster school feeding programs which are a critical part of  
37 food security for many families during the regular year and summer months.
- 38 6. Continued short term economic support for those who have lost jobs or suffered business losses  
39 due to the Pandemic, and long term planning and policy support to better address future pandemics  
40 by building resilience.  
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1 **United States Postal Service**

2 We call for the immediate removal of current Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. The replacement should be a  
3 true advocate for a Postal Service that meets the needs of the American people.

4 The Kansas Farmers Union has a long history in support of the United States Postal Service (U.S.P.S.),  
5 including rural free delivery of mail. We are deeply concerned with the systematic dismantling of the postal  
6 service structure, based on fiscal pressure unduly inflicted upon the U.S.P.S. by Congress. We believe the  
7 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, requiring the institution to pre-fund retiree pension funds  
8 decades in advance, is unwarranted and the primary culprit in the financial issues facing the U.S.P.S.

9 The potential elimination of Saturday and door-to-door delivery, coupled with the loss of good-paying postal  
10 jobs over the entire nation, will negatively affect the economy. Rural America will be dealt an additional first  
11 class blow under this misguided policy. Local and regional newspaper delivery to outlying areas will be  
12 delayed for days. This not only damages the circulation numbers of the newspapers, but also devalues  
13 local information and advertising.

14 The U.S.P.S. was established in the Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7, "Congress shall have the  
15 power to establish post offices and post roads." We stand firm in our conviction to protect this great  
16 freedom and commonwealth from attacks and privatization.  
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