



2025 POLICIES

Resolutions adopted by Voting Delegates
at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the
Virginia Farm Bureau® Federation.



PURPOSE OF THE POLICY BOOK

This book should be used as a reference document for our producer members only.

It should not be given to anyone other than our producer members.

This policy book does not include Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's (VFBF) position on federal issues. VFBF's elected policy makers participate in the American Farm Bureau Federation's policy process. VFBF utilizes the American Farm Bureau Federation policies for positions on federal issues.

If you need educational information on specific issues, please contact:

Tenille Nuckols
Governmental Relations
(804) 290-1293
tenille.nuckols@vafb.com

Virginia Farm Bureau Producer Members,

I am proud to represent Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, which prevails as our state's preeminent agricultural organization with 32,525 dedicated producer members. Our strength lies in our unique structure and members; we are a voluntary, grassroots organization sustained by the commitment of our valued farmers.

The heart of our mission lies in our policy development process—the cornerstone of our organization's influence and effectiveness. This democratic process transforms individual voices into powerful collective action, ensuring that every farmer and rural family in Virginia has a seat at the table when decisions impacting their livelihood are made.

What makes Farm Bureau extraordinary is the diversity of our membership, uniting farmers across every agricultural sector and region of the commonwealth. Together, we tackle the challenges facing our communities and work to enhance rural life for all.

These policies are the result of our grassroots approach to advocacy. Each policy began as a single idea at the county level and was refined through thoughtful debate and careful consideration. The result is a comprehensive framework that truly reflects the collective wisdom of our policy makers from every corner of Virginia.

These are not just words on paper—they are the roadmap for protecting and advancing the interests of Virginia's vital farming community. Thank you for your contribution to develop our shared vision for the future of agriculture in our commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Scott Sink
President
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IMPORTANT DATES OF THE
2025 POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS 9

CRITICAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES 10

 COMMODITIES 12

Animal Care and Husbandry (100)..... 12

Aquaculture (110)..... 13

Biotechnology (115)..... 13

Commodities (General) (120)..... 13

Commodity Check-off (125)..... 14

Cotton (130) 15

Dairy (135)..... 15

Direct Sales of Farm Products (140)..... 16

Equine (145)..... 16

Feed Grains, Soybeans and Wheat (150) 17

Fiber Crops and Cannabis (160) 17

Honeybees (165)..... 18

Livestock (170)..... 18

Marketing and Bargaining Initiatives (180) 19

Meat Inspection and Processing (185)..... 19

Meat Labeling (190) 20







Peanuts (195)..... 21


Poultry (200) 21




Risk Protection (Crop) Insurance (205) 22

Tobacco (210) 22

Wine and Grape Industry (215)..... 23

 EDUCATION.....	23
Agricultural Education (250).....	23
Education (260)	24
 ENERGY	24
Data Centers (290)	24
Other Energy Sources and Renewable Energy (300)	25
Solar (305)... ..	25
State Corporation Commission (SCC) and Public Utilities (315).....	27
 GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.....	28
Miscellaneous State Agencies (325)	28
Regulations and Governmental Oversight (330)	28
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (335)..	29
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) (340).....	29
Virginia State University and Virginia Tech (350)	30
 HEALTH.	31
Health Care and Health Care Cost Containment Measures (375)	31
 LABOR	33
Agricultural Labor (400).....	33
Immigration (405).....	34
 LEGAL ISSUES	34
Judicial System (425)	34
Tort Reform for Liability Insurance (430).....	34

 LOCAL AFFAIRS	35
Annexation (450).....	35
Dillon Rule and Local Government (455).....	35
Farm Buildings (460).....	35
Planning and Zoning (470).....	35
Right to Farm (475).....	36
 PROPERTY RIGHTS.....	36
Condemnation (480).....	36
Fences (485).....	37
Private Property Rights (490).....	37
Trespass (495).....	38
 SPENDING AND TAXES	39
Agricultural and Forestal Districts (500).....	39
Balancing Governmental Budget (505)	39
Excise Taxes (510).....	39
Federal Taxes (515).....	39
Income Tax, Estate Tax and Capital Gains (520).....	39
Land Use Assessment and Taxation (525)	40
Local Taxes (530).....	41
Mandated Programs (535).....	41
Motor Fuel Taxes (545).....	41
Sales Taxes (550).....	42
 TRANSPORTATION	42
Department of Motor Vehicles (550).....	42
Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (555)	43
Slow Moving Vehicles (560)	43
Highways (565)	44
Transportation Systems (570)	46
Railroads (575)	46

 WATER.....	46
Ag Best Management Practices (BMP) Funding (580)	46
Ag Best Management Practices (BMP) Implementation (585)	47
Conservation Practices Enforcement (590)	48
Conservation Practices Regulatory Requirements (595).....	48
Dams and Dam Safety (600).....	50
Flooding and Wetlands (605).....	50
Water Rights (610)	50
 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL.....	51
Air Quality (620)	51
Litter and Solid Waste Disposal (625).....	51
Mining (630).....	52
Weed and Pest Management (650).....	52
 WORKING LANDS	53
Agricultural Land Preservation (700)	53
Forestry Program Funding (705).....	55
Forestry Working Lands Primacy (710).....	56
Other (730).....	56
 WILDLIFE	56
Wildlife Depredation (750)	56
Wildlife Governance (755)	57
INDEX.....	59
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS STAFF	63

Note: The year in parentheses behind a policy indicates what year the policy was added to the policy book. (a. YYYY) at the end of a policy indicates the year the policy was amended.

IMPORTANT DATES OF THE 2025 POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

2025 POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

February—April 2025

Regional Policy Development Meetings

County Farm Bureau members have the opportunity to raise issues for possible inclusion in state-level policies for the upcoming year.

July—October 2025

County Farm Bureau Annual Meetings

County Farm Bureaus present proposed issues to producer members to vote on for consideration by the VFBB Resolutions Committee.

October 1, 2025

Deadline for Draft of Final Issues

Deadline for county Farm Bureaus to submit draft of final issues for consideration to VFBB resolutions.

Late October / Early November 2025

Resolutions Committee Meeting, Location TBA

County leaders assemble to discuss and vote on issues that are brought up by individual county Farm Bureaus.

December 2—4, 2025

VFBB Annual Convention, Williamsburg Lodge

County Farm Bureau leaders meet at the annual meeting to vote on issues that have been discussed throughout the year.

December 2025

AFBB Resolutions Committee

Virginia's federal policy positions are submitted to the AFBB Resolutions Committee. If approved by AFBB delegates, these policies go in the AFBB policy book rather than this document.

CRITICAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

These issues are issues presented to the members of the General Assembly in November through December 2024. They are reflective of some of the most critical issues determined by our members going into the 2025 General Assembly session.

Ag BMP: Continue Full Funding and Prevent Future Funding Gaps

While farmers are appreciative of full funding provided by the 2024 General Assembly for conservation practices, more work must be done. Farmers urged legislators to:

Support legislation to prioritize the dedication of monies within the Water Quality Improvement Reserve Fund to support the Ag BMP Cost Share Program as identified by the Ag BMP Needs Assessment through FY2030 should funding be unavailable through a surplus or other general revenue sources.

- Support allocating the current budget surplus to help fund \$319.34 million needed for FY27-FY28 to ensure full funding of the Ag BMP Cost Share Program.

Availability of EPA-Approved Crop Protectants

Crop protectants are essential to maintaining the U.S. food supply as the safest, most abundant and affordable in the world. Farmers urged legislators to:

- Oppose legislative or regulatory proposals to restrict the use of EPA and USDA approved pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and other crop protectants.
- Oppose any legislation restricting or prohibiting common methods of applying crop protectants.

Oppose the Reinstatement of the Virginia Estate Tax

While agriculture remains our largest private industry, Virginia lost 10% of its farms between 2017-2022. Reinstating Virginia's estate tax would further jeopardize the survival of our family farms. Farmers urged legislators to:

- Oppose any legislation reinstating the Virginia estate tax or "death tax" on estates of any size.

Shortage of Large Animal Veterinarians

The large animal veterinarian shortage is putting the health of Virginia's food supply chain, agricultural operators, rural communities and livestock at risk. Farmers urged legislators to:

- Support \$543,010 for FY26 state funding to increase the number of seats that Virginia students would be eligible for at Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) for the Class of 2029.
- Support Virginia creating a state loan repayment program to reimburse students that specialize in food animal veterinary care to practice for a certain number of years in an identified vet shortage area.

Utility-Scale Solar Growth Impact on Agriculture

If solar installations continue at the current pace, agricultural production can reach a point where it is no longer viable in certain areas. Farmers urged legislators to:

- Oppose any legislation inhibiting local zoning authority and approval in developing utility-scale solar projects.

Encourage development of solar on parking lots, buildings, marginal lands, brownfields and reclaimed mine sites.

- Encourage smaller solar installations to allow the rural landscape and economies such as agriculture and forestry to continue to thrive as well as allowing urban areas to participate in energy production.
 - Support a stakeholder workgroup to define 'agrivoltaics' for the commonwealth to support a true dual use of land instead of an 'either/or' land use.
- Continue to support the regulatory requirements for minimizing, avoiding or mitigating when disturbing prime farmland or forestland in the location of proposed solar facilities.

Animal Care and Husbandry (100)

We support programs and incentives that help recruit and retain large animal veterinarians and licensed large animal veterinary technicians in Virginia. (2023, a. 2025)

We support Virginia establishing a fund to reimburse veterinarians and other livestock services for accident response in the event of an uninsured transporter. (2023)

We oppose attempts that unreasonably restrict the flow of animals to legitimate medical research facilities or the transportation of animals to livestock processing plants. (1991)

We support best management and husbandry practices for livestock and poultry as provided by our land grant colleges, industry assurance programs and other livestock and poultry institutions. We support an educational program oriented toward the general public, as well as our members, on the current movement to regulate the livestock and poultry industry. We oppose any type of pro-animal rights legislation. We also oppose public funding for studies of animal rights issues. (1982, a. 2023)

We oppose the banning of agriculture practices and agriculture industries regardless if they currently are in Virginia or not. (2008)

We support the continued use of livestock, as defined by the Code of Virginia, to be utilized for food and fiber production. (2008)

We believe that public animal shelters should not restrict or prohibit the use of euthanasia. (2021)

We oppose regulations addressing when agricultural animals, including livestock guardian dogs, should be sheltered based upon outside temperature. (2020, a. 2023)

We oppose restrictions preventing the tethering of any animals in Virginia. (2008)

We recommend strict enforcement of predator dog laws. We further recommend that the current law requiring compensation for dog damage to livestock or poultry be expanded to include damage to farm infrastructure. (1991, a. 2014, a. 2024)

We support increased funding and emphasis on training including distinguishing between improper care and age-related health issues and certification for Animal Control Officers through the Office of the State Veterinarian in the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. (2008, a. 2024)

In the event of an unfounded animal cruelty complaint, **we support** animal control officers disclosing the name of the person(s) who made the unfounded claim and/or assessing a fine of \$500 plus the cost of the investigation of the animal abuse/neglect. (2016, a. 2018, a. 2022)

Aquaculture (110)

We support restricting menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay within a three-mile distance from the shore. (2019)

We recommend that a single business owner should have the oyster handler license instead of each employee. (2017)

We support the work of the land-grant universities and public and private institutions of higher education in conducting marine and freshwater aquaculture and aquaponics research. We further recommend they be adequately funded to continue to meet their research and operational needs. (2006, a. 2018)

We support the involvement of fish culturists along with the use of sound scientific documentation, independent research and economic analysis in the development of any regulatory requirements, including TMDLs, on aquaculture facilities. (2007, a. 2018)

We support the recognition at the state and national levels of cultured seafood cage growing of oysters and clams, aquaculture products grown for market as agricultural products, as well as the development of game farm fisheries. (1994)

We support the strict enforcement of current laws and penalties in cases of theft and/or willful destruction of fish and shellfish raised for sale and/or research and support legislation to enact more stringent penalties for such acts as needed. (1994)

We support the activities of the Aquaculture Advisory Board to assist industry expansion and development, as enacted in the 1992 Aquaculture Development Act. (1994)

We recommend that aquaculturists be exempt from Department of Wildlife Resources permitting requirements for the raising of native and naturalized fish species. (1995)

Biotechnology (115)

We support the use and further development of biotechnology to benefit consumers and increase the marketability of agricultural products. We support efforts to educate consumers on the science and benefits of these products. (2002, a. 2014, a. 2016, a. 2017, a. 2018)

Commodities (General) (120)

We request that all federal, state and local agricultural inspection officials have a working knowledge of farm production. (2015, a. 2018)

We support the expansion of support for local farm food products to school lunch program initiatives. (2020)

We believe it should be a choice for local nutrition directors of public schools to decide to offer whole and flavored milk. (2025)

We strongly oppose the use of educational materials in our schools that discourage use of animal products in the diet and various other areas. (2004, a. 2023)

We oppose designating any day as meatless for school lunch programs. (2021)

We support an amendment to the Virginia Limited Brewery License that would require a measurable percentage of land in bona fide agricultural production with a minimum of 10% of non-water ingredients be grown on the farm similar to the requirements for farm wineries. ABC shall document the required agricultural production prior to issuance of a license and localities shall be permitted and encouraged to annually verify the agricultural production noted in the initial license. (2019, a. 2022, a. 2024)

We feel that producers of legal agricultural products should not be held responsible or liable for health problems that may occur from the products' consumption or use. We support consumer education on safe food handling practices. (1995, a. 2014)

We support the continued growth and development of Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) including vertical farming, aeroponics, hydroponics, aquaculture, greenhouses and other CEA operations. (2025)

We support farmers having access to local manual override options on all automated systems, including artificial intelligence technologies. (2025)

Commodity Check-off (125)

We recommend legislation providing for any commodity check-off promotion program to include the following:

- The right of the individual producers to vote in a referendum on any commodity check-off promotion program for a commodity which they produce.
- When commodity boards have had a previous referendum, 10% or more of the number voting may petition for a subsequent referendum of those affected commodity producers, with reference to existing code requirements.
- The board, which is to administer collected funds, should be appointed by the Governor from producers and other individuals where applicable and nominated by the producer organizations representing the producers of the affected commodity. The number and geographic distribution of board seats should be periodically updated to reflect changes in the affected commodity's production.

- Responsibility for the conduct of the referendum should be placed with the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- Provisions requiring broad notification of the proposed referendum.
- Districts should be based on the specific commodity standards and should be spelled out in the act in order that the producer can understand the system of representation before being called to cast a vote. (1970, a.1971, a. 2014, a. 2023, a. 2024)

We believe agricultural commodity boards, reforestation of timberland programs and Virginia Agricultural Council monies should not be used to balance the state budget. These dedicated special funds should only be used for purposes specified by their respective legislative statutes as enacted by the past Virginia General Assemblies. (2004)

We support maintaining a Virginia state cattle assessment program. (2023)

We support legislation that sets the assessed excise tax on peanuts at \$5/ton. (2013, a. 2014, a. 2021)

We support using Dairy Check-Off dollars to promote the sale and use of whole milk products. We would ask that the Dairy Marketing Initiative be evaluated to ensure that dollars are not being used in the promotion of non-dairy products to consumers. (2020)

Cotton (130)

We support establishing May 30 as the cotton planting date for RMA reporting, with an allowable planting date extension for the next five days with a 2% decrease in coverage per day. (2021, a. 2024)

We recommend that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) continue to certify cotton acreage, assist in conducting referendums and make farm maps available for the boll weevil eradication programs. (2000)

We support adequate funding for the Boll Weevil Eradication Program and request state funding as necessary to ensure annual producer assessments are minimized and to offset unforeseen program cost overruns. (2000)

We support establishing a 60% minimum germination of seed cotton for sale as regulated by the Virginia Seed Law. Seed cotton that tests below the germination tolerance, as established by the standards of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Analyst (AOSCA), but above the minimum may be relabeled and sold. (2023)

Dairy (135)

We oppose labels that misrepresent non-dairy products as dairy or equivalent dairy substitutes. (2024, a. 2025)

We support the Virginia State Milk Commission (VSMC). (1966)

We oppose modifying the definition of marketing areas to include all Virginia counties and cities under the federal milk marketing order regulations. (2012)

Direct Sales of Farm Products (140)

We support defining “locally grown” for farm and food products. (2024)

We support defining “locally grown” to include farm and food products grown or produced with a defined official radius of 50 miles for farm and food products. (2023)

We support laws and regulations that oversee the use of cow-share agreements in order to ensure food safety and enforce the prohibition of the sale of raw milk directly to consumers. (2012, a. 2019)

We believe all milk and dairy products sold for human consumption in Virginia must be from inspected sources and pasteurized, or in the case of cheese, aged. However, should lawmakers seek to allow an exemption to state laws and regulations, we believe an exemption should only allow for the regulated sale of raw milk and dairy products processed from raw milk on the farm where it was produced, processed and packaged for consumers’ personal use. Regulated raw milk and dairy products sold on the farm must: 1) originate from herds tested free of contagious diseases; 2) be tested for pathogens and contaminants; 3) be labeled to identify the potential health consequences of consuming unpasteurized products and the producer’s contact information; and 4) originate from a facility inspected for sanitation. Raw milk and dairy products should be required to have a Grade A permit and must meet those benchmark standards for pathogens, contaminants and temperature rather than be required to use specific infrastructure and equipment. We support the enforcement of state and national milk and dairy product standards. We recommend VDACS revise state regulations in a timely manner in order to remain consistent with federal definitions and standards and to prevent any competitive disadvantage for Virginia dairy producers. We oppose state and federal regulatory changes that threaten the quality and marketing of milk and dairy products or weaken labeling standards. (1993, a. 2005, a. 2018)

We oppose direct farm sales of unregulated meat products to consumers. (2006)

We support state funding or staffing support for the development, expansion and improvement of traditional Farmers’ Markets, as well as regional markets that benefit Virginia agriculture and direct from the farm to consumer type local markets. (2011)

We support legislation to protect the term “farmers market” to only be used in contexts that promote “local” farmers and locally made products being sold. (2023)

Equine (145)

We recognize the equine industry as an integral part of the overall agricultural industry and further support efforts to keep the industry viable and that it is entitled to programs available to other agricultural sectors. **We**

strongly support a uniform definition of all equine as agriculture livestock and be defined as such in the State Code of Virginia and Virginia Tax Code. (1981, a. 2017)

We support horse breeding and racing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. (2015)

We support requiring cases of strangles to be reportable to the state veterinarian. (2018)

We are opposed to any plan by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to relocate wild horses from the western United States to public lands in Virginia. (2011)

We support codifying the ability of the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, the Virginia Horse Center, the Virginia Horse Industry Board and the Virginia Breeders Fund to each continue to receive an equal percentage of the historical horse racing funds that are allocated to Virginia's horse industry for equine purposes. (2024)

Feed Grains, Soybeans and Wheat (150)

We support state funding for a study of statewide grain handling facility infrastructure, to include: annual capacity, facility age, equipment and other aspects important to marketing of Virginia grain. (2024)

We believe that weight tickets for grain should show the moisture, the net bushels of grain (corrected for moisture shrinkage) and drying charge and be clearly posted. (2007, a. 2017)

We support the startup and operation of soybean processing facilities in Virginia that produce biodiesel, roasted soybeans, or other soy products. (2004, a. 2006)

We oppose granaries charging for sampling grain when sold. (2023)

We support the regulation of testing methods for the falling number on wheat by VDACS. (2023)

Fiber Crops and Cannabis (160)

We support the agricultural production of industrial hemp and all cannabis species allowed by law. We support farmers having representation on all boards governing production practices of any cannabis species. (2021)

We support the Virginia Crop Improvement Association overseeing the seed and variety certification program for industrial hemp. (2020, a. 2021)

We support including industrial hemp for permanent crop insurance protection under the Risk Management Agency. (2021)

We support increasing the THC limit from 0.3% up to 1.0% in order to maximize the production of CBD in industrial hemp. (2020, a. 2021)

We support crop research and market development for all fiber crops.(a. 2019, a. 2021)

We support the use of state-licensed and approved facilities to research the medical benefits of cannabis. (2017, a. 2022)

We oppose the legalization of marijuana for recreational use. (2021)

Honeybees (165)

We support a balanced approach to addressing the decline of the honeybee population that educates producers but will not inhibit the ability of producers to use all available products on crops. We further support establishing communication between beekeepers and production agriculture to create a relationship of coexistence. (2016)

We support state funding of research of pest control, mortality rates, hive management for beekeepers and crops that produce excess nectar. (2005, a. 2015, a. 2021)

Livestock (170)

We support additional research for parasite control on small ruminants, resulting in access to treatment products. (2024, a. 2025)

We support the allocation of resources and the development of measures to control the spread of the Asian Longhorned Tick in the United States to prevent economic and mortality losses in livestock. We support establishing an indemnification program and funding to mitigate livestock owners' financial losses associated with the Asian Longhorned Tick. (2021, a. 2025)

We support the voluntary Virginia Johne's Disease Control Program. We further support the development of more accurate testing methods and implementation. (2000, a. 2025)

We support continuation of the educational programs offered by VDACS and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) regarding the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) that make the laws easier to understand and minimize any adverse financial impact to the farming community. We support the State Veterinarian exploring how to streamline the acquisition and administration of controlled drugs under VFD to assist livestock farmers in areas that there is a shortage of large animal veterinarians. (2017, a. 2018, a. 2024)

We support all agriculture, including Intensive Livestock, when operated under Best Management Practices (BMP), Nutrient Management Practices (NMP) and all state guidelines. (2002, a. 2018)

We support the activities of the State Veterinarian in the implementation of a voluntary animal disease traceability program that will protect the animal health and maintain the economic competitiveness of Virginia's livestock industry within the state and beyond while maintaining the confidentiality of information. (2005, a. 2012)

We believe the office of the State Veterinarian should pursue the issue of infectious diseases in non-traditional and/or non-indigenous animals being raised in captivity in Virginia and any species that may be introduced in the future to Virginia. We recommend that practical guidelines and/or regulations be put in place, maintained and enforced to ensure the protection of Virginia's dairy and livestock herds and flocks from infectious diseases carried by any animals. (1995)

We recommend that environmentally safe and timely burial of dead animals must continue to be an option for disposal along with composting, cremation, rendering and other approved methods. If regulations must be made, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Office of the State Veterinarian should oversee the disposal of dead animals. (1999)

Marketing and Bargaining Initiatives (180)

We recommend that governmental agencies, commodity check off boards, private industry and producer groups work together to promote sales of all agricultural products, both locally and in foreign markets, and encourage the support of local agricultural incubator sites/agricultural complexes for the purpose of promoting the development of existing and emerging agricultural enterprises and products. (1988, a. 2022, a. 2024)

Because price discovery is a public good used to determine the cash value of cattle through negotiated trade, **we strongly support** expedited efforts aimed at improving the timeliness of reporting requirements and transparency related to cattle marketing transactions as well as effort that promote the competitive marketing of cattle. (2023)

We support public schools purchasing dairy products from processing facilities that process milk produced on Virginia dairy farms. (2020)

We support the establishment of new grade and quality standards and consistently utilizing such standards for cotton, grains, oil seeds, peanuts and any other commodity to more accurately reflect the value and specific commodity criteria. (2009, a. 2024)

Meat Inspection and Processing (185)

We support uniformity and consistency in the application of meat inspection services and an appeals process for cited or proposed violations. (2025)

We support the construction and expansion of federally inspected canneries and locally owned slaughter facilities in Virginia for the processing of all types of livestock, including poultry. We further encourage the expansion of processors for wild game. (2007, a. 2017, a. 2025)

We encourage more meat processing workforce development and educational opportunities to support local processing capacity. (2025)

We support federal and state grant funds to individuals and localities for infrastructure, equipment upgrades and other start-up costs to incentivize meat processing, including inspection. (2022)

We believe additional regulatory oversight is needed to prevent monopolies within the meat and poultry processing industry. (2022)

We oppose federal, or state funding used to support research and development of cultured protein products. (2020, a. 2021, a. 2022)

We encourage transparency from USDA inspected facilities on the complete yield of harvested animals. (2025)

We oppose any reduction in the state meat inspection program or transfer of the responsibilities to USDA. (2003)

We support the development of updated humane animal and handling training for Food Safety Inspection Service and VDACS meat inspectors. (2023)

We support streamlined and cost-efficient inspection of small-scale meatpacking and processing facilities including developing a plan to allow contracted inspectors when needed. (2006, a. 2022)

We support flexibility in USDA's meat inspection hiring process to allow contract agreements with licensed veterinarians to perform inspection services in underserved and understaffed areas and in the event of temporary disruptions within the industry. (2021)

Meat Labeling (190)

We support the term “meat” be defined as any “edible portion of livestock, poultry or captive cervid carcass” and that any “meat product” be defined as “anything containing meat intended for or capable of use for human consumption, which is derived, in whole, from livestock, poultry or captive cervid.” We further support prohibiting the use of commonly used nomenclature or specific “meat” terms such as beef, chicken, pork, turkey, lamb, veal and fish or specific cuts of meat such as roast, steak, ground, breast, chop, filet, etc. in cultured, 3-D printed and plant-based protein product standards in labeling. (2019, a. 2021, a. 2025)

We believe FDA must develop and enforce identity standards and labeling regulations for protein food products, including meat and dairy, cultured from mammalian protein and plant-based products. (2019, a. 2021)

We support all meat, milk, milk-derived products, cultured meat and cultured milk be regulated jointly by the USDA and the FDA. (2019, a. 2021)

We support Country of Origin Labeling on all meat products (beef, pork, chicken, lamb and goat). We believe imported agricultural products should be held to the same standard as U.S. products. USDA will require additional funding for comprehensive inspections. (2019)

We oppose labels that mislead consumers regarding the use of animal antibiotics, hormones and housing practices. (2019)

Peanuts (195)

We believe governmental agencies, private industry and producer groups should work together to promote sales of Virginia type peanuts in domestic and foreign markets. (1982)

We support addressing producer concerns with Virginia only having a single source of peanut plaster, and with the availability of peanut plaster during the application window. (2024)

We support adequate funding for Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) grading and inspection of peanuts during the harvest season. (2024)

We recommend that when the present method of testing indicates the possible presence of aflatoxin, freeze damage, or excess foreign material, the farmer may reclean and submit the load for retest. (1984, a. 2016)

We recommend that peanut loans come due on or before June 1. (2011)

We support maintaining a separate peanut payment limitation from other commodities. (2020)

We support establishing an area marketing cooperatives as a producer marketing alternative for peanuts. (2003, a. 2025)

Poultry (200)

We recommend that efforts be made to establish improved communications, with a regular, recognized dialogue, between growers and contractors in the following areas: contract pricing, quality assurance, complaint resolution, environmental issues, disposal of dead poultry, management guidelines, weighing of poultry and feed, conflict of interest of company employees and others. (1996)

We recommend that contract producers be furnished with accurate weight tickets on all poultry sold from their farms and on feed delivered to the farm. We further believe condemnation deductions should be based on the actual weight of the condemned poultry instead of using the flock's average bird weight. (1996)

We recommend that integrators, growers and state agencies work together to practice all possible biosecurity methods to help prevent and control disease during an outbreak. We further recommend integrators notify all producers of any contagious diseases in their area. (1996, a. 1997)

We recommend that whatever indemnification a company receives payment for, whether state or federal, a pro rata share should go to the grower. (1997)

We request that poultry contractors provide long-term contracts with growers, which consider the substantial investment in housing and equipment. (1996)

We recommend that all live fowl be subject to the same USDA testing procedures that pertain to commercial birds and that indemnity funding reflects the same considerations. (2005)

We recommend a written report from the lab be furnished to the producers and growers stating the problems found with the birds along with sensitivity reports on medication that would work to correct disease problems. (1996, a. 2024)

Risk Protection (Crop) Insurance (205)

We support using the county average yield for the initial creation of the APH database for crop insurance in absence of a production history for all crops, specialty or other. (2025)

We support reforms to the crop insurance program that would provide adequate coverage that is actuarially sound at an affordable price for all commodities in all regions. (2000, a. 2020)

We recommend that disaster indemnification be based on individual commodity and not on a whole farm income year. (2020, a. 2022)

We recommend review of Risk Management Agency planting dates for all regions in Virginia to match current agricultural practices. (2018, a. 2019)

We support the liability of artificial intelligence being held by the manufacturer to cover the cost to the grower of all damaged facilities and any loss of crops or livestock. (2025)

Tobacco (210)

We recommend the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (VTRRC) continue to provide tobacco families with financial aid for a college education. (2005, a. 2019)

We support continuing strict accountability of the Tobacco Commission regarding disbursement of funds. (2012, a. 2015)

We support the current increased funding percentages and mechanisms for the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission's (VTRRC) efforts to promote agriculture initiatives, including value-added beef and lamb, improved livestock genetics, livestock facilities and incentives for increased honey bee production as well as new industries in Southside and Southwest Virginia and existing industries expanding job opportunities. (2005, a. 2014, a. 2015, a. 2018, a. 2024)

We encourage the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission to prioritize financial support to large animal vets, including the inclusion of the profession into their eligible occupations for the Talent Attraction Program. (2025)

We support the right of adults to use traditional tobacco products. (2011, a. 2019)

We support maintaining production of each type of tobacco in Virginia. (2005)

We oppose any organization or branch of government using taxpayers' money against the use of tobacco products. (2015)

We support the Master Settlement Agreement whereby the payment would allow 50% to quota holders, tobacco producers and tobacco communities; 10% to health; and 40% to the general fund. (2000, a. 2013, a. 2015)

We strongly support the inclusion of tobacco and tobacco products in all trade negotiations of the United States. (2013)

We support the development of nontraditional uses for tobacco products. (1995, a. 2022)

Wine and Grape Industry (215)

We support all provisions of the Virginia Farm Winery Act and support retaining all specified privileges within the Act, including self-distribution and the use of five remote licenses. We further support the right to sell wine on the wineries' premises in accordance with local rules and ordinances. (2006)

We support strict enforcement by Alcohol Beverage Control agency (including spot audits) of the requirement that all Class A farm winery licensees grow 51% of the fruit used to manufacture wine on their owned farm or land leased by them. (2015)

We support interstate and intrastate direct shipment of wine. (2003)

We support directing the entire amount of wine excise tax collected from Virginia farm wineries to the Virginia Wine Promotion Fund. (2011)

We support farm wineries as an agricultural enterprise to include wine as an agricultural product. (2009)

EDUCATION

Agricultural Education (250)

We support the inclusion in all Virginia schools a revitalized and modernized agriculture curriculum for grades K-12. (2024)

We support community colleges, agricultural institutions or trade schools creating and initiating curriculum for meat processing techniques and agricultural computer technologies. (2023)

We support at least two agriculture education specialists. (2000, a. 2012, a. 2014, a. 2017)

We support students enrolled in agriculture education to have active Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs. We encourage individuals and farmers who are in agriculture or natural resource areas to serve as mentors, employers and supporters of the SAE programs so that we will have individuals interested in entering a agriculture or natural resource careers. (2023)

We support agricultural instructors having extended contracts to supervise student projects over the summer and allow students to participate in various summer FFA meetings, leadership opportunities and preparation for contests. (2023)

We support the development of agricultural-based apprenticeship programs in Virginia and in localities to assist in filling agricultural job vacancies in areas such as, but not limited to agricultural equipment technicians, dairy management, butchering, diversified vegetable production, landscape management and grounds keeping. (2023, a. 2024)

We support funding for the subscription cost of an electronic system for tracking work-based learning experiences. (2022, a. 2023)

We support the establishment of the Virginia Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence to develop a comprehensive statewide plan to enhance agriculture education across Virginia. The commission will coordinate efforts between state agencies to provide enhanced support to agricultural programs and develop curriculum guidelines to align with educational and workforce needs. The commission should provide an annual report to assess and improve agricultural education. (2025)

We support professional development and continued education programs for farmers, such as Virginia Agricultural Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) or the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute. (2025)

Education (260)

We support a reformulation of educational funding from Virginia to localities to reflect costs associated with state mandates and to address disparities in education funding in rural areas due to shifts in the economy and declining population levels. (2018, a. 2021)

We support using lottery funds as supplemental funding for K-12 instead of using those monies to replace other general funds. (2024)

We support that all absences from schools in Virginia, for students participating in 4-H activities or contests be considered an excused absence. (2022)

We support schools implementing litter prevention educational programs. (2023)



ENERGY

Data Centers (290)

We oppose the construction of data centers on agricultural or forestry land. (2024)

We support requiring the use of recycled water for cooling for any new proposed data center. (2025)

We oppose any new utility-scale solar development being publicly/privately required for any new proposed data center. (2025)

We support more transparency in the local authority of siting data centers. (2025)

Other Energy Sources and Renewable Energy (300)

We recommend that any Virginia energy policy adopted contains the importance of renewable energy from agriculture and forestry. (2007, a. 2018, a. 2021)

We support a continued effort to make America less dependent on foreign oil by encouraging the development and use of our domestic energy resources and the continuing development of alternative, cost-effective energy supplies. (2007, a. 2012, a. 2017)

We support state and national research for the production and use of alternative energy with an emphasis on the advancement of technology for biofuel creation from cellulosic feedstock. (2007, a. 2018)

Solar (305)

We oppose solar facilities being referred to as solar farms. (2023)

We believe more studies should be done on the impact of utility-scale solar energy on agriculture and the potential environmental impacts and lifecycle costs for the manufacture, disposal, re-use or recycle of material inputs, before any additional projects are approved on agricultural lands. (2012, a. 2017, a. 2018, a. 2021, a. 2024)

We oppose any legislation that would allow state authority over localities in developing utility-scale solar projects. (2020)

If a utility-scale solar facility is to be installed, **we recommend** it being located on brownfields, landfills, parking lots, public buildings, commercial buildings or mine reclamation sites. (2022, a. 2023, a. 2025)

We support avoiding farmland and forestland when locating utility-scale solar facilities. If these facilities are located on farmland or forestland, the solar developer and the utility company should be mandated to employ mitigation strategies such as returning the land to productive farmland or forestland at the time of decommissioning or the project should be required to incorporate a form of agrivoltaics to ensure continued production of food or fiber. (2023, a. 2025)

We support mandating solar panel installation requirements that the location of each array to follow natural topography to reduce soil disturbance. (2025)

We support funding to develop best management practices and educational resources to be made available to landowners on appropriate contract stipulations for utility-scale solar field placement and specifications in order

to protect the hosting field, hosting farmer, runoff and ultimate removal process. Clauses which should be included in standard contracts include decommissioning plans, panel repair and replacement plans, phased installation of panels, panel designs which mimic the natural terrain and reasonable distances from substation infrastructure required to tie these facilities to the larger grid. (2025)

We support requiring a minimum forested buffer around all utility-scale solar facilities. (2023, a. 2024, a. 2025)

We support requiring all utility-scale solar facilities to maintain a nutrient management plan prior to construction and throughout the existence of the facility. (2024)

We support the mandated use of non-invasive, weed-free, certified seed as determined by testing by the Virginia State seed lab for use on utility-scale solar projects as ground cover or pollinator habitats. (2020)

We support proper DEQ inspections to monitor the installation process for soil destruction and depletion during solar installation. (2025)

We prefer smaller solar installations of 5MW (mega-watt) or less. We also support an increase in the price paid to the small-scale energy generator to the electrical grid. (2025)

We support the Commonwealth of Virginia convening a stakeholder work group to develop a definition of agrivoltaics to ensure solar projects categorized as agrivoltaics are true dual use that are producing and selling an agriculture product. (2025)

We support more Virginia based research on the economic viability of agrivoltaics on utility-scale solar sites. We support more information or demonstration sites being made available to landowners. (2023)

We believe that bona fide agrivoltaic installations will be more sustainable for the coexistence of solar energy production and agricultural and forestry production. (2025)

We oppose increasing the assessed value of agricultural lands based on its speculative value for solar development. (2025)

We support localities holding a bond for each utility-scale solar facility and/or payment amount per kilowatt hour to pay for returning the land to its original productive state and clean-up costs that may be associated with decommissioning solar energy projects. (2022, a. 2025)

We support the continued classification of solar panels as impervious surfaces for utility-scale solar facilities. (2024, a. 2025)

We request that excess power can be sold when generated from a private solar installation specific to an agricultural operation. (2024, a. 2025)

We oppose tax incentives, credits, subsidies, governmental grants, etc. for utility-scale terrestrial wind and solar energy on agricultural land. However,

we support incentives for solar and wind energy for use on landowners' own agriculture enterprises and operations. (2015, a. 2017, a. 2018, a. 2021, a. 2024)

We support proposals to repeal the 80% discount on tools and machinery tax on utility-scale solar projects. (2020)

State Corporation Commission (SCC) and Public Utilities (315)

We believe that utility companies utilizing a right of way through farms with active livestock should only be allowed access after giving the farmer adequate and advanced notice. The company shall be responsible for assuring livestock confinement and accept full responsibility for the safety and health of employees, contractors and equipment. (2025)

If an estimated electricity reading is needed, **we support** utility companies using data points for agricultural customers such as current commodity and facility use or historical energy use by that customer instead of an estimation by neighboring meters which could be residential instead of agricultural resulting in an inaccurate estimation. (2025)

We believe utility company workers or any other authorized personnel visiting a landowner's property should be required to wear identifying clothing as well as have identifying features on their vehicle. (2025)

We support requiring utility companies to remove all debris from cleared right of ways. If debris from maintenance of right of way are left in pasture (ex. Wild cherry toxic to livestock) then the utility company would be liable for the loss of livestock. (2025)

We support requiring cable TV and public utility companies to raise their lines higher so farm equipment can pass underneath or enforce laws regarding the proper burial of lines. We further believe that utility companies need to properly maintain utility equipment and right of ways as well as make equipment, pedestals and junction boxes visible to prevent damage to utility property as well as landowner property, equipment and livestock. We believe if farm equipment accidentally damages a pedestal hidden in weeds, brush, or other foliage, the liability should be on the utility company. (2003, a. 2014, a. 2025)

We support the expansion of high-speed internet and cellular phone coverage to all areas through greater state investment. Service provider shall offer speeds that do not diminish during standard business hours or periods of peak customer demand. (2011, a. 2012, a. 2017, a. 2018, a. 2023)

We encourage the State Corporation Commission to require public utility companies to properly maintain and repair their landlines in a timely manner. (2012)

We support the return to a cost-of-service regulatory model that existed prior to electric utility deregulation in 1999. We support efforts to mitigate

negative effects of the re-regulation of the electric utility industry to ensure affordability, availability and reliability of service to rural Virginia. (2004)

We oppose any demand fees by electric utilities for usage under 100Kw and on electrical services of 400 amps in size and smaller. We support an agricultural tariff rate for farms. (2014, a. 2016, a. 2018)

We support revisions of the state regulations to make repairs of existing septic systems and application for new septic systems in rural areas less cost prohibitive. (2020)

We support access to the “Miss Utility” system for all farm properties, including parcels without a 911 address. (2022)

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

Miscellaneous State Agencies (325)

We support efforts from the General Assembly, state agencies or groups, like the Virginia 250, that want to recognize Bicentennial Farms in Virginia. This support could create new tourism opportunities for the state as well as recognize and possibly provide funding to these historical farms. (2024)

We support the Virginia Department of Health increasing training and enforcement of food safety requirements for restaurants. (2024)

We support using current funding to provide regular farm machinery safety and extrication training for fire and EMS personnel, agencies and farmers in Virginia. (2018, a. 2024)

Regulations and Governmental Oversight (330)

We recommend that Virginia should support ‘right to repair’ to encourage movement at the federal level. (2023)

We oppose governmental agencies turning over the names and contact information of producers to activist groups. (2019)

We support any and all measures that can be taken to strengthen our own domestic production and manufacturing to address the supply chain issues and shortages of products available to farmers. (2023)

We request that local, state and federal governments include agricultural representation on committees formulating proposed laws or regulations that impact farmers and/or landowners. (2013)

We request that legislators demonstrate a benefit-to-cost advantage and more oversight to any new food, water, or environmental regulation or to an interpretation of existing regulation. (2013, a. 2014, a. 2015)

We support the development of legislation restricting Virginia state agencies, banks or financial institutions or other entities operating in Virginia from

imposing restrictions on people, associations and/or businesses based on Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) scores or similar criteria. (2023)

We oppose any legislative or regulatory action that requires farmers and landowners to report their records to a government entity for the purposes of reducing agriculture's environmental impact without a proven scientific justification. (2021)

We oppose expansion of power by regulatory agencies through the use of guidance documents and executive branch orders to circumvent the legislative process. (2018)

We oppose additional food safety regulations, including FSMA and GAP, for vegetable crop production (surface pond water usage, etc.). (2025)

We oppose any ban or prohibition against the continued use of gasoline or diesel-powered farm machinery, equipment and small engines in Virginia. (2025)

We support requiring a government issued photo, such as a driver's license, to vote in all local, state and federal elections. (2025)

We support a study to determine whether farming and property rights have been considered as a matter of policy inferior to wildlife management protection and propagation in the Commonwealth. (2025)

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (335)

We support the Farm Service Agency increasing the number of its appraisers and loan officers in Virginia. (2020)

We believe the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the USDA Chief Economist, establish mandatory levels of negotiated cash and negotiated grid trade for each USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) designated cattle region, have public comment and ultimately implement the levels. (2025)

We support USDA changing the NASS reporting date to after the harvest season to allow for accurate harvest reporting. (2025)

We support higher loan limits and lower interest rates offered by FSA for first generation farmers. (2025)

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) (340)

We believe the four Regional Animal Health Laboratories in Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, Warrenton and Wytheville used for diagnostic and laboratory services should remain open, fully staffed and maintained with expanded available testing and necropsy services remaining affordable and available to producers without veterinarian referral. (2023, a. 2024)

We support VDACS filling staff vacancies at Regional Animal Health Laboratories in a timely fashion and maintaining sufficient staff to cover temporary vacancies. (2022)

We support increased compensation commiserate to the private sector for laboratory employees, veterinarians and other associated staffing at Regional Animal Health Laboratories. (2024)

We believe VDACS' animal health laboratories should be fully staffed and equipped to provide health diagnostic services that facilitate the interstate movement and export of aquaculture species from Virginia. (2020, a. 2023)

We support the continued assistance of VDACS in providing grading, promotion, marketing and market development opportunities for the Virginia Livestock industry, and that the Livestock Services Program manager be tasked with fulfilling these duties. (2021)

We support funding for marketing, grading and inspection programs by VDACS, including restoration of funds for annual inspections of livestock scales and sufficient staffing for grain services division. (1994, a. 2024)

To promote a transparent environment in the agricultural regulatory community, **we support** the development of a policy by VDACS to address conflict of interest involved in the agricultural grading process. (2020)

We believe funds generated by inspection and grading services should be used only to defray the cost of providing such inspection and grading services to farmers. (1984)

We support VDACS or other state agencies employing safety specialists to provide safety training and assist farmers and to coordinate training education for fire and rescue personnel in the proper handling of farm and farm vehicle accidents. (2020, a. 2022)

Virginia State University and Virginia Tech (350)

We request a streamlined and expedited process in the hiring of Virginia Cooperative Extension personnel in the local county offices. (2024)

We support programs to incentivize more large animal veterinarians to graduate from veterinary schools and practice in rural areas. (2023)

We urge preferential consideration in veterinary school admissions be given to students with a large animal focus. (2024)

We recommend restoring funding at Virginia Tech and Virginia State for agriculture teaching, research and extension service, including funding for capital projects. In addition, **we believe** that Virginia Tech and/or Virginia State University must:

- Maintain strong and strategic staffing levels for all Virginia commodities at the Agriculture Research and Extension Centers (AREC)
- Be accountable with respect as to how the funding is allocated for teaching, extension and research

- Maintain a strong land grant mission
- Maintain a degree program in agricultural education and increase the number of graduating students to fill vacant positions.
- Strengthen the link between community colleges and Virginia Tech
- Have strong representation from the agriculture and forestry industries on the Boards of Visitors
- Staff local offices that house a minimum of an agriculture extension agent, a 4-H agent and a secretary that is funded in accordance with the current arrangement between the localities and Virginia Tech
- Consider re-establishing collegiate livestock and horse judging team programs to provide experiential and competitive opportunities for students
- Ensure that capital projects are reasonably built and meet the long term needs of the agriculture and forestry industry
- Establish a more transparent process in prioritization of filling vacant ANR agent positions (2001, a. 2013, a. 2015, a. 2016, a. 2017, a. 2023, a. 2025)

We support having at least one member of the agriculture community serving on the Board of Visitors at Virginia State University. (2018)

We support funding at Virginia Tech for upgrades to soil test equipment to continue to provide accurate soil samples for agricultural producers at no cost. We can accept an additional fee for more sophisticated testing to support precision agriculture if the fees are used to enhance equipment. (2015, a. 2017)

HEALTH

Health Care and Health Care Cost Containment Measures (375)

We support the development and utilization of advanced technological systems such as telemedicine to better serve rural areas. (2001, a. 2022)

We support multi-state reciprocity for medical professionals for the purpose of allowing telemedicine across state lines. We support full reimbursement for telemedicine services provided by all health care practitioners. (2021)

We support equal reimbursement between physicians and advanced practice providers for the same service from Medicare and third-party payers. (2021)

We believe more research should be done concerning Alpha-gal, Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and other tick-borne illnesses and develop treatments or vaccines for humans. (2019, a. 2020)

We support increased funding and emphasis on training related to farm stress for mental health professionals in rural areas. (2021)

We support a coalition of Virginia state or local agencies to seek government or private grants to provide workshops for farmers in crisis to help with sorting

through options to get assistance with financial restructuring and mental health. (2021)

We believe that health care is primarily the responsibility of the individual. **We support** efforts to improve health care delivery and foster health care competition. **We encourage** revision of present health care laws to include:

- Removal of unnecessary mandated benefits which are not applicable to the individual's coverage,
- Coverage of only American citizens in exchange for mandatory participation in health coverage without rate differential for health status,
- Prohibition of government programs that result in further subsidization by private insurers,
- Preservation of a competitive private insurance system with local service agents,
- Opposition to a public option or government-run program to provide health insurance including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,
- Opposition to further reductions in Medicare reimbursement rates to doctors, hospitals and other health care providers,
- The ability for individuals to purchase health insurance across state lines subject to state regulation,
- Requirements that if an individual who can afford health insurance chooses not to purchase coverage, they should be required to pay for medical services received,
- Opposition to any measures that could result in the rationing of health care,
- Opposition to an employer mandate to provide coverage to existing employees, terminated employees, or if fully implemented, an exemption for agricultural producers from the mandatory requirement to provide health insurance to their employees,
- Measures to eliminate fraud from the health care system and
- Small business health plans and voluntary regional insurance purchasing cooperatives, subject to state-specific regulation where those policies are offered, to permit individuals and small companies to receive the same price advantages that corporations receive (2010, a. 2013, a. 2014, a. 2015, a. 2017)

We are opposed to any tax on any agricultural commodity being used to fund a health care program. (1995)

We support more affordable rabies vaccines for humans. (2025)

Agricultural Labor (400)

We support keeping Agricultural Employment Wage Rates (AEWR) stable to limit impacts on farm costs and oppose overtime requirements for visa workers. (2025)

We support a comprehensive review of the AEWR calculation. (2025)

We support the elimination of the requirement to hire American workers during the first 50% of a H-2A contract. (2025)

We support retention of the agricultural exemption from the overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and support conforming state overtime laws to the FLSA. (2024)

We oppose additional employee mandates on farm employers and support maintaining current agriculture worker exemptions. (2021, a. 2023)

We support Virginia's Right-to-Work law and Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act. Further, we oppose any effort to prevent the permanent replacement of strikers. (1964)

We oppose any increase to the minimum wage that adversely impacts agriculture. (1995, a. 2020)

We are opposed to any changes in the Workers' Compensation Act that would expand employee benefits resulting in increased rates for the employer. Further, we support the present definition of injury under workers' compensation and the option to pay premiums semi-annually or quarterly. (1979, a. 2021)

We oppose funding for and support limiting the authority of Legal Aid regarding agricultural labor. (1999)

We support opportunities for youth to work on farms under healthy and safe working conditions as defined and regulated by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). (2015, a. 2020)

We oppose any governmental regulations on extended family members working on farms. (1993)

We believe that agricultural labor facilities be exempted from regulations as a public waterworks system. (2021)

We believe that access to private property by government and private agencies that inspect facilities or provide health care, legal services and other services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers must be limited to a reasonable frequency, a reasonable time and with reasonable notice to the employer and employees. (2001, a. 2016)

We believe H-2A employers should be able to stipulate the length of work experience required for all H-2A applicants. (2024)

Immigration (405)

We oppose any effort to provide local, state, or federally funded governmental services or benefits to undocumented workers. (2020, a. 2021)

We support the fast track of application for legal work status of workers employed on agriculture operations for at least nine consecutive months with no negative financial burdens nor consequences towards agriculture employers of undocumented workers. (2025)

LEGAL ISSUES

Judicial System (425)

We believe law enforcement should receive training on agricultural issues (i.e., farm use) as they enter a rural area. (2017)

We support state and federal legislation to increase civil or criminal penalties for individuals who break into, vandalize, remove, or contaminate commodities or livestock on an agricultural operation. This applies to production, processing and/or research facilities. (2015, a. 2017)

We support an increase in the distribution and enforcement of SR-22s by all branches of agencies currently enforcing highway laws. (2024)

The National Appeals Division (NAD) **should**: have the authority to enforce agency implementation of NAD determinations, streamline or shorten the length of time of the appeal process to allow for a quicker resolution of disputes between producers and agencies, provide clear instructions for implementation of a final determination. (2020)

The National Appeals Division (NAD) **should not** allow agencies to reissue a technical determination after the original determination was found erroneous. (2020)

We believe that damages should be awarded to producers who prevail in a NAD decision. (2020)

We support the right of people to keep and bear arms, and we oppose future registration and taxation of all individually owned firearms and ammunition. (2015)

Tort Reform for Liability Insurance (430)

We support the right to recover attorney fees and court costs from federal and state agencies and individual persons who institute frivolous or non-meritorious lawsuits. (2018)

We support meaningful reform in Virginia tort laws to assure the availability of liability insurance at reasonable rates. To achieve this goal, **we support** the following tort reform measures to be enacted by the Virginia General Assembly:

- Implementation of a sliding scale on contingency fees for attorneys so that the greater the award, the lower the percentage going to the attorney
- Modification of the doctrine of joint and several liability so that a defendant who is only partially liable will not wind up paying the entire bill
- Abolition of the collateral source rule - juries should be made aware of payments that plaintiffs have received to avoid double or triple recovery
- Establishment of limits on medical malpractice claims and a requirement that patients in such cases obtain professional evidence before filing a lawsuit
- Placement of a cap on non-economic damages in a single cause of action equal to the higher of \$250,000 or three times the economic damages awarded in the cause of action
- Placement of a ceiling on punitive damage awards (1987, a. 2015)

LOCAL AFFAIRS

Annexation (450)

We oppose allowing cities to revert to towns. (1997)

Dillon Rule and Local Government (455)

We support the continuation of the Dillon Rule. (1993, a. 2015)

We recommend that towns be required to hold public hearings for ordinances using the same procedure as currently required for counties and cities. (1998)

Farm Buildings (460)

We support the current farm building exemption for production agriculture operations under the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). (1999)

We believe local, state and federal agencies should work to eliminate inconsistencies in their permitting process for agricultural buildings to prevent producers from receiving approval from one agency and denial from another. (2025)

Planning and Zoning (470)

We support local control of land use planning. (2001, a. 2016)

We support the marketing and sales of agricultural products and the preparation and service of food through promotional activities held on farm premises in accordance with state and local rules and ordinances. (2008. a. 2012)

We believe that for the purposes of economic development and business planning, all land disturbance and building permits should receive a determination on a reasonable timeline, not to exceed 90 days. (2025)

Right to Farm (475)

We believe the Right to Farm Act protects the privileges and rights of farmers to produce without undue or unreasonable restrictions and regulations and provides adequate input in the location of agricultural operations on agriculture and conservation zoned land. We believe a periodic review should be made by VFBF staff to ensure continued protection of farmers under the Act. (1998, a. 2018)

We support that adjoining landowners provide reciprocal setback or buffers for pesticide, fertilizer or manure applications. (2017, a. 2025)

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Condemnation (480)

We oppose localities using eminent domain to provide land, water or electricity to data centers. (2025)

We oppose any legislation that would allow state authority over localities, or expand eminent domain authority, in developing utility-scale solar projects. (2022)

We oppose the use of eminent domain for the construction of natural resource pipelines, unless the project has been determined for the public use and compensation has been made for the disturbance of land and crops at the highest and best use value. (2020)

We recommend legislation requiring a subcontractor or employees of a condemning entity to notify landowners of the location and purpose of their regular maintenance activities on the property and compensate landowners for any damage to crops, land, livestock or equipment as a result of the activities. (2003)

We support legislation to require compensation to property owners for all uses of a right-of-way or easement including but not limited to the transmission of electricity, gas, water lines, etc. However, we support the expansion of high-speed internet in rural areas, utilizing existing utility infrastructure, regardless of compensation. (2002)

We believe that the eminent domain laws in Virginia should include the following:

- Where at all possible, public lands or existing corridors should be used to avoid the taking of private property in order to minimize the disruption to home, family and business
- Compensation is based on fair market value of property, taking into account factors that decrease fair market value of residual property including but not limited to magnetic fields, visual blight, loss of revenue due to decreased crop yields and un-harvestable or damaged commodities

- Full disclosure of how the fair market price was arrived at by the condemning authority prior to any legal action
- 100% of all relocation expenses paid
- Individuals should be able to recoup legal expenses in condemnation cases where the landowner's valuations are proven to be greater than the original offer by the condemning authority
- Civil penalties for condemners or their agents who misrepresent themselves or operate in a manner that ignores existing law
- A public utility should not have the authority to condemn property for private entity for any use other than the utility allowing a landowner's ability to challenge a 'quick-take' condemnation for eminent domain when there is opposition to the validity of a need for the condemnation itself
- Revoke the ability of government to condemn land for the purpose of creating public use spaces such as parks, trails, or preserving scenic views
- The ability of the original landowners or their successors to repurchase property that had been taken by condemnation if the property had not been utilized or stopped being utilized within a specific time period (2000, a. 2012, a. 2015, a. 2016, a. 2017, a. 2024)

We support allowing the restoration of agricultural lands and practices that are unavailable or inaccessible due to pipeline construction. (2023)

Fences (485)

We believe fences are an essential tool for the management of livestock and that Virginia should remain a fence-out state with each county retaining the option to be a fence-in county. (2007)

We believe that the cost of a division line fence should be shared equally between adjoining landowners unless one of them shall elect to allow their land to lie open or unless they shall agree otherwise. We further believe that the cost of such division fence shall reflect the minimum cost of a lawful fence necessary to control the species of livestock. (2006, a. 2022)

We believe fences are an essential tool for the management of livestock and that producers who have well-maintained fences should not be held liable for damages by an escaped animal. (2008)

Private Property Rights (490)

We support legislation that would prohibit anyone from taking a video or audio of a farming operation or agribusiness without the approval of the owner. **We oppose** any unauthorized aerial surveillance without permission of the landowner; however, **we support** the use of drones for the beneficial agricultural uses when approved by the farmer. (2012, a. 2013, a. 2014, a. 2015, a. 2016, a. 2024)

We believe that when original use of a public services easement ceases to exist, then the land the services are on should revert back to the original deeded tracts. (2019)

We oppose requiring deed restrictions or notifications by the state for NASA flight and crash zones. (2017)

We oppose any state Rails to Trails project due to increasing liability for landowners and farmers along the Trail. (1994, a. 2023)

We support the right of landowners to post non-navigable waters on their property. (1993)

We support legislation protecting and securing the rights of private property owners against laws and regulations negatively affecting the market value of their property without the individual owner's written, informed consent and compensation. (1995)

We recommend that any government agent or private contractor performing work for a governmental agency, excluding police, fire and EMS, for emergency response, without prior written agreement of the landowner or his/her agent, must give at least a 24-hour notice before coming on the farmer's property and send a written explanation of his visit postmarked within 48 hours after leaving the property. (1997, a. 2024)

We support limiting the ability to intervene in regulatory actions against landowners for environmental problems to adjoining landowners, neighbors or those directly affected by the alleged violation. (1997)

We believe that property under conservation easements is still subject to the Virginia laws on pooling of oil and natural gas and that any extraction of oil and gas should also incur royalty payments to the landowners. (2012)

We oppose the right of Homeowners or Property Owners Associations to limit agricultural activities in ways that exceed the overriding zoning of the region they operate within. (2022)

We request that realtors be properly trained and educated about the rights of farmers when real estate transactions occur specific to tracts of farmland that are being rented/leased by farmers. We support a required real estate disclosure for property sales of any verbal or written rental/use agreements between the farmer and the selling landowner. (2023)

Trespass (495)

We recommend establishing minimum penalties for trespassing, stricter enforcement of the trespass law with the court systems enforcing the minimum penalty and/or substantial fines. In addition, we believe that all private land should be considered posted, and the trespasser is held liable for any loss, damage and up to three times the amount of expenses incurred. We also believe that law enforcement should be given the right to impound the trespassing vehicle. (1987)

SPENDING AND TAXES

Agricultural and Forestal Districts (500)

We support agricultural and forestal districts in Virginia. (1994, a. 2016, a. 2017)

Balancing Governmental Budget (505)

We believe the Social Security Program should be self-financing by:

- Indexing to longevity
- Increasing the revenue to the trust fund (by eliminating the cap on FICA payments)
- Reducing future cost of living increases to those above certain means levels
- Ceasing the utilization of the trust fund as a source of revenue to balance budgets of other line-item programs. (2010)

Excise Taxes (510)

We oppose any increases in taxes on farm products. Further efforts should be made to reduce or eliminate discriminatory taxes on farm products. **We support** developing a funding formula for returning a portion of tax monies back to those communities that produce that commodity. (1996)

Federal Taxes (515)

We believe that farmers should be exempt from the new reporting requirements required by the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA). The CTA creates additional regulatory burdens for farmers that have established their farm as an LLC, C-Corporation or an S-Corporation to protect their assets. (2025)

Income Tax, Estate Tax and Capital Gains (520)

We support a revision of the Form 1099 to increase the total annual payment from \$600 to \$2,000 to reflect the current wage market and inflation rate. (2025)

We support the permanent elimination of the estate tax on agricultural businesses, forest land and agricultural land. (2002, a. 2021)

We believe grant monies received by an agricultural-based LLC be treated as tax exempt to individual owners. (2018)

We request the tax code be revised to allow for the deferral of taxes on grants received by small businesses until operation begins. (2012)

We support the elimination of time limits on the utilization of conservation equipment tax credits. (2006)

We recommend amending the federal and state tax codes to eliminate any income tax liability associated with federal farm payments related to severe weather disaster payments, quota buyout, state master settlement payments and other federal program payments. (2002)

We oppose the registration and taxation of water tanks and milk tanks in Virginia. (2015)

We support that the refundability of tax credits from the Virginia Department of Taxation include all agricultural best management practices tax credits. We support that all legal entities in Virginia be eligible for all agricultural and conservation tax credits. (2015, a. 2022)

We recommend that a tax incentive be offered to producers who are forced to make an expenditure outlay in order to comply with federal or state-mandated programs. (2015)

We support the reinstatement to the Virginia Tax Code of language allowing a \$12,000.00 per person income tax exemption for all persons over the age of 65. If reinstated, we support indexing the exemption to inflation. (2016, a. 2023)

We oppose any tax on capital gains. Until the capital gains tax is repealed, we support:

- Cutting the tax rate on capital gains.
- Indexing capital gains to inflation.
- An exclusion for the sale of agricultural land that remains in production.
- An exclusion for payments for farmland preservation easements and development rights.
- An exclusion for the transfer of a business, including farms, between parent and children.
- Allowing a taxpayer to defer taxes from the sale of property and machinery by investing the proceeds into a retirement account with taxes due at withdrawal.
- Eliminating the \$3,000 limit on capital losses; and an exclusion for land taken through threat of/or by eminent domain (2014).

Land Use Assessment and Taxation (525)

We believe that land use assessment enrollment should be an opt-out process, allowing the landowner to remain in the program unless they choose to unenroll. (2025)

We recommend lowering the requirement for forested lands to qualify for forest land use assessment from 20 acres to 10 acres, to encourage smaller lots to remain in forests. (2025)

We encourage open space conservation easements that do require maintaining active production agriculture or forestry to qualify for land use assessment valuation. (2025)

We believe land use assessment is the most equitable form of taxation of real estate. We strongly encourage all localities to use land use assessment. **We support:**

- Strengthening the land use assessment law, including the creation of incentives for counties to enact land use assessment,
- The use of State Land Evaluation and Advisory Council values and
- No further increases in rollback provisions (1991, a. 2017, a. 2018, a. 2021, a. 2025)

We oppose the obtainment of unnecessary landowner data on the enrollment and revalidation form for land use taxation. (2024)

We believe that land protected under a permanent conservation easement be taxed at the land use assessment rate whether or not the county currently has a use-value assessment program. (2016, a. 2017)

We support using the use-value assessment rather than full market value in the composite index. (2016, a. 2017, a. 2023)

We oppose utility-scale solar facilities being eligible for land use assessment. (2022)

Local Taxes (530)

We oppose giving locally elected school boards taxing authority. (2008)

We support restructuring state and local taxes to alleviate pressures on real estate tax to resolve taxing inequities. We further believe that the General Assembly should not shift public service costs from income taxpayers to placing the burden on landowners. (1998, a. 2014, a. 2018)

We believe all assessment information for real estate should be readily available to landowners on the internet and mailed to the owner upon reassessment to maintain transparency. (2018)

Mandated Programs (535)

We insist that all legislation and regulatory action be based on sound scientific evidence, a risk/benefit analysis and mandated programs should be fully funded for the entirety of the program by those levels of government requiring such programs. (2000)

Motor Fuel Taxes (540)

We oppose any tax on gasoline, diesel, or other energy sources or fuels used for off-road use. (2000, a. 2021)

Sales Taxes (545)

We support the current sales tax law related to agricultural exclusions. We oppose any application of the sales and use tax on all farm machinery and equipment, including but not limited to skid loaders and compact tractors, used to produce food and fiber for sale. (1993, a. 2014, a. 2022)

We urge the state to permit farmers to sell agricultural products that they produce directly to consumers without paying sales tax. (2008)

We believe all goods and materials, including structural construction materials affixed to real property, bought in order to implement conservation practices should be exempted from sales and use tax. (2006, a. 2017)

We support the removal of the litter tax for all sales made at farmers markets. (2025)

TRANSPORTATION

Department of Motor Vehicles (550)

We support the increased enforcement of current laws in place pertaining to squatted trucks. (2025)

We support the establishment of multi-state reciprocity for unlicensed farm use vehicles, operating within the 75-mile requirement, for states bordering Virginia. (2025)

We recommend that driver's education courses include farm vehicle safety, including how to safely pass/navigate farm equipment, in the curriculum required to obtain a driver's license. (2025)

We support the increased enforcement of the current laws in place pertaining to unlicensed farm vehicles. (2023, a. 2025)

We support a formal farm use vehicle certification program. This program should exclude trailers. (2021, a. 2023)

We oppose the abuse of Farm Use tags and encourage the continued education of Farm Use tags and slow-moving vehicle emblems among the general public, law enforcement agencies and in driver's education manuals. We believe there should be an effort to educate by public agencies like Virginia Cooperative Extension the public on all traffic laws. (2011, a. 2016, a. 2022, a. 2024)

We support amending the unlicensed farm use vehicle laws to allow hauling feed, seed, fertilizer and other supplies and commodities to and from the supplier and buyer of choice even if the distance exceeds the current mileage limit. (2018, a. 2023)

We support the unlicensed farm vehicle laws allowing for the stopping at convenience store/fast food locations. (2023, a. 2024)

We support exempting unlicensed farm vehicles, trailers and equipment from the personal property tax. (2023)

We support inclusion of two-axle vehicles in weight exemptions resulting from any state of emergency issued by the Governor of Virginia. (2023)

We oppose legislation to increase a premium tax on vehicle insurance premiums. (2005)

We support mandating that all unlicensed farm use vehicles, operated on public highways and manufactured for highway use, have at a minimum liability insurance and be required to provide proof of insurance. (2003, a. 2025)

We support that the DMV cannot transmit any information from the farm use vehicle certification program to localities. We further support a statewide exemption from local personal property taxes for vehicles in this certification program. (2023, a. 2025)

We support that the State of Virginia remove the non-insured motorist fee of \$500 and that the state law now requires liability insurance. (2009, a. 2025)

Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (555)

We support the elimination of the in-person course for a farmer who can pass the written and behind the wheels test and verifying their experience through signing an affidavit in order to obtain a commercial drivers' licenses (CDL). (2024)

We believe testing and educational locations for CDL should be readily available by increasing testing sites. (2019, a. 2022)

We believe that the weight limits allowing for an exemption from a CDL requirement should be increased beyond 26,001 pounds when used for agricultural purposes. (2025)

We support a streamlined application, testing and training process at a reduced cost for a CDL applicant to reduce the financial burden associated with obtaining a CDL license. (2024, a. 2025)

We support maintaining current exemptions for agriculture to the CDL requirement. This includes an exemption for any farm employee when transporting agricultural products within a 150-mile radius. (2023, a. 2025)

Slow Moving Vehicles (560)

We support and encourage efforts made by local and state police to monitor road traffic and ensure farmer safety, especially when vehicles are passing farm equipment. (2025)

We encourage VDOT increase the number of "Share the Road" and farm equipment signs on rural roads where significant farming activity takes place. (2022)

We encourage farmers to use Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) signs and flashing lights when traveling on state highways. **We also encourage** the operators of Slow-Moving Vehicles to allow traffic behind them to pass when it can be done safely. **We encourage** VDOT and the Virginia State Police to alert motorists of an increase in farm vehicles operating on the roadways during peak planting and harvesting seasons. We believe VDOT and law enforcement should work with operators of farm vehicles when overflow traffic exists at product delivery points. (1998, a. 2014, a. 2022)

We support better scene investigation techniques and better understanding of agricultural equipment functions by Virginia State Police, sheriff's departments and local police during highway incidents involving farming equipment and machinery. (2024)

Highways (565)

We support any and all means to make the maintenance and improvement of our roadways the number one priority of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). **We believe** that our roadways can be best maintained with the following improvements and considerations:

- Routine and regular cleaning of road ditches, culverts, roadway and shoulder repairs, intersections and state right-of-ways to allow for proper drainage and to protect highway infrastructure. We recommend that VDOT maintain their right-of-ways in a timely fashion with the trimming of tree limbs to be at a minimum height of 20 feet across the width of the roadway, and for mowing and herbicide application to be done to prevent seedhead formation of noxious weeds on the roadsides. We further recommend the use of certified weed-free seed when seeding is conducted.
- Additional attention paid to all paved and unpaved secondary roads, and that all improvements to unpaved secondary roads by grading, drainage improvements, or additional gravel/rock should be authorized under highway construction grant programs.
- Ensuring that when improvements are made to road and transportation highway infrastructure, that they are able to support modern farm equipment and emergency vehicles.
- The establishment of a publicly accessible maintenance schedule by VDOT for all rural roads, showing both recently completed and upcoming maintenance. Further, all rural roads should have brush and grass cutting completed at least biannually, with additional maintenance performed when needed to control excessive growth.
- Maintaining a minimum of 16 feet inside clearance on gravel roads and a minimum of 24 feet inside clearance on paved secondary roads when VDOT upgrades old bridges or builds new bridges.
- A reexamination of VDOT spending to ensure that these tasks can be conducted on a yearly basis. (2001, a. 2004, a. 2012, a. 2015, a. 2018, a. 2024, a.2025)

We oppose the transfer of maintenance and upkeep of secondary roads from state to county government. (2014)

We believe VDOT should take the responsibility to maintain the fences on the interstate highways right-of-ways. (2010)

We support the Virginia Department of Transportation being freed from obtaining governmental permits that slow, hinder or halt the cleaning of culverts, low water bridges and ditches so as to allow safe and continuous travel. (2024)

We recommend better center line markings public roads with existing center lines such as reflectors or bright paint. (2024)

We support a state highway system that will facilitate the safe and efficient movement of goods and services throughout the state. **We support** increased state funding for improving the safety and maintenance of farm-to-market roads with special emphasis on unsafe and inadequate bridges and signage for farm equipment. **We oppose** any unreasonable increase in the truck license fees and any increases in overweight fines. (1969, a. 2018)

We support dedicated federal funding for maintenance on the Blue Ridge Parkway, specifically Mabry Mill. We believe that this will help local farmers and generate more tourism. (2025)

We support a simplified process from VDOT for installing an entrance for agricultural and forestry purposes with all bonds returned upon completion. (2015, a. 2021)

We support a private landowner being able to put a logging entrance or other access road on their own property without putting up a bond. (2015)

We support making overweight permits legal on interstate highways. (2019)

We believe the proposals to widen Interstate 81, in particular, the toll truck lanes, should be monitored to minimize any detrimental effects on Virginia agriculture. We resolve that adequate local access be provided with any new improvements to I-81. Further, we support rail with upgraded tracks and crossings to carry whole trucks and their freight to relieve highway traffic in the I-81 and I-95 corridors. (2003, a. 2018)

When there is a need to bury an irrigation pipe under a road for irrigation, **we oppose** having any of the \$5,000 bond retained in case there is a need to take the pipe back up. (2014, a. 2018)

We believe all telephone service boxes on roadsides should be painted blaze orange instead of their current pale color. This would increase their visibility for farmers and VDOT employees. (2025)

We support requiring all road-side mailboxes, signs and guard rails to have adequate setback to allow for passage of modern large farm machinery. (2022, a. 2024)

We support requiring that all commercial trash trucks, both full and empty, be covered while traveling on highways. (2004)

We support legislation requiring mapping technology companies to delineate between public and private roads protecting farmers' private farm roads from motorists illegally driving on them while following GPS directions. (2023)

We believe the Smart Scale system used for transportation funding be changed to allow more funding to rural road projects. (2022)

Transportation Systems (570)

We encourage improvements to river transportation systems, ports and harbors to efficiently transport agriculture and forest products. (2005)

Railroads (575)

We support improved safety strategies to protect the safety of farmers at farm railroad crossings including required disconnection in case of emergency. (2021, a. 2025)

WATER

Ag Best Management Practices (BMP) Funding (580)

We support the Soil and Water Conservation Boards be composed of a majority of active farmers. We further believe that the Virginia Soil and Water Board should have direct oversight of District funding and operations, the BMP Cost-Share standards and specifications, the Nutrient Management standards and specifications and the Resource Management Plan Program. (2008, a. 2013, a. 2021, a. 2022)

We support technical assistance, cost-share programs, research, education and loans should be encouraged, continued and made available to aid farmers in implementing BMP. We encourage long term and stable state funding of the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program from a dedicated revenue source and to pursue alternatives to cost-share programs and incentives for all approved applications of soil and water conservation practices. (1991, a. 2024)

We support reallocation of unspent funds from the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to the Southern River Watersheds in the Commonwealth. (2024)

We support a grant formula to local Soil Water Conservation Districts that reflects a more equitable and balanced distribution of cost-share funding. (2018)

We support the state and federal government providing greater assistance with the purchase of precision agriculture equipment and implementation of precision agriculture practices. (2023)

We support the Department of Conservation and Recreation hiring an agronomist to provide BMP training to staff in the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. (2023)

Ag Best Management Practices (BMP) Implementation (585)

We encourage all farmers to implement approved conservation and nutrient management practices that would continue to reduce erosion and improve water quality. We further recommend that agronomic and economic factors be given consideration along with erosion in conservation plans. (1993)

We encourage more realistic, simplified and flexible specification for BMP projects that benefit the waters of Virginia. (2020)

We support incentives and/or cost-share assistance, for end users of poultry litter to build litter storage sheds on their farms to facilitate greater movement of litter outside of the watershed. (2024)

We encourage the state to be proactive in promoting the concept of converting manure and poultry litter/by-products into fertilizers and other uses. (2005, a. 2017, a. 2018)

We believe that the fencing of stream banks and/or the right to use rivers and streams for farm animal access shall be done on a voluntary basis. To encourage participation and to facilitate fence maintenance, we support the use of currently approved fencing practices and the use of short-period flash grazing of the setback zone between the top of the bank and the stream exclusion fencing provided adequate temporary fencing is used to keep livestock out of the stream. (1996, a.2019, a.2020)

We support incentives allowing for 100% cost-share for stream exclusion with a minimum 25-foot buffer. (2021)

We recommend riparian forested buffer installation be voluntary and not mandated by any program, regulation, or law nor promoted above any other best management practice of equal effectiveness in water quality protection. We support riparian plantings and buffers as a beneficial tool to achieve nutrient load reductions for improved water quality. However, we believe the Commonwealth's proposed goals for nutrient load reductions from riparian buffers are not realistic and oppose mandates to achieve these goals in the future. (1997, a. 2020)

We oppose the Federal Emergency Management Agency's policy determination that riparian forest plantings and livestock exclusion fencing are considered "man-made development" and are therefore regulated by the National Flood Insurance Program. These important conservation activities are critical to meeting the required goals for Chesapeake Bay restoration and, in addition, do not markedly contribute to floodwater rise. (2019)

We support hiring additional structural engineers and a reduction in the amount of time needed for engineering approvals in the Virginia Agriculture

BMP Cost Share Program regarding design and installation of permanent structures and animal facilities. (2023, a. 2025)

We believe the Conservation Reserve Program and other programs' land rental rates should not exceed the average agriculture rental rate. (2020)

Conservation Practices Enforcement (590)

We support state primacy over all environmental or non-point source regulatory issues. (2006)

We support water quality standards and improvement programs that are based on scientific data and realistic goals that recognize farm owner limitations. (1994)

We believe that current voluntary water quality programs adequately protect the water quality of Virginia's rivers and streams. We oppose any river protection plan or designation that limits the landowner's rights to decide how to best use his or her land or put any undue financial burden on any agriculture enterprise. (1997)

We support the full funding of the Agricultural Stewardship Program, housed and maintained at VDACS, which created an enforcement mechanism to address agricultural water quality concerns. We further believe the program should remain the first point of contact for water quality complaints associated with agriculture. (1997)

We believe that compliance with the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) - Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) requirements is not a prerequisite to participation in land use assessment and taxation or agriculture BMP Cost-Share programs. (2013)

We oppose expansion of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act to all localities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. (2020)

We support eliminating the agriculture requirements under the provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act as unnecessary since the development of conservation programs and various regulatory permits implemented since its enactment. (2020)

Conservation Practices Regulatory Requirements (595)

We oppose enactment of the Virginia Watershed Implementation Plan III recommendation making mandatory nutrient management plans after Dec. 31, 2025, for farms over 50 acres. In addition, **we oppose** the condition that contract applicators must apply commercial fertilizer on farm operations based on nutrient management plan guidelines as those plans can't be easily adapted to changes made in a farming operation as a result of weather or changes in market conditions for a particular commodity. (2020)

We believe that land with implemented soil erosion prevention practices and nutrient management through an approved conservation plan be considered in compliance with all TMDL-WIP requirements. (2013)

We recommend that the maintenance and installation of farm entrances beyond the state right of way be exempt from state erosion and sediment control permits. (2025)

We oppose any permit fees for agriculture set by DEQ regulations. (2003, a.2008)

We support the current VPA General Permit for confined animal feeding operations. We oppose any changes to this permit including mandatory stream exclusion, ground water monitoring and changing the term of the permit to five years. (2024)

We support changes to the VPA Permit for Poultry Waste Management to allow “in the field” storage of poultry litter for up to 90 days uncovered. (2023)

We support use of poultry litter, manure, organic fertilizers, ash and the state-regulated application of bio-solids as a source of nutrients on farmland and forestland. (2001)

When testing is approved by EPA regarding detecting PFAS and PFOS in waste water and the sludge byproduct, **we support** Virginia implementing a testing protocol farmers can request when receiving bio-solids on their farmland. (2024)

We support the requirement for developing testing protocols for identifying PFAS chemicals in public water supply systems. We support the further development of testing protocols for surface water and private wells. (2025)

We support having stormwater regulations based on testing rather than modeling. (2025)

We support an expansion of the agriculture and forestry exemption from the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Law to include an exemption of farm roads beyond the highway right of way; and further believe the exemption should only apply to property actively engaged in forestry, the production of crops or cover crops, or pasture within any 12-month period. (2006)

We favor an expansion of agricultural exemptions from fees for stormwater management permits for non-permeable surfaces including agriculture buildings and roads. (2019, a. 2020)

We oppose requiring producers to provide soil samples for the purchase of crop nutrients from fertilizers, animal manure and other sources except when such requirements are conditions of voluntary assistance programs. (2008)

We oppose the designation of sprayer nozzles or any other application equipment as point source pollution. (2013)

We oppose attempts to regulate storage tanks as hazardous when used in agricultural operations. (2020)

We oppose increased regulations for the storage of hazardous materials for agricultural producers. (2020)

We support community awareness of new air and water permits but oppose pre-application mandates on farmers or forestland owners for developing websites to accept comments, holding public meetings, mailing notifications to residents in a three to five-mile radius. (2022)

Dams and Dam Safety (600)

We support maintaining the agricultural exemption from impoundment structure laws and regulations. (2021)

We support the safe operation, requisite maintenance and adequate funding for the repair of dams. (1997)

Flooding and Wetlands (605)

We support local, state and federal collaborative efforts to develop and implement a plan to mitigate recurrent flooding caused by rainfall and wind tides. (2020)

We believe that wetlands legislation and regulation should only affect tidal wetlands that have hydric soils, saturation for 21 days and the presence of wet vegetation and exclude all prior converted farmland and farmed wetlands. (1992)

Water Rights (610)

We support defining navigable waters as those waterways that have continuous flow 365 days a year, are used for transporting interstate and foreign commerce or can be made navigable for these purposes with reasonable effort. (2022, a. 2023)

We believe that the Virginia Marine Resources Commission authority should be revoked over riparian ownership as it applies to crown grants designation of ownership of stream beds by those riparian owners. (2019)

We urge the state to develop a uniform water policy that preserves the water rights for farmers. (2001)

We continue to favor the retention of the riparian doctrine in Virginia and oppose the inter-basin transfer of water. (1977)

We support efforts to protect groundwater quantity for drinking and agricultural use. (2014)

We oppose local or state regulatory control over groundwater in karst areas. (2020)

We support legislation that would protect the rights of property owners adjacent to navigable streams from negligent acts by individuals using water for recreational purposes. (2014)

We encourage farmers to participate in documenting their water usage with DEQ. (2018)

We support the current Virginia Code that does not allow for the regulation of ephemeral streams. (2022)

We support a comprehensive study of ground water availability and fresh water supply needs to ensure adequate water for current and future agricultural uses and determine if other uses are detrimental to supporting food and fiber production. (2025)

We support prioritizing fresh water supplies in the following order:

1. Human consumption
2. Agricultural and aquaculture
3. Commercial and industrial development (2025)

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL

Air Quality (620)

We support compensation of carbon credits for applicants/producers of timber and crops. (2023)

We oppose:

- Greenhouse gas mandates that adversely impact agriculture.
- Any attempt to regulate emissions or charge fees from ruminant animals or any other livestock.
- Unilateral state, federal or international greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements.
- Any carbon cap and trade regulation. (2011, a. 2012, a. 2025)

Litter and Solid Waste Disposal (625)

We support the development of more outlets for waste disposal of chemical jugs, seed bags and plastic wrap. We support an increase in the frequency of disposal collection days offered by VDACS. (2024)

We recommend the cost associated with the proper disposal of tires, hazardous waste dumped by others or the waste associated with illegal activities by others on private property should not be the landowner's responsibility. (1998, a. 2012)

We favor state and/or local incentives for recycling tires (including large implement tires), batteries and other recyclable products. (1992, a.2020)

We support efforts to stimulate the growth of existing and emerging markets for scrap tires, including increased state purchase of rubber-modified asphalt and civil engineering uses of scrap tires to enhance Virginia's sustainable infrastructure. (2024)

We support recycling and the use of biodegradable containers, deposits for non-biodegradable beverage and food containers and waste sorting at landfills. (2003)

We support legislation that would encourage all retailers to use paper bags or reusable canvas bags to reduce the agricultural problems caused by litter from plastic bags. (2008)

We support enforcement of the existing law and increased penalties for littering. (2005)

Mining (630)

We support safe and responsible exploration and extraction of natural resources while protecting personal property rights, environmentally sensitive areas and groundwater supplies. (2012)

We support continuation of the current moratorium on the mining and/or milling of uranium in the state of Virginia. (2012, a. 2013)

We believe landowners, farmers and agribusinesses should be protected from possible adverse impact should the moratorium on uranium be lifted. Should the moratorium be lifted and/or regulations are developed regarding uranium mining and milling, **we believe**:

- Production agriculture should have a voice in developing regulations dealing with the mining and milling of uranium in Virginia.
- The Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry and a representative from the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, Pittsylvania County Farm Bureau and Halifax County Farm Bureau should be appointed to any board or commission responsible for developing these regulations.
- Any regulations that may be developed must provide protection for the agricultural industry.
- Farmers and all landowners should be compensated for damages incurred due to any result of mining or milling activity, and believe the process for a farmer to follow to seek compensation should be clearly defined and economically feasible to pursue. (2012, a. 2013, a. 2014)

We support clarifying excavation or grading exemptions from mining permits for farming practices that move soil for normal agriculture practices or building farm ponds or constructing farm buildings. (2024)

Weed and Pest Management (650)

We strongly recommend that local ordinances, state programs, or management plans be established, implemented and funded, for control and/or eradication of noxious plants, invasive species and pests. We recommend developing

regulations to address the shipping to Virginia of invasive plants and seeds from internet sales. (1979, a. 2016, a. 2019, a. 2020, a. 2025)

We support the addition of autumn olive, trifoliate orange, Bradford pear and Barberry to the Virginia Noxious Weeds List. We urge the criteria for listing species on the Noxious Weeds List change from prohibiting the listing if there is any economic value, to listing a species if the detrimental impact is greater than the economic/landscaping value. We further urge the development of state programs to incentivize the eradication of Bradford pear as well as other invasive species. (2020, a. 2024, a. 2025)

We support requiring the labeling of invasive plant species at the wholesale and retail point of sale. (2025)

We support access to and domestic production of critical agricultural chemicals used as crop protectants. We support the current arrangement between EPA and VDACS and support increased cooperation to expedite registration of additional new crop protection tools and traits. We oppose courts being able to vacate federally approved labels. (2021, a. 2023, a. 2025)

We oppose the imposition of a fee for the issuance of a private applicator pesticide license. We support inclusion of private applicator pesticide license privileges for any commercial applicator applying to agricultural land they own, rent or control. (1992, a. 2021)

We support the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to control plant and animal pests and recommend continued research of detection, exclusion and control measures. (1994)

We support an educational program for the general public on the proper use and application of fertilizers and chemicals. (2001)

We support research to find cost effective alternatives to replace cost prohibitive crop protectants. (2023)

We encourage voluntary adherence to the pollinator protection program, but we oppose any requirement that pesticide applicators be required to notify all neighbors prior to any pesticide application. (a. 2022)

We recommend the continuation and expansion of the chemical and chemical container disposal and/or recycling program. (2021)

WORKING LANDS

Agricultural Land Preservation (700)

To better compete with rapid development, solar facilities and other demands that often drive the value of agriculture land to prohibitive levels for farmers to maintain and acquire, **we support** the creation of a state and/or federal program for farmers, especially for new, beginning and young farmers, that would make long-term investments in Virginia farms and communities by

providing cost-share dollars for the purpose of keeping agriculture land in production for a non-perpetual length of time. (2025)

We recommend continuing to develop local, state and federal programs and incentives for new, beginning and young farmers to begin or continue farming. This would include graduated tax incentives for easement holders of preserved land based on the length of the lease provided to farmers under the age of 35 or a beginning farmer or rancher as defined by the USDA with 10 years or less of production history, who want to begin or continue farming. (2022 a. 2024, a. 2025)

We support funding for the development of educational resources to assist farm families in the prevention of “heirs property” issues and funding for remediation assistance to resolve heirs property issues in the state. (2025)

We support funding for the development of educational resources to assist farm families with farm transition planning and funding to assist farm families to develop and implement farm transition strategies. (2025)

We support increased funding and a dedicated funding source for Virginia Farm Link including farm and forest (working lands) preservation. (2001, a. 2024, a. 2025)

We support the continued funding of positions within the Office of Working Lands Preservation and Virginia Cooperative Extension to administer farm transitions including coordination of the Farm Link website, maintaining and updating listings of persons with an agricultural emphasis in the areas of qualified attorneys, tax accountants, estate planners, insurance representatives, agriculture-friendly financial advisors and lenders. (2012, a. 2015, a. 2017, a.2024, a. 2025)

We support additional funding to improve data collection, auditing techniques and enforcement of reporting under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA). (2025)

We oppose any foreign country from obtaining ownership of U.S. farmland. (2024)

We support state funding and promotion of local option farmland preservation programs which allows compensation to owners of such land and guides growth to urbanizing areas, such as state and/or localities purchasing development rights, transferring development rights, leasing development rights, holding or co-holding perpetual conservation easements, tax credits or other concepts. (1997, a. 2001, a. 2007)

We believe state land conservation policy should not mandate minimum deed restrictions that prevent a landowner from being able to harvest any viable and legal crops or require implementation of water quality measures above what is required in the Virginia Agriculture Cost-Share Program. (2021)

We support more incentives and funding for additional educational resources and program options regarding conservation easements in an effort to encourage more farmer participation, protect farm and forest land and make farmland affordable and accessible for future generations of farmers. (2025)

We support conservation easement holders ensuring protection from eminent domain in the easement contracts. (2025)

We encourage conservation easement landowners to offer long term leases for farm and timber to stay in production. (2025)

We support an increase in the cap to \$100,000 each year of allowed conservation easement tax credits per taxpayer. (2018)

We support the land conservation tax credit and that the percentage of value for tax credit purposes should be returned to 50% of the value rather than 40%. (2007)

We recommend that all landowners who donate a conservation easement receive a portion of the tax credits in the year that the donation is accepted. (2011)

We support the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry establishing primacy over state policies regarding the conservation of farm and forest lands. (2022)

When development of any kind requires other land be converted to wetlands or exchanged as an offset for non-agriculture water quality requirements, incentives should not disproportionately target the taking of farmland out of production in a specific region or adjacent watershed. **We oppose** the transfer of nutrient credits in an area that is classified as an adjacent Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC). The nutrient credits should only be allowed on land within the same HUC. **We also support** giving receiving localities the ability to opt-in or opt-out of allowing water quality offsets and placing a cap on the conversion of farmland. (2022, a. 2023, a. 2024, a. 2025)

Forestry Program Funding (705)

We support full funding for the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) to continue its resource management, firefighting, water quality programs and direct outreach to landowners. (1992, a. 2022)

We support full funding for the Reforestation of Timberland Program. (2017)

We support implementation and expansion of the hardwood and habitat incentive program by the VDOF, emphasizing management practices to improve hardwood stand composition and regeneration. (1990, a. 2022)

We support funding for state and federal research and control on forestry pests and diseases. (2001, a. 2013, a. 2022)

We support securing additional long-term funding for the Forestry Sustainability Fund to encourage localities to maintain forestry land use assessment. (2022, a. 2023, a. 2025)

We support increased funding for VDOF's urban and community forest program and codifying VDOF's authority as the primary resource on trees. (2022)

Forestry Working Lands Primacy (710)

We support strengthening the Right to Practice Forestry law. (2022)

We support state primacy over practicing silviculture and oppose giving localities any additional authority over silvicultural operations. (2022)

We support the management of private, state and national forests as well as refuges on a multiple-use basis with an emphasis on the production of agricultural and forest products including harvesting based on sound forest management of the renewable resource and not prioritizing recreational uses. (1994 a. 2012, a. 2024)

We support the use of clear cutting and prescribed burning as beneficial tools in forest, wildlife and environmental management. We support Virginia Department of Forestry increasing the number of qualified personnel by sponsoring local prescribed burn councils as exist in other states. In addition, local DOF personnel should be able to use their training and knowledge to conduct prescribed burns rather than having a rigid set of rules for the entire state which varies greatly in topography, weather and fuel conditions. (1992, a. 2022, a. 2025)

We support the continuation of state forestry best management practices (BMPs), prior notification of logging and the Silvicultural Water Quality Law as the guiding standard for forest management. (2000, a. 2015, a. 2018, a. 2022)

We support efforts to educate the citizens of Virginia on proper forest conservation and management, including utilizing demonstration plots, signage and other means in the national and state forests and parks as educational tools. (1999, a. 2018)

We support treating timber theft as a criminal offense, regardless if property lines are unmarked. We further support strengthening laws to enable DOF to provide basic assistance to landowners trying to seek financial recovery from fraudulent or intentional cases of theft of their timber. (2008, a. 2013, a. 2018)

Other (730)

We support Virginia establishing standard time year-round as the present system is outdated as a two-tier daylight time system. (2025)



WILDLIFE

Wildlife Depredation (750)

We recommend continued support and full funding for the cooperative effort between VDACS, the USDA Animal Damage Control Service and local trappers in coyote and wildlife control. **We support** continuation of the Resident Canada Goose Ag Depredation permit offered by USDA and DWR. We support additional funding for staff east of the Blue Ridge. (1992, a. 2013, a. 2023)

We believe the Resident Canada Goose Ag Depredation permit should include the use of a rifle and not require carcass removal. (2023)

We recommend the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) lengthen the deer season, eliminate daily bag limits and allow either-sex deer to be taken for the entire season, based on local preferences. (1998, a. 2017, a. 2025)

We support allowing private landowners with damage to agriculture crops to be able to hunt deer year-round. (2023, a. 2024)

We support removal of the black vulture from protected status. We support additional tools to expedite depredation permits, including the elimination of permit fees. (2013, a. 2014, a. 2023)

We support the population control of wildlife and predatory birds by whatever means necessary in order to lessen damage to crops, livestock and personal property. (1996, a. 2012)

We request that federal and state agencies that administer public lands be required to mitigate crop damage to adjacent lands by wildlife that originates within those public lands. (2008)

We support state funding, including a percentage of hunting license fees, to establish a state-wide damage program to compensate producers for damage to crops and farm property caused by wildlife, especially deer, elk and bear. (2023, a. 2024, a. 2025)

We support lethal trapping of bears as a kill permit option. (2019)

We support all predator hunting in Virginia. (2023)

We believe crows should be designated as a nuisance species. (2020)

We support the eradication of feral hogs. (2019)

Wildlife Governance (755)

We support increasing the bag limit on bears from one to two. (2023)

We support the deer, bear and turkey hunting license combination. (2016)

We oppose introduction or reintroduction into Virginia of any plant, insect, or animal species that adversely affects agricultural and forestry enterprises. (1996, a. 2016)

We support the use of hunting dogs as currently allowed by state law. (2018)

We believe that deer baiting should be legal in the state of Virginia and that this will help with hunter recruitment and lowering the impact deer have on agriculture operations. (2024)

We support an expanded firearms season for bear hunting to control the black bear population and minimize bear damage to crops. (2020)

We encourage the Department of Wildlife Resources to set the deer and bear seasons so that they run concurrently during the bow, muzzle loading and general firearms seasons. (2009)

We support requiring a member of the agriculture community be appointed to the Board of Wildlife Resources. (2021, a. 2022, a. 2023)

We oppose any anti-trapping law. (1976)

We support an extended and uniform statewide migratory and resident Canada Goose hunting season. (2004)

We support the law that allows hunters to retrieve their dogs from the property of others; however, when property is properly posted with detailed contact information, the hunters retrieving the dogs shall contact the landowner to obtain permission prior to entering the property. (2009, a. 2012, a. 2013, a. 2023)

We oppose the use of dogs to hunt deer and bear on Sunday. (1993, a. 2017, a. 2022)

We oppose changes in the Code of Virginia regarding the licensing of shore blinds for waterfowl. County governments should retain the ability to limit or ban the use of floating blinds within their county. (2005)

We support the ‘Hunters for the Hungry’ program and encourage statewide support and promotion of the program through financial or in-kind contributions. (2013)

We oppose any expansion of the elk management area beyond Wise, Dickenson and Buchanan counties and support counties’ efforts to withdraw from the area. (2016, a. 2021)

We support the hunting of elk outside the elk management zone on a deer tag rather than on a separate elk tag or by a lottery system. (2020)

We believe that wildlife refuges should be operated in a manner that is compatible with agriculture. We also believe that future expansion of refuges should be by use of easements which do not remove large amounts of productive land from agricultural and forestall production. (2004)

We believe that endangered species protection programs must balance population preservation with human, economic factors and private property. (2013, a. 2014)

INDEX

- 4-H 24, 31
- A**
- agricultural land 24, 25-26, 37, 39-40, 53
- Alcohol Beverage Control 23
- animal care and husbandry 12
- animal disease 18
- annexation..... 35
- aquaculture..... 13-14, 30, 51
- B**
- bear 34, 57-58
- beef 20, 22
- biofuel..... 25
- biotechnology 13
- black vulture 57
- BMP 10, 18, 46-48, 56
- C**
- cannabis..... 17
- capital gains 39-40
- carbon 51
- Chesapeake Bay..... 13, 46-48
- commodities 21, 28, 31, 33, 39
- condemnation 21, 36-37
- cotton 15, 19
- cow-share 16
- crop insurance 17, 21
- D**
- dairy 15-16, 19-20, 24
- dams 50
- deer..... 57-58
- Department of Motor Vehicles..... 42-43
- Department of Wildlife Resources .. 13, 51
- Dillon Rule 35
- dogs..... 57-58
- E**
- easement 36, 38, 40-41, 54-55
- elk..... 57-58
- eminent domain 36-37, 40, 55
- employee 13, 21, 27, 30, 32-33, 36, 43, 45
- employer..... 23, 32-34
- endangered species 58
- energy 11, 24-27, 41, 58
- estate tax 10, 39, 31
- excise tax 15, 23, 39

F	
farm building	35, 52
farmland preservation	40, 54
Farm Service Agency	15, 29
farm use.....	34, 42-43
Federal Emergency Management Agency ...	47
fence	34, 45, 47
feral hogs	57
fertilizer	36, 42, 47-49, 53
FFA	24
food products	14, 16, 20
forestry.....	11, 24-26, 31, 41, 45, 49, 52, 55-56
G	
grazing	47
groundwater	50, 52
H	
health care	31-33
health insurance	32
hemp.....	17
highway	34, 43-45, 49
honeybee.....	18
hunt.....	57-58
I	
income tax.....	39-41
insurance.....	17, 22, 32, 34, 43, 47, 54
invasive species	52-53
L	
labor	33
land use	11, 35, 40-41, 48, 55
law enforcement.....	34, 38, 42-44
liability	22, 27, 34-35, 38, 40, 43
litter	24, 42, 47, 49, 51, 52
livestock	12, 17-20, 22, 27, 30-31, 34, 36-37, 47, 51, 57
localities	14, 20, 24-26, 31, 36, 41, 43, 48, 54-56
Lyme disease	31
M	
mandate.....	24-26, 32-33, 40-41, 47, 50-51, 54
manure	36, 47, 49
meat inspection program.....	20
Medicare	31-32
menhaden.....	13
mental health	31-32
milk	14-16, 19-20, 40
mining	52
N	

natural gas.....	38
navigable waters.....	38, 50
noxious weeds.....	44, 53
nutrient management plan.....	26, 48
P	
peanuts.....	15, 19, 21
pesticide	10, 36, 53
pollinator	26, 53
poultry.....	1219-21, 47, 49
property.....	27, 29, 33, 36-38, 40, 42-43, 45, 49-52, 54, 56-58
R	
railroad.....	46
recycling	51-53
Right to Farm Act	36
Risk Management Agency	17, 22
roads.....	43-46, 49
S	
safety.....	16, 18, 20-21, 27-30, 42-43, 45-46
school lunch program	14
seafood.....	13
slaughter facilities.....	19
solar	11, 25-27, 36, 41, 53
soybean	17
State Corporation Commission	27
streams.....	47-51
T	
tax	10, 15, 17, 22-23, 26-27, 32, 34, 39-43, 48, 54-55
telemedicine	31
tethering	12
tick.....	18, 31
timber theft	56
tobacco.....	22-23
trailers	42-43
transportation.....	12, 42-46
trapping	56-58
trespassing.....	38
truck.....	42, 45-46
U	
undocumented workers.....	34
USDA.....	16-18, 20, 29-30, 48, 51, 53, 56
V	
vehicle.....	27, 30, 38, 42-45
veterinarian	12, 17-20, 29-30

Virginia Cooperative Extension 18, 30-31, 42, 54

Virginia Crop Improvement Association 17

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS).. 5, 12, 16-19, 27, 29-30, 43, 47-48, 50-51, 53, 56

Virginia Department of Forestry..... 55-56

Virginia Department of Taxation 40

Virginia Department of Transportation..... 44-45

Virginia Farm Winery Act 23

Virginia State University..... 30-31

Virginia Tech..... 30-31

Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission 22

W

water 10, 13, 24, 29, 36, 40, 45-52, 54-56

water rights 50

wetlands 50, 55

wheat..... 17

wine 14, 23

Workers' Compensation Act..... 33



Martha Moore, Senior Vice President
 (804) 290-1013 | martha.moore@vafb.com
 Primary Issues Handled: Agriculture Education,
 Budget, Environmental Issues, Forestry



**Ben Rowe, National Affairs Director and
 District Field Services Director**
 (804) 290-1017 | ben.rowe@vafb.com
 Primary Issues Handled: National Affairs and
 Federal Issues



**Katelyn Rose Jordan, Local and State Advocacy
 Specialist and Regulatory Coordinator**
 (804) 290-1021 | katelyn.jordan@vafb.com
 Primary Issues Handled: Local Affairs, Regulatory
 Coordinator, Local Government, Rural Health, Taxes,
 Transportation, Political Education Communication



Jake Tabor, Legislative Specialist
 (804) 290-1220 | jake.tabor@vafb.com
 Primary Issues Handled: Commodity Issues (Animal-
 and Plant-based), Environmental Issues, Wildlife/
 Game Laws



**Rachel Henley, Working Lands and State
 Advocacy Specialist**
 (804) 290-1019 | rachel.henley@vafb.com
 Primary Issues Handled: Urban Legislative Program,
 Farm Tour Specialist, Ag Land Preservation, Energy,
 Labor



**Sam Norman, AgPAC Administrator, Governmental
 Relations Operations Manager**
 (804) 290-1014 | sam.norman@vafb.com
 Role: VFBF AgPAC Administrator, Resolutions/
 Policy Coordinator, GR Event Management, Advisory
 Committee Coordinator



**Tenille Nuckols, Social Media and Member
 Engagement Coordinator**
 (804) 290-1293 | tenille.nuckols@vafb.com
 Role: Social Media and Governmental Relations
 Member Engagement



The Virginia Farm Bureau® Federation
2025 Policy Book was compiled by the
Governmental Relations Department.

12580 West Creek Parkway Richmond, VA 23238

P.O. Box 27552 Richmond, VA 23261

(804) 290-1014 | www.vafb.com