

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

- POLICY STATEMENT -

The challenges of the world's population of seven billion people sharing earth's land and resources will be a demand on the agricultural communities of all countries. To meet this increasing demand, the United States and New York State will need to be good stewards of the environment to protect and support the agricultural production for the nutritional needs of the world's growth. The Grange family supports family-owned farms, the backbone of agricultural production. We support consumers, including schools and other institutions, buying locally produced agricultural products, including all forms of milk and dairy products. In addition, the Grange calls for thoroughly researched initiatives prior to adoption of any regulations.

The world economy has had a dramatic impact on New York State farms and consumers. New York State Grange advocates for revision of the Federal Milk Marketing System that incorporates 21st century dairy farm business realities with processing technologies and domestic and international markets. Grange supports a system that creates a stable price that covers the average costs of production. We work to insure a reliable, stable market for all farmers' milk, free from unequitable hauling costs. The Grange supports the work of all the dairy industries to promote the sale and use of dairy products both locally and in the nation. The Grange supports programs that secure a trained and legal labor force for the farm and food sector. The Grange is pleased to see the recent Canadian dairy and Mexico import changes and will watch to see their effects on the New York dairy industry as well as the entire dairy industry. We urge lawmakers to thoroughly consider the needs of the agricultural industry.

The Grange does not agree with the labor board setting minimum wages for farmers under the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act. We also oppose the organization of farmworker's unions.

The Grange recognizes the importance of maintaining and/or improving the freshwater resources in and surrounding New York State. We support funding to mitigate non-point source pollution through such programs as the Agricultural Environmental Management Program funded through the New York State Environmental Protection Fund and through funding secured from the Federal Government. We oppose practices that jeopardize the quality and safety of our water supply. The Grange notes the importance of clean air and supports the development of a cost-effective, viable disposal system for refuse from farms and rural upstate New York residents.

Many consumer groups have concerns over the treatment of animals. We support proper animal husbandry practices but oppose any regulations that would give animals legal protection to which humans are entitled.

With the current climate that is facing farmers today, mental health issues are becoming more prevalent. There has been a significant increase in the number of suicides among the agricultural

community. We encourage all agencies to work together to provide the necessary mental health aid to help in reducing the number of suicides and help to insure better mental health for them.

The New York State Grange concurs with the National Grange believing in our democratic process. Our answer must be to join with all interested parties to educate the public about the realities of agriculture and the principles of nature. Legislators, judges, and our citizens need to understand how and why certain methods are used and how agriculture is an essential component in protecting and improving the environment and is critical to the security and future of the United States.

The New York State Grange concurs with the National Grange believing in our democratic process. Our answer must be to join with all interested parties to educate the public about the realities of agriculture and the principles of nature. Legislators, judges, and our citizens need to understand how and why certain methods are used and how agriculture is an essential component in protecting and improving the environment and is critical to the security and future of the United States.

October 2024

AGRIBUSINESS

SOCIAL MEDIA

We vigorously support and encourage the use of promotions using social media to educate the general public on the benefits of a healthy agriculture and groups using social media make their marketing specialists available if asked to assist individual farms in being more media savvy. (2023)

AGRICULTURAL CAREERS

FARMER/RANCHERS OPPORTUNITIES

We support legislation that would implement the “Young Farmer Success Act of 2015.” (2020)

VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE

We support continued legislation appropriations for large animal veterinarian programs, such as the Veterinarian Medicine Loan Repayment Program and increasing the number of seats at Cornell University’s large animal medicine classes to ensure the continuing growth of more area large animal veterinarians. (2023)

AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

GRANGE REPRESENTATION ON NEW YORK STATE BEEF INDUSTRY COUNCIL

We actively seek an at-large position on the New York State Beef Industry Council, by nominating a representative who would meet the Council’s qualifications for a member who would maintain the board’s objective of a well-rounded representation of the beef industry. (2020)

ANIMALS (DOMESTIC AND LIVESTOCK)

ANIMAL ABUSE

We encourage stronger enforcement of our current laws pertaining to animal abuse. (2023)

ANIMAL HATCHING PROJECTS

We oppose any legislation that would amend the New York State Education law to ban animal hatching projects in New York State Schools. (2024)

ANIMAL WASTE LISTING

We oppose the listing of animal waste under the hazardous waste regulations of the Environment Protection Agency (E.P.A). (2022)

ANIMAL WELFARE LAWS

We support the laws, regulations and sanctions concerned with the care and welfare of animals (dairy, livestock, poultry, horses, etc.) used for commercial agriculture purposes should remain in the jurisdiction of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. (2024)

ANIMALS AS “SENTIENT BEINGS”

We oppose efforts to declare animals to be “sentient beings”, and all efforts to give animals the legal protections to which humans are entitled. (2022)

FARM RAISED SALMON

We support legislation that would protect our natural supply of wild caught salmon and the assurance of a continuing but limited supply of more affordable farm raised salmon by implementing strong regulations which limit the size and location of the salmon farms, set a limit on the number of salmon produced on each farm in proportion to its natural resources and regular inspections of the farms and filter systems, and that legislation should include both strict penalties and immediate shut down for those who do not comply with regulations. (2024)

LICENSING REGULATIONS FOR PET GROOMERS

We oppose legislation that requires licensing and other regulations for pet groomers as pet owners should have the responsibility of due diligence and checking references of pet groomers or pet housing facilities without undue, costly regulations on the individuals/businesses that are already providing quality services without governmental interference. (2023)

PROCESSING REVIVAL AND INTRASTATE EXEMPTION (PRIME) ACT

We support the Processing Revival and Intrastate Exemption (PRIME) Act or similar legislation that would increase access to slaughterhouses by allowing small0scale farmers and ranchers to slaughter and process their own animals closer to home at custom slaughterhouses which are small facilities regulated by state law instead of the United States Department of Agriculture. (2024)

PUPPY MILLS

We support a ban on the transport of puppy mill produced puppies across the state line, the operation of puppy mills in New York State and support greater enforcement of current puppy mill laws and regulations, nationwide. (2022)

THEFT OF FAMILY PETS

We support legislation that would make stealing a pet a Class E felony. (2021)

VACCINATION OF DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK

We urge the New York State Legislature to change regulations for those engaged in animal husbandry to be allowed to purchase the necessary supplies directly from suppliers or manufacturers for animal immunizations without veterinarian prescriptions. (2022)

BEEES

COLONY COLLAPSE (HONEYBEE) RESEARCH

We support increased Federal funding for research into the cause of the disappearance of honeybee colonies by disease, presently unidentified predators, and other reasons so that honeybee populations will increase and aid in the pollination of our food crops and that an indemnity program be established to reimburse honeybee keepers for loss of their colonies. (2023)

HONEYBEE COLONIES REPORT AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FUNDING

We ask the United States Department of Agriculture to immediately re-fund the Honeybee Colonies Report and assure that it is retained in the United States budget. (2024)

PESTICIDE AND HONEYBEES

We urge pesticide companies and agricultural universities to research and develop pesticides that are not harmful to honeybees and other insects/pollinators beneficial to the environment. (2023)

CHEMICALS/MEDICINE

BIO-DIRECT SPRAYING

We oppose the widespread testing of the “Bio-direct” spray for use in agriculture until all environmental and food safety issues have been addressed by the companies (i.e., Monsanto, Syngenta, Bayer, etc.) who are developing this technology and that the United States Department of Agriculture issue a moratorium restricting “bio-direct” spraying of crops until it has been proven 100% safe for crops, the environment and human/animal consumption. (2020)

COMBATING ILLEGAL XYLAZINE ACT

We support legislation that establishes criminal penalties for the illegal use of xylazine (i.e. for use in humans but allows for its legal use as a veterinary drug for use with livestock, wildlife and zoo animals and that such provisions be included to help maintain its available and tracking mechanisms for legitimate supply. (2024)

COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATION

We support legislation that would permit commercial applicators of pesticides to apply pesticides in a dosage, concentration, or frequency less than that specified on the labeling. (2020)

LONG TERM EFFECTS OF ROUNDUP

We urge Congress and the Department of Agriculture to further investigate the long-term effects of Glyphosate (Roundup) and the long-term effects of genetically altered seeds that are resistive to Glyphosate on the food chain. (2022)

PFAS (PER-and POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES) IN DRINKING WATER

We support legislation to reduce PFAS (Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) chemical exposure in drinking water to a safe level around the United State. (2021)

USE OF BOVINE SOMATOTROPIN

We oppose any ban on sale of dairy products from cows injected with bovine somatotropin (BST). (2020)

DAIRY/MILK PRICING

DAIRY FARMER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

We support the establishment of a Dairy Farmer's Bill of Rights by the Department of Agriculture and Markets that prohibits unfair trade practices which would intentionally impair a farmer's freedom to bargain collectively, with other farmers, in the marketing of the farmer's products and provides the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets to take action against violators who interfere with this right to bargain and increases the limit on damages, up to ten thousand dollars, for encouraging/permitting any violations found. (2023)

DAIRY MARGIN INSURANCE LOCATION CALCULATION

We support legislation in any future farm bills that would require the Secretary of Agriculture to use data from each state to calculate average feed cost and actual dairy production margins to improve the federal dairy insurance program by more accurately reflecting the labor, transportation and feed costs experienced by farmers in different regions. (2021)

DAIRY PRIDE ACT/LABELING OF MILK

We support the Dairy Pride Act or similar legislation and request that the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) require impersonators of dairy products to remove the terms “milk,” “yogurt,” and “cheese” from nutritionally inferior plant or artificial substitutes and “milk,” “yogurt,” and “cheese” only be used for those foods that come from a mammalian animal source. (2022)

FAIR MILK HAULING PRACTICES

We request lawmakers investigate and draft necessary legislation to support fair practices regarding milk hauling and pricing regardless of the size of farm and number of cattle. (2022)

NATIONAL MILK HEARING

We urge the United States Department of Agriculture hold a national milk hearing, which would investigate pricing policies that would be in the best interest of all dairy farmers. (2022)

RELIEF FOR AMERICA’S SMALL FARMERS ACT

We support passage of the Relief for America’s Small Farmers Act or any similar legislation that would provide up to \$250,000 in loan forgiveness for three types of federal loans for small family farms who have earned \$300,000 or less over the last five years. (2021)

REGIONAL DAIRY PRICING SYSTEM

We support legislation to enable dairy producers to receive a fair market price. We encourage Congress to pass legislation that will include regional fair market prices, a farmer led milk production growth management plan and develop a smart dairy trade policy. (2024)

ENERGY

ALL-ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN AGRICULTURE

We support the efforts to mandate that use of all-electric agricultural vehicles. (2024)

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

We encourage the research and development of safe, economical, and environmentally friendly alternative energy sources. (2023)

CARBON-BASED CRYPTO MINING

We support legislation for the banning of carbon-based crypto mining. (2022)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION GAS WELL REGULATIONS

We support continued landowner operation of existing self-use gas wells in compliance with previous regulations. (2022)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

We support legislation that would establish a dairy farm improved energy efficiency program that would provide grants and low interest loans to farmers to assist them with high efficiency lighting, high efficiency pump and cooling equipment, and other energy management systems. (2020)

NATURAL GAS AND FERTILIZER MANUFACTURING

We urge the United States Department of Energy to reverse their policies on natural gas production and transportation until proven effective alternative solutions are achieved and affordable. (2022)

NATURAL GAS SALES BAN IN NEW YORK STATE

We are opposed to the proposal by the New York State Governor to remove the sale of natural gas as a fuel source in New York State. (2023)

SOLAR ENERGY VERSUS AGRICULTURAL NEEDS

We support the development of solar energy that balances private property rights and the current and future land needs of agriculture in the state. Whenever possible, prime soils and actively farmed lands should be avoided in favor of previously disturbed or unsuitable for agriculture and rooftop development for distributed generation. (2022)

FINANCE/FUNDING

AGRICULTURE DISASTER AREA REVOLVING FUND

We support the establishment of an “Agriculture Disaster Area Revolving Fund” in New York State to provide farmers with low interest loans in time of major disaster. (2024)

AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

We urge the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to establish permanent, consistent funding for technical programming statewide, and request the State Legislature to continue funding the New York State Agriculture Environmental Management Program. (2022)

COMPANION ANIMAL CAPITAL FUND

We support the continued funding of the Companion Animal Capital Fund that will support construction, renovations, and expansion projects at annual shelters, and will enhance animal care for animals as they await adoption. (2023)

FARM SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

We support legislation that would amend the banking regulations to allow for the establishment of tax deferred farm savings accounts that would allow farmers to save income from prosperous years for use, tax free, during years when income is less than favorable. (2023)

FUNDING SUPPORT FOR NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUNDS

We urge continued appropriation of Environmental Protection funds for conservation projects. (2022)

HISTORIC BARN PRESERVATION

We urge continued funding for Historic Barn Preservation in the future. (2021)

KELLES FINES BILL

We support the Kelles Fines bill or similar legislation what would increase and standardize fines for many violations of Department of Environmental Conservation laws and direct funds generated to a specific environmental enforcement fund to be used to help finance the Department of Environmental Conservation and enforce the growing number of environmental conservation laws. (2024)

MONEY FOR STEWARDSHIP OF STATE LANDS

We request that stewardship of state lands remains a line item in the New York State Budget and that New York State abides by the current laws that were enacted to provide adequate funding for stewardship of New York State owned lands. (2022)

NEW YORK FARM VIABILITY INSTITUTE

We support an annual appropriation of at least \$1.5 million from the State of New York to support the New York Farm Viability Institute and to fund projects that will address challenges facing New York's farms. (2024)

ONE-STOP FARMING HOTLINE

We support legislation for the development of a farmer hotline under the guidance of Cornell Cooperative Extension that would provide farmers with access to essential and valuable information on all aspects of farming including topics such as tax credit programs, beginning farmer loans and sustainable practices. (2022)

REIMBURSEMENT TO COUNTY FAIRS

We request that premium reimbursement at current levels to county fairs remain intact, thus sustaining an important aspect of rural living and long-standing American traditions provided by our county fairs. (2024)

SEEDING RURAL RESILIENCE ACT

We support legislation that would provide funding for public service announcements to increase awareness of farm and ranch stress and destigmatize mental health care in rural communities; provide voluntary stress management training to Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency and National Resources Conservation Service employees as these agencies are constantly in direct contact with members of the agricultural community and will be able to direct producers in need to appropriate mental health services and will be able to direct producers and rural stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels to assess the causes of mental stress in farmers and ranchers and identify best practices for responding to such stress. (2020)

SMALL FARM DISASTER GRANTS

We support legislation that would establish the “Small Farm Disaster Recovery Grant Program” that defines a small farm to include only those that have annual sales of less than \$100,000; to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Markets. The grants would be up to \$10,000 and would be used solely for the purchasing and replanting of crops that have been destroyed by a natural disaster. (2023)

TAX CREDIT INCENTIVES TO CURB FOOD WASTE

We support legislation to establish a tax credit for grocery stores, food brokers, wholesalers, restaurateurs, or catering services that donate surplus or about-to-waste food to local food banks and/or pantries. (2022)

FOOD/FOOD SAFETY

ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS IN MILK

We strongly oppose the addition of any artificial sweeteners in milk and other dairy products. We oppose any change in the definition of “milk” so that chemical sweeteners, like Aspartame and Sucralose, can be used as optional ingredients not listed on the product label. (2023)

FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

We encourage the Cornell Cooperative County offices and the Rural Schools program or any other means possible the publicizing of the New York State Farm to School Program that encourages schools to purchase locally grown products for use in their food service programs. (2024)

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO) LABELING STANDARDS

We support federal legislation that would establish federal regulations that would bring consistency in Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) labeling standards throughout the United States. (2020)

HOMELAND SECURITY FOR AGRICULTURE

We support the office of Homeland Security in their efforts to investigate, monitor, develop, and implement plans for the prevention of and/or protection from acts of terrorism and destruction against agricultural producers, facilities of agricultural research, and major food processing and distribution centers. (2022)

MEAT PROCESSING PLANT INSPECTIONS

We oppose any cutbacks in the federal daily inspections of meat processing plants, further that we oppose self-inspection of meat processing plants. (2020)

MILK VENDING MACHINES

We support and encourage the installation of milk vending machines in all public and private schools in the State of New York. (2022)

“NATURAL” FOOD LABELING

We support federal regulations that would establish criteria for the use of the term “natural” on food labeling to give it real meaning. (2021)

PERISHABLE AND PACKAGED FOOD

We support legislation that would help to reduce consumer food waste by mandating clear labels that express when food is at its best quality and safest to eat, easing confusion for consumers. (2022)

PLANT-BASED MILK LABELING

We ask the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to require plant-based milk products to post their nutritional value stating that it is non-dairy, so that it is clear to the consumer that they are buying a milk substitute product not dairy milk. (2023)

POULTRY AND FOOD PROCESSING OUT-OF-COUNTRY

We oppose any plan to ship poultry or any other food for processing to another country, when we have companies who can do the processing here under stricter health regulations. (2021)

“PRODUCT OF USA” LABELING

We support the United States Department of Agriculture’s proposal to have the words “Product of USA” (regarding meat production) to be used for beef, pork, and other meats for human consumption only if the animal was born, raised, slaughtered, and processed in the United States. (2023)

REMOVAL OF SNAP (SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) FROM FARM BILL

We recommend that the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) be removed from the United States Department of Agriculture and placed under the direction of the Health and Human Services Department. (2023)

SNAP MINIMUM PROGRAM

We support legislation that would establish a state SNAP minimum program that would be determined by the difference between the federal SNAP benefit amount and \$95, would help relieve food insecurity for those who would qualify for these enhanced benefits. (2024)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REGULATIONS/FOOD RECALLS

We support changing the United States Department of Agriculture regulations regarding food recalls that will: (1) make it mandatory to inform the public and local health officials of the recall of tainted food products, who the manufacturer/processor is and where the food products have been distributed; (2) require the United States Department of Agriculture website to be more user-friendly so this information can be easily obtained by the general public; (3) require all recalls of tainted food products be made mandatory, not voluntary, by the manufacturer/processor. (2020)

WHOLE MILK IN SCHOOLS

We support the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) criteria for school lunches be revised to include whole milk for consumption by our nation’s school children in addition to allowing a variety of dairy products, including whole and two-percent milk, be offered by all New York schools as part of their food service program. (2022)

GOVERNMENT/REGULATORY AGENCIES

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS TRAINING PROGRAM

We support legislation that would amend the Environmental Conservation Law to establish a training program to foster awareness of laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the farming industry and to provide funding of such program from fines collected pursuant to certain violations. (2021)

PESTICIDE USAGE AND NOTIFICATION

We oppose local regulation of pesticide usage and notification legislation. (2020)

We oppose legislation prohibiting the commercial and residential application of pesticides for pest control. (2020)

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

We support an indefinite moratorium on the hydraulic fracturing process, the horizontal drilling for natural gas, until it can be proven by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Environmental Protection Agency that the hydraulic fracturing process is not a threat of our natural resources of water and air or to our human health. (2020)

We encourage all studies to be accelerated so that a final decision can be made as to the safety of the hydraulic fracturing process. (2023)

We support legislation that will protect the water supply of people who are surrounded by hydraulic fracturing process for oil and natural gas. (2023)

We support legislation which prohibits fracking wastewater from being used on highways until totally proven safe to do so. (2024)

We support a ban on the importation of all waste materials from hydraulic fracturing processes. (2020)

We support legislation that would require all landfills to be cleaned of Radium 226 contamination if hydraulic fracturing waste materials were disposed of at their facility. (2022)

We oppose the discharge of all radioactive materials from hydraulic fracturing processes into waterways. (2021)

IMPORTS/EXPORTS

BULK APPLE EXPORTS

We support legislation that would eliminate the second inspection of bulk bin apples by the Department of Agriculture before being exported to Canada. (2023)

IMPORTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

We favor State and National legislation that would protect our farmers from imported farm products that are subsidized to the point that they unfairly compete with and do not meet the same safety standards that are required of our farm products. (2021)

IMPORTED APPLE CONCENTRATE

We strongly urge the U.S. to charge a tariff on imported apple concentrate, further that the apple concentrate meet the same standards as apple concentrate from U.S. apple farmers. (2024)

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

CLOSING MEXICO BORDER

We are opposed to any effort by the President or Congress to close the border with Mexico as it would negatively affect the agricultural economy of the United States. (2024)

FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY

We recommend convening a consortium of experts representing land grant universities, agri-business and farm organizations that will design pro-active federal farm policy which more accurately addresses current and future social, economic, and environmental needs of United States farmers, agri-businesses, the food industry, the national and international consumers, and international trading partners. (2021)

FOREIGN FOOD PROCESSING

We strongly oppose the processing of food to be marketed in this nation within countries unable or unwilling to provide a system of inspections and checks meeting the standards of the United States on the processing of food. (2023)

IMPORTATION OF CATTLE/MEAT/MEAT PRODUCTS

We are opposed to the importation of animals, meat, and meat products into the United States from any country having bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) until scientific data shows the supply is safe. (2020)

MILK PROTEIN CONCENTRATE IMPORTS (MPC)

We urge the reclassification of Milk Protein Concentrate as a dairy product by the World Trade Organization, the adoptions of tariff-rate quotas on MPC entering the country and the adoption of standards governing how MPC is used and an adequate inspection process to ensure compliance. (2022)

INVASIVE SPECIES

ASIAN CARP INFESTATION

We support the efforts of the agencies involved in the control of the Asian Carp infestation in the Mississippi River and Great Lakes Systems and that the other states and Canadian provinces that border these systems be encouraged to be actively involved in the programs that are currently in place and any further measures to be taken to protect the fisheries of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes. (2020)

INVASIVE SPECIES ERADICATION

We encourage the State of New York to target a portion of invasive species efforts to specifically deal with noxious invasive species posing a threat to human health and that all organizations work together in a coordinated effort to deal with these types of invasive species. (2024)

LABOR

DAIRY AND SHEEP H-2A VISA ENHANCEMENT ACT

We support legislation that would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to expand the H-2A nonimmigrant visa category (temporary agricultural workers) to include dairy workers and sheepherders with the initial period of admission for such temporary workers being three years and allowing for extensions of additional three-year periods without requiring a period of absence from the United States be Necessary for an extension. (2020)

FARM WORKERS FAIR LABOR PRACTICES ACT

We strongly oppose the Farm Workers Fair Labor Practices Act. (2024)

IMMIGRATION REFORM (MIGRANT LABOR)

We strongly urge the United States Congress to change the immigration policies and Immigration & Naturalization Services to modify the regulations to make it easier for farm employers to hire migrant labor without jeopardizing the security of the domestic workforce of the United States. (2023)

We support modification of the H-1B VISA program to include advanced agricultural skills as technical skills. (2022)

We encourage passage of legislation that will relieve farm employers of the responsibility for illegal immigrant workers if the employer has some documentation on file at their place of business indicating that the workers are legal. (2021)

MINIMUM WAGE FOR COOPERATIVE MARKETS

We support changes to the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that would exempt volunteer worker member co-operatives from minimum wage requirements, allowing members access to quality foods at affordable prices. (2021)

OVERTIME FOR FARM LABORERS

We support keeping the threshold at 60 hours for overtime for agricultural laborers. (2022)

LAND/LAND USE

AGRICULTURAL TRESPASS

We support the increase of penalties for criminal acts of destruction of agricultural crops, products and property. (2024)

DEVELOPMENT OF CELLULOSIC ETHANOL AND USE OF DORMANT FARMLAND

We urge the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets support programs to encourage the use of current dormant farmland by putting them back into production, particularly for the use of crops that can be used to produce biofuels. (2021)

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS LAW

We support legislation that would amend the General Obligations law concerning limiting the liability of landowners and allowing the use of their land for recreational activities. (2024)

LANDOWNERS' DEER PERMIT

We request the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation revise the qualifications to read: "The owner of 50 acres or more of land (need not be adjoining) contained in one or more parcels located within the boundaries of the Wildlife Management Unit be eligible for antlerless permits." (2021)

PROMOTING AGRICULTURE SAFEGUARDS AND SECURITY (PASS) ACT

We support legislation that would prevent China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea from investing in, purchasing, leasing, or otherwise acquiring United States farmland, and would add the Secretary of Agriculture as a standing member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to consider agricultural needs when making determinations affecting national security, and require a report to Congress from the United States Department of Agriculture on the risks posed by foreign takeovers of United States businesses engaged in agriculture. (2023)

RIGHT TO FARM PERMANENT FORM

We support changes to the Agriculture and Market Law, Section 310 that would require the right to farm statement that home purchases must sign when purchasing a home in an agricultural district be added to the deed, title and/or mortgage in perpetuity that the homeowner understands that farming operations can be noisy, dusty and cause odors that may not agree with them. This would provide the farmer with protection against frivolous lawsuits that interfere with normal farming operations when trying to meet state and federal regulations. (2022)

SEWAGE SLUDGE BIOSOLIDS SPREADING BAN ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS

We support a ban on spreading sewage sludge biosolids on agricultural lands in the State of New York. (2024)

WETLAND REGULATIONS

We are opposed to expanded regulation of wetlands less than 12.4 acres or any other wetland regulations that further restrict the rights of property owners. (2020)

LEGAL/LIABILITY LAWS

EQUINE ACTIVITY SAFETY CODE

We support legislation that would amend the general obligations law in relation to the liability of persons involved in equine activities; by establishing an “equine activity safety code act” that sets guidelines for the conduct of participants, sponsors, and professionals involved in the sport of horseback riding; educates the public as to the inherent risks of the sport of horseback riding so as to minimize the risk of injury to persons engaged in the sport of horseback riding, promotes the safety in the horseback riding industry, and preserves the financial sustainability of the equine sponsors and equine professionals engaged in the horseback riding industry by defining situations where the participant must accept responsibility for the inherent risks of participating in horse-related activities. (2020)

LUMBER/TIMBER

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED LUMBER OPERATIONS

We support legislation that would require private timber companies wishing to purchase trees in our national forest be made to assume the total bill of the harvesting plus a reasonable return to the treasury for the trees cut to cover the cost of maintaining these forests to marketability. (2024)

NATIONAL FOREST PROTECTION

We urge National Grange to use its influence to allow best management practices in national forests. (2020)

MARKETING/FARMERS' MARKETS

CAPPER-VOLSTEAD ACT

We oppose the repeal of the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922 which permits farmers to work together collectively marketing their products if they choose. (2020)

We oppose the recommendations of the Antitrust Modernization Commission and continue to support the Capper-Volstead Act. (2022)

FARMERS' MARKETS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

We support farmers' markets, family farms and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) producing and selling homegrown agricultural products. (2020)

FOOD HUBS

We strongly support continuing and expanding financial support to food hubs for distribution of locally produced food. (2024)

RETAIL FARM OPERATIONS

We support legislation that amends sections 301 and 308 on the Agriculture and Markets Law to include roadside stands and retail farm markets in the definition of a "farm operation" and thus give farmers protection for their retail farm operations under the state's right-to-farm laws. (2021)

SIGNAGE FOR FARM MARKETS

We support legislation changing the current New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) law to allow the placement of signs along New York State highways to promote farmers and their products. (2022)

RECYCLING

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY LEGISLATION

We are opposed to any Extended Producer Responsibility legislation that would pass the cost and responsibility of recycling packaging on to the farms and food processors who cannot afford added costs of doing business and who need the packaging to sell what they produce. (2024)

BEVERAGE PLASTIC PACKAGING

We support legislation that would require the use of 100% biodegradable products such as brewing waste products for beverage packaging such as six-pack rings, thus reducing waste in landfills and oceans. (2021)

BURNING OF AGRICULTURAL TRASH

We oppose any further restrictions on the burning of agricultural trash. (2024)

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM/CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCED PROGRAM

We support the Federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhanced Program (CREP) and the continuance of traditional Practice Incentive Payments, Signing Incentive Payments and 50% Cost Share Rate for establishing Riparian Buffers and associated Best Management Practices (BMP'S) such as fencing, stream crossings, and the development of Alternative Water Supplies, as well as the expansion of federal Acreage Caps that will limit future participation by farmers. (2023)

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We support legislation to amend Section 9 of the Soil & Water Conservation District Law to authorize public information and education programs for Soil & Water Conservation Districts. (2021)

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARDS/SCOPE OF WORK

We are opposed to any legislation that would change the 2022 make-up of the state and local/county Soil and Water Conservation Boards from their current structure and that would change in original scope of work. (2022)

WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

We support legislation that would amend executive law to allow Soil and Water Conservation districts, acting in cooperation with one or more affected local governments, to be eligible applicants for the waterfront revitalization grant program. (2021)

TAX INCENTIVES

AGRICULTURE BUILDING TAX EXEMPTIONS

We support legislation that would provide a ten-year real property tax exemption for structures and buildings built on land used in agricultural production thus improving their land and business. (2022)

AGRICULTURAL LAND ASSESSMENTS

We support legislation that would amend Agriculture and Markets Law that would eliminate the option of standard assessments used by local taxing jurisdictions and use only agricultural assessments on farming operations. (2024)

AGRICULTURAL LAND TAX CREDITS

We support legislation to amend the New York State Tax law to provide a tax credit to farmers who sell or rent their agricultural land to a young farmer. (2024)

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS USED BY RESTAURANTS

We support legislation that creates a tax incentive (\$100 on every \$1,000 spent) for restaurants that purchase produce grown on a New York State farm. (2021)

FARM PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT CAP

We support legislation that would establish a cap on increases for property tax assessments for agricultural land and to a 2% annual growth as a means of protecting farmers from large increases in assessments when fair market values of agricultural land increases and that establishes an annual 2% tax cap on agricultural property tax assessment increases. (2023)

GROSS SALES REQUIREMENT

We support a reduction of the qualifying gross sales requirements of farm products from \$10,000 to \$7,500 for an agricultural operation to qualify for a real property tax agricultural exemption. (2023)

MINIMUM WAGE EMPLOYEE TAX CREDIT FOR FARMS

We support legislation that would double the \$30 million amount budgeted for the minimum wage employee tax credit for farms to \$60 million, and proportionately increase the minimum wage employee tax credit to help farms survive the tight economic situation they are already facing. (2022)

PROPOSED TAX ON COW FLATULENCE

We oppose all regulations that would allow the Environmental Protection Agency to impose any cow flatulence emission tax on dairy and beef farmers, both presently and in the future, within the United States. (2024)

YOUTH AGRICULTURE PROTECTION ACT

We support the Student Agriculture Protection Act which states that it modifies the requirement for calculating taxable income to exclude from the gross income of a student agriculturist up to \$5,000.00 of the gain from the sale or exchange of private property (including livestock, crops, and agricultural mechanics or shop products) produced or raised by the student agriculturist. (2024)

UTILITIES

DELINQUENT ELECTRIC ACCOUNTS

We encourage the Public Service Commission to enforce regulations prohibiting electric companies from shutting off power to active agricultural operations without at least a 10-day notice and an in-person contact with the individual named as account holder. (2023)

WATER/WATERWAYS

FLOOD PLAIN MAPS

We request the State of New York adopt flood plain maps that reflect current data. (2021)

GREAT LAKES BASIN

We recommend that State and National Granges monitor closely the proposals of the Great Lakes Basin and its possible adverse impact on the agricultural industry and to become involved in decision making as local and state governments address adoption and implementation of such regulations. (2020)

GREAT LAKES WATER REMOVAL

We oppose the removal or sale of water from the Great Lakes watershed. (2024)

OPPOSITION TO NEW YORK STATE INCLUSION BY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN CHESAPEAKE BAY TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD REGULATIONS

We request that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acknowledge the clear water New York already contributes to the Chesapeake Bay and strongly objects to New York being placed on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) list by the EPA and urges Congressional and State representatives to intercede with EPA and enact superseding legislation if required, to remove the New York portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed from the TMDL. We also request that the EPA report to our representatives on their response and adaptations regarding the concerns. (2021)

THE WATER AFFORDABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, EQUITY, AND RELIABILITY (WATER) ACT

We support legislation that would provide adequate funding to fix and maintain our nation's reservoirs, treatment plants, and pipes to ensure that all the people in our country have access to clean drinking water. (2024)

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES (WOTUS) REGULATIONS

We are opposed to revising the current "Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR), "taking the term "navigable" out of the Clean Water Act Regulations, (2022)

WILDLIFE/HUNTING

AGE RESTRICTION FOR HUNTERS

We oppose any changes to New York State Environmental Conservation Laws raising the current minimum ages for obtaining New York State hunting licenses. (2024)

ARTIFICIAL PHEASANT PROPAGATION

We oppose legislation to amend environmental conservation law which would end the state's participation in artificial pheasant propagation activities. (2021)

CORMORANT POPULATION CONTROL

We strongly support the efforts of the Cormorant Control Working Group, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Province of Ontario on their collaborative effort to control cormorants on the St. Lawrence River and Black Lake and receive immediate assistance in cormorant control to protect and maintain its current fishing and tourism economy. (2021)

COYOTES

We strongly urge the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to institute a program of control of coyotes to reduce their number; this would include regular year-round hunting and consideration of a statewide “bounty” on them and to help educate the public that a person has the right to shoot a coyote whether in or out of season if it is doing damage to their animals. (2022)

CROSSBOW HUNTING LAW

We support legislation that would allow hunters sixty years and older or with a physical impairment to hunt with a crossbow during regular archery season. (2024)

ENDANGERED SPECIES

We support legislation which would legally allow people to defend themselves from an attack by a rattlesnake or any other animal without concern of retribution from government authorities. (2020)

HUNTING CONTESTS AND FIELD TRIALS

We oppose any legislation that would make it illegal to organize, sponsor, conduct, promote, or participate in any contest, competition, tournament, or derby where the objective of such contest or competition is to take wildlife, and furthermore supports the rights of sportsmen and sporting dogs in doing what they are trained and bred to do. (2024)

HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING FEES

We support reducing hunting, fishing, and trapping license fees. (2020)

INTRODUCTION OF WILDLIFE

We urge our State Legislature to be diligent about protecting our people, livestock, and crops from danger and that no wild animals be introduced into New York State without prior legal notice to the public and prior consultation with and the consent of the county legislatures in the areas affected, and that just compensation be provided to landowners whose property is set aside as a habitat for any endangered species. (2022)

We urge legislation be enacted that would prohibit wild animal re-introduction without a referendum approval by area residents. (2021)

We oppose the introduction of elk into the wild in New York State. (2022)

LAND PURCHASES

We oppose the State of New York buying up large tracts of land to turn forever wild until such time as the state’s financial status improves. (2022)

NEW YORK STATE SPORTSMEN

We support legislation that provides for continual sportsmen's rights and encourages youth to participate in outdoor sporting activities with proper adult supervision. (2020)

NORTHERN LONG EARED BAT

We support legislation to keep the Northern Long-Eared Bat on the Endangered Species List thus ensuring it continues to have all the protections granted from that designation. (2023)

POISONOUS SNAKES AND PREDATORY ANIMALS

We support a ban on the introduction and/or release of any poisonous snakes or predatory animals in New York State. (2021)

We recommend that the Department of Environmental Conservation post public lands where there is an infestation of poisonous snakes. (2021)

SPOTLIGHTING IN NEW YORK STATE

We support legislation that would change the Environmental Conservation Law to require that handguns must also be locked in a case or securely locked in the trunk of the vehicle while spotlighting. (2020)

WILD ANIMAL RELEASE

We support legislation that requires the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to notify residents of wild animal releases so they can be alerted to necessary safety awareness measures. (2020)

WILDLIFE DAMAGE

We oppose the passage of legislation which would limit farmers' ability to protect their crops from wildlife damage. (2021)

WILDLIFE HIGHWAY/ROAD CROSSINGS

We recommend that New York State include appropriate wildlife crossings in future highway construction and improvement projects. (2023)