



**Federation of
Southern
Cooperatives/Land
Assistance Fund**



**Rural Coalition/
Coalición Rural**



**Missouri Rural Crisis
Center**

Campaign for a Just Food and Farm Policy

In preparation for the 2002 Farm Bill Campaign, the Rural Coalition, Missouri Rural Crisis Center and Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund conducted a grassroots-based research project to gather input from our members on agriculture, and farm policies, programs and services. From these findings, our members have proposed the comprehensive food and farm policy presented below. Our grassroots based research effort is designed to gather input, assess needs, and develop policy proposals based on the opinions of our members on agriculture, and farm policies, programs and services. It is our shared goal to assure that our diverse group of small farmers and farmworkers are the driving force of our campaign for equitable food and farm policy and to ensure that our work truly addresses the issues of our members.

Our campaign is centered around the belief that widely held ownership of land and equitable participation in decision making are fundamental tenants of a democratic society. Highlighting this goal is vital to policy proposals which address and correct the longstanding systemic inequities that have separated farmworkers and minority farmers in particular, and family farmers in general from the land, and profoundly damaged our global resource base, land and climate. Together we are working to develop a powerful public message that equity, diversity, care of the earth and justice are central to a global agriculture and food system that is sustainable, viable, just and which provides high quality affordable food to all.

Most importantly, this is an opportunity, for the first time, to raise the voice of our communities in a united and cohesive manner

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Legislative Proposals

The following proposals reflect the specific needs of the diverse groups who support this agenda.

Comprehensive Farm and Food Policy - The debate on the 2002 Farm Bill must be democratic and open to all with a stake in the food system. The resulting farm and food policy must be comprehensive and assure the needs of all stakeholders, including those who lack the resources to participate, are met. The policy should promote bio-diversity and protection of the global resource base and assure the food security of future generations.

Fair Price with Supply Management: Ensure that farmers earn a fair price for their commodities from the marketplace, not from taxpayers. This should be done through a no-cost non-recourse loan with supply management. Loan rates would be set to provide the cost of production, including a valuation of protecting the land and resource base for future generations, plus reasonable profit. Supply management options should promote care of the land and factor in an adequate supply of food and reserves. An adequate program of loan rates and supply management would help assure more balanced development on a global scale of small farm agriculture and protection of the resource base.

Farmer Owned Reserve: Create a farmer owned reserve to ensure food security in times of scarcity and price stability in times of plenty, with uniform storage rates for on and off farm storage.

Small Farms of the New Millennium Payments: Many small and minority farmers, particularly those with who produce perishable products or seek a diversified operation, have been unable to access any federal farm benefits. Little investment has been provided to develop this potentially viable small farm base to undergird poor rural communities. Under this program, small farmers would receive flexible, direct payments of \$10,000 annually which could be used for production, diversification, conservation, storage, marketing or financial management, family needs such as health insurance or other expenditures to help support the family and the farm operation. The goal would be to help farmers diversify, adjust their farm operation to the marketplace and become a viable and sustainable entity that contributes to the economic and resource base of their community.

Crop Insurance and Disaster Payments: The adoption of a comprehensive farm policy promoted above should dramatically reduce the need for the expensive disaster payments that have become a perennial feature of current farm programs. More investments in promoting real risk management should be considered as substitutes for the current crop program. If any federal subsidy including single service delivery, is provided to support crop insurance and the crop insurance industry, it must be modified to serve the needs of farmers with diverse operations under whole farm rather than crop specific products. In addition, equitable access to programs by minority and small scale producers must be documented, monitored, and assured.

Technical Assistance and Outreach Program for Minority and Limited Resource Farmers: Minority and other small farmers still experience barriers and lack of information on USDA programs resulting in much lower participation rates. The underfunded Section 2501 Minority Farm Outreach Program established in the 1990 Farm Bill attempts with very limited resources to fill these gaps. Our research indicates that farmers who have received assistance from community based organizations funded through this legislation had higher rates of participation and understanding of USDA programs than those who had not. The current Section 2501 Program should be made mandatory and funding authority increased to \$50 million annually.

Eligibility criteria should ensure that funds are used to support the ongoing efforts of organizations that have a proven track record of working with eligible farmers at the grass roots level. Funding levels also need to be increased to meet the increased demand for the program. In addition to 2501,

including Rural Cooperative Development Program, Farmworker and other Rural Housing Programs and the Technology Opportunity Program under the Commerce Department are also essential.

Food and Nutrition Assistance: Participation in food stamp programs had declined rapidly despite the fact that there has been a substantially lower reduction in people living in poverty. It is estimated that 2 million more people live in poverty and do not receive food stamps today than in 1995. We support the Nutrition Assistance for Working Families and Seniors ACT which will: Restore food stamp eligibility to all legal immigrants; End the child penalty in food stamp law; Increase the minimum food stamp benefit to \$25; Include child support in the existing food stamp earnings disregard; Expand state options for transitional food stamp assistance; Improve access to food stamp information; and Increase access to emergency food.

Protect the Rights of Farmworkers: Current laws to protect farmworkers must be fully be enforced, and then expanded without delay to include the labor and health and safety standards afforded to most other workers in this society. Most importantly, farmworkers must be extended the right to bargain collectively. Until such rights are secured in national legislation, industrial operations including livestock, poultry and mushrooms should be denied the right to use the current agricultural worker exemptions to existing labor law.

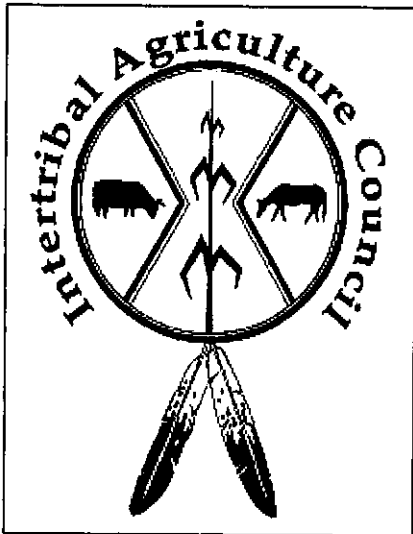
In addition, the plethora of agriculture guestworker proposals that have been proposed, all of which further abridge farmworkers rights, must be opposed, with support from the family farm community. Immigrants must have their rights as human beings and workers protected, and the right of legal residents to receive food stamps and other federal benefits must be restored without delay.

Oppose Agricultural Concentration: Ban packers from owning livestock, moratorium on agribusiness mergers, prevent packers from paying more to factory livestock operations than to independent family farmers, all livestock marketing contracts should be traded on the open market providing equal opportunity for bids from all producers. In addition, the rights of worker in livestock and other concentrated operations should be fully protected and the use of the agriculture labor exemption disallowed.

Access to Food: All people should be assured access to an affordable and nutrition diet. US Food programs, including Food stamps, should receive adequate funding to assure all needs are met. Benefits, including food stamps for legal residents, must be restored or extended. Access for small and minority farmers to provide products for feeding programs should be assured, with specific outreach funds and authority added.

Community Food Security: Programs should improve community food security by promoting collaborative relationships and the planning and implementation of community food plans and strategies. Congress should expand current programs and assure specific outreach and authority for participation by community based groups serving minority and other small farmers.

Support Fair Trade and Democratic Participation in the construction of trade agreements. Any trade agreement should ensure mutual benefit to and protect the rights of all citizens, and especially poor people, in all participating nations. Consideration of any trade agreements, including the emerging proposal on Free Trade of the Americas, must be open to congressional debate and ensure democratic participation by all parties who will be affected. Fast track authority for the President is strongly opposed as it would override the democratic process and would result in the expansion of an already exploitative trade agreement (the North American Free Trade Agreement or NAFTA). Trade agreements and organizations like NAFTA and the WTO, which advance the rights of corporations while reducing the rights of all citizens, especially poor people, should be denied.



2002 FARM BILL Discussion Paper

The United States Congress is expected to begin discussion this session on the 2002 Farm Bill. Every five years Congress reauthorizes present programs and enacts by law new programs of the United States Department of Agriculture. Indians have not traditionally been a part of this process until 1990, when USDA presence was mandated on Reservations. Since that time there has been considerable effort put forth by producers, Tribes, IAC and agencies of USDA to improve services to Indian people and their land. This effort must continue and part of the process is to make sure the Indian voice is heard in the development of the 2002 Farm Bill.

The process of listening to the Indian voice began during the 1999 Symposium in Oklahoma City. During the year 2000, IAC and USDA staff facilitated 6 Farm Bill Listening Sessions plus the workshop held during the 2000 IAC Symposium. The foundation of this discussion paper comes from the recommendations gathered at the listening sessions. The list is very extended, but for the purposes of development of this paper, has been categorized into groups of related topics.

Government Relationships:

Treaties, Executive Orders and numerous court decisions are the basis of the so-called Federal Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes and their members. Presidential Orders have determined that the federal trust responsibility does not rest solely with the Secretary of the Interior, as it is sometimes believed. The United States breached its over-riding trust responsibility to Indian people and Indian Tribes through the action prescribed in the Reorganization Memorandum #IV, signed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior in 1940. This policy agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Interior, "Reorganization Plan No. IV of 1940" transferred certain conservation functions to USDI from USDA. This transfer of function was interpreted to prohibit USDA from assisting Indian land owners or users whose land was held in trust by USDI (BIA). This prohibition has caused 96 million acres of Indian and Alaska Native lands to be devoid of the extensive conservation effort received by other lands in this Nation.

Every President since President Nixon has issued proclamations or Presidential Orders on the relationship between Tribal Nations and the United States Government. Fulfillment of these proclamations or Presidential Orders must come through a clearly defined process of the Government to Government Relationship. Development of such a definition must include both parties. In addition to bringing formality to Tribes relationship with the Federal Government, a process must be defined for the mutual development of federal regulations that impact the ability of USDA to deliver programs and services to Indian people and their lands. Regulations and policies must be developed in a manner that Tribal authorities, policies and the unique land ownership are all recognized. The Departments of the United States Government must coordinate their efforts and work to remove restrictive barriers caused by inter-departmental policy and regulation. An example is the inter-relationship between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and USDA.

Education:

The differing level of conservation needs between the traditional USDA participant and Indian lands have been mentioned earlier in this discussion. Special emphasis is needed to address the basic resource inventory needs on Indian lands. Large portions of Reservations are without basic soil inventories and range inventories. Those reservations fortunate enough to have such inventories are basing their data needs on inventories that are a quarter century old. This dated information limits landowners and land users ability to utilize present programs. This data also limits USDA's ability to implement or deliver programs as the local staffer has to generate this base-line data.

The return of agriculture conservation programs would increase the level of Indian participation as it creates the necessary flexibility to deal with three governments, land ownership, limited ability to participate in long term contracts and with the fact that USDA is a relatively new participant in conservation on Indian lands. Indian lands have not received the focus on conservation as their neighbors and the need to protect primary resources are as great or greater gives justification to a special emphasis program aimed at bringing conservation implementation to an equal level. This can be done through a separate Indian Title in the Farm Bill or a special emphasis program aimed at benefiting only Indian owned lands.

Today's programs and services are designed to fit the traditional participant in USDA programs. Thus, regulations and policies are written without regard to how they impact the 2nd largest landowners in the US, Indians. An example of this is the 10 year contracts for EQIP. A majority of Indian land users do not have the benefit of long term leases or permits thus their lease term excludes them from participating in the program. Indians are held to differing requirements than their non-Indian counter part. For a reservation to qualify for the Indian Feed Program there has to be demonstration that there is a 35% reduction in available forage. For a county to qualify for the Livestock Assistance program, they have to show a 30% loss in forage availability.

The Indian Livestock Assistance Program need to be re-authorized as well as funded on a continuing basis. This program as well as the Indian Set-Aside in EQIP need to be applied to Indian owned land. If their design is to benefit Indians, then requirements insuring Indians are the primary beneficiaries need to be instilled and complied with.

One proposal that would be of benefit to Indian participants allowing some flexibility, increasing education and gathering resource inventories is spelled out as follows:

- 1) Only for those land owners/producer who have never participated in USDA programs, a first time enrollment would enable the land owner/producer to have a resource assessment and conservation plan developed on his holdings. The land owner/producer would have the opportunity to select no more than 3 practices from a list of practices (currently developed for the EQIP program) and apply those practices in a two year time frame. The cost share rate for this first time participant would be 80% for the three practices selected. During the process of getting the three practices applied on the ground, a mandated educational program would take place with the participant which brings about a working understanding of the purpose of the conservation practices being applied. This first step would introduce the participant to USDA and it's programs. It would create resource assessments and conservation plans on Indian land and it would begin the process of applying conservation practices on the land. Once this step is completed, the land owner/producer could only participate in one of the next two steps.
- 2) The second step would have a longer contract period of 3 to 5 years and would consist of the land owner/producer selecting conservation practices from the same list but again the practices selected would be limited to 3 to 5 that could be applied in the

to be modified to realistically fit a beginning farmer. Present criteria limits participation to only those that have adequate capital that would allow borrowing at any commercial credit source.

Increased effort must be put forth to facilitate the insurance that trust lands stay in trust during the debt servicing process of FSA. The new administration of the Department of Interior may be receptive to the transfer of trust title between Interior and FSA. The options presented by the 98 Credit Amendments need to be utilized by FSA, BIA and Tribes.

Increased participation in FSA lending programs would take place if qualifying Tribal Credit Branches were allowed guaranteed lender status.

Marketing:

What is being produced on Indian lands is relatively unknown to the Federal Government. The commodity crops, livestock, and non-traditional commodity crops need to be inventoried and brought into the commercial market place as well as specialty markets. The livestock grown on Indian lands can be categorized as an all natural product thus capable of returning greater financial benefit to the Indian communities. Agencies such as the Agriculture Research Service should be providing guidance to bring these products into the consumer marketplace.

This Discussion paper only hits the highlights of the results of the listening sessions. Refinement by our membership will bring about development of a final "Indian Farm Bill" document.



Farmworkers Within the Framework of a Sustainable Agriculture

By Richard Mandelbaum, CATA/Farmworker Support Committee and NOFA-NJ certified organic grower

Our current food system is based upon exploitation:

Exploitation of the land through its goal of maximizing profits while eroding soil fertility.

Exploitation of consumers by feeding them poisons along with their food.

Exploitation of farmers by squeezing them into debt through forced competition with subsidized corporate agriculture, and

Exploitation of farmworkers, who work and live in conditions far more deplorable than almost any other sector of Society.(1)

This paper will focus on farmworkers, who are too often neglected in the debate on sustainability. When Franklin Delano Roosevelt, on the heels of the Dust Bowl and in the midst of the Great Depression, pushed the National Labor Relations Act through Congress, he made a concession to Southern Democrats. These particular politicians had refused to sign on to the NLRA if labor rights were extended to agricultural workers, the reason being that they did not want African American workers to gain equal rights to organize.

As a result agricultural workers, along with domestic workers, the other sector dominated at that time by African Americans, were the only workers excluded from rights granted by the NLRA, a situation which remains unchanged today. Besides it being a flagrant human rights violation to exclude any sector of society from legal protections afforded everyone else, this injustice indicates a wider state of affairs: Although slavery ended over one hundred thirty years ago, the United States system of agriculture continues as a legacy of a slave based agricultural economy, from its exported-oriented monoculture controlled by ever fewer and wealthier hands, to its marginalization of small family farms, to its oppression of workers in subhuman conditions.

A clear example of this is the H2A immigration program, often referred to in government doublespeak as a "guestworker program". H2A workers, most often Mexican citizens, arrive at the United States under contract with a particular farmer. They have no right to seek other employment. If they quit or are fired, they are deported. When the season ends, they are sent home. A percentage of their paycheck is withheld until the end of the season to ensure that they remain, a practice, which appears to fall within, accepted international definitions of indentured servitude. Although all this clearly falls far short of slavery, it just as clearly falls far short of freedom.

Guestworker programs create an environment in which immigrants working under abusive conditions feel an enormous pressure to tolerate that abuse, or be sent home without the money they had been counting on for their families. Provisions that the employer make a sincere effort to recruit local workers first, and that require state agencies to certify a labor shortage, are rarely enforced. In June of 1998 the General Accounting Office issued a report in which it definitively concluded that there is "no agricultural labor shortage now", and yet the Department of Labor approved 99% of H2A applications through 1996 and

farm labor, but the alternative is for small farmers to continue to play by the rules written by corporate agriculture, a game they are losing and will continue to lose.

This brings us to another point. The term sustainability is in danger of losing all meaning as it is co-opted by corporations in the same way they are co-opting "organic". The sustainable agriculture movement will ultimately fail if it does not effectively distance itself from corporate interests by making it clear that the definition of sustainability is inherently opposed to the interests of agribusiness. Agricultural sustainability needs to be debated within the broader context of political and social sustainability, and if it does not include social justice for all sectors of society as one of its core goals. Some will inevitably argue that such a broad definition will weaken the sustainable agriculture movement rather than strengthen it. This is not the case, and the need for such an inclusive and expansive outlook will become clearer as we realize that at its core, the issue of sustainability is not an economic or political question. It is not a question of improved environmental regulations, fairer economic policies, appropriate technology or progressive farming methods. At its core this is a question of culture.

In pro-sustainability circles the terms corporate agriculture and agribusiness are often used interchangeably, but in fact they are not synonymous. "Corporate agriculture" refers to a particular economic scale and structure, whereas "agribusiness" refers to a mentality. It is a belief system. A farmer who owns ten acres can be an agribusinessman as much as the CEO of Monsanto, so long as he or she views the land and workers *primarily* as economic resources to be exploited for maximum profit. To the farmworker interested in decent wages and a safe, respectful work environment, it matters little what size the farm is. Small farmers can be the worst abusers of pesticides, the worst exploiters of workers, the worst caretakers of the land.

This idea of sustainability that we are putting forth to the public is ultimately a question of ethics. We certainly must address specific economic, technological, and political issues, but if we lose sight of this underlying premise, "sustainability" will inevitably be usurped and degenerate into a buzzword for minor reform, when what is needed is far more fundamental.

Notes

(1) Certainly other sectors of society have been equally excluded from the prosperity of this nation, in the inner cities, in the poor rural sectors, and on the reservations. With that said, it ought to be kept in mind that increasing numbers of U.S. agricultural workers are indigenous people from various regions within Mexico and Central America (and to a lesser extent Southeast Asia), many arriving speaking only their native languages. Thus their situation should be viewed not only in terms of the agricultural economy but also in the broader context of the historical and continued persecution of indigenous peoples within U.S. society as a whole.

(2) Interestingly, the environmental degradation exacerbated by NAFTA has been cited by the National Heritage Institute in San Francisco as one of the major causes of cross-border migration of Mexicans to the U.S., most of whom end up working in agriculture. And so we see that these governmental policies taken as a whole are self re-enforcing.

COMMODITY PROGRAMS, DISASTER PROTECTION AND FARMER OWNED-RESERVE

From the *Food from Family Farms Act*

Our legislative proposals reflect our conclusion that our current agriculture system is not sustainable. Results of the current farm policies include record low prices, consumer concerns about food safety, concentration of the food system into the hands of a few corporations, and a cost to taxpayers of \$30 billion last year in a mostly disaster oriented program. **Current farm and trade policies have also failed to increase either exports or producer prices for agriculture products, reduce consumer prices or make food more affordable.**

The Rural Coalition, the Missouri Rural Crisis Center and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund and our members endorse these recommendations not only to protect family farm income while reducing taxpayer cost. We also that these programs have the best chance of meeting the goals we have set forth for our agriculture and food policy, including providing access for all consumers to affordable and high quality food now and in the future and of stabilizing both supply and price on a global scale and thereby ensuring more balanced development.

Summary

1. **Commodity Programs and Disaster Protection** – We recommend that non-recourse loan programs be restored for commodity programs in a manner that will provide producers with a **fair price**. Congress should set commodity loan rates at a level that provides cost of production plus reasonable profit in the marketplace without the need for a deficiency payment. Supply management is an essential feature of such a program, which could also be linked to conservation goals.
2. **Farmer Owned Grain Reserve** - Growing expenditures on disasters underscore the need to adopt time-tested methods that save grain during years of abundant harvest and use it in years of shortfall. We recommend a farmer-owned grain reserve be reestablished, and favor a plan that allows farmers to hold the grain, compensates them fairly for storage, and provides them with decision making power on the conditions of its release.

Legislative Proposal

1. Market Price Support.

Price support will be established through a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) non-recourse loan for wheat, feed-grains, soybeans, oilseeds, cotton and rice.

The Loan rate will be based on an "Agricultural Equity Formula" indexing system that reflects average gross income per acre received during the decade of the 1970s, adjusted for inflation and current higher per/acre productivity. (The 1970-79 period is widely recognized as the last generally prosperous period in modern U.S. agriculture.) Loan rates will be adjusted annually by indexing to annual inflation and a rolling average of the past 4 year national average yield.

Over a 5-year phase-in period, loan rates will be adjusted upward until they equal the levels received in the 1970s.

Loan rate levels for 2001:

Corn	\$3.45 per bu.
Cotton	\$0.81 per lb
Soybeans . . .	\$8.63 per bu.
Wheat	\$5.12 per bu.

2. Program Sign-up Required.

Program sign-up will be required to be eligible for the CCC loan, farmer owned reserve, disaster relief and any other agriculture related government benefit. Historical price ratios between crops (such as corn/soybean price ratio of 1 to 2.5) will be considered when establishing loan rates.

Loan period will be nine months. At the end of nine months, producers will have the option of redeeming the loan, entry into the Farmer Owned Reserve (FOR) if open, or forfeiture to a CCC Food Security Reserve.

- A maximum level of production will be eligible for the loan program.
- No price subsidy payments or loan deficiency payments (LDP) will be made.

3. Farmer Owned Reserve.

A multi-year farmer-owned reserve will be established for all storable commodities to ensure food security and livestock feed supplies. These reserve stocks will be held off the market in times of adequate supply by establishing national average price levels below which reserve stocks cannot enter the market.

- The reserve will be open to farmers any time ending stocks-to-use ratios exceed 5%.
- Storage will be paid annually in advance, at commercial rates.
- The minimum reserve levels shall be 10% of total use.
- Release levels shall be at least 125% of the CCC loan rate.
- Eligible grain will be allowed to be rotated to maintain grain quality.
- A low interest loan program for construction of on-farm storage facilities will be established.

4. Planting Flexibility with Inventory Management.

The Secretary shall establish a short-term inventory management program for storable commodities to balance production with demand. Acreage bases will be defined as Tillable Crop Acres (TCA) giving farmers planting flexibility on TCA subject only to the production adjustments by the Secretary of Agriculture based on ending stocks. Land shall be considered TCA whose production is eligible for non-recourse loan only if, for the last 3 of the 5 preceding crops, the land was planted or considered planted.

The Secretary shall target specific crops for reduced planting only if carryover stocks of that crop exceed 15% of total use. The Secretary will then announce a Conservation Percentage (CP) for such crops, and a producer will be required to enter into a conservation incentive program approved by the local Soil Conservation Service for those acres. After meeting that requirement, the producer/operator will determine which crops and what crop mix to plant under this section.

5. Disaster Relief.

In times of natural disaster, there must be an effective response in the form of disaster assistance.

- Disaster payments will be made to qualified producers who lose 30% or more of their established yield.
- The disaster payment will be made at the rate of 50% of crop losses between 30% and 70%. Losses of crops between 70% and 100% will be compensated at the rate of 100%.
- A loss of 90% shall be considered a total loss and the producers shall have the right to salvage any remaining crop for whatever purpose they choose with no loss of disaster benefits.
- Insurance coverage beyond established disaster payments would be at the producers' cost, but will not be required in order to qualify for disaster payments.
- Receiving crop insurance benefits will not disqualify a producer from receiving full disaster benefits under the disaster program.

6. Production Levels Eligible for Price Support

Amounts of commodities eligible for non-recourse loans will be established based on farm income levels with an incentive toward promoting stewardship principles and actual optimum efficiency. In any crop year, the following amounts of crop production shall be eligible for non-recourse loan:

Wheat	65,000 bushels
Corn	125,000 bushels
Soybeans	35,000 bushels
Upland Cotton	1,000,000 pounds
Rice	65,000 hundredweight

Other program crops to include: Sunflower Seed, Rapeseed, Grain Sorghum, Canola, Safflower, Barley, Flaxseed, Mustard Seed, Oilseed, Sugar, and Extra Long Staple Cotton

7. Dairy

New dairy policy must set the minimum price of milk at a level that allows dairy farmers to recover their cost of production plus a profit.

- Imports must be limited to a level that does not distort the domestic market including derivatives not listed as dairy products.
- Ban all imports of dairy products from countries with confirmed BSE (mad cow disease) until adequate research can be done to ensure public safety.
- Eliminate block voting by dairy cooperatives.
- Referendum vote on mandatory check-off every five years.

8. Livestock

By establishing direct floor prices under the storable commodities with the non-recourse loan, the Food from Family Farms Act will indirectly establish a floor under livestock prices. If we continue with a program that allows market prices of feedstuffs like grains and oilseeds to be below their cost of production, then we can expect livestock and dairy prices to remain low and livestock production to concentrate in factory farms that rely on purchased feedstuffs.

This intensive livestock production becomes part of a vertically integrated livestock sector denying fair markets to diversified family farms that use environmentally sound crop rotations and responsible nutrient management. We intend for the majority of livestock production to again originate on diversified family farms. We also support the following measures:

- Prohibition on ownership, feeding, or control of livestock by packers.
- Technical corrections to the price reporting law.
- Require that USDA grade and approval methods are extended only to meat and dairy products produced in the U.S. and derived from livestock and dairy animals born, raised, fed and slaughtered in the U.S.
- Require that all government procurement of agricultural commodities, processed and manufactured food is obtained through open, well-publicized bidding. The process should require that all reasonable efforts be made to ensure that a portion of purchased food comes from producers within the local region of the consuming entity.
- Require an immediate and thereafter, periodic referendum on all mandatory check-off programs.
- Bargaining protection legislation and strengthening enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act's poultry provisions.
- Prohibition against price discrimination.