



**nebraska Farm Bureau Federation®**

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## **Farm Bureau Board Approves 2011 Legislative Priorities**

In preparation for the 2011 session of the Nebraska Legislature, Nebraska Farm Bureau's Board of Directors approved eight priority issues Farm Bureau will emphasize during the session. To qualify as priorities, the issues must:

- Have statewide impact.
- Be of significant interest to County Farm Bureaus.
- Be meaningful to individual Farm Bureau members because of their impact on a producer's ability to conduct business and make a profit.
- Require involvement of several Farm Bureau departments and organizational resources to implement plans addressing the issue.

### **These are the 2011 Priority Issues:**

- Protect the rights of farmers to use commonly accepted farming and animal care practices to operate their farms and ranches in a profitable and efficient manner.
- Protect agriculture's interests in water use, water management and compliance with interstate compacts, and seek broad-based funding to address the state's water challenges.
- Work to maintain existing budget lids and property tax levy limits on local governments. Work to maintain sales tax exemptions critical to agriculture.
- Seek to safeguard state budget items of importance to agriculture from disproportionate budget cuts, particularly cuts which could result in higher property taxes.
- Assure assessed values for agricultural land reflect the land's value in an agriculture use.
- Protect the integrity of the Highway Trust Fund from diversion to other uses and seek additional funding for roads construction and maintenance as supported by NEFB policy.
- Advocate for reform in the use of state monies in regard to the acquisition of land or conservation easements for preserving natural areas or habitats.
- Work to defend the property rights of agricultural landowners and protect farmers and ranchers from undue regulatory burdens.