



Farm Bureau Board Approves 2012 Legislative Priorities

Nebraska Farm Bureau's Board of Directors has approved eight priority issues Farm Bureau will emphasize during the 2012 session of the Nebraska Legislature:

- 1.** Protect the rights of farmers and ranchers to use commonly accepted farming and animal care practices to operate their farms and ranches in a profitable and efficient manner.
- 2.** 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.
- 3.** Create a better tax climate for farmers and ranchers by seeking reductions to agriculture's property tax burden, maintaining sales tax exemptions critical to agriculture, assuring assessed values for land reflect the land's agriculture use value, and seeking other tax relief consistent with NEFB policy.
- 4.** Seek to ensure modifications to state commodity check-off programs are consistent with NEFB policy.
- 5.** Advocate for reform in the use of state dollars for land acquisition and the purchase of conservation easements.
- 6.** Work to defend the property rights of farmers and ranchers.
- 7.** Assure regulations on farms and ranches are reasonable, flexible, and based on scientific evidence and do not unduly burden or financially harm farmers and ranchers.
- 8.** Seek to protect farmers' and ranchers' interests in health insurance matters consistent with NEFB policy.

To qualify as priorities, issues must: have statewide impact; be of significant interest to County Farm Bureaus; and be meaningful to individual Farm Bureau members because of their impact on a farmer's or rancher's ability to conduct business and make a profit.