

#### Trade Agreements

- a. We support the elimination of existing tariffs and non-tariff barriers and the expansion of trade agreements.
- b. We support the expedited renewal of negotiations bilaterally or multilaterally within the Pacific Rim countries based on the framework established in Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- c. We support fulfilling the current trade agreement with China that is beneficial to agriculture and continued phases of implementation.
- d. We support the enforcement of the United States Mexico Canada Agreement.

#### Ethanol

- a. We support the passage of the Next Generation Fuels Act in order to maintain a liquid fuel market.
- b. We support higher blends of ethanol in Wisconsin and state and national efforts to use 15% or higher ethanol blends.
- c. We support the development and use of sustainable aviation fuels with proper carbon scoring using the latest GREET model.

#### Transportation

We support adequate funding of the state and federal transportation budgets. We support reasonable rules and regulations regarding implements of husbandry that recognize the importance of modern agricultural equipment. We oppose charging farmers for the use, maintenance or upgrade of local roads not designed and/or maintained for modern agricultural equipment. We oppose improper application of road damage statutes. We support maintaining the current system of permits for overweight containers and harvest exemptions.

We support improving and replacing parts of the aging inland waterways lock and dam system.

#### 2023 Farm Bill

We support the passage of the 2023 Farm Bill before the 2018 Farm Bill expires. We support maintaining the nutrition programs within the Farm Bill.

#### Waters of the United States (WOTUS)

We support the interpretation of the Clean Water Act regarding the Waters of the United States which differentiates state waters from those subject to federal jurisdiction.

#### Responsible Nutrient Management

We support the intent of current nonpoint pollution regulations and continued enforcement with rules based on a common-sense approach to maintaining and/or increasing Wisconsin's livestock industry. Nutrient management rules should be voluntary, reasonable, allow for field level decisions, and include farmer input in development and implementation. We support efforts to coordinate federal, state and local regulations to eliminate conflicting rules.

#### Use Value Assessment of Farmland

We support efforts to protect Use Value Assessment of agricultural lands as vital to the economic viability of Wisconsin agriculture.

#### Sound Science

We support regulatory systems based on sound, peer-reviewed science.

## I. ENVIRONMENTAL

### A. Atrazine

Atrazine has been used and tested for over 70 years and has been proven to be a safe and effective herbicide. Wisconsin rules need to be changed so that they no longer put our state growers at a disadvantage to growers in other states. Based on sound science, farmland should be released from prohibition areas.

### B. Wetlands

We support Wisconsin farmers being allowed to maintain existing drainage structures and make repairs and improvements to drainage systems as necessary. We support exemptions from wetland protection should be being allowed for lands cropped or considered cropped six out of 10 years or converted to agricultural uses prior to December 23, 1985. We support proper compensation being provided to property owners if wetlands protection results in an economic loss on a parcel of land. We support mitigation being allowed on a one-to-one basis.

### C. Waters of the United States (WOTUS)

We support the interpretation of the Clean Water Act regarding the Waters of the United States which differentiates state waters from those subject to federal jurisdiction.

### D. High-Capacity Wells

We support regulatory certainty so as not to restrict the permitting of new or replacement wells for agricultural uses. We support streamlining the well permit application process so that applications are processed within 60 days.

We oppose any restrictions on the volume of water pumped.

### E. Wildlife Control

Deer, turkeys, bears, geese, wolves, cougars, sandhill cranes and other wildlife cause large amounts of crop and livestock damage. Those farmers who sustain losses should be given rights to harvest those wild animals as compensation for their losses. We support a hunting season on sandhill cranes to help compensate for farm losses. We support efforts to maintain state management of wolves in Wisconsin. We support lifting the cap on wildlife damage payments and including sandhill cranes as an eligible species. We support the voluntary use of deterrents to manage crane damage to crops.

### F. Point Source Control

Agriculture should not be considered a point source. Conservation practices and buffer strips are used by farmers as well as precision application of nutrients to reduce runoff problems at the levels projected by EPA. We support the state and federal government should doing more to control point source discharge of municipalities, industrial sources, residential fertilizer use and discharge that goes into the watersheds of the Mississippi and Great Lakes. We support farmers being recognized for the efforts they provide to help correct problems created by point source pollution.

### G. ACCP & ACM Funds

We support the Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program and Agrichemical Management funds as they exist today. We support the dedicated use of these funds. We also support maintaining fee holidays in order to eliminate any surplus in the fund.

### Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage Rules

We support pesticide and fertilizer storage rules for on-farm storage needing to be workable and practical for farmers.

#### Fuel Storage Rules

We support fuel storage rules that are workable and practical for farmers.

We oppose any regulations of above ground on-farm fuel storage tanks under 5,000 gallons.

#### H. Move DNR Rules

We support moving the rules regarding confined animal feeding operations from DNR to DATCP.

#### I. DNR Board

Because farmers own much of Wisconsin's land and are greatly impacted by DNR actions, we support the requirement that at least one member of the DNR Board be an active farmer, who earns a majority of their income from production agriculture.

#### J. Nutrient Management Plans

Wisconsin already leads the nation in the percentage of acres under a nutrient management plan. We support allowing farmers who have received training the right to write their own voluntary nutrient management plans that account for the needs of each individual field. We support federal, state and county agencies to be uniform in the application of these standardized plans. We support education and funding assistance to aid producers in nutrient management plan development and implementation.

#### K. DNR Stewardship Land

We support the immediate cessation of using Stewardship funds for land purchases until the Stewardship Land currently owned is paid in full. We further urge that tillable land now owned by the DNR be put back into production as agricultural land and that rental monies help reduce the debt of Wisconsin's Stewardship fund.

#### L. Soil Conservation

Wisconsin farmers are increasingly adopting reduced tillage and cover crops. Conservation of our natural resources is in everyone's best interest. WCGA encourages farmers to update and follow their farm conservation plans to continue the trend of improving soil stewardship. We support providing a crop insurance rebate to growers who implement the use of cover crops.

#### M. Non-point Nutrient Trading

We support non-point nutrient trading provided it is only to be conducted with the voluntary participation of the farmer.

#### N. Producer-led Watershed Projects

We support the state initiative to maintain and increase funding for producer-led watershed projects. We will proactively work to create or continue projects throughout the state.

#### O. Pesticide Regulation

We oppose regulatory efforts to reduce our ability to select the appropriate crop management tools that enable us to implement Integrated Resistance Management programs. This includes allowing local governments to regulate pesticide use.

#### P. Groundwater

We support common-sense practices to maintain or improve groundwater quality and quantity that are science-based and economically feasible. Farmers should be held harmless from any liability for contamination from any outside sources.

#### Q. Endangered Species

We support reforms to Endangered Species Act which improve efficiencies and ensure consultations between EPA and National Marine Fishery Service and Fish & Wildlife Services that are completed to maintain access to the tools needed to protect our crops.

## R. Pollinators

We support voluntary methods to improve pollinator populations based upon sound science.

## S. Sustainability

We support grower efforts to be good stewards of our natural resources. We support producer-led efforts to define sustainability for the corn industry.

## T. Carbon Markets

We support state and/or federal efforts to create a carbon accounting system that does not penalize growers who are currently using practices to lower their carbon emissions.

## U. Climate Change

We support climate policies that utilize research and innovation needed to develop new technologies that will help farmers voluntarily respond to climate change and continue reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Policies must also support, or not restrict, access to innovative products, including transgenic seeds and pesticides, which are important for enabling agriculture to be part of the solution for global climate change.

We support federal and state conservation technical and financial assistance programs that can help farmers adopt and maintain the use of conservation practices, recognizing that often farmers do this on their own when provided practical and science-based guidance.

## II. VALUE-ADDED

## A. Dairy and Livestock Industry

The dairy and livestock industries are of importance in Wisconsin. WCGA will work closely with the dairy and livestock industries to research and publicize the most efficient and profitable ways to utilize corn co-products such as dried distiller's grains in livestock rations.

We support policies that attract and encourage dairy and livestock operations of all sizes.

## B. Corn Assessment Program

WCGA strongly supports the corn assessment program as a positive force in the Wisconsin corn industry.

## C. Biodegradable Plastics

The use of non-biodegradable plastics adds to environmental and landfill problems. We support every effort being made to use corn-based biodegradable plastic materials wherever possible and that recycling should be a part of solid waste management.

## D. Ethanol

We support higher blends of ethanol in Wisconsin, state and national efforts to use 15% or higher ethanol blends in automobiles and ongoing promotion of E-85. We support the Renewable Fuel Standard for biofuels and support the statutory RVO levels of RFS 2. We support the removal of regulatory market barriers on the use of higher blends of ethanol, for consumer and environmental benefits from the increased use of low carbon, high octane motor fuel.

We support uniform vehicle standards and testing protocols for both fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions standards using a full (cradle to grave) life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions analysis for all vehicles including electric to ensure a level playing field for all fuels and vehicles as we address climate change.



## 2024 RESOLUTIONS

- E. Midwest Clean Fuel Policy  
We support the creation of a Midwest Clean Fuel Policy that accurately quantifies the benefits of biofuels.
- F. Low Carbon High Octane Fuel Standard  
We support the enactment of low carbon High Octane Fuel Standard that establishes a nationwide minimum octane fuel standard, removes regulatory and legislative barriers for automotive manufacturers and higher blends of ethanol as used for octane creates a safety net to preserve market share and prevents backsliding of corn ethanol.
- G. Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)  
We support the development and use of sustainable aviation fuels with proper carbon scoring using the latest GREET model.  
  
We support the creation of an incentive to produce SAF in Wisconsin.
- H. Carbon Capture  
We support the ethanol industry utilizing carbon capture technology in their production process.
- I. Fertilizer Research  
We support maintaining and expanding funding for the Wisconsin Fertilizer Research Council.
- J. State Export Promotion  
We support state efforts to increase agricultural exports from Wisconsin.

### III. ON-FARM ISSUES

- A. Farm Profitability  
We support programs and initiatives that help ensure the financial sustainability of production agriculture throughout Wisconsin.
- B. Farmland Preservation  
We support increased funding for the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit and changes that may benefit farmers. This credit should only be applied for land that is used for agriculture production; it should not be applied to land used for other purposes.
- C. Right to Farm  
WCGA supports a stronger statute to both protect our farmers and preserve Wisconsin's resources for the production of food, fiber and fuel, especially as it pertains to Smart Growth planning. We support the siting of larger farms in agriculturally zoned areas or areas without zoning, with state standards for regulation, and to encourage agricultural livestock operations, which are a large market for corn and corn products. We oppose local government superseding state and/or federal regulations.
- D. Alien Land Ownership  
We oppose efforts to allow unrestricted foreign ownership of Wisconsin farmland.
- E. Wisconsin Agricultural Producer Security Fund  
We support elimination of the state indemnity fund but continue to support state licensing and auditing of grain dealers.
- F. Legal Immigration  
We support the streamlining of the legal immigration process to maintain a viable workforce for Wisconsin's agriculture industry.

G. Solar/Wind Energy

The siting of solar and wind plants should take into account the needs of Wisconsin's agricultural industry to balance the needs of renewable energy. We oppose land being used for commercial solar power production being classified or zoned as agriculture land.

We support a sunset on federal subsidies for the development of solar plants.

#### IV. TECHNOLOGY

A. Biotechnology

We support the commercial release of biotech corn hybrids or products that have been fully approved by the relevant U.S. agencies and the agencies of major importing countries and for which the product registrant is aggressively pursuing approval in every country or bloc that requires approval prior to importation of corn, corn products, or food containing corn ingredients.

Recognizing the importance of every customer of U.S. corn and corn products, WCGA supports that every product registrant is required to conduct due diligence in bringing products to market in a manner that does not disrupt domestic or international trade and encourages discussions with biotech providers and end users to develop a certified marketing system that assures all events and products will reach appropriate markets.

B. Sound Science

We support regulatory systems based on sound, peer-reviewed science.

C. Bio-engineered Labeling

We support the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard final rule.

D. Databases

Modern agronomy tools accumulate massive amounts of information. We support farmers maintaining ownership and control of the information generated on their operations.

E. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

We support state and federal regulations allowing farmers to make use of UAVs.

F. Right to Repair

We support a farmer's right to repair their equipment.

G. WISCOR

We support open access to the state WISCOR system.

H. DATCP Technology

We support DATCP's Bureau of Ag Management IT system being upgraded to allow for electronic filing and fee payments.

I. Broadband Access

We support high-speed and reliable internet access being inexpensive and easily accessible for all Wisconsin residents. Policy initiatives should expand the availability of broadband and wireless to increase access to technology and information in unserved rural areas.

## V. TRANSPORTATION

### A. Funding

We support adequate funding of the state and federal transportation budgets. We support reasonable rules and regulations regarding implements of husbandry that recognize the importance of modern agricultural equipment. We oppose charging farmers for the use, maintenance or upgrade of local roads not designed and/or maintained for modern agricultural equipment. We oppose improper application of road damage statutes. We support maintaining the current system of permits for overweight containers and harvest exemptions.

### B. Local Fees

We oppose local fees being assessed on all vehicles supporting agriculture entities.

### C. Locks and Dams

We support adequate river water levels and renovation and maintenance of the 90-year-old “Lock and Dam” inland waterways system. A working lock and dam system is necessary for the Wisconsin farmer to remain competitive in a global market. A modern lock and dam system is crucial for exports. Since a significant portion of Wisconsin corn and corn products are exported from the state, we are concerned that an inefficient lock and dam system translates to millions of dollars lost to the Wisconsin economy. We are further concerned because 60% of the upriver traffic on the Mississippi River is for farm inputs. It is time to update the lock and dam system.

### D. Rail

We support accessible rail transportation for the nation as this impacts a grain farmer by affecting grain, grain co-product and input prices. Dependable and reliable rail transportation is critical for the state’s agriculture industry, and the Wisconsin rail industry needs to expand and improve service. We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to take action to increase access and service for rail users.

We support keeping all crossings open across all rail lines that are used by production agriculture. We support regulations requiring the railroads to allow access for infrastructure improvements.

### E. Port Facilities

We support investment in Wisconsin’s port facilities.

### F. Eminent Domain

We support farmers being fully compensated for the business loss through eminent domain.

### G. Roundabouts and Diamond Mergers

We support having the DOT use roundabouts and diamond mergers only when necessary and that all intersections are of a standard design that allows easy use and visibility by large trucks and large farm equipment.

### H. Slow Moving Vehicles

SMV signs are an important part of highway safety for farmers and we support enforcing the law so they are not misused and their safety value is lessened.

### I. Electronic Logging Devices

We support the exemption of electronic logging devices and hours of service regulations for agriculture.

### J. Road Safety

We support Driver’s Education expanding the curriculum on how motorists should safely and legally interact with farm vehicles and implements of husbandry. We support the education of law enforcement on how to enforce implements of husbandry laws.

### K. Commercial Drivers Licenses (CDLs)

We support the continued use of farm service CDLs for agricultural activities.



## 2024 RESOLUTIONS

We support policies and funding which provide access to educational requirements to obtain a CDL.



## VI. TAXATION

### A. Use Value Real Estate Taxation

We commend the State of Wisconsin for full implementation of use value assessment. We continue to believe that school funding should come from residential dwellings, including farm homes, and that two-thirds of the funding should come from state taxes including income and sales taxes. We support use value assessment being extended to include non-crop farmland and wasteland that is part of a farm operation support keeping local assessors rather than having county assessors.

### B. Capital Gains

We support indexing for inflation of capital gains. Farmers should be able to defer capital gains taxation by rolling receipts from farm assets sales to an IRA, therefore deferring taxes until the farmer or spouse begins withdrawing funds from the IRA during retirement.

### C. Sales Taxes

We oppose efforts to expand the sales tax to items needed by the farm businesses that have traditionally been exempt.

### D. Inheritance Tax

We support recent changes to the federal tax code to allow a larger exemption because agriculture is a capital-intensive business, and the inheritance tax impedes family and generational transfers. The current law that expires in 2025 should be made permanent. We support the current stepped-up basis rules for the transfer of all assets.

### E. Wisconsin Manufacturing and Agriculture Tax Credit

We support the continuation of the Wisconsin Manufacturing and Agriculture Tax Credit.

### F. Farm Improvement Tax Credit

We support state income tax credits based upon farm improvements.

### G. Commercially Leased Land

We support lease holders paying the property tax bill for their improvements.

## VII. EDUCATION

### A. Agriculture Education

We support having agricultural classes as part of the curriculum for Wisconsin schools. We encourage all school districts to utilize agricultural classes as part of the science curriculum credits. We urge revision of teacher certification to have a dual agriculture/science degree for Ag Education majors in Wisconsin.

We support more education through Ag in the Classroom on modern agriculture and food production at the elementary and secondary levels.

We support school district's efforts to expand their certification programs.

### B. Discovery Farms

We support the proven, real-world and hands-on research being done by Discovery Farms as a way to ground truth some of the proposals affecting agricultural producers.



## 2024 RESOLUTIONS

### C. Ag Research

We support increased funding for agricultural research. We favor research that is properly monitored for reasonable safety and with social and economic standards being followed prior to and during implementation of the research.

Wisconsin Research Institutions and UW Division of Extension should increase collaboration with each other and with other public and private researchers in order to focus their staffing and research dollars on producing results that advance Wisconsin's production agriculture.

Producers need independent verification of new technologies, products, and practices.

### D. Careers in Agriculture

We support efforts to encourage the promotion of careers in agriculture.

### E. On-farm Safety

We support continuing safety education for all involved in the agriculture industry. We encourage all growers to use safe practices on their operations.

### F. UW Division of Extension

We support full funding of the state specialist positions. The land grant college system is critically important to agriculture and needs to remain a fully-funded and supported part of the university. We rely on that part of the university to be a third-party voice for sound science and research in agriculture. We support recognizing extension staff hours as teaching hours. We support county youth agriculture programs, including but not limited to 4-H and FFA.

### G. Consumer Education

We support continuing to educate consumers on the use and sustainability of corn and nutritional benefits of corn and corn products.

### H. UW Short Course Program

We support funding of on-campus Farm Industry Short Course Program to include curriculum beyond dairy.

## VIII. FEDERAL FARM POLICY

### A. International Market Programs

We support government funding of export promotions by increasing funding of the Foreign Market Development (FMD) and Market Access Program (MAP) funds to ensure the continued growth of the international corn market through the efforts of the U.S. Grains Council. Market Facilitation Program funds should be directed into existing international market programs.

### B. 2018 Farm Bill

We support the implementation and full funding of the 2018 Farm Bill.

### C. 2023 Farm Bill

We support the passage of the 2023 Farm Bill. We support maintaining the nutrition programs within the Farm Bill.

## D. Trade Agreements

- a. We support the elimination of existing tariffs and non-tariff barriers and the expansion of trade agreements.
- b. We support the expedited renewal of negotiations bilaterally or multilaterally within the Pacific Rim countries based on the framework established in Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- c. We support fulfilling current trade agreements that are beneficial to U.S. agriculture.
- d. We support the enforcement of the United States Mexico Canada Agreement.

## E. Jones Act

We support repeal of Federal Maritime Regulation requiring that the mode of water borne transportation for export of U.S. grain be on a U.S. vessel under the Jones Act. Current mandates do not allow access to least cost alternatives.