

75. TRADE

We support increased agricultural exports to efficiently utilize the productive resources of American agriculture to enhance farm income and improve the farm economy.

We will:

1. Support trade negotiating authority for the President of the United States in order to achieve:
 - A. A full round of World Trade Organization (WTO) trade negotiations including all industry sectors and giving agriculture a full seat at the table. The overall goal should be to lower both tariff and non-tariff barriers for U.S. exports around the world.
 - B. Binding agreements to resolve sanitary and phytosanitary issues on the basis of scientific principles.
 - C. Tariff equalization and increased market access by requiring U.S. trading partners to eliminate tariff barriers within specified timeframes.
 - D. Changes in international agreements and U.S. law and practices that would facilitate and shorten dispute resolution procedures and processes.
 - E. The use of all existing international agreements under the WTO and U.S. countervailing duty laws to prevent the dumping of subsidized agricultural products.
 - F. Removal of governmental policies, agencies, or rules that inhibit agricultural trade.
 - G. Immediate, unrestricted trade and distribution of U.S. approved agricultural bio-tech products.
2. Aggressively seek improved market access and reduced trade barriers through support of the World Trade Organization (WTO), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Free Trade of the Americas Agreement (FTAA), and greater flexibility for the Agricultural Trade Ambassador and Secretary of Agriculture to deal with trade issues.
3. Support and strengthen trade negotiation efforts and, if appropriate, federal legislation that would address monetary policies that harm U.S. trade.
4. Support International Monetary Fund (IMF) efforts provided their actions are based upon sound fiscal and economic policies and further facilitate world trade.
5. Initiate an increased emphasis on global currency relationships by:
 - A. Educating our members on their importance to agricultural trade and foreign competition.
 - B. Keeping legislators and others in government aware of their impact on agricultural trade and the farm bill spending.
6. Continue to support, and encourage increased funding for, promotion of U.S. agricultural products through United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs like Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD).
7. Seek annual review of the Jones Act with the goal of removing the shipping restrictions that adversely affect agricultural products.
8. Seek and support legislation to require Congressional approval of any embargoes of agricultural products proposed by the President.
9. Seek to maintain and build the reputation of U.S. agri-food products as the safest in the world in order to improve and enhance marketing and sales worldwide and to ensure consumer confidence. To do that we will support harmonization of domestic food safety and quality standards with our international trading partners based on the guidelines set by the WTO and Codex Alimentarius.
10. Seek uniform intellectual property protection standards with all of our trading partners as a precursor to granting U.S. market access or entering into expanded trade agreements. At the same time, we will encourage companies trading in patented products to avoid commerce in those nations which do not respect or enforce those patents.
11. Support the development of a program that compensates farmers through market loss payments:
 - A. For competitive disadvantages to U.S. farmers resulting from burdensome domestic regulations or standards that are more strict than those in other countries.
 - B. If currency values harm U.S. farm trade and if it can be achieved within WTO guidelines.

12. Support resumption of normal trading relations with Cuba (including elimination of restrictions on U.S. citizens traveling to Cuba and simplifications of licensing and shipping requirements for sales to Cuba).
13. Monitor the impact of deregulation on the food and agricultural industry.
14. Support stringent inspections of imports to the U.S. to protect our domestic production capacity and supply of agricultural products from infestations.
15. Actively encourage and pursue opportunities, in conjunction with the American Farm Bureau Federation and other state Farm Bureaus, to improve informational, organizational, and marketing linkages between and among North and South American farmers.
16. Actively encourage the pursuit of opportunities that will support information exchanges with agricultural organizations within countries with rapidly growing economies, such as China and India, specific to the issues of competing energy use and rising input costs.

We oppose:

1. Any U.S. policies that restrict agricultural exports.
2. The subsidization of any direct foreign competition.
3. Use of the Precautionary Principle (when a perceived threat of harm to the environment or human health exists, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically).

We believe the United States should use its agricultural production capacity to enhance food security and economic development; thereby enhancing not only the reputation of the U.S. as a reliable supplier of agricultural products and expertise but also as a leader in fostering economic development globally.

We support:

1. Securing a commitment from the federal government to provide leadership in enhancing global food security and economic development.
2. Increasing federal commitment to food and agricultural assistance programs.
3. Foreign aid in the form of agricultural products and value added agricultural products rather than cash, whenever feasible.
4. Encouraging recipient nations to use or purchase U.S. agricultural goods and services.
5. Giving emergency food relief needs the highest priority in foreign aid programs.

We oppose foreign aid being used by recipient countries to stimulate production or distribution of farm commodities for export that are in surplus in the U.S.

We support PL 480 as an important program that should be continued and assessed in the context of a broader strategy for expanding U.S. food aid with the following priorities:

1. Concentrating on the least developed countries.
2. Focusing on small landholders.
3. Utilizing local staples.
4. Serving local markets.
5. Improving recipient nation regulatory systems to increase food safety and facilitate local and regional trade.

We support federal legislation eliminating cargo preference provisions on PL 480 and other aid programs.