



THE VOICE



Members of AAW gather during the April Mid-Year event held in Las Vegas.

MID-YEAR EVENT WAS A SUCCESS

By Karolyn Zurn

AAW's Mid-Year Meeting/Policy Weekend held April 3-6 at the Embassy Suites, Convention Center in Las Vegas NV was a great success. There were 50 registered attendees plus some spouses that did not attend meetings.

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We had quite the lineup of speakers for the Property Rights and Immigration panels. Property Rights showcased Hank Vogler, Janelle Reid and Elaine Willman. Our Immigration Panel consisted of Elaine Willman, Andrea Stanford and Kathy Reavis.

Thursday was kicked off by AAW's executive board meeting, the foundation meeting and joint executive/foundation meeting.

Thursday afternoon the Nevada Agri-Women organizational meeting was held after the election of their officers, who are Jacquie Compston, president; Ramona Hage Morrison, vice president; Linda Swiercinsky, secretary; and Yvette

Berry, treasurer. Additional members in the affiliate are Alice Horton, Diane Inman and Kris Stewart. It was a beautiful ceremony hosted by Karolyn Zurn, AAW's 1st vice president and Chris Wilson, one of AAW's past president. The ceremony was followed by Hank Vogler who spoke on Nevada history. Nevada had a live auction Friday to raise money for the new chapter.

A social media training was held and directed by AAW Secretary Natalina Sents during Thursday afternoon and on Thursday evening several of the group went to a Golden Knights hockey game.

Policy positions were reviewed on Friday and voted on during Saturday's session. The proposed White Papers for AAW Legislative Fly-In are Trade, Immigration and Labor, Forest Management, WOTUS, and Infrastructure, including transportation and telecommunications.



Nevada Agri-Women President Jacquie Compston and AAW President Jeanette Lombardo

NEW NEVADA AFFILIATE INSTALLS OFFICERS AT MID-YEAR MEETING

By Jacquie Compston

American Agri-Women's new state affiliate, Nevada Agri-Women, held their first meeting at AAW's April mid-year conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Karolyn Zurn, first vice-president of AAW, conducted the New Affiliate Ceremony, and Jeanette Lombardo, president of AAW, welcomed everyone to the organization. Linda Swiercinsky led the Pledge

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HIGHLIGHTS

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A recap of 2019 National Ag Day activities in Washington, DC

04 GEN-Z SPEAKS AG

The Advocacy contest is now accepting entries!

08 FLY-IN REGISTRATION

Early registration closes May 10! Form and agenda on page 8.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As president, I am sometimes asked by member how American Agri-Women benefits them at their state or local level. Normally, I would state that AAW educates and organizes our membership so that together we have a united and stronger voice for the agricultural industry. I would point out that the work of AAW leadership strives to move the organization forward as a relevant and respected resource for regulatory and legislative issues. Whereas I believe all of that to be true, I feel in times of natural disasters that our organization does and is so much more.

The destruction that we have all witnessed on the news and social media following the "Bomb Cyclone" in the Midwest is truly heart wrenching. Disasters quickly remind us of what is truly important and bring clarity to our personal and organizational priorities. The common farming interest we share as members forms deep and lasting friendships. This sisterhood is what makes American Agri-Women and our affiliates rise above other women's agricultural groups. These strong relationships are why many members actively participate in our mission for their entire life. This bond is how our 45-year-old organization continues to remain strong and works on achieving

our mission against all odds.

Together, we have fought many battles for our farmers and ranchers, but where we really shine is when we come together to offer strength, courage, and assistance to our sisters, their families, and our rural communities. Last Mid-Year, I approached the AAW Board of Directors with the idea of developing a program that would address farmer financial stress and suicide prevention. Many in the agricultural media circles were talking about the farmer suicide rate being 3X higher than veterans. Reporters deliberated on the many stressors; trade concerns, commodity prices, weather, regulation, labor shortages, etc. There was an initial focus on the dairy sector, as over 2,500 farms were predicated to be lost. Many AAW members felt the impact in their own hometowns.

AAW Board members understood the isolation that is inherit with farming that can lead to depression and mental health issues and they wanted to assist. I was elated to receive the board's support and have witnessed a committed group of amazing ladies create "Cultivating Resiliency." Last fall, a small grant was received and funded a pilot program in the upper Midwest. The pilot is now ready to conclude, and

we are preparing to launch an expanded program throughout the United States. THANK YOU to all the committee members.

Currently, we are seeking private and corporate donors to offer some financial support for this outreach. Many industry organizations have offered to assist in spreading the word about available resources we are gathering. I thank those members who are beginning to step forward to be regional directors and coordinate efforts. Many more are needed, so please do not hesitate to contact me at president@american-agriwomen.org.

With the devastation in the Midwest and the number of Chapter 12 bankruptcy filings skyrocketing, some would say that our timing is perfect for our roll out. I prefer to believe that it was divine intervention.

It has been a long winter for many. ENJOY the spring.

Best Regards,

Jeanette Lombardo



◀ NEVADA, continued from page 1

of Allegiance and Jacquie Compston gave the opening prayer.

Nevada's new officers are Jacquie Compston, president; Ramona Hage Morrison, vice-president; Linda Swiercinsky, secretary, and Yvette Berry, treasurer.

Hank Vogler, rancher and advocate

for local and national agriculture and various agencies presented a perspective on Nevada agriculture. He spoke about his endeavors on the Nevada Tax Commission, Nevada State Board of Agriculture, Nevada Department of Wildlife Commission, and the Nevada Rangeland and Resource Commission, where he is

president.

AAW Past President Chris Wilson, presented the background of policies held by American Agri-Women.

For more information on Nevada Agri-Women contact Jacquie Compston at jacquie@compstonlamb.com.

AAW ATTENDS NATIONAL AG DAY IN WASHINGTON

By Doris Mold

Thanks to all who promoted National Ag Day events and activities - advocating for agriculture in your hometowns and states. Thanks for continuing to make Ag Day Every Day around the country and for continuing to promote AgDay365.

American Agri-Women was out in force on National Ag Day on March 14 and during Ag Week in Washington, DC. President Jeannette Lombardo, First Vice-President Karolyn Zurn, Vice-President of Education Lesley Schmidt, Vice President of Communications Jenny Stelmach, Secretary Natalina Sents and Past President Doris Mold all participated in a wide range of events and activities, bringing our message of AgDay365- Ag Day is Every Day and our "#LoveFoodDontWaste-It" campaign to many in our nation's Capitol.

We kicked off our activities with meetings with AAW supporters the two days before Ag Day where we talked with them about our AgDay365 project, Women Heroes of Science and Technology project, our Cultivating Resiliency - Farm Stress project and general ag policy.

The day before National Ag Day we attended a breakfast at the American Farm Bureau Federation with other agriculture leaders from around the country, met with more of our supporters and attended the National Ag Day reception that was held at the Capitol Visitors Center. Throughout the day we visited with a wide range of agriculturalists.

On National Ag Day, more morning meetings. We then moved over to the USDA as AAW cosponsored the third annual National Ag Day Young Advocate student luncheon. 100 top level student leaders in FFA, 4-H, MANNRS, and AFA from around the country were treated to pizza as they participated in roundtable debriefings that AAW members helped lead. Following the debriefing we heard from USDA and EPA officials. Following their presentations AAW had time on the program to introduce the next Gen Z Speaks Ag Advocacy contest and our Reduce Food Waste challenge and talked about the importance of advocating for agriculture every day. We challenged all the students present to make a commitment to advocate for agriculture and post that commitment on social media.

The afternoon of National Ag Day we headed to the National Press Club and were treated to two good National Ag Day Panel discussions the first Observations from the Next Generation of America's Agriculturalists moderated by Stephen Censky, USDA Deputy Secretary and the second The Current State and Future of US Ag Trade: Challenges and Opportunities moderated by Isabella Chism, National Ag Day Chair. We also heard from the 2019 Ag Day written essay winner Grace Brose.



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The VOICE is published quarterly by American Agri-Women as a service to members. For more info, contact Jenny Stelmach, VP Communications.

Submission deadlines: March 10, June 10, September 10, December 10.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Facebook: American Agri-Women

Instagram: @americanagriwomen

Twitter: @women4ag

'GEN Z SPEAKS AG' ADVOCACY CONTEST NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES

By Lynn Woolf

Generation Z is a group of powerful influencers — and here's a chance for them to use that power to promote agriculture. American Agri-Women and Crop Science, a division of Bayer, announce the 2019 "Gen Z Speaks Ag" advocacy contest as part of AAW's ongoing "Ag-Day365: Ag Day is Every Day Campaign."

Young advocates, those between 11 and 23, can enter the contest, which runs through May 1. The entrants can have an agriculture background or have an interest in related topics, such as food safety, food preparation, sustainability, etc.

The contest includes three categories: photo, video and special events. Prizes range from \$100-500. The winners will be announced at AAW's annual Fly-In to Washington, D.C., which is held in early June. For contest details, go to <https://americanagriwomen.org/gen-z-speaks-ag/>



WEATHERING STRESS IN AGRICULTURE QUESTIONNAIRE

American Agri-Women, Minnesota Agri-Women's District 11, and University of Minnesota Extension Women in Ag Network, are collecting data to learn more about resiliency to stress and women in agriculture. We have developed an anonymous online questionnaire. There is no ability to track information back to participants. This information will be useful in developing resources to help women in agriculture. American Agri-Women will be expanding our national Cultivating Resiliency project based at least partially on what is learned through the questionnaire. Information from the questionnaire will be summarized and highlighted at Fly-In in June.

The link for the questionnaire is: z.umn.edu/cultivatingurvey

Please feel free to share the link with anyone that may have an interest:



farmer, rancher or other agriculturalist.

We anticipate participating in this survey will take less than 10 minutes. Your participation is voluntary. You may decide not to participate or to

withdraw your participation at any time by exiting out of the online questionnaire. Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to participate. The questionnaire will close on April 1, 2019.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

By Ardath DeWall, DAA Scholarship Chairman

Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarships for further education provides two \$1,000 scholarships to a farm, ranch and agribusiness woman or her daughter in two categories: the Jean Ibendahl Scholarship for high school graduates age 18 – 23 and the Sister Thomas More Bertels Scholarship for women age 24 years or older. Also, Mahindra will provide two \$1,200

scholarships.

These four scholarships are available to women pursuing a degree or credits in ag leadership, communications, rural sociology, medicine or any other courses directly related to agriculture. Applications for each are due by June 1st of the current year and sent to the American Agri-Women Foundation, PO Box 103, Baileyville, IL 61007.

Scholarship applications are available online at: <https://americanagri-women.org/scholarships/> Make sure to complete all portions of the scholarship application when you submit it. Not including all portions will disqualify your application. We encourage everyone eligible to apply for a scholarship.

INTERACTIVE ONLINE SESSIONS HELP WOMEN IN AG COPE WITH STRESS

AAW's interactive series of online sessions, called "Cultivating Resiliency for Women in Agriculture," is now available to help women in agriculture cope with stress. To view the upcoming schedule and the archive of previous sessions, go to AmericanAgriWomen.org/Webinars.

"Our goal is to help women in agriculture focus on what they can control in these challenging times and connect them to resources and information to help them endure stress," says Jeanette Lombardo, AAW president.

Be sure to check out the ad for the series in the USA Today Special U.S. Department of Agriculture Edition! To view the digital magazine, [CLICK HERE](#) from the digital VOICE. Members may also request a print copy from their affiliate.

The advertisement features a background image of a dirt road winding through a field at sunset. At the top, the text reads 'CULTIVATING RESILIENCY' in large green letters, followed by 'American Agri-Women's Ag Community Support Initiative'. The AAW logo is centered, with the text 'PLANTING OUR FUTURE' around the top, 'AAW' in the middle, 'A FORCE FOR TRUTH' on a banner, and 'AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN' around the bottom. Below the logo, the text says 'New Interactive Online Sessions Help Women in Agriculture Cope with Stress'. Further down, it states: 'Helping you focus on what you can control in these challenging times and connecting you to resources and information to help you endure stress. Go to AmericanAgriWomen.org/Webinars to view the upcoming schedule as well as the archive of previous sessions.' Below that, it says: 'American Agri-Women is the nation's largest coalition of farm, ranch and agri-business and has been advocating for agriculture for more than 40 years.' At the bottom, it says 'JOIN US! AmericanAgriWomen.org'. Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are listed with their respective handles: @AMERICANAGRIWOMEN, @WOMEN4AG, and AMERICANAGRIWOMEN. The phone number (586) 530-1771 is also provided.

CALL FOR OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Do you love American Agri-Women and the mission? Do you want to step up and be a leader in the organization? If so, please consider applying for an officer in AAW. Applications are available for First Vice-President, Vice President of Communications and Treasurer. Also, three board members will be elected to the AAW Foundation as well as four members will be elected to the nominating committee. These officers will be elected at the 2019 National Convention held in Oregon. All officers must be members in good

standing, active in promoting a better agricultural industry, and insofar as practical, they shall reside in different geographic regions. No officers, except the treasurer may be elected to the same office for two consecutive terms. The treasurer may be elected to two consecutive terms. The nominees for First Vice President must have served on the Board of Directors for at least one year prior to nomination and have attended a national convention within three years prior to her nomination.

Applications for all officers are to

By Janell Reid, Nominating Committee Chairman

be submitted via email to Nominating Committee Chairman, Janell Reid at jjreid@coairnet.com by the end of the day on August 1, 2019. Please review the application and be sure to submit a complete application. The application can be found in the member section on the AAW website. Questions can be directed to Janell via the email above. Please consider making our organization better by submitting your application for one of the offices above.

PENNSYLVANIA AGRI-WOMEN REPORT

By Annabelle Kindle, Penn Agri-Women President

Penn Agri-Women is happy to report that the new year has brought wonderful things. We started our own Facebook page and Instagram, which has increased awareness of the chapter. We try to post at least once a week about ag related news with a fun AG picture to draw people's attention. With creating a social media presence, we have gained new members. Currently, we are working towards creating a log and discussing how we want the

chapter to move forward. We continue to work with the NRCS to bring the numerous AG groups in PA together for a roundtable conference. We look forward to what the future holds for this chapter and are grateful for the support from the national organization and its members. For more information email ajosterberg@yahoo.com. Find us on social media at facebook.com/pennsylvaniaagri-women and Instagram.com/paagriwomen



NEW SPONSORS FOR AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN 'WOMEN HEROES' BOOKMARK SERIES

By Lynn Woolf, Community Relations Chair

American Agri-Women is pleased to announce that Crop Science, a division of Bayer, and McCain Foods, have stepped forward to sponsor the "Women Heroes of Science & Technology Bookmark" series.

Women scientists and technologists are finding innovative ways to help farmers and ranchers produce more food in a safe and sustainable way. They are also coming up with new food, fiber and fuel products and other new uses for agriculture products.

AAW, Crop Science and McCain Foods hope to encourage young people to enter STEM (science, technol-



ogy, engineering and math) careers and provide resources to teachers and parents as they support budding careers.

The bookmarks are now available for download on the education tab of

www.americanagriwomen.org. Plans are under way to expand the program to provide additional educational resources.

CHANGE IS COMING TO ANTENNA TV

By Jenny Stelmach

Do you watch TV for free using an antenna? If so, you will have to rescan your TV sets to keep your local channels. No new devices, equipment, or services are required but since stations are moving at different times you may need to rescan your TVs more than once. For more information visit TVAnswers.org and follow @TVAnswers.

Financing farmers and ranchers since 1916...



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DISCOVER THE BOUNTY AT THE END OF THE OREGON TRAIL!

*By Arwen McGilvra,
Oregon Women for Ag*

Join us November 6-10, 2019 in Tigard, Oregon. The newly remodeled Embassy Suites is your ideal basecamp for a getaway to the greater Portland area. Enjoy a spacious hotel room conveniently located just a few steps away from the Washington Square shopping mall!

This year's convention includes a first of its kind pre-convention training session for Mental Health First Aid. Hear from speakers on Oregon innovations, legislative and leadership topics and more. We'll tour Oregon's bounty and enjoy the best of it for dinner on the

farm, including salmon, thanks to the Oregon Salmon Commission. Spouses will be treated to equipment tours and personal farm visits. The post-convention tour will travel through Oregon's wine country and beautiful forests to the Oregon coast.

Save the date for November 6-10, 2019! This will be a convention you don't want to miss. Fly to into Portland, voted America's Best Airport six years and counting, and we'll see you at the end of the Oregon Trail.

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FEDERAL LAND USE POLICY FEATURED THEME DURING THE 2019 AAW FLY-IN TO WASHINGTON D.C.

By Ruth Jensen, Fly-In Chair

The 2019 AAW Fly-In team has been busy all winter planning an exciting itinerary you will not want to miss. This is the opportunity for AAW members to educate and influence Washington, D.C. policy-makers, especially all the brand-new members of Congress. It's our duty as women of agriculture to share how we contribute to a healthy, safe and reliable food supply — and the policies necessary to feed our country and the world. And with Land Use as the centerpiece for this year's Fly-In we will be sure to cover such issues as grazing, fire, water and endangered species to name a few. Labor and the Farm Bill is also on the top of our discussion list.

Here are some highlights of what you'll experience when you join us in Washington, D.C., on June 9-12. The 2019 Symposium, titled "Federal Land Use Policy: The Good, The Bad, & The

Ugly," will feature a keynote speaker and a panel of experts and will be held at the Department of Interior. Thank you to the Past Presidents' Council for planning and hosting the Symposium. AAW members will get down to business with visits planned to the Environmental Protection Agency where we are scheduled to participate in a roundtable discussion with Secretary Andrew Wheeler and several members of the EPA leadership team. We will also spend half of a day at USDA, where we will meet with members of the USDA leadership team to tackle forestry, crop insurance, the 2018 Farm Bill implementation and reforms, trade, labor and security. As always, we will devote an afternoon to visits with congressional offices. On tap is also a unique opportunity to view the USDA Lock Up exercise, a unique look at how commodity numbers are released. At

our annual Congressional reception, AAW will announce the 2019 Champion of Agriculture awards to recognize influencers of agriculture. This year AAW will enjoy a reception and special event at the Embassy of Israel. We will also attend a reception at the Mayflower Hotel and a very special tour – details to be announced soon.

For more details, check out the agenda on page 9. AAW has secured discount room rates for the Fly-In at The Mayflower Hotel, Autograph Collection, 1127 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20036-4301, (202) 347-3000. Please make your hotel reservation as soon as possible (the deadline for the special AAW room rate is Saturday, May 18, 2019). Then, send in your registration which can be found below.

AAW 2019 FLY-IN REGISTRATION JUNE 9-12, 2019, WASHINGTON, DC

Attendee _____	DESCRIPTION	COST	NUMBER	TOTAL
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration	\$200	_____	_____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Collegiate/Student	\$100	_____	_____
Phone _____ Email _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Late Fee (May 10-22)	\$50	_____	_____
Affiliate _____			GRAND TOTAL	\$ _____
Special needs? _____				

Do you want us to find you a roommate?	YES	NO
Do you want to be a mentor?	YES	NO
Do you have an AAW name tag?	YES	NO

****You must register by May 22, 2019. No on-site registration.**

AAW will follow up with you to obtain your social security number if required by the federal agencies for security clearance ahead of time Fly-In so please be sure to respond, if necessary. Please do not enter your credit card information or social security number on your registration form or by email.

NOTE: These have been provided from the last two years. We will order a new one, if you do not have one.

TO REGISTER

Go online to www.americanagriwomen.org to submit the form or mail registration and payment to:

American Agri-Women • 142 Oak Circle • Colchester, VT 05446
Phone: 586-530-1771 • Email: aaw@americanagriwomen.org

2019 LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN SCHEDULE

Preliminary Schedule - Subject to Change.

Media and non-AAW members welcomed some events. Please contact: Jenny Stelmach at 270-925-1512 or communications@americanagriwomen.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019 *All meals on your own.*

- 12:30 - 1 p.m. OPTIONAL Monuments Tour on the Potomac
Please book this tour on your own at americanagriwomen.org.
- 2:30 - 3 p.m. Reigstraton
Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave NW
- 3 - 5 p.m. Fly-In Orientation
Mayflower Hotel

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019 *Breakfast on your own.*

- 8:15 a.m. UBER Departs
Hotel Lobby to Department of Interior (DOI), 1849 C Street NW - Auditorium
- 8:30 - 9 a.m. Security Clearance
- 9 - 11 a.m. 29th Annual Symposium – “Federal Land Policies: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly,”
Sponsored by the AAW Presidents’ Council
- 11:15 a.m. UBER Departs
DOI to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Jamie Whitten Building, 12th Street & Jefferson Dr. SW Jefferson Drive Entrance
- 11:30 a.m. Security Clearance
- 12 - 1 p.m. Lunch with Ag Labor Speaker
- 1 - 4:30 p.m. USDA Agency Roundtable – Secretary, FSA, Trade, Labor, APHIS,
Williamsburg Room 104A
- 4:45 p.m. UBER Departs
USDA to Mayflower Hotel
- 6 - 7:30 p.m. Cultivating Resiliency Reception

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019 *All meals on your own.*

- 8:15 a.m. UBER Departs
Hotel Lobby to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
- 8:30 - 9 a.m. Security Clearance
- 9 - 10 a.m. EPA Agency Roundtable – Waters of the U.S., Water & Air Quality, Endangered Species Act, Nitrates/Manure Program
- 10:15 a.m. UBER Departs
EPA to Embassy of Israel, 514 International Dr. NW
- 10:30 - 12 p.m. Embassy of Israel Visit
- 12 - 4:30 p.m. Please schedule your Congressional Appointments before attending so you can visit your legislators during this time. If you would like a mentor, please email aaw@americanagriwomen.org.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019 – CONTINUED

- 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Congressional Reception
Longworth House Office Bldg, Room 1300, 15 Independence Ave SE Rm1300

Return to hotel on your own

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019 *All meals on your own.*

Please schedule your Congressional Appointments before attending so you can visit your legislators during this time. If you would like a mentor, please email aaw@americanagriwomen.org.

We are attempting to visit the White House at 11 a.m., but plans can always change. There is a maximum of 50 people and a wait list with 6 people upon it. Therefore, please book your flight as you see fit.

DRESS CODE

International standard business attire for meetings and reception. For example, tailored dresses; skirts with a blouse and jacket; and comfortable shoes. Business casual for evening tours.

PLEASE NOTE

Photographs of attendees may be taken at this event. These may appear in AAW publications and in online communications. By registering for this conference, you authorize AAW the right to use any photographs taken of you for AAW communication.

For additional information contact Ruth Jensen @ 805-264-4476 or visit us at: www.americanagriwomen.org. For registration questions contact Lisa Campion, Executive Assistant at 586-530-1771 or aaw@americanagriwomen.org.

FLY-IN MEETING DESCRIPTIONS

Orientation: The Orientation Meeting is Sunday afternoon to allow participants time to arrive and to check in to the hotel. Orientation is the opportunity for everyone to gather together, get an overview of the Itinerary for the week, review the key AAW issues that participants will take to their appointments, and hear from invited speakers. This is also the time when the name tags, Agenda Packets, and Advocacy Packets are distributed.

Symposium: This year AAW celebrates its 29th Annual Symposium. The AAW Past Presidents host the Symposium to feature an expert panel on a timely topic. After the speakers present, audience members may ask questions from a microphone. This event is usually recorded, transcribed and made available to members.

The 29th annual American Agri-Women Symposium will take place at the Department of Interior Auditorium in Washington, D.C. starting at 9 a.m. on June 10th. Panelists will present the challenges and opportunities of agriculturists’ ability to remain viable while dealing with current land, water and clean air regulations. ‘Federal Land Policy, the Good, the Bad and the Ugly’ is an opportunity for attendees and speakers to communicate regarding the responsible use of natural resources. The Department of Interior will provide a live webcast with closed captioning.

Agency Roundtable: The USDA Agency Roundtable has always been a favorite for Fly-In and planned for Tuesday morning. High level agency officials are invited to speak in 15 – 20-minute increments, allowing 5 minutes for Q&A. Two – three hours are generally allowed for this event, depending on the number of speakers.

2019 AAW POSITION STATEMENTS

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INDEX OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AITC	Agriculture in the Classroom
AAW	American Agri-Women
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
DOL	Department of Labor
ERS	Economic Research Service
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
ESA	Endangered Species Act of 1973
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FICA	Federal Insurance Contributions Act
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FSMA	Food Safety Modernization Act
HARPC	Hazard Analysis and Risk-based Preventive Control

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Climate change	23

IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IR-4	Interregional Research Project No. 4
NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service
NGOs	nongovernmental organizations
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
OFC	Optional Federal Charter
PETA	People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
RFS	Renewable Fuels Standard
HSUS	The Humane Society of the United States
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Loads
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
U.N.	United Nations
U.S.	United States
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Services
USTR	United States Trade Representative
WOTUS	Waters of the United States
WTO	World Trade Organization

AGRICULTURE BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

AGRICULTURAL LABOR AND IMMIGRATION

AAW believes the continual workforce shortage facing the labor-intensive agricultural industry is a matter of national security. Agricultural production is a strategic resource in the United States, and the stability of our domestically-produced food supply is at risk without an improved temporary guest worker program.

1. AAW supports a reliable, flexible, affordable, legal and plentiful agricultural worker program.
2. AAW supports a year-round agricultural flexible visa program to bring workers in as needed and to keep in place the skilled workforce that is already here.
3. AAW opposes fines and sanctions applied to agribusiness producers who have done due diligence to hire eligible workers.
4. AAW supports a secret ballot as the way for workers to vote for union representation.
5. AAW supports public/private investments in training the rural work force.
6. AAW supports the overtime exemption for production agriculture.
7. AAW supports youth working and learning in production agriculture including farm family youth and youth in supervised educational experiences.
8. AAW supports full disclosure of Department of Labor (DOL) policies, guidelines and operating procedures such as those found in the Field Operational Handbook.
9. AAW encourages agencies that perform labor housing inspections, including the DOL wage and hour division, to work with growers to provide safe housing, or camps, and to allow them to correct problem areas in a timely manner before imposing fines.
10. AAW supports the enforcement of statutorily-required DOL internal timelines for labor visa processing.
11. AAW opposes a limit to the number

- of agricultural worker visas issued.
12. AAW supports the call for legislation to protect the rights of workers, farmers and consumers against loss of products/production during labor disputes.
13. AAW supports wage rates for agricultural workers to be determined on a state-by-state basis with options for piece-rate, hourly rate, daily rate, or monthly rate.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND DISASTER RELIEF

AAW condemns all forms of terrorism. As providers of this nation's food and fiber supply, we recognize the need to increase our vigilance to protect the production of agriculture products (food, feed, fuel, fiber and flora and the inputs required for production).

14. AAW supports efforts to educate producers about ways to safeguard our nation's food and fiber supply and agricultural inputs from acts of terror.
15. AAW supports rural crime task forces in collaboration with local law enforcement for the prevention of rural and farm crime.
16. AAW urges states to identify Department of Homeland Security funding to support activities to protect food production and food distribution.
17. AAW supports legislation that would allow more rural communities to qualify for federal disaster assistance.
18. AAW supports strong border security using all available methods.
19. AAW supports expediting funding and implementation to rebuild infrastructure after natural disasters.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

20. AAW supports continued public investment, in research and development of tools and techniques that would support the advancement of agricultural production and processes in the United States for the industry and the consumer.
21. AAW supports the management and utilization of baseline data supplied

- by producers through USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA/NASS) and USDA Economic Research Service (USDA/ERS).
22. AAW supports the investment in research and development of agricultural biotechnology to maximize humanitarian benefits and to provide producers a greater range of management tools to promote sustainable agriculture.
23. AAW supports a coordinated framework and approval process of biotechnological products by EPA, FDA and USDA.
24. AAW supports the FDA conclusion that genetically engineered plant varieties marketed to date are as safe as comparable non-genetically engineered foods and must meet the same food safety requirements as foods derived from traditionally-bred plants.
25. AAW supports the position that any biosafety protocol that is implemented should be based on risk assessments and research-based science.

AAW defines "sustainable agriculture," including silviculture, forestry, aquaculture, and hydroponics, as using best management practices and resources that produce safe, high-quality food and other products for America and the world, resulting in profitable operations that improve the land and environment for future generations.

26. AAW recognizes a difference between gene editing and transgenic breeding methods. Labeling and testing policies should reflect such differences.
27. AAW encourages the strengthening of current intellectual property rights, including plant and seed patents and trademarks, for the purpose of deterring unauthorized use in crop production.
28. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office should reinstate the 10-year domestic production window for purposes of considering new plant and seed patents.

GLOBAL ISSUES

29. AAW stands firm in defending the Constitution and Bill of Rights of the United States of America.

We strongly urge all members of Congress to protect the sovereignty of the United States against global governance.

30. AAW rejects the involvement of organizations in the re-distribution of wealth, limitations on property rights, and limitations on opportunities and privileges.
31. AAW recognizes the need for an international forum for countries to discuss their differences and cooperate on problems of common concern.
32. AAW opposes the U.S. government granting any authority to the United Nations regarding the use or management of any federal, state or private properties of the United States and its territories.
33. AAW supports the concept that the United States, not the United Nations, establish the criteria to be met by developing nations prior to receiving U.S. food aid.

We support giving "food" in food aid rather than dollars. We recognize that the United States needs to provide a steady level of food aid every year, on which the international humanitarian community can rely.

34. AAW opposes any new designation of biosphere reserves.
35. AAW opposes the sale of U.S. public lands holdings or its mineral rights, water rights, or other resources to foreign entities.
36. AAW recognizes the need for international self-reliant farm programs for developing and/or war-torn countries.

TRADE ISSUES

37. AAW supports a free enterprise economy that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship based on private property rights.
38. Enforcement of patents and trademarks should be extended to countries without intellectual property rights regulations through trade negotiations and treaties.

DOMESTIC

LABELING

39. AAW supports labeling on

all imported agriculture and aquaculture products at the final point of sale to consumers.

40. AAW recognizes food safety and traceability mechanisms; however, the added cost of implementation must not be borne solely by producers.
41. AAW contends that protein products derived from tissue-engineered processing is not meat and should not be labeled as "meat."

MARKET CONSOLIDATION

42. AAW supports active regulatory oversight of market consolidation.
43. AAW supports efforts to maintain a robust marketplace for U.S. agricultural producers, supported by the notion that many participants bring transparency to prices.

Market access should be subject to review for anti-trust violations, price fixing, or other collusion that would lead to price distortion and competitive disadvantage to those who are uninvolved in those schemes.

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATION AND POLICY

44. AAW supports the strict implementation of all international trading rules to prevent unfair practices by competing nations and to assure unrestricted access to domestic and world markets. All trade agreements should be continually evaluated.
45. AAW recognizes the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the primary international forum for world trade.
46. AAW encourages the U.S. Trade Representative and/or the WTO to review the developing nation status.
47. AAW supports further liberalization of trade in agricultural products.
48. AAW supports that all imported foods and foreign-processed products, should meet the same grading and safety standards as domestic products.
49. AAW supports equivalent sanitary and phytosanitary regulations as part of any trade agreement.

50. AAW opposes the use of arbitrary barriers and punitive tariffs in trade negotiations and policy development.
51. AAW supports payment of technology fees by all of those, both domestic and foreign, who use the inputs. Additional fees that are paid on biotech inputs by US farmers create a distinct trade disadvantage.
52. AAW supports enforcement of limitations on foreign material in grains exported to foreign countries, including all levels of handling from the farms to the country of destination.
53. AAW supports cooperative efforts for international market development and promotion programs.
54. AAW supports the protection of intellectual property in trade agreements (e.g. genetically engineered technologies, software, equipment, proprietary crops/ varieties, etc.).
55. AAW opposes currency manipulation within trade agreements.

BORDER AND PORT INSPECTIONS

56. AAW supports the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) having the responsibility for border and port inspections with the appropriate increase in funding.
57. AAW supports increased inspection of our food supply at ports of entry.

SANCTION REFORM

58. AAW believes that unilateral sanctions involving food have not proven to be an effective means to further foreign policy goals and are disruptive to international food trade.

TRANSPORTATION

59. AAW supports investment in modernizing our transportation infrastructure.
60. AAW supports the repeal of the electronic logging devices mandate.
61. AAW believes that all commercial vehicles operating within U.S. borders must meet uniform safety standards.
62. AAW supports that the governance

of U.S. ports be in line with the policies governing railroads and air. The purpose is to avoid any interruption of commerce and the prompt and orderly settlement of all disputes.

63. AAW supports the federal government reserving taxes and fees collected to be used for their intended purpose, limiting the amount used for State overhead costs.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

64. AAW supports a full range of ownership of telecommunications infrastructure, including entrepreneurs, corporations, cooperatives, municipalities and other units of local government.
65. AAW supports federal resources to build fiber-based and wireless telecommunications (line of sight and satellite) for support of rural development.
66. AAW urges that speeds equivalent to metropolitan areas be made available and affordable for all rural Americans.
67. AAW supports the Federal Communication Commission fully compensating low-power television stations and translator owners for costs associated with broadcast spectrum changes or relocations.
68. AAW encourages the Federal Communication Commission to maintain an inventory of all spectrum usage.
69. AAW supports keeping the Internet as a means of open communication.
70. AAW supports federal funding for any requirements mandated by the federal government to upgrade first responder and local law enforcement technology.
71. AAW supports access to rural broadband development, so that rural communities remain competitive.

INNOVATION

72. AAW supports policies and funding for the development of an innovative culture in rural America through transmission of land grant universities' research discoveries into commercial ventures.
73. AAW supports efforts by nonprofits and educational institutions to develop entrepreneurship in youth and adult populations.

COOPERATIVES

74. AAW supports the ability of farmers and ranchers to participate in cooperatively-structured enterprises.

ACCESS TO CAPITAL

75. AAW supports lending policies that recognize the unique lending environment of rural areas.
76. AAW supports initiatives that will ensure that community banks and the Farm Credit System remain reliable and competitive sources of credit for farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses as well as agricultural and rural infrastructure cooperatives.
77. AAW supports the U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committees' continued jurisdiction over the Farm Credit System and regulatory oversight by the Farm Credit Administration.
78. AAW supports access to capital for beginning farmers and ranchers, as well as funding for diversification of agricultural operations and upgrades.
79. AAW supports efforts to allow farmers to request mediation, restructuring, or other similar resolutions of distressed debt(s).

RURAL POST OFFICES

80. AAW opposes the closure of rural post offices and facilities and the reduction of services that provide rural mail distribution.

TAXATION

81. AAW supports measures that will provide tax simplification for farmers, ranchers, and small business and opposes any effort to make tax laws more burdensome.

82. AAW supports the cash accounting method for family farmers and ranchers, regardless of business structure and gross income.
83. AAW opposes making changes to Section 1031, Like-Kind Exchanges.
84. AAW supports restoring the "Small Partnership Exception" into tax code. Congress eliminated this.
85. AAW supports restoring revision in the 2015 Budget Bill found in Section 6231(a)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code.
86. AAW supports business interest paid on loans to be fully deductible as it is a cost of doing business.
87. AAW supports FICA and Medicare taxes (self-employment tax) to be assessed only on wages, not on pass-through dividends to shareholders from corporate-structured farms.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX ON THE SALE OF FARMLAND

88. AAW supports increasing the federal primary residence tax exemption to \$500,000/\$1,000,000 and it would apply to the sale of farmland.

DEPRECIATION

89. AAW supports the depreciation recapture rules when farm and other business depreciable assets are sold on retirement or cessation of business.
90. AAW supports special exemptions for purchases of machinery and equipment, land improvements, livestock, and buildings.
91. AAW supports the permanent authorization of at least 50% bonus depreciation.

ESTATE AND GIFT TAX

92. AAW supports a continued individual estate tax exemption at \$11.5 million or above, indexed for inflation.
93. AAW supports maintaining a minimum gift tax exemption of \$15,000.
94. AAW supports repeal of the estate tax as long as the stepped-up basis is maintained.

AAW is concerned that the popular move to eliminate the estate tax carries with it a return to carry-over basis. This would mean that farm heirs (as well as other heirs) would not get a stepped-up basis for property they inherit, making property acquired via inheritance and later sold subject to very large capital gains taxes.

LONG-TERM SECURITY AND RETIREMENT

95. AAW supports a tax incentive for lifetime payouts from individual annuities.
96. AAW supports investment standards to protect the client's best interest.

HEALTH INSURANCE

INSURANCE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND MEDICARE

97. AAW supports a health care system:
 - that requires health care providers to accept private pay for medical services;
 - that increases competition in the form of voluntary purchasing alliances and associations to help smaller employers and individuals buy insurance at a reasonable rate;
 - that employers will be exempt from legislation that requires them to pay for health care coverage;
 - within which decisions for specific testing and
 - hospital stays should be determined by attending medical professionals;
 - that continues to develop and use paraprofessional programs in rural communities as well as programs to encourage doctors and nurses to locate in rural areas;
 - that promotes insurance programs that support agriculture's unique regional and seasonal needs.
98. AAW supports all mental health services, including prevention, treatment, and recovery.
99. AAW supports that citizens of the United States should have access to the best medical service, health insurance, prescriptions and Medicare coverage from the most economical source.
100. AAW supports employers being able to choose what health insurance

plans to offer their employees, if any.

101. AAW respects and supports continued medical research.
102. AAW supports requiring health insurance companies to reimburse pharmacies for prescriptions at the pharmacy's cost.
103. AAW supports Medicare payments to rural health professionals and facilities at the same level as their urban counterparts.
104. AAW supports Medicare funding for rural health services.
105. AAW supports Medicare, other government funding, and health insurance to include paying for preventative programs, such as nutrition counseling.
106. AAW supports an optional national regulator or Optional Federal Charter (OFC) for insurers that would create a uniform, consistent system that would remove barriers to consumer choices and offer consumers the same protections nationwide.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

107. AAW supports the deduction for health insurance for the self-employed and family-owned corporations regardless of business structure at 100%.

RURAL HOSPITALS

108. AAW supports continued appropriation of federal funds to keep rural hospitals operational and modern.
109. AAW supports retaining critical access hospital status for existing facilities.

LONG-TERM CARE SECURITY

110. AAW supports continued availability of resources to assist the elderly and disabled in need of long-term care.

EDUCATION

111. AAW supports agricultural education and education about our nation's food and fiber system which must be based on factual information and peer-reviewed science. We

encourage agriculturalists to work cooperatively on common issues through education.

112. AAW supports the intent of the Carl D. Perkins Act with increased funding for vocational (career and technical) agriculture education.
113. AAW supports a national Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program with continued funding and support for a national director, regional and national conferences.
114. AAW supports funding for agricultural research and development through Land Grant universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure the necessary increases in productivity and safety of food, fuel and fiber.
115. AAW supports that peer-reviewed data, as opposed to emotional rhetoric, be used when educating the public regarding agricultural production methods.
116. AAW supports the teaching of our nation's cultural, religious, social, economic, political structure, and history; AAW opposes the use of public education to politically indoctrinate America's children.
117. AAW supports a requirement for all students of Land Grant universities to be required to have basic instruction on agriculture and the food, fiber and fuel system as part of their graduation requirement.

COMMODITIES

A domestic food, fuel and fiber supply must be the basis of our national security. AAW recognizes that U.S. farmers and ranchers continue to provide a safe and abundant food supply in a healthy environment. The future wellbeing of the world depends upon modern, progressive production capabilities and practices of U.S. agriculture.

118. AAW supports the use and protection of existing and new seed technology for food, feed and fiber to advance a higher economic benefit and to assure an abundant, sustainable, and secure domestic and global food supply.
119. AAW requests an independent audit of all commodity checkoffs as well as complete transparency.
120. AAW supports the retention and

continued development of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). AAW believes the USDA is imperative for the continued global success of our national food, fuel and fiber product security.

121. AAW supports legislation that will enhance domestic and international market growth as well as legislation that exempts food from trade embargoes.
122. In the event of a natural disaster, AAW supports timely government assistance to affected agricultural producers.
123. AAW supports and efficient and modern transportation infrastructure, which enables U.S. farmers and ranchers to access domestic and world markets. The general lack of transportation infrastructure maintenance, including locks and dams, and railroad monopolies, put all U.S. agriculture and the world food supply in jeopardy.
124. AAW urges USDA Regional Climate Hubs to use peer-reviewed data when delivering information and guidance. We oppose technologies and risk management procedures that would create a burden to those producing food, fuel and fiber.
125. AAW supports a Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Research and Development Bank.
126. AAW supports the legislative due process for determining major agricultural policy.
127. AAW supports organic producers paying into commodity check-off programs as do conventional producers.

COMMODITY MARKETING

128. AAW supports initiatives that promote the ability to offer forward contracts and risk-management tools.

CROPS

CROP INSURANCE

129. AAW supports crop insurance that:
 - provides coverage based on current crop history and is administered by the private sector;

- provides affordably priced, adequate coverage, which is actuarially sound and voluntary, in all regions of the country;
 - requires participation for eligibility in government crop disaster programs.
130. AAW supports crop insurance as a viable alternative within the Farm Program as a necessary means for global food security at an affordable cost to producers.
 131. AAW supports the strict enforcement of crop insurance regulations with regard to abuse of the program.
 132. AAW supports the government recognizing that private insurers must preserve capital for possible future payouts to producers. We support the transparency of all crop insurance companies.

CROP PROTECTION

133. AAW supports the continued use of fumigants and specifically the authorized use of methyl bromide in response to an “emergency event.” There is currently no existing process to request the use of methyl bromide for an “emergency event” when no other alternatives are available.
134. AAW supports the registration of current fumigants and continued development of new fumigants for crop production and export opportunities.
135. AAW supports the reauthorization for the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) to allow the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct timely review and determination on new product registration and amendments to existing product registrations.
136. AAW urges Congress to continue oversight of the EPA in its review of Section 18, Section 24C and Crisis Exemption requests by the states, manufacturers and third parties in a timely manner. Sections 18 and 24 are emergency pest management protocol.
137. AAW supports a federal policy for the use of the best available scientific data/information in the decision-making process for regulating crop production tools.

138. AAW opposes a zero-risk standard for spray drift and supports the requirement that products be applied according to the label.
139. AAW supports the policies that provide for producers to keep records on-site for chemical usage.
140. AAW supports dedicated IR-4 (Interregional Research Project No. 4) funding, a program to support the registration of crop management tools for minor crops.

IR-4 coordinates financial and scientific resources of federal government, land grant universities and the private sector to manage destructive pests that threaten food security, consumer prices and the public health.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND SPECIALTY CROPS

141. AAW supports the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) increasing fruits, vegetables and specialty crops for consumption in federal food programs.
142. AAW supports the continued education for the consumption of U.S.-grown produce, which provides tremendous health and economic benefits to both consumers and growers.
143. AAW supports research and implementation of minimum grade quality standards for fresh fruits, vegetables and specialty crops that will improve product quality and meet consumer expectations to enhance the growers’ competitive position.
144. AAW also supports a periodic review and revision of federal grades and standards to better reflect conditions due to modern harvest and marketing methods.
145. AAW supports the U.S. Trade Representative establishing a staff position for specialty crop trade matters in the agricultural office.
146. AAW supports individual and cooperative efforts by producers to improve income with processing and marketing methods which add value to farm products while maintaining food safety.

GRAINS, SUGAR AND COTTON

147. AAW supports and promotes alternative uses of all grain and related by-products produced in the United States.
148. AAW supports a national energy policy that includes a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) for all transportation fuels and less dependence upon foreign oil.
149. AAW supports cotton being recognized as not only a source of fiber and feed but also as an oil.
150. AAW supports the U.S. sugar program.

NEW CROPS & NEW USES

151. AAW supports research efforts into the development of alternate/new crops for commercial food, fiber and energy uses.
152. AAW supports research on plant-based feeds necessary to develop the regulatory structure for an offshore aquaculture industry in the U.S.
153. AAW supports the continued research and development of production and uses of industrial hemp.

FOOD SAFETY & NUTRITION

154. AAW supports a federal standard to maintain the U.S. food supply while maintaining consumer food confidence in the safety and affordability of U.S. agricultural products.

AAW, to address the obesity epidemic in the United States with a special emphasis on children, supports a call to action to improve nutrient intakes and establish healthy eating habits overall. There should be an emphasis in school programs to consume more nutrient-dense foods such as milk and milk products, in addition to lean meats, fruits, vegetables and whole grains, while limiting intakes of sodium, solid fat, added sugars and refined grains.

155. To ensure the safety of our food supply, AAW supports:
 - the implementation of animal health emergency management and eradication programs;
 - Hazard Analysis and Risk-based Preventive Control (HARPC);
 - monitoring the status of foreign and domestic animal diseases;

- inspections at the border to maintain a safe and abundant food supply for the American people and the world population;
 - the advancements in ag chemicals and technology that play a major role in maintaining both quality and quantity of food.
156. AAW fully supports peer-reviewed published scientific studies in dietary recommendations.
 157. AAW also supports healthy eating habits, recommending a balanced daily diet of meats, dairy, fruits, whole grains and vegetables in order to support healthy living.
 158. AAW supports the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) — the most sweeping reform of our nation's food safety laws in more than 70 years— shifting focus to risk prevention, rather than only responding to contamination, in the following areas:
 - protection of food against intentional adulteration
 - sanitary transportation of human and animal foods
 - safety rules for produce
 - foreign supplier verification
 - accredited third-party certification
 - preventative controls for human foods
 - preventative controls for foods for animals.

Implemented, these regulated programs assure consumer confidence in our national food supply and products sourced from other countries.

LANDSCAPING, NURSERIES AND GREENHOUSES

159. AAW supports the development of industry-driven, science-based, voluntary, Best Management Practices (BMPs), including, but not limited to, cost-share programs and other incentives that assist nurseries in meeting water quality standards and other environmental goals.
160. AAW supports continued research and development of biological, physical, cultural and chemical tools necessary for nursery growers and landscape maintenance

professionals to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies into their overall management regimens.

161. AAW insists that the scientific foundation and biological integrity of Quarantine-37 (Plants for Planting Manual / 7CFR) must never be compromised. It is a scientifically sound, biologically-based barrier designed to minimize the introduction of new, damaging, exotic pests and diseases into the U.S.

LIVESTOCK & DAIRY

162. AAW supports programs financed by producer and processor investment that increase demand for U.S. dairy and livestock products both in the United States and around the world.
163. AAW supports the use of the latest technological tools to meet increased global demand for meat, milk and eggs.
164. AAW supports availability of new products to safeguard the health of animals.
165. AAW supports the responsible use of antibiotics and other industry-approved treatments to safeguard animal health.
166. AAW supports an enhanced infectious disease monitoring and testing program of imported and domestic animals and meat in order to maintain consumer confidence and market stability.
167. AAW opposes announcements of suspect cases of infectious zoonotic diseases.
168. AAW supports timely announcements of confirmed cases of infections and zoonotic diseases.
169. AAW supports interstate shipment of meat from state-inspected processing plants where state regulations are equal to or exceed federal regulations.
170. AAW urges the USDA to work with state and federal animal health officials to identify all animals imported into the United States.
171. AAW recommends that any federally mandated surveillance and food safety programs be accompanied

- with adequate federal funding.
172. AAW urges Congress to promote policy and regulations that encourage flexibility by the livestock industry to make responsible management decisions on breeding, disease surveillance, marketing, environmental conditions and other issues that affect the livestock industry and the welfare of animals.
 173. AAW supports an effective track and trace system that is cost effective to producers and enhances public confidence in the U.S. food supply.
 174. AAW supports legislation to clarify that Congress did not intend to regulate manure under the Comprehensive Environmental Recovery Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or the Environmental Protection and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), known as Superfund laws.
 175. AAW opposes implementing fines and/or prison time for anyone who sells, transports, imports or exports horses going to a humane and regulated horse processing facility.
 176. AAW supports having regulations that preserve premiums for higher quality livestock yet allow individuals to prove they themselves have suffered economic damages from direct purchasers versus proving economic damages to all producers.
 177. AAW supports a more flexible pricing structure for milk producers to ultimately achieve greater profitability and sustain the family dairy.
 178. AAW supports the development of new technology or strategies to be able to sell dairy products directly off the farm to increase profitability.
 179. AAW supports the development of new dairy products and the expansion of current dairy products into new markets.
 180. AAW supports classifying milk as a commodity for federal crop insurance purposes.
 181. AAW supports the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program.
 182. AAW opposes any organization working to force its members into a socialistic group, thereby destroying

- the protections of individual liberties provided in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
183. AAW opposes policies with a facade of compromise and agreement to unnecessary, onerous, prohibitive, and costly regulations at the expense of fewer producers, fewer ranches, higher food prices, all of which are intended consequences.
 184. AAW defines "milk" as being produced by a mammal.
 185. AAW defines "meat" as a product from a live animal.

ANIMAL WELL-BEING

186. AAW supports the responsible treatment of animals.
187. AAW supports the livestock industry participation in the development of any new policy to regulate treatment practices.
188. AAW supports research and education into standards of care that ensure animal well-being and profitable ways to raise livestock set by marketing demands. This should require the use of peer-reviewed research-based science.
189. AAW supports only highly qualified and uniformly trained states' departments of agriculture employees' access to properties for inspections at slaughterhouses or any other animal handling facility.
190. AAW opposes any legislation or regulations that would allow the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), or any other anti-animal industry activists access to slaughterhouses and private animal handling facilities for any reason at any time.
191. AAW respectfully asks legislators, when they are approached by animal rights representatives to carry bills pertaining to animal health and welfare, to talk with actual livestock producers about the legislation in order to learn why producers use these practices for the well-being of their animals.
192. AAW supports the responsible use of animals in research.
193. AAW supports legislation

- establishing strong federal criminal penalties and civil remedies for violent, threatening, obstructive and destructive conduct that is intended to injure, intimidate or interfere with animal enterprises and research.
194. AAW supports legislation that would create criminal and civil penalties for anyone secretly filming or participating in undercover investigations at agricultural facilities without the express permission of the owner of the property.
 195. AAW supports legislation that establishes assistance for security programs at research facilities.
 196. AAW supports the right of farmers to protect their records from public access.
 197. AAW supports the legalization of horse slaughter plants to guarantee the humane and environmentally sensitive disposal of abandoned, aged and infirm horses in the U.S. without excessive regulations.
 198. AAW supports the sale, possession and humane transportation of horses for processing across state and international borders without excessive regulations.
 199. AAW supports the use of standardized Best Management Practices (BMPs) in livestock carcass disposal.
 200. AAW opposes regulations which require licensed businesses to sell only rescue animals.

NATIVE POLLINATORS

201. AAW supports strong pollinator communities, and the funding for continued research, including but not limited to, bee pests and diseases.
202. AAW supports locally-determined practices as the most beneficial means of maintaining native pollinator health.

NATURAL RESOURCES

AAW stands firm in defending the Constitution of the United States of America and we strongly urge all members of Congress to protect the sovereignty of the United States against global governance.

AAW strongly rejects the policy of social justice

as described as the right and opportunity of all people to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment which would be accomplished by redistribution of wealth.

AAW defines "sustainable agriculture," including silviculture, forestry, hydroponics and aquaculture, as using our best management practices and resources that produce safe, high-quality food and other products for America and the world, resulting in profitable operations that improve the land and environment for future generations.

203. AAW supports active involvement of all parties, especially local, before federal agencies make qualified, major decisions in order to have appeal rights. This will then allow the ability to appeal.
204. AAW supports the multiple use of natural resources.
205. AAW recommends policies that promote abundant renewable natural resources in a healthy, productive environment.
206. AAW supports the use of natural resources to produce food, clothing, shelter and fuel as a priority for the U.S. economy and national security.
207. AAW believes that government agencies that are using decision-making powers to affect natural resource communities and industries need to be held accountable for their decisions and actions. There should be:
 - specific timetables,
 - timely efficiency reports,
 - analysis of public and private costs of implementation,
 - balancing of harms and benefits using peer reviewed science and economics, and
 - analysis of the effect of no-management actions (i.e. increased loss of lives and property due to wildfires.)
208. AAW supports community-oriented policing with increased training for local, as well as state and federal, law enforcement to understand the local agricultural practices.
209. AAW asserts that any new policy must deliver environmental progress without harming the U.S. economy or its food, fiber or fuel production.

CLEAN AIR

210. AAW supports a clean air standard providing an agricultural exemption for dust particulate matter generated as a result of agricultural activities. Any definition including dust as a contaminant must exempt production agriculture and silviculture. Any increase in dust regulation must show proof of peer-reviewed science as a justification for the increased regulation.
211. AAW supports a clean air standard that does not:
 - curtail production activities;
 - restrict pesticide applications when following label instructions;
 - eliminate pesticide availability;
 - restrict animal agriculture due to emissions from animals, their waste, waste handling and storage;
 - prescribe costly control measures for animal agriculture;
 - require wasteful control measures for certain food and agricultural processing industries;
 - restrict energy production or lead to increased energy costs in rural areas.
212. AAW opposes public efforts, such as emissions limits and exchange schemes (for example, Cap and Trade), which puts U.S. agriculture at a competitive disadvantage with other countries.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

America's security and economic solvency depend upon our military and domestic food and energy supply and must therefore take precedence over the regulations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

213. AAW supports the value of human life, safety, and welfare above any other species whether endangered, threatened, or not listed.
214. AAW supports the repeal of the existing Endangered Species Act. Funding for the Endangered Species Act (ESA) needs to be discontinued until such time as the Act is reauthorized and the means for funding is reevaluated. In addition, we recommend concentrating on reforming guidance and court proceedings that detrimentally affect implementation of the ESA.
215. AAW supports active land

management, private property rights, and policies that benefit all species without placing any one (i.e. endangered or threatened) species above others.

216. AAW supports full partnership with states and local agencies in listing species, defining critical habitat designations, leading recovery planning, and delisting decisions.
217. AAW supports state and local control of the management of all species of predators. Each state has different issues with animals such as, but not limited to, wolves, cougars, or bears (known as "apex predators"). AAW opposes the reintroduction of apex predator species.
218. AAW supports a requirement that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Critical Habitat designations be completed before regulatory action is taken.
219. AAW urges Congress and the USFWS to weigh social and economic impacts to society against impacts on species proposed for listing. Concurrent social, economic and environmental cost/benefit analyses and compensatory adjustments for takings deemed necessary for species protection is required and should be enforced.
220. AAW supports an ESA consultation process requiring the use of peer-reviewed science that is transparent, quantifiable and assesses the economic impact to agriculture and natural resource production, giving equal weight to historical data of the land before a listing is approved.
221. AAW supports eliminating subjective biological units (subspecies, populations, stocks) from ESA action and pursue recovery of only significant species.
222. AAW supports the protection of property owners from regulatory takings by local, state and federal agencies. If property is taken, the owner must be compensated promptly at highest and best use and for expenses and loss of income.
223. AAW supports allowing a state or private property owner who is accused of an ESA violation to continue with existing farming, logging, fishing or mining practices until the suit is resolved. No fine

should be assessed unless a violation is proven.

224. AAW supports the implementation of an Endangered Species Recovery Transparency Act.
225. AAW supports requiring feasible recovery plans and selection of recovery measures that are most cost effective and have the least negative social and economic impact.
226. AAW strongly supports accountability by reviewing and evaluating recovery plans every five years.
227. AAW recommends streamlining the pesticide registration process and ESA compliance by changing the process and underlying policy to allow governmental agencies to use existing resources and expertise.
228. AAW supports excluding a species from consideration as endangered or threatened, or if already on the list, de-list it, if it is abundant in any location.
229. AAW acknowledges "extinction" as a natural process.
230. AAW believes ONLY native species should be considered for endangered species status in historic and/or current native habitat.
231. AAW opposes expansion of critical habitat designations for species listed under the ESA without peer-reviewed scientific data, and a process to incorporate public comments that clearly show a need for additional acres.
232. AAW opposes the U.S. listing of endangered species in foreign countries.

Once listed, the ESA authorizes the U.S. Treasury to spend American taxpayer money acquiring foreign land, water and other property interests to "protect" these species. As one way for America to spend money on foreign property, Congress and the federal bureaucracy have authorized several "Debt for Nature" swaps which allow the U.S. Treasury to forgive ("trade") foreign debt or loans made by the American taxpayers to foreign countries with the hope that the country will stop property use and development to protect these species on the American endangered species list. Some of these "Debt for Nature" swaps include nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) like the Nature Conservancy or World Wildlife Fund buying the foreign debt to the U.S. for pennies on the dollar.

ENERGY & FRACTURING

A well-developed diverse domestic energy supply is critical to national security.

233. AAW supports an initiative of having 25% or more of the U.S. renewable energy sources being produced by farms, ranches and forests by the year 2025.
234. AAW supports biofuels programs to offer consumers alternative transportation as well as heating fuels and offer farms additional markets.
235. AAW supports the use of renewable energy sources, such as ethanol, biodiesel, small scale wind and solar, hydropower, compressed natural gas and biomass fuels, because they are an abundant resource and important to our nation's energy security.
236. AAW opposes large scale solar arrays (50 MW or greater) that encroach upon their adjacent neighbors' rights and increase the tax burden of the community.
237. AAW supports a requirement of a fully funded indemnity bond of the owner and operator of the renewable energy site prior to building the project.
238. AAW supports development of domestic oil, natural gas, coal and wind on public lands and offshore as long as international and domestic shipping lanes are not disrupted.
239. AAW supports development of domestic oil, natural gas, coal and wind on private land with complete compensation and notification.
240. AAW supports the creation of new refineries and the continuous updating of existing refineries. Agriculture production and distribution is dependent on the oil industry.
241. AAW supports continued research of nuclear energy and development of new plants providing there is a means of disposal of the nuclear waste.
242. AAW opposes moratoriums of any kind on fracturing for oil or natural gas or frack sand mining.

Fracturing for oil and natural gas is based on the geology for exploration and production, which is currently granted a permit by each individual state. Each U.S. geographical area is different, so each state's pollution control agency should prepare an environmental study prior to granting a permit for frack sand mining.

243. In setting tax policy, AAW believes the majority of revenue from oil and gas industry taxes should stay at the local level.
244. AAW supports the passage of legislation to promote the export of raw hydrocarbons to further industry growth.

FORESTRY AND TIMBER

Our nation has more forested acres and trees today than a hundred years ago. Natural and renewable trees offer many jobs and economic benefits to our communities, nation and world. Trees can provide goods, recreation and wildlife habitat. They clean and cool the air we breathe and protect our water and fisheries. We have a moral obligation to make wise use of these resources and make sure these forests are standing tall for future generations to use and enjoy.

Actively managed forests are healthy forests and could play an important role in our climate's change. A healthy tree can absorb 10 pounds of carbon in a year from the atmosphere. The best sequesters of carbon are healthy growing trees. Old and decaying trees release carbon back into the atmosphere and become part of the carbon problem. Timber owners are able to market carbon credits. The removal of woody biomass and saw logs would make materials available to be used for generating electricity, biodiesel, bio-ethanol, or other heavy fuel oils and aid in carbon sequestration. It is not economically feasible to remove woody biomass without the removal of the traditional saw log. Restoration Forestry is the most effective tool to accomplish forest health restoration and reduce wildfires. This includes harvesting trees, storing carbon in wood products and actively replanting trees.

245. AAW urges Congress to require the Forest Service to implement their national forest plans by:
 - increasing the timber sale program to 4 billion board feet annually and continuing to increase annual volumes until they achieve the Forest Plan levels;
 - reducing the risk of catastrophic

wildfires and insect epidemics using timber harvest and other available tools;

- salvaging trees killed by fires and insect epidemics to reduce excessive carbon emissions;
- reducing carbon emissions from the national forests at the same rate expected of private enterprises and businesses.

246. AAW supports creating a separate fund to allow extraordinary wildfires to be treated the same as other natural disasters, changing the methods used to fund national forest fire suppression costs to:
- adequately fund expanded active forest management to eliminate the need for “fire borrowing.”
 - provide much needed policy reforms for treating an increased number of forested acres in a more expedient manner.

Today's public forests are growing 10 to 100 times more trees per acre than the forested lands at the time Native Americans managed them by fire. Our public national forests are sick and dying. The overcrowded forests result in insect damage, disease and the loss of groundwater. These unhealthy conditions make the forests vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire. Forest fires are more frequent, bigger in size, and catastrophic in nature. Forest fire costs do not reflect the cost of the burned trees, watershed damages, homes, ranches, wildlife or livestock that are lost. Fire costs now account for nearly 50% of the annual Forest Service budget. The most devastating wildfires, only 1% of all wildfires, consume 95% of all the burned acres and 85% of all the suppression costs. Source: USDA.

247. Congress has acted to address the long-standing problem known as fire borrowing. That practice robbed accounts for active forest management, along with many others, to pay for fire suppression activities. Although Congress typically repaid those funds, the borrowing delayed vital forest management activities. Funds made available as a result of the fire funding fix should be appropriated to implement active forest management, allowing agencies to proactively mitigate wildland fire hazards.

Wilderness Study Areas: Lands not actually designated yet as “wilderness” are being treated in a like manner long after studies have shown these areas do not fit criteria for wilderness. These areas should be returned to multiple-use status and allow roads and trails to be maintained for access.

248. AAW urges Congress to expand Forest Service authorities, such as Categorical Exclusions, to ensure that national forest projects are implemented on a landscape scale.
249. AAW opposes the purchase of additional federal lands considering current maintenance backlogs and inadequate management of current lands.

Fifty-six percent of our nation's forests are privately owned and 66 percent of these acres are part of a farm, an important part of the rural landscape. Source: USDA and Forest Service.

250. AAW supports using funds from the Land and Water Conservation Act for active management of federal lands, not for purchasing new land.
251. AAW urges legislation to offer cost sharing towards environmental quality incentives and tax incentives for developing renewable energy sources, habitats and/or water improvements.
252. AAW urges the expansion of the domestic forest products market.
253. AAW urges Congress to amend the Equal Access to Justice Act, requiring full transparency and disclosure of payments, a significant bond based on losses incurred by delays, limiting amounts awarded, and requiring plaintiffs to pay government attorneys' fees if they lose, which would deter frivolous lawsuits.

INVASIVE SPECIES

AAW does not view all non-native species as invasive, nuisance, noxious or harmful. It is well known that migratory flyways can and do change. Weather, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes can and do cause variations to migration. Oceanic currents can and do cause variations to historic ranges of species. These and other acts of nature cause relocation of species.

254. AAW believes the phrase “invasive species” needs to be defined as specific set of scientific criteria and

this distinction needs to be made clear in open debate.

“Invasive species” means an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. “Native species” means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

LAND USE AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

255. AAW supports the preservation of our nation's sovereignty and our Constitution as the supreme law of the land.
256. AAW believes that good stewardship of our natural resources is best assured by those who have made both financial and labor investments to become owners and caretakers of the land, e.g. Landowners should be able to remove dead and dying trees on their own property without restriction to stewardship and management.
257. AAW recognizes that a family farm, ranch, or private timber concern is a form of business enterprise in which the entrepreneurial decisions are made by individuals engaged in the production of food, feed, fiber, fuel, forest products and/or flora for profit, which provides a major source of income and capital for investment.
258. AAW opposes the elimination of productive agriculture lands to construct artificial wetland.
259. AAW opposes any authority given to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations, or foreign governments, regarding the use or management of any federal, state or private properties within the boundaries of the U.S. and its holdings.
260. AAW opposes the designation of scenic byways, flyways, waterways or any other designations and the resulting restrictions on private lands in the U.S.

Even though local, state and federal governments own more than 50% of the land in the western states*, some groups seek additional purchases of private property by, or through, the government. The continued purchase and taking of private property by the government or government-funded organizations, using government funds, erode the very foundation on which this country, its principles, freedoms, economy, health and productivity of its natural resources are based. *(2017 USGS)

261. AAW supports protection from public agencies that through unconstitutional actions assert their authority by using unreasonable searches, seizures and entries onto private properties.

The rule of law provides that Americans are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law based upon facts and evidence, not emotions and conjecture. Unfortunately, for landowners today, the opposite is prevalent using false claims, anonymous tips, overzealous prosecutors, and unsympathetic judges.

AAW members are concerned about the increasing number of individuals at all levels of the government (local, state and federal) who use their political power to advance their own agenda; particularly, in the western states where federal bureaucrats manage public land that adjoins private property, and citizens are pitted against the full force of the federal bureaucracy.

Furthermore, we are distressed to see many government employees go unpunished for criminal behavior while private property owners are the victims of fraud, bullying, and activism.

262. AAW opposes the militarization of all regulatory agencies.

263. AAW supports that fines should be reflective of the infraction not the accused person's capacity to pay.

264. AAW supports access to public lands for multiple uses including but not limited to agriculture, grazing, mining, drilling, forestry, habitat and recreation.

265. AAW supports a policy of no net loss of taxable private property and a policy of no net increase in the acreage of any national forest.

266. AAW opposes preferential treatment to sellers or buyers of private lands, water, or mineral rights through tax incentives or other measures to nonprofit entities.

267. AAW supports efforts to prevent

entities from setting up "shell" companies in order to obtain funds on conservation payments.

A classic tax avoidance operation is based on the buying and selling through tax haven U.S. shell companies to disguise true profits.

268. AAW supports restricting and monitoring the condition by which private nonprofit groups and nongovernmental organizations (NGO) can purchase land with the intent to sell or transfer ownership of that land to the government.

269. The federal government must show where their authority comes from to acquire land or take the use of the land.

270. AAW supports limiting the President's authority to unilaterally designate national monuments or any designation, either by 1) repeal of the Antiquities Act or 2) by requiring prior state approval and by act of Congress.

271. AAW strongly opposes the designation of additional wilderness areas.

Wilderness areas are wild lands with special "legal" protections granted by the US. Congress that cannot be changed. They cannot be managed to save species, habitat or old-growth forests, or to suppress fire. Natural forces prevail. In 1964, when the Wilderness Act was passed, there were 9.1 million acres set aside in 13 states (54 areas). (Numbers from wilderness.net.)

UPDATE: As of February 10, 2019, the National Wilderness Preservation system currently contain 803 wilderness areas comprising 111,365,114 acres in 44 states and Puerto Rico. (Source: wilderness.net, Univ. of Montana)

PUBLIC LAND AND ANIMAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

272. AAW expects the government to comply with the same standards imposed on citizens and businesses regarding the management of natural resources and wildlife.

273. AAW supports active, responsible management of wildlife.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

274. Government-identified wildlife corridors should not cause regulatory impact on private landowners.

275. Landowners should be compensated for any decrease in agricultural production and land values or use caused by wildlife corridor designations.

276. Landowners should be given the opportunity to review proposed designations to ensure that the data used to identify the corridor is accurate and correct.

277. Government should take the presence of wildlife corridors into consideration when approving development projects, to reduce the impacts of wildlife displacement onto agricultural lands.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

278. AAW supports legislation that reinforces our citizens' constitutional private property rights that require just and complete compensation at highest and best use for the taking of private property.

279. AAW opposes "takings" legislation that devalues land by:

- regulatory action;
- activities that negatively impact adjacent land;
- creating buffer zones, scenic byways, scenic view sheds and scenic view scapes;
- activities that impact landowner rights in any way, or by endorsing conservation easements.

AAW contends that water is property (the Hage vs. United States Takings case, January 26, 2004) and therefore privately owned permitted water shall be held at the highest and best use even when the public deems as necessary a beneficial use of that water.

280. AAW strongly supports private property owners and the sovereignty of states above the federal government regarding allocations of water within their borders.

281. AAW supports a private property owner's right to a fair appeals process prior to any fines being imposed by a government agency.

282. AAW opposes government mandated deed restrictions or easements acquired by the use of eminent domain.

283. AAW supports the use of voluntary agricultural conservation easements

when mitigation is required for farmland conversion. Subsequent easements granted on lands with agricultural easements should not restrict or reduce the agricultural productive capacity of the land, including crop of choice.

- 284. Due to the inherent conflict of interest, mitigation banks should not be owned or operated by a governmental agency or agencies when the agency or agencies have regulatory responsibilities over the private property or operator.
- 285. AAW urges Congress to take no action outside those enumerated powers found in Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution that would infringe upon the rights left to the states and to the people. Article 1, Section 8, enumerates these rights, which are limited.
- 286. AAW opposes the right to trespass onto private property by land, air, or water access.
- 287. AAW opposes government agencies or third parties using manned or unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for the purpose of regulatory enforcement, litigation or inventorying natural resources without the written consent of the landowner and/or farm operator.

EMINENT DOMAIN

- 288. AAW opposes the use of eminent domain for the purchase of private property from an owner to transfer or lease to another private or commercial owner.
- 289. AAW supports compensation at highest and best use when property is taken.
- 290. AAW opposes the use of eminent domain for economic development and additional tax revenue accruing from such development.
- 291. When eminent domain is used for public welfare or safety, AAW opposes the government acquiring more land than necessary for the project.
- 292. AAW strongly opposes the taking of private property by postings on the internet. We support written notification through registered mail of any intent related to private property.

- 293. AAW supports every effort to use existing public land before imposing eminent domain.
- 294. AAW opposes the taking of private property by eminent domain to construct the planned transportation corridor that will reach from Mexico to Canada.
- 295. AAW opposes the use of eminent domain by a foreign country.

WATER RESOURCES

WATER QUALITY

Programs under the Clean Water Act should promote the use of voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) by rural landowners, agricultural producers and urban natural resources users.

Given flexibility within state programs, local watershed stakeholder committees can develop and implement Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) designed to incorporate BMPs and monitoring as key components to the protection of water resources and the prevention of future impairments.

NON-POINT SOURCE

- 296. AAW supports revising water quality standards based on real risk to human health as determined by peer-reviewed scientific methods.
- 297. AAW supports the clarification by Congress that access roads on federal lands are not point-source pollution.

DATA & MONITORING

- 298. AAW strongly promotes funding the monitoring of targeted waterways and the collection of data for accurate decision-making in the allocation of state resources for water protection programs.
- 299. AAW expects federal and state elected officials and agency staff decision-makers to use credible, current records on historical data to establish reasonable and attainable seasonable water temperature standards for rivers and streams.
- 300. AAW objects to non-peer-reviewed data, including citizen scientists and other collections processes that rely on volunteers, as being the basis upon which government agencies develop their regulations.

WATER MANAGEMENT

CIVIL WORKS

- 301. AAW supports the maintenance and continued investment for development of dams, levees, canals, and other engineered facilities that provide multiple benefits to people and nature.
- 302. AAW urges Congress to immediately reaffirm the initial, established purpose of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. The purposes of flood control, navigation and irrigation projects have served both the government and the economic development efforts of this country.
- 303. AAW supports the funding and construction of new 1200-foot locks and maintenance of the existing 600-foot locks for the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.
- 304. AAW supports the implementation of a plan for systemic flood protection for major watersheds as determined by local needs.
- 305. AAW opposes the use of inland waterways and harbor maintenance trust funds for operations and maintenance.

Trust funds should fund only new construction as intended when authorized. Flood control, irrigation, energy production and transportation should remain as primary purposes for public water storage and management investments. Fish and wildlife "protections" and other environmental concerns should be added using credible research to ensure that socioeconomic costs are justifiable with devaluation and/or harm to individuals, communities or states being fully compensated.

- 306. AAW urges Congress to disallow immense public investments, such as dams, to be arbitrarily and capriciously destroyed. Prior to any purposeful alteration or destruction of these public investments or their uses, the government should show peer-reviewed science and economic proof that this action is vital to national security and necessary for benefit to humans as well as to the environment, as required under the original intent of the authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- 307. AAW advocates policies that

promote abundance of water resources and/or water storage for agricultural use.

308. AAW supports allowing voluntary private funds for modernization of locks and dams.

NAVIGABLE WATERS

309. AAW demands retention of the word “navigable” in the Clean Water Act. AAW supports repeal of the EPA’s Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule. This regulatory guidance allowed the federal government’s jurisdiction of groundwater, storm water, ephemeral water, ditches, culverts, pipe, tile, desert washes, sheet flow, erosion features, flow, erosion features, farm and stock ponds, and prior converted cropland.
310. AAW supports the proposed changes to the Clean Water Act that define and limit the federal government’s jurisdiction over all intrastate waters.

WATER CONTRACTS, WATER RIGHTS AND OWNERSHIP

A dedicated and secure water supply is critical to national and food security.

311. AAW urges Congress to honor its contractual obligations to agricultural water users who rely on federally-constructed water projects for irrigation supplies. Full contract supplies are essential to maintain productive farmland.

312. AAW does not support land retirement as a means of relieving the U.S. government’s contractual obligations to provide water and/or drainage service.

313. AAW opposes foreign ownership of water and water treatment and distribution utilities.

314. AAW opposes federal purchase of privately held water rights in cases where the federal government would then hold the water right.

315. AAW supports agriculture as the highest and best use in determining water allocation due to the economic and social necessity of producing enough food, fiber and fuel to accommodate the domestic population and to build the economy by marketing value-added and surplus products.

316. AAW supports the protection of water, existing water rights, and future water availability for agricultural use.

317. AAW supports the protection of historic water rights.

WETLANDS

318. AAW objects to a national policy of no impact to wetlands, versus the previous policy of minimizing impacts to wetlands.

319. AAW objects to public funds supporting easements or buyouts

to nonprofit groups for large-scale wetland restoration that removes agricultural land from local tax rolls and other local economic activity.

320. AAW supports the Supreme Court ruling that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not have jurisdiction over wetlands that are not adjacent to navigable waters.

CLIMATE CHANGE

321. AAW suggests continued research on the causes and effects of man-made climate change.

322. AAW believes further research is needed regarding the manipulation of weather through geoengineering before widespread implementation.

“There are several reasons why scientists disagree about global warming: 1) A conflict among scientists in different and often competing disciplines; 2) fundamental scientific uncertainties concerning how the global climate responds to the human presence; 3) failure of the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to provide objective guidance to the complex science; and 4) bias among researchers. From the book, “Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming: The NIPCC Report on Scientific Consensus.”



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