

2022 AAW POSITION STATEMENTS

AAW believes farmers and ranchers are the first stewards of the land who have cared for land, air and water to sustain food, fiber and renewable fuel production for society as they provide livelihoods for their families. Farmers and ranchers continually adopt new technologies and apply innovative management practices for current and future generations.

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, timely, flexible, affordable, legal and unlimited agricultural worker program.
2. 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. Any increase in minimum wage in food production directly increases the cost of food for consumers.
3. AAW supports a flexible year-round agricultural visa program to bring workers in as needed and to keep in place the skilled work force that is already here.
4. AAW opposes fines and sanctions applied to agribusiness producers who have done due diligence to hire eligible workers.
5. AAW supports a secret ballot as the way for workers to vote for union representation, as well as voluntary dues-paying members in unions.
6. AAW supports public/private investments in training the rural workforce.
7. AAW supports the overtime exemption for production agriculture.
8. AAW supports youth working and learning in production agriculture, including farm family youth and youth in supervised educational experiences.
9. AAW supports full disclosure of Department of Labor (DOL) policies, guidelines and operating procedures such as those found in the Field Operational Handbook.
10. 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.
11. AAW supports legislation to protect and increase the workforce in agriculture. We oppose mandatory e-verify. If mandatory e-verify for workers is enacted, then it must be introduced on a phased-in basis only while maintaining a reliable system to process applications.
12. AAW supports protecting the rights of workers, farmers and consumers against loss of products/production during labor disputes.
13. AAW supports agricultural businesses being able to hire independent contractors to perform tasks essential to their businesses.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND DISASTER RELIEF

AAW condemns all forms of terrorism. As providers of this nation's food, fiber and renewable fuel supply, we recognize the need to increase our vigilance to protect the production of agriculture products 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, including cyber threats.
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 funding to support activities to protect food production and food distribution, especially along our nation's borders.
17. AAW supports legislation that would allow more rural communities to qualify for federal disaster assistance.
18. AAW supports strong border security.
19. AAW supports expediting funding and implementation to rebuild infrastructure after natural disasters and pandemics.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

20. AAW supports continued public investment in research, and development of tools, techniques, and wise farm management that would support the advancement of agricultural production and processes in the United States for the industry and consumers.
21. AAW supports the management and use 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 technology to maximize humanitarian benefits and to provide producers a greater range of management tools to promote continued wise farm management.
23. AAW supports a coordinated framework and approval process of biotechnology and agriculture products and tools by EPA, FDA and USDA.
24. AAW supports the FDA conclusion that genetically engineered products marketed to date are as safe as comparable non-genetically engineered foods and must meet the same food safety requirements as foods derived from traditional products.
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 adapted for the local environment 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 strengthening 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.
 29. AAW supports producers owning the data collected on their property and maintaining control of the distribution.
 30. AAW supports research to determine farm, ranch, and timber contributions to carbon management.
 31. AAW opposes the government purchasing or subsidizing carbon credits.

GLOBAL ISSUES

32. 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.
33. AAW opposes limitations on individual opportunities and privileges, re-distribution of wealth, and limitations on property rights.
34. AAW recognizes the need for an international forum for countries to discuss their differences and cooperate on problems of common concern.
35. AAW opposes the U.S. government granting authority to the United Nations regarding the use or management of any federal, state or private properties of the United States and its territories.
36. 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.

<p>We support giving food rather than dollars in food aid. 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.</p>

37. AAW opposes new designations of biosphere reserves.
38. AAW opposes the sale of U.S. public land holdings or its mineral rights, water rights, or other resources to foreign entities.
39. AAW recognizes the need for international self-reliant farm programs for developing and/or war-torn countries.

TRADE

40. AAW supports a free enterprise economy that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship based on private property rights.
41. Enforcement of patents and trademarks should be extended to countries without intellectual property rights regulations through trade negotiations and treaties.
42. AAW supports a voluntary system for carbon trading that ensures farmers receive income for their carbon stocks and buyers are legitimate.

DOMESTIC

Labeling

43. AAW supports labeling on all imported agriculture and aquaculture products at the final point of sale to consumers.
44. AAW recognizes food safety and traceability mechanisms; however, the added cost of implementation must not be borne solely by producers.
45. AAW supports plant- or fungus-based or blended beverages not be labeled as “milk.”
46. AAW contends that protein products derived from tissue-engineered processing is not meat or poultry and should not be labeled as meat or poultry.

Market Consolidation

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

Market access should be subject to review for anti-trust violations, price fixing, and 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

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.

49. AAW supports the belief that all imported foods and foreign-processed products should meet the same grading and safety standards as domestic products.
50. AAW recognizes the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the primary international forum for world trade.
51. AAW encourages the U.S. Trade Representative and/or the WTO to review the developing nation status.
52. AAW supports further liberalization of trade in agricultural products.
53. AAW supports equivalent crop protection application regulations as part of any trade agreement.
54. AAW supports equivalent sanitary and phytosanitary regulations in trade agreements.
55. AAW opposes the use of arbitrary barriers and punitive tariffs in trade negotiations and policy development.
56. AAW supports payment of technology fees by all, both domestic and foreign, who use the inputs.
57. 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.
58. AAW supports cooperative efforts for international market development and promotion programs.

59. AAW supports the protection of intellectual property in trade agreements (genetically engineered technologies, software, equipment, proprietary crops/varieties, etc.).
60. AAW opposes currency manipulation.

BORDER AND PORT INSPECTIONS

61. AAW supports the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) having the responsibility for border and port inspections.
62. AAW supports improving inspection of our food supply at ports of entry and borders by testing more frequently.

SANCTION REFORM

63. AAW opposes unilateral sanctions involving food because they have not proven effective to further foreign policy goals and are disruptive to international food trade.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation

64. AAW supports fiscally responsible investment in modernizing our transportation infrastructure.
65. AAW supports modifications to the HOS (hours of service) mandates to give additional flexibility consistent with commercial realities (ex: livestock, pollinators, fresh produce).
66. AAW believes that all commercial vehicles operating within U.S. borders must meet federal and state safety standards.
67. AAW supports the federal government reserving federal fuel and transportation taxes and fees collected to be used for their intended purpose.

Telecommunications

68. AAW supports federal resources prioritizing high speed rural connectivity to include support for precision agriculture to allow rural communities to remain competitive.
69. AAW supports a full range of ownership of telecommunications infrastructure, including entrepreneurs, corporations, cooperatives, municipalities and other units of local government.
70. AAW supports contribution reform of the Universal Service Fund to ensure long-term, scalable data and voice service to rural areas.
71. AAW supports federal resources to build fiber-based and wireless telecommunications (line of sight and satellite) for support of rural development.
72. AAW supports federal agencies and private companies standardizing precision agriculture technologies for seamless inter-operability.
73. AAW supports the Federal Communication Commission expanding novel models of spectrum licensing to rural areas.
74. AAW encourages the Federal Communication Commission to maintain an inventory of all spectrum usage and to enforce licensed spectrum to prevent noise.
75. AAW supports keeping the Internet as a means of open communication.

76. AAW supports federal funding for any requirements mandated by the federal government to upgrade first responder and local law enforcement technology.
77. AAW supports undergrounding utilities with adequate fair market compensation to landowners.
78. 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.
79. AAW supports that USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding go directly to farmers, rather than intermediaries, with more opportunities to subsidize retrofitting of farms with new innovative technologies and practices that help increase farmers' wise management, yield, and profitability.
80. AAW supports efforts by nonprofits and educational institutions to develop entrepreneurship in youth and adult populations. This includes minority, underserved and existing adults who are transitioning into a new agriculture business venture.

Cooperatives

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

Access to Capital

82. AAW supports lending policies that recognize the unique lending environment of rural areas.
83. AAW supports initiatives that will ensure that community banks and the Farm Credit System remain reliable and competitive sources of credit for farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses, as well as agricultural and rural infrastructure cooperatives.
84. 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.
85. AAW supports access to capital for beginning farmers and ranchers, as well as funding for diversification of agricultural operations and upgrades.
86. AAW supports efforts to allow farmers to request mediation, restructuring, or other similar resolutions of distressed debt(s).

Rural Post Offices

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

TAXATION

88. AAW opposes any effort to make tax laws more burdensome.
89. AAW supports the cash accounting method for family farmers and ranchers, regardless of business structure and gross income.
90. AAW supports retaining Section 1031, Like-Kind Exchanges, and continued use of tax

deferral options through installment sales.

91. AAW supports restoring the Domestic Production Activity Deduction for all farms, regardless of business structure.
92. AAW supports business interest paid on loans to be fully deductible.
93. 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.
94. AAW supports increasing the federal primary residence capital gains tax exemption to \$500,000/\$1,000,000 and that it would apply to the sale of farmland.
95. AAW supports the depreciation recapture rules when farm and other business depreciable assets are sold on retirement or cessation of business.
96. AAW supports special exemptions for purchases of machinery and equipment, land improvements, livestock, and buildings.
97. AAW supports the permanent authorization of bonus depreciation of 100%, up to 50% for qualified property, placed in service through December 2022.
98. AAW supports a continued individual estate tax exemption at \$12.06 million or above, indexed for inflation.
99. AAW supports increasing the current \$16,000 gift tax exemption.
100. AAW supports a stepped-up basis to all inherited assets.

AAW is concerned that eliminating 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.

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

HEALTHCARE

103. AAW supports a health care system:
 - that requires health care providers to accept private pay for medical services;
 - that increases competition for voluntary purchasing alliances and associations to help smaller employers and individuals buy insurance at a reasonable rate;
 - that employers of fewer than 50 full-time employees be exempt from legislation that requires them to pay for health care coverage, including insurance 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.
104. AAW supports funding for behavioral and mental health services, including prevention, treatment, and recovery.
105. AAW supports keeping our food production and supply chain intact with federal

- funding for ongoing testing and immunizations against pandemic diseases for employees.
106. 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 of their choice.
 107. AAW supports employers being able to choose what health insurance plans to offer their employees, if any.
 108. AAW supports health insurance rules and tools such as health savings accounts that recognize the cost of additional dependents.
 109. AAW supports requiring health insurance companies to reimburse pharmacies for prescriptions at the pharmacy's cost.
 110. AAW supports Medicare funding for rural health services and payments to rural health professionals and facilities at the same level as their urban counterparts.
 111. AAW supports that Medicare, other government funding, and health insurance include paying for preventative programs, such as nutrition counseling.
 112. AAW supports national regulations that would create a uniform, consistent system to remove barriers to consumer choices and offer consumers the same protections nationwide.
 113. AAW supports the federal tax deduction of health insurance at 100% for the self-employed, regardless of business structure.
 114. AAW supports continued appropriation of federal funds to keep rural hospitals operational and modern.
 115. AAW supports retaining critical access hospital status for existing facilities.
 116. AAW supports continued availability of resources to assist the elderly and disabled in need of long-term care.

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.

117. 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.
118. AAW supports an independent audit of all commodity checkoffs as well as complete transparency.
119. AAW supports the retention and continued development of an independent 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.
120. In the event of a natural disaster, AAW supports timely government assistance to affected agricultural producers.
121. AAW supports an efficient and modern transportation infrastructure, which enables

U.S. farmers and ranchers to access domestic and world markets. We encourage access to containers for agricultural shipping rather than returning them empty to foreign ports. The general lack of transportation infrastructure maintenance, including locks and dams and railroad monopolies, puts all the world food supply in jeopardy.

122. 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.
123. AAW supports the legislative due process for determining major agricultural policy.
124. AAW supports organic producers paying into commodity check-off programs as do conventional producers.

COMMODITY MARKETING

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

CROP INSURANCE

126. 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.
127. 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.
128. AAW supports the strict enforcement of crop insurance regulations regarding abuse of the program.
129. 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

130. 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.
131. AAW supports the registration of current fumigants and continued development of new fumigants for crop production and export opportunities.
132. 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.
133. 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.

134. 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.
135. AAW opposes a zero-risk standard for spray drift and supports the requirement that products be applied according to the label.
136. AAW supports the policies that provide for producers to keep records on-site for chemical usage.
137. AAW supports dedicated IR-4 (Interregional Research Project No. 4) funding, a program to support the registration of crop management tools for minor crops.

<p>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.</p>

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND SPECIALTY CROPS

138. AAW supports the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) increasing fruits, vegetables, and specialty crops for consumption in federal food programs.
139. 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.
140. 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.
141. AAW also supports a periodic review and revision of federal grades and standards to better reflect conditions due to modern harvest and marketing methods.
142. AAW supports the U.S. Trade Representative establishing a staff position for specialty crop trade matters in the agricultural office.
143. 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

144. AAW supports and promotes alternative uses of all grain and related by-products produced in the United States.
145. AAW supports a national energy policy that includes a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) for all transportation fuels and less dependence upon foreign oil.
146. AAW supports the U.S. sugar program.

NEW CROPS & NEW USES

147. AAW supports research efforts into the development of alternate/new crops for

- commercial food, fiber and energy uses.
148. AAW supports research on plant-based feeds necessary to develop the regulatory structure for an offshore aquaculture industry in the U.S.
 149. AAW supports the continued research and development of production and legal uses of the various cannabis plants.
 150. AAW supports improving medical cannabis programs to better protect patient rights and access to medicine.

FOOD SAFETY & NUTRITION

151. 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.
152. 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.
153. AAW fully supports the most recent peer-reviewed published scientific studies in dietary recommendations.
154. AAW supports healthy eating habits, recommending a balanced daily diet of meats, dairy, eggs, fruits, whole grains, and vegetables in order to support healthy living.
155. 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 animals.

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

LANDSCAPING, NURSERIES AND GREENHOUSES

156. 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.

157. 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.
158. 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 AND DAIRY

159. 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.
160. AAW supports the use of the latest technological tools to meet increased global demand for meat, milk, and eggs.
161. AAW supports availability of new products to safeguard the health of animals.
162. AAW supports the responsible use of antibiotics and other industry-approved treatments to safeguard animal health.
163. AAW supports an enhanced infectious disease monitoring and testing program of imported and domestic animals and meat to maintain consumer confidence and market stability.
164. AAW opposes announcements of suspect cases of infectious zoonotic diseases.
165. AAW supports timely announcements of confirmed cases of infections and zoonotic diseases.
166. AAW supports interstate shipment of meat from state-inspected processing plants where state regulations are equal to or exceed federal regulations.
167. AAW urges the USDA to work with state and federal animal health officials to identify all animals imported into the United States.
168. AAW recommends that any federally mandated surveillance and food safety programs be accompanied with adequate federal funding.
169. 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.
170. AAW supports an effective track and trace system that is cost effective to producers and enhances public confidence in the U.S. food supply.
171. 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.

172. 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.
- ~~173.~~ AAW supports an updated pricing structure for milk producers.
174. AAW supports the voice of individual farmers in a FMMO (Federal Milk Marketing Order) hearing process, and the elimination of block and modified block voting.
175. AAW supports the development of new technology or strategies to be able to legally sell dairy products directly off the farm to increase profitability.
176. AAW supports the development of new dairy products and the expansion of current dairy products into new markets.
177. AAW supports the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program and the Dairy Revenue Protection (DRP) Program.
178. AAW supports plant- or fungus-based or blended beverages not be labeled as “milk.”

ANIMAL WELL-BEING

179. AAW supports the responsible treatment of animals according to commodity group ethical principles and quality assurance programs.
180. AAW supports a foot and mouth disease vaccine research and development bank.
181. AAW supports the inclusion of farmers and ranchers, as well as industry professionals, in the development of any new policy to regulate treatment practices.
182. AAW supports the use of working animals for the purpose of performing a specific duty or function including ranching, transportation, exhibition, and education by for-profit entities.
183. 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 recent peer-reviewed research-based science.
184. 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.
185. 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.
186. AAW respectfully asks legislators, when they are approached by animal rights representatives to support or sign on to bills pertaining to animal health and welfare, to talk with actual livestock producers about the legislation to learn why producers use these practices for the well-being of their animals.
187. AAW supports the responsible use of animals in research.
188. 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.
189. 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.

190. AAW supports legislation that establishes assistance for security programs at research facilities.
191. AAW supports the right of farmers to protect their records from public access.
192. AAW supports the legalization of horse slaughter plants to guarantee the humane and environmentally sensitive disposal of abandoned, aged and infirmed horses in the U.S. without excessive regulations.
193. AAW supports the sale, possession, and humane transportation of horses for processing across state and international borders without excessive regulations.
194. AAW supports the use of standardized Best Management Practices (BMPs) in livestock carcass disposal.
195. AAW opposes regulations which require licensed businesses to sell only rescue animals.

NATIVE POLLINATORS

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

EDUCATION

198. AAW supports agricultural education and education about our nation's food, feed, fiber, flora, and fuel supply which must be based on factual information and peer-reviewed science.
199. AAW encourages agriculturalists to work cooperatively on common issues through education.
200. AAW supports the intent of the Carl D. Perkins Act with increased funding for vocational (career and technical) agriculture education.
201. AAW supports a national Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program with continued funding and support for a national director and regional and national conferences.
202. 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, feed, fiber, flora, and fuel supply.
203. AAW supports public education based on historical and scientific facts.
204. AAW supports agricultural and natural resource education along with leadership training programs, such as FFA, 4-H, et. al., to prepare youth and adults for careers in agriculture, agri-business, and natural resources.
205. AAW supports agricultural and natural resource education along with leadership training programs to prepare youth and adults for careers in agriculture, agri-business, and natural resources.
206. AAW supports vocational education programs.

207. AAW supports access to higher education in rural areas by any means necessary, including virtual learning via broadband or satellite, or cooperative efforts with high schools or higher educational institutions.

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 defines “sustainable agriculture,” including silviculture, forestry, aquaculture, and hydroponics, as using best management practices adapted for the local environment 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.

208. AAW supports private property and individual rights to productively use land and natural resources and rejects any policy that erodes these rights.
209. AAW supports active involvement of all parties, especially local, before federal agencies make decisions that infringe on the producer’s rights.
210. AAW supports the multiple beneficial uses of natural resources.
211. AAW recommends policies that promote abundant renewable natural resources in a healthy, productive environment.
212. 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.
213. 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 provide:
- specific timetables;
 - timely, reliable reports that comply with the Information Quality Act (IQA).
 - analysis of public and private costs of implementation;
 - balancing of harms and benefits using peer reviewed science and economic considerations;
 - analysis of the effect of no-management actions (i.e. increased loss of lives and property due to wildfires).

The Information Quality Act (IQA) is a federal law that requires federal agencies ensure the scientific integrity of data and peer-reviewed studies of information they disseminate. The Office of Management and Budget issued guidelines federal agencies must follow.

214. AAW supports community-oriented policing with increased training for local, as well as state and federal law enforcement to understand the local agricultural practices.
215. 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

216. 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 IQA compliance as a justification for the increased regulation.

217. AAW supports a clean air standard that does not:
- curtail production activities;
 - restrict responsible 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.
218. AAW opposes public efforts, such as emissions limits and exchange programs (for example, Cap and Trade) which put U.S. agriculture at a 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).

219. AAW supports the value of human life, safety, and welfare above any other species whether endangered, threatened, or not listed.
220. AAW supports compliance with the Information Quality Act (IQA) before listing or delisting of threatened or endangered species.
221. 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 ESA 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.
222. AAW supports active land management, private property rights, and policies that benefit all species without placing anyone (i.e., endangered or threatened) species above others.
223. AAW supports full partnership with states and local agencies in listing species, defining critical habitat designations, leading recovery planning, and delisting decisions.
224. 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").
225. AAW opposes the introduction and/or reintroduction of apex predator species, especially where there is no historical evidence of the species.
226. AAW supports a requirement that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Critical Habitat designations be completed before regulatory action is taken.
227. AAW urges Congress and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (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.

228. AAW supports an ESA consultation process requiring the use of IQA peer-reviewed science that is transparent and 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.

Once species are listed, the ESA authorizes the U.S. Treasury to spend American taxpayer money to acquire 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 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like the Nature Conservancy or World Wildlife Fund buying the foreign debt to the U.S. for pennies on the dollar.

229. AAW supports eliminating subjective biological units (subspecies, populations, stocks) from ESA action and pursue recovery of only significant species.
230. 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.
231. 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.
232. AAW supports the implementation of an Endangered Species Recovery Transparency Act.
233. 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.
234. AAW strongly supports accountability by reviewing and evaluating recovery plans every five years.
235. 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.
236. AAW acknowledges “extinction” as a natural process.
237. AAW supports excluding a species from consideration as endangered or threatened if it is abundant in any location or has migrated to another location.
238. AAW believes ONLY native species should be considered for endangered species status in historic and/or current native habitat.
239. AAW opposes expansion of critical habitat designations for species listed under the ESA without IQA peer-reviewed scientific data, and a process to incorporate public comments that clearly show a need for additional acres. It should not exceed the current range by an unreasonable amount.
240. AAW supports the USFWS finalizing new rules to make it easier to exclude areas from the critical habitat designated to protect threatened or endangered species.

The regulations state that “FWS shall exclude any area where the benefits of exclusion outweighs those of inclusion. The benefits of exclusion may include avoidance of economics, national security, and other relevant impacts while benefits of inclusion may include ecological or conservation benefits.”

241. AAW opposes the U.S. listing of endangered species in foreign countries.

ENERGY & FRACTURING

A well-developed diverse domestic energy supply is critical to national security for current and future generations.

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.

- 242. AAW supports the initiative to have the U.S. renewable energy sources be produced by our farms, ranches, and forests.
- 243. AAW supports biofuels programs to offer consumers alternative transportation fuels as well as heating fuels, while offering additional markets to agriculture.
- 244. AAW supports the use of efficient, renewable energy sources, such as ethanol, biodiesel, small scale wind and solar, hydropower, compressed natural gas, and biomass fuels along with petroleum as it is vital to our energy, economic, and national security.
- 245. AAW supports further study of the integration of energy storage solutions.
- 246. AAW opposes large scale solar arrays (50MW or greater) that encroach upon their adjacent neighbors’ rights and increase the tax burden of the community.
- 247. 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.
- 248. AAW supports development of domestic oil, natural gas, coal and wind on public lands and offshore if international and domestic shipping lanes are not disrupted.
- 249. AAW supports development of domestic oil, natural gas, coal, solar and wind on private land with complete compensation and notification.
- 250. AAW supports the creation of new refineries and the continuous updating of existing refineries. Agriculture production and distribution is dependent on the oil industry.
- 251. AAW supports continued research of nuclear energy and development of new plants providing there is a means of disposal of the nuclear waste. AAW opposes moratoriums of any kind on fracturing for oil or natural gas or frack sand mining.
- 252. In setting tax policy, AAW believes most of the revenue from oil and gas industry taxes should stay at the local level.
- 253. AAW supports the passage of legislation to promote the export of raw hydrocarbons to further industry growth.

MINING

- 254. AAW supports the responsible exploration and development of mining on public lands, to have the minerals needed and decrease our reliance on foreign sources.
- 255. AAW supports the streamlining of the permitting process that minimizes delays, to provide timely production of minerals needed for clean energy, infrastructure projects,

technology, and national defense.

256. AAW opposes any legislation or rule-making that erodes the U.S. Mining Law that governs locatable mineral exploration and development on public lands.

FORESTRY AND TIMBER

Our nation has more forested acres and trees than one 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.

257. AAW urges Congress to require the Forest Service to implement their national forest plans by:

- increasing the timber sale program 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.

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 can 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.

258. 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.

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.

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, therefore 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.

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. 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.

259. AAW opposes the purchase of additional federal lands considering current maintenance backlogs and inadequate management of current lands.
260. AAW supports using funds from the Land and Water Conservation Act for active management of federal lands, not for purchasing new land.
261. AAW urges legislation to offer cost-sharing towards environmental quality incentives and tax incentives for developing renewable energy sources, habitats and/or water improvements that doesn't infringe upon private property right.
262. AAW urges the expansion of the domestic forest products market.
263. AAW urges Congress to amend the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 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.

264. AAW believes the phrase "invasive species" needs to be defined as a 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

265. AAW supports the preservation of our nation's sovereignty and our Constitution as the supreme law of the land.
266. 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. Landowners should be able to remove dead and dying trees on their own property without restriction to stewardship and management.

267. 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.
268. AAW opposes the elimination of productive agriculture lands to construct artificial wetland.
269. 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.
270. 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)

271. AAW supports protection from public agencies that through unconstitutional actions assert their authority by using unreasonable searches, seizures and entries onto private properties.
272. AAW opposes the militarization of regulatory agencies.
273. AAW supports that fines should be reflective of the infraction not the accused person's capacity to pay.
274. AAW supports access to public lands for multiple uses, including but not limited to agriculture, grazing, mining, drilling, forestry, habitat and recreation.
275. 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.
276. AAW opposes preferential treatment to sellers or buyers of private lands, water, or mineral rights through tax incentives or other measures to nonprofit entities.
277. 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.

278. 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.
279. The federal government must show where their authority comes from to acquire land or take the use of the land.

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

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 9.1million acres set aside in 13 states (54 areas). (Numbers from wilderness.net.) and as of April 1, 2020, the National Wilderness Preservation system contains 803 wilderness areas comprising 111,687,267 acres in 44 states and Puerto Rico. (Source: wilderness.net, Univ. of Montana.)

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

PUBLIC LAND AND ANIMAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

282. AAW expects the government to comply with the same standards imposed on citizens and businesses regarding the management of natural resources and wildlife.
283. AAW supports active, responsible management of wildlife.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

284. Government-identified wildlife corridors and buffer zones should not cause regulatory impact on private landowners.
285. Landowners should be compensated for any decrease in agricultural production and land values or use caused by wildlife corridor designations.
286. Landowners should be given the opportunity to review proposed designations to ensure that the data used to identify the corridor is accurate and correct.
287. 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

288. 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.
289. AAW opposes "takings" legislation that devalues land by:
- Regulatory action;
 - activities that negatively impact adjacent land;
 - creating wildlife corridors and 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.

290. AAW strongly supports private property owners and the sovereignty of states above the federal government regarding allocations of water within their borders.
291. AAW supports a private property owner's right to a fair appeals process prior to any fines being imposed by a government agency.
292. AAW opposes government mandated deed restrictions or easements acquired by the use of eminent domain.
293. AAW opposes the use of agricultural conservation easements unless the short- and long-term effects of these easements to the farmer or rancher are fully disclosed and do not restrict or reduce the agricultural productive capacity of the land, including crop of choice in perpetuity.
294. 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 those private property owners or operators.
295. 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.
296. AAW opposes the "right to trespass" onto private property by land, air, or water access.
297. 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

298. 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.
299. AAW supports compensation at highest and best use when property is taken.
300. AAW opposes the use of eminent domain for economic development and additional tax revenue accruing from such development.
301. When eminent domain is used for public welfare or safety, AAW opposes the government acquiring more land than necessary for the project.
302. 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.
303. AAW supports every effort to use existing public land before imposing eminent domain.
304. AAW opposes the taking of private property by eminent domain to construct the planned transportation corridor that will reach from Mexico to Canada.
305. 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

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

Data & Monitoring

308. 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.
309. 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.
310. 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.

Civil Works

311. 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.
312. AAW supports the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) and shifting the cost-share of projects from a 50% private : 50% public funding ratio to a ratio of 75% public funding to 25% private funding to expediate the design and construction of approved projects.
313. 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.
314. 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.
315. AAW supports the implementation of a plan for systemic flood protection for major watersheds as determined by local needs.
316. 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.

317. 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 IQA 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.
318. AAW advocates policies that promote abundance of water resources and/or water storage for agricultural use.
319. AAW supports allowing voluntary private funds for modernization of locks and dams.

Navigable Waters

320. 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.
321. AAW supports the Clean Water Act that defines and limits the federal government’s jurisdiction over all intrastate waters.

Navigable waters are those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tides and/or are presently used or have been used in the past or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

Water Contracts, Water Rights, and Ownership

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

322. AAW urges state and federal governments to honor their contractual obligations to agricultural water users who rely on water projects for irrigation supplies. Full contract supplies are essential to maintain productive farmland.
323. 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.
324. AAW opposes foreign ownership of water and water treatment and distribution utilities.
325. AAW opposes federal purchase of privately held water rights in cases where the federal government would then hold the water right.
326. 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.

- 327. AAW demands the protection of water, existing water rights, and future water availability for agricultural use.
- 328. AAW demands the protection of historic water rights.

Wetlands

- 329. AAW supports a national policy of minimal impact to wetlands, versus no impacts to wetlands.
- 330. 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.
- 331. 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 Policy

- 332. AAW urges research on the presumed causes and effects of anthropogenic (man-made) global warming/climate change/crises.
- 333. AAW believes further research is needed regarding geo-engineering before widespread implementation. Examples include cloud-seeding, spraying sea water, carbon removal, etc.

Harvard University states that “geo-engineering refers to a set of engineering technologies that could manipulate the environment and partially offset some of the impacts of the climate change.” (<https://geoengineering.environment.harvard.edu/geoengineering>)

- 334. AAW urges continued IQA peer-reviewed scientific review of historic carbon dioxide levels and its effects on Earth’s atmospheric temperatures.
- 335. AAW urges continued IQA peer-reviewed scientific review of methane gas as it relates to agricultural activities.
- 336. AAW encourages continued IQA peer-reviewed scientific review of the carbon neutrality of ranches and farmlands.
- 337. AAW supports the continued research of carbon farming practices.
- 338. AAW opposes federal government subsidizing purchases of carbon credits and other ecosystem credits.

USDA defines Carbon Farming as the use of specific on-farm practices designed to take carbon out of the air and store it in soils and plant material. Carbon farming practices include application of soil amendments like compost or biochar, conservation tillage, agroforestry, whole orchard recycling, cover crops that maximize living roots, and many others. (See USDA-NRCS Soil Health Management to access the Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Sequestration Ranking Tool for Agriculture.) Building soil organic matter on croplands and rangelands sequesters carbon in soils, which helps mitigate the effects of climate change while potentially providing co-benefits for soil health and increased adaptive capacity. Soil amendments may increase the amount of carbon held in soil organic matter, leading to greater carbon sequestration.