

# **Policy Development Workbook**

**2023**



**Arizona Farm Bureau  
Federation**

**325 S. Higley Rd. Suite 210  
Gilbert, Arizona 85296**

**Main 480.635.3613    Fax 480.635.3781**

# Table of Contents

	Page
• <b>2023 Policy Development Calendar</b>	<b>4</b>
• <b>Why Participate?</b>	<b>5</b>
• <b>Planning Guide for County Policy Development</b>	<b>6</b>
• <b>Five Year Policies</b>	<b>9</b>
• <b>Issue Advisory Committee Reports (in chronological order)</b>	<b>22</b>
• <b>State and Federal Lands</b>	<b>23</b>
○ Third Party Monitoring	
○ Solar & Wind Farms	
○ Wild Horse & Burro Management	
○ Vacant Allotments	
○ Carbon Sequestration	
○ Corner Jumping Lawsuit in Wyoming	
• <b>Ag Labor</b>	<b>25</b>
○ Heat Stress Rules	
○ H2A Program	
○ Mandatory E-Verify	
• <b>Equine</b>	<b>27</b>
○ Equine/Livestock Right of Way	
○ Out of State Racetrack Ownership	
○ Protection of Livestock Events	
○ Right-to- Use Equine Properties	
○ Field Experts for Governor’s Appointees	
• <b>Water</b>	<b>29</b>
○ Groundwater Management- Cochise County	
○ Exporting Alfalfa	
○ Outside Ownership of Farmland	
○ Natural Disaster Declaration – SEIS Proposal	
○ Right of the River- SEIS	
○ Municipalities Controlling Water	
• <b>Organic and Direct Marketing</b>	<b>31</b>
○ Direct Marketing Tax Benefits	
○ Meat Processing Plant Bottleneck	

## Table of Contents Continued

---

○ Lack of Direct Marketing Opportunities	
○ Social Media Marketing Challenges	
● <b>Crops</b>	<b>33</b>
○ Foreign Ownership of Farm lands, the Saudi Farm	
○ EPA Regulations & ESA	
● <b>Air and Water Quality</b>	<b>35</b>
○ PM10 & Water Scarcity	
○ Changes to NRCS Standards	
○ Carbon Emissions & Sustainability	
○ Ozone Standards & Nitrogen Regulation	
○ Tribal Water Quality	
○ Off Roding & High Quality Reclaimed Water	
● <b>Food Safety and Specialty Crop</b>	<b>37</b>
○ IR4 Program Funding	
○ Food Safety Research	
○ Quality of Reclaimed Water & Long-Term Effects	
○ Regulatory Investigations & Rapid Response Grants	
○ Food Safety and Leafy Green Insurance	
● <b>Farm Policy</b>	<b>39</b>
○ Renewable Energy	
○ Off-Highway Vehicles	
○ Elk Depredation	
○ NRCS Payment Delays	
○ Preventative Planting	
● <b>Livestock</b>	<b>41</b>
○ Access to Meat Processing	
○ mRNA Vaccines	
○ Xylazine	
○ Feral Cattle	

County Farm Bureau: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2023 POLICY DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR**

May 1, 2023	Policy Development (PD) Begins with Issue Advisory Committee Meetings
June 1, 2023	PD Committee Reports to the Counties
7 weeks prior to County Annual Meeting	COUNTY PD COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION MEETING To make a PD plan for the county Farm Bureau
2-6 weeks prior to County Annual Meeting	COMMUNITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING(S) To get members' input for creating or modifying policies
2 weeks prior to County Annual Meeting	COUNTY POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING To prepare resolutions for the County Annual Meeting
By August 31, 2023	COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS
August 31, 2023	Deadline for County Resolutions to be received by the AZFB Resolutions Committee
September 18, 2023	AZFB RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
November 8-9, 2023	Arizona Farm Bureau Annual Meeting (Tucson, AZ)
December 11-13, 2023	American Farm Bureau Resolutions Committee Meeting (Washington, D.C.)
January 9-24, 2024	American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting (Puerto Rico)

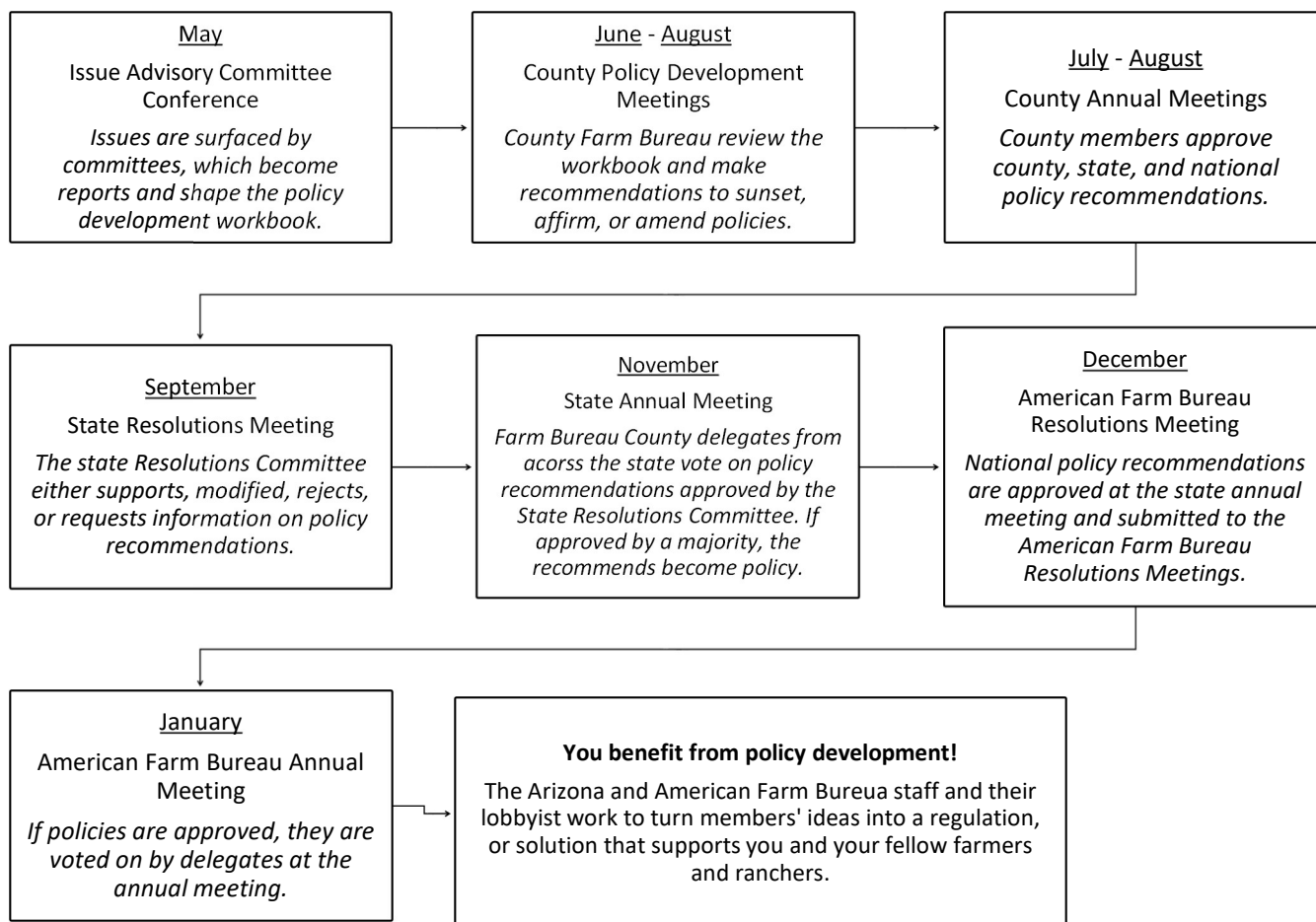
## WHY PARTICIPATE?

**Why expend this amount of time and effort for policy development and why is it so important to have your county membership involved?** This process makes Farm Bureau the effective organization it is. Your local, state and national elected representatives know that Farm Bureau's policy is based on sound principles and well thought out solutions. Policy is made by the Farm Bureau Membership, not by a board of directors or any other small interest group. Farm Bureau Policy begins with an individual member's idea. The key to a successful Policy Development Program is to give each member the opportunity to voice their opinion.

*I personally invite you to be an active member of Arizona Farm Bureau. Farmers and ranchers know that none of us want our government to make living our lives or being in business any more challenging than it already is. That's why each year we ask each and every one of you to share your wealth of ideas and solutions for improving public policy by contributing to this policy book. Short of serving in elected office ourselves, there is not a more effective way to positively impact public policy.*

**– John Boelts, First Vice President of Arizona Farm Bureau**

### The Policy Development Process at Arizona Farm Bureau



## **PLANNING GUIDE FOR YOUR COUNTY POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

### **I. COUNTY POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION MEETING**

This meeting should occur seven (7) weeks prior to the County Annual Meeting and the items to be discussed include:

1. The number of community meetings to be held, places and times, and
2. The chairman of each meeting, and
3. The resource people available, and
4. The plan to get attendance:
  1. Mail Notice
  2. Phone call follow-up
  3. Personal invitation
  4. Get non-active member to attend by picking him/her up the night of the meeting
  5. Key on "Hot Issue"

### **II. COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

These meetings should occur between two (2) and six (6) weeks prior to the County Annual Meeting and include:

1. Surfacing the problems of members and list upon blackboard or large writing pad so all can see the issues, and
2. Searching for facts on these problems by using Farm Bureau and outside resource people and other factual information available, and
3. Discussing alternate solutions to these problems, and
4. Recommending the best alternative to solve each major problem, and
5. Recording all decisions of this meeting to report back to the full County Policy Development Committee.

### **III. COUNTY POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

On preparing resolutions for the County Annual Meeting. This meeting should occur two (2) weeks prior to the County Annual Meeting and include:

1. Coordinating and consolidating ideas from the community meetings into statements of County policy recommendations, State policy recommendations, and National policy recommendations to be presented to the members at the County Annual Meeting, and
2. Arranging to have the recommendations printed so copies are available to all members attending the County Annual Meeting.

### **IV. COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING**

The County Annual Meeting should be held at least one (1) week prior to the date that the County Resolutions Report is due into the Arizona Farm Bureau Resolution Committee and includes:

1. Presenting the County, State, and National policy recommendations to the members by the County Policy Development Chairman, and
2. Voting on the Policy Recommendations.

### **V. FORWARDING STATE AND NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Your State and National recommendations that are passed at the County Annual Meeting are forwarded on to the Arizona Farm Bureau Resolutions Committee so that they are received prior to the above indicated date. To ensure policies passed at your county annual meeting are included in the Resolutions Workbook, please email them to [advocacy@azfb.org](mailto:advocacy@azfb.org)

### **VI. ARIZONA RESOLUTION COMMITTEE MEETING**

This meeting is held at least one month prior to the Arizona Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and includes:

1. The County Policy Development Chairman as a member of the committee, and
2. The County Policy Development Chairman presents his/her County's recommendations to the committee.

### **VII. COUNTY POLICY DEVELOPMENT CHAIRMAN REPORTS**

The County Policy Development Chairman reports the outcome of the Arizona Farm Bureau Resolution Committee meeting to the County President, Board, and Policy Development Committee so they can prepare to debate the issues at the state annual meeting.

## Five Year Policies Policy Development 2023

The following policies will be removed from the Arizona Farm Bureau policy book in 2024 unless amended or reaffirmed at the 2023 annual meeting.

	<u>Policy Book</u>	<u>Workbook</u>
<b>FARM BUREAU BELIEFS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>
Arizona's Rights	5	9
<b>LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
City Regional Plans	8	9
Zoning Use by Right	9	9
Mineral Rights	10	9
<b>PUBLIC AND FEDERAL LAND NATURAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>
Department of Interior Reorganization	12	9-10
Formation of Rangeland Fire Protection	17	10
Stock Waters	19	10
Cultural/Archaeological Clearances	19	10
<b>WILDLIFE</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	26	10
Food Safety Depredation Hunts	28	10
Wildlife Pest and Predator Control	29	10
<b>WATER</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>
Water Rights for Protected Agricultural Land	32	10-11
Groundwater	33	11
Weather Management	33	11
Water Retention Structures	33	11
<b>ACTIVE MANAGEMENT &amp; IRRIGATION NON-EXPANSION AREAS</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>11</b>
Type I Right	34	11
Brackish Water	35	11
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>
Reclaimed Water (Municipal Effluent)	35	12
Indirect Recharge	36	12
Recharge	36	12
Industrial Water Permits for Agriculture	36	12
Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD)	36	12
Forbearance	37	12-13
Lake Powell	38	13
Man-Made Lakes and Reservoirs	38	13
<b>AIR QUALITY</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>13</b>
Air Inspector Education	46	13
<b>ENERGY</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>13</b>
Energy Sources	48	13-14
APS Rate Change	48	14
Petroleum Refinery	49	14
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>14</b>
FDA Advisories	56	14

	<u>Policy Book</u>	<u>Workbook</u>
Synthetic/Imitation Meat Products	57	14-15
Imported Agricultural Products	57	15
<b>WEED, INSECT, AND DISEASE</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>15</b>
Phytosanitary Inspections	59	15
Agricultural Pests	59	15
Bees in Agriculture	61	15
<b>LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL CARE</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>15</b>
Feed Additives and Hormones	65	15
Controlled Substances for Veterinary Use	65	16
<b>TAXES AND SPENDING</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>16</b>
Tax Base Protection	78	16
Tax Credit Classification	80	16
<b>REGULATORY</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>16</b>
Ag Certainty	80	16-17
Support for the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Mgmt.	82	17
Proof of Citizenship	83	17
Hay Standards	84	17
Regulatory Compliance Inspections	86	17
Arizona Corporation Commission	86	17
United States' Sovereignty	87	18
Mobile Communication	87	18
Satellite and Aerial Images	87	18
<b>LAW AND ORDER</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>18</b>
Criminalization of Environmental Law	88	18
<b>ELECTIVE OFFICE AND REFERENDUMS</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>18</b>
Elections	90	18
Public Funding of Campaigns	90	18
<b>LABOR</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>18</b>
Cost Plus Contacting	90	18
Right to Work	91	18
Employer Rights	93	19
Union Elections	95	19
Public Employee Bargaining	95	19
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>19</b>
Fencing Highways or Roadways	97	19
Rail Lines Through Yuma County	97	19
<b>DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>19</b>
Farm/Ranch Truck License	93	19
<b>HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>20</b>
School Lunches	101	20
<b>PUBLIC RELATIONS</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>20</b>
Tell Agriculture's Story	103	20
<b>WITHIN FARM BUREAU</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>20</b>
Political Action Committee	105	20



1 **FIVE YEAR POLICIES**

2  
3 **FARM BUREAU BELIEFS**

4  
5 **Arizona's Rights:**

6 We ask that our governor and state legislators along with the support of our congressional  
7 delegation reclaim Arizona's state rights and our rights as citizens. We call upon our elected  
8 leaders to respect the constitution and the balance it created. Powers not delegated to the federal  
9 government by the constitution are reserved to the various states. This should be an immutable  
10 criterion for judging new federal actions, and our elected officials need to begin rolling back  
11 federal authority where it has usurped the letter and intent of the constitution with respect to state  
12 rights. (Amended 2019) (P. 5)

13  
14 **LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING**

15  
16 **City Regional Plans:**

17 Regional growth plans that incorporate both municipal and county areas should be ratified by the  
18 citizens residing within the boundaries of the planning area and not limited to only those within  
19 the municipal jurisdiction. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 8)

20  
21 **Zoning Use by Right:**

22 In counties where urban-rural conflicts exist or are emerging, zoning regulations should contain  
23 language that specifies uses-by-right for farms, ranches, and equine properties. County Farm  
24 Bureaus should participate in developing the uses by right to assure that the regulations are  
25 reasonable and allow for the full use of rural properties. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 9)

26  
27 **Mineral Rights:**

28 We recognize that mineral rights are a distinct and separate private property right and when  
29 separated from its original land parcel should be subject to the same regulation/taxation/or  
30 payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) formulas that other private property rights are subject to. We  
31 support legislation that would ultimately encourage the return of separated mineral rights back to  
32 its original land parcel. (Amended 2019) (P. 10)

33  
34  
35  
36 **PUBLIC AND FEDERAL LAND NATURAL RESOURCES**

37  
38 **Department of Interior Reorganization:**

39 We support the reorganization of the DOI and the move of headquarter positions for the BLM  
40 and FWS westward and the national office of BLM to the Rocky Mountain region. We urge the  
41 DOI to continue consulting with western states to ensure regional development considers state  
42 political boundaries and concerns. Each state and its government represent local needs and can  
43 capitalize on resources to address common objectives, including wildlife, land use planning,  
44 environmental quality, and water resources management. Continuing this approach, while also  
45 moving agency decision-makers closer to the lands they manage, would increase efficiency and  
46 decentralize decision-making, while also respecting state authority and improving the

department's ability to consult and cooperate with state and local governments. (2019) [Cochise County] (P. 12)

#### **Formation of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations:**

We support the formation of landowner driven rangeland fire protection association(s) for rural Arizonans and associated training. We further urge the BLM to review and overcome the interagency division between range management and fire staff to further relationships between BLM firefighters, range staff, and ranchers and improve opportunities for fuel management. (2019) [Cochise County] (P. 17)

#### **Stock Waters:**

We support the lessee's right to water developed by the lessee on public lands. We support a rancher's right to the water they own on their property (base waters) and all water they own the rights to on state and federal lands. (Amended 2019) (P.19)

#### **Cultural/Archaeological Clearances:**

We support efforts to streamline cultural clearance processes for rangeland and conservation improvements. We support the Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement among the AZ State Land Department, AZ State Forestry, BLM, NRCS, AACD, and SHPO. (2019) (P. 19)

### **WILDLIFE**

#### **Southwestern Willow Flycatcher:**

We support the removal of the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher from the endangered species list. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 26)

#### **Food Safety Depredation Hunts:**

The Arizona Game and Fish Department should work with local stakeholders to enact depredation hunts that address food safety concerns for crops and/or livestock grown or raised adjacent to wildlife habitat. (2019) [Yuma County] (P. 28)

#### **Wildlife Pest and Predator Control:**

We oppose the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm and Explosives regulating explosive pest control devices (EPCDs) under federal explosive laws that require individual permitting and qualified storage facilities for the use of such devices. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 29)

### **WATER**

#### **Water Rights for Protected Agricultural Land:**

Pursuant to the expressed public policies and applying only to specified acreage of irrigated agricultural land recognized as being uniquely qualified for protection from development and for preservation as irrigated agriculture, we recommend that when such agricultural land is subject to a purchase of development rights contract or a conservation easement, then State Water Law (title 45) shall recognize the corresponding necessity and right of applying a sufficient and secure supply of irrigation water to sustain a viable agricultural operation, not to exceed the original water duty.

1  
2 In advance of signing on to such special designation and forfeiture of development rights,  
3 farmers and ranchers must be able to apply to the Arizona Department of Water Resources for a  
4 determination, including the specified acreage and annual water right, according to which a new  
5 certificate of grandfathered groundwater right will be issued when the protected status has been  
6 accepted and is formally complete. (Amended 2019) (P. 32)  
7

#### 8 **Groundwater:**

9 We support the use of groundwater on agricultural lands. We support grandfathered irrigation  
10 rights on lands with historic water use, including those within an AMA. We believe that use of  
11 this water is an inherent property right attached to the land.  
12

13 Groundwater should maintain its separate identity, whether used alone or in combination with  
14 another water resource. The groundwater withdrawal fee should be removed from lands used for  
15 agricultural purposes. (Amended 2019) (P. 33)  
16

#### 17 **Weather Management:**

18 We support research in Arizona to explore the feasibility of supplementing natural precipitation  
19 in order to stabilize and improve surface water supplies for all Arizona water users. (Reaffirmed  
20 2019) (P. 33)  
21

#### 22 **Water Retention Structures:**

23 We support the construction of water retention structures in the upper Gila River water shed.  
24 These structures will increase recreational opportunities, increase water quality, reduce damage  
25 from large storms, floods, and other natural disasters, as well as improved distribution to  
26 agricultural stakeholders. (Amended 2019) (P. 33)  
27

### 28 **ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AND IRRIGATION NON-EXPANSION AREAS** 29

#### 30 **Type I Right:**

31 If a city or municipality leases water rights for municipal use, upon termination of the lease, the  
32 city or the municipality would lose the right to continue the use of the water and no new water  
33 right could be established and the area served with the leased water shall not be considered a  
34 service area. As cities expand into agricultural areas and provide for their water needs by  
35 securing groundwater through the drilling of new wells, the cities should be required to post  
36 bond to cover compensation for any damages to the existing wells in the area due to salt  
37 intrusion or lowering of water tables. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 34)  
38

#### 39 **Brackish Water:**

40 The taking of brackish water for urban use outside of a groundwater basin that is already using  
41 the brackish water for agricultural purposes should be prohibited, except in Yuma County.  
42 (2019) (P. 35)  
43  
44  
45

## WATER SUPPLY

### **Reclaimed Water (Municipal Effluent):**

We support the expanded use of reclaimed water (municipal effluent) by agriculture as a supplement to or replacement for other water resources and the coordination of water quality regulations to facilitate delivery and use of reclaimed water for agriculture. We support the development of partnerships between municipalities and agricultural water users to fully utilize reclaimed water supplies. We also support research on uses of reclaimed water.

As an incentive to agricultural users, use of reclaimed water should not be included in the Arizona Department of Water Resources calculations of water duty allotments. (2019) (P. 35)

### **Indirect Recharge:**

Agriculture's contribution to replenishing the aquifer through indirect recharge should be fully recognized. Calculations of indirect recharge from land in agricultural production should be included in Arizona water budgets. (2019) (P. 36)

### **Recharge:**

We support recharging groundwater aquifers with renewable water resources when such resources are surplus to direct beneficial uses. The capture and recharge of urban runoff can infringe on existing rights. Urban recharge should not be credited to the urban community if runoff from the same areas contributes to surface water supplies of the downstream right holders historically.

Agricultural lands with irrigation grandfathered rights and agriculture-related industries using Type I, Type II or general industrial use permits must remain exempt from any state requirement to replenish mined groundwater. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 36)

### **Industrial Water Permits for Agriculture:**

Renewal of industrial water permits for agricultural operations should be determined solely by the Arizona Department of Water Resources, regardless of the operation's geographic location in relation to a commercial or municipal water provider. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 36)

### **Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD):**

We support maintaining the current management of CAGRD. (2019) [Maricopa County] (P. 36)

### **Forbearance:**

We support CAP's current forbearance authority within the boundaries of the Central Arizona Project delivery system consistent with existing contracts and court rulings. Agriculture would be willing to support any ADWR/CAWCD joint agreement on the issue of forbearance, provided CAP's water delivery contracts with CAP irrigation districts are honored.

Any forbearance program must include a fair and objective definition of historical water use. Because each individual contractor's historic use is a fact-specific question, historic use should be considered by examining the contractor's normal water use over a period of several years,

1 taking into account market forces that may account for variations in use. After considering these  
2 factors, only an actual reduction in beneficial consumptive use should be considered a reduction  
3 that qualifies as intentionally created surplus, or to have the conserved water eligible for  
4 compensated system conservation. (2019) [Maricopa County] (P. 37)

#### 6 **Lake Powell:**

7 Lake Powell provides much needed electricity, irrigation and municipal water and recreation.  
8 Therefore, we oppose any plan to drain Lake Powell. We oppose releases of Lake Powell that are  
9 not in accord with the US Bureau of Reclamation's Lake Powell/Lake Mead equalization  
10 guidelines. We also oppose any surge releases from Lake Powell. (Amended 2019) (P. 38)

#### 12 **Man-Made Lakes and Reservoirs:**

13 We oppose any plan to drain or change the designation or scope of man-made lakes or reservoirs  
14 that provide much needed electricity, irrigation and municipal water.

15  
16 We oppose releases of water that are not in accord with water demands, hydroelectric power  
17 generation and/or flood control criteria. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 38)

## 20 **AIR QUALITY**

#### 21 **Air Inspector Education:**

22 We support agriculture air inspector training administered by a partnership of the Arizona  
23 Department of Agriculture and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for air  
24 inspectors (city, county, and state) for standardization of inspection and interpretation of  
25 regulations as it relates to AG BMP rules.

26 Regulation guidance should include photo examples to ensure inspectors are consistent in their  
27 enforcement process. Additionally, there should be continuity in jurisdictional rules (city, county  
28 and state). (2019) [Maricopa County] (P. 46)

## 30 **ENERGY**

#### 32 **Energy Sources:**

33 We encourage alternative energy sources that are economically viable, including those that  
34 utilize agricultural products and by-products.

35  
36 Farmers and ranchers should take an active role in understanding and utilizing renewable energy  
37 sources. We support and encourage the use of tax incentives to promote and develop the  
38 utilization of renewable energy on agricultural operations.

39  
40 Any provision of law requiring a renewable energy portfolio shall give full credit for existing as  
41 well as future hydroelectric generation.

42  
43 Because some types of energy development require larger quantities of natural resources than  
44 others, we recommend the amount of natural resources used should be carefully considered  
45 before recommending development of a particular energy resource. Federal policies should  
46 pursue sources other than natural gas for energy sources.

1 Local, State and Federal governments should encourage the construction of nuclear power plants.  
2 We oppose any attempt by the Arizona Corporation Commission to mandate use of any  
3 particular form of energy or to impose taxes or fees on energy users to develop new energy  
4 sources. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 48)  
5

6 **APS Rate Change:**

7 We are opposed to the APS rate structure for irrigation non-use/standby time. Under the new rate  
8 structure, costs increased significantly. We encourage the Arizona Corporation Commission to  
9 oppose electric rate increases for any utility company if they negatively impact rates for  
10 agricultural production, including irrigation wells. (Amended 2019) (P. 48)  
11

12 **Petroleum Refinery:**

13 We encourage the construction and operation of state-of-the-art petroleum transporting and  
14 refining facilities within the state. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 49)  
15  
16

17 **FOOD SAFETY**  
18

19 **FDA Advisories:**

20 The Food and Drug Administration should have the responsibility to issue a statement advising  
21 the public when a food safety recall issue has been resolved and when a threat to the public no  
22 longer exists. This statement should be made with the same emphasis that food safety warnings  
23 are initially issued to the public. This statement should clearly identify the commodity.  
24

25 FDA should not release business names to the public during or after an investigation, until a  
26 thorough investigation of the producer, harvester, shipper or marketer has been conducted, and  
27 the entity to be named publicly has been informed such a publication is to be made. Entities who  
28 cannot sell goods into the public marketplace should never be named publicly unless it can be  
29 proven that they adulterated the food or product through negligence.

30 In the interest of improving cooperation during investigations and in an effort to obtain better  
31 information for consumers and industry alike, FDA should revise their practices during  
32 investigations greatly to improve the speed and accuracy with which they conduct their efforts.  
33 Additionally, FDA's authority to name individuals, businesses or brands should be greatly  
34 reduced, and Congress should enact legislation that grants legal recourse to anyone conversely  
35 affected by FDA's action, instead of on a case by case basis requiring congressional actions for  
36 every situation. (Amended 2019) (P. 56)  
37

38 **Synthetic/Imitation Meat Products:**

39 We oppose the labeling of products from alternative sources, including but not limited to lab-  
40 grown animal cells, synthetic creations from insects, plants, and non-animal components, as  
41 "meat", "beef", "chicken", or "pork."  
42

43 We oppose the use of misleading marketing labels that lead consumers to believe that lab-grown  
44 products are better nutritionally and/or environmentally than traditional, naturally grown meat.  
45 Imitation products should not be labeled as meat harvested in the traditional manner.

46 We support legislation that defines "meat" as coming from a live animal.

1 We support USDA, not FDA, oversight of synthetic lab-grown meat-like products. (2019)  
2 [Cochise County & Coconino County] (P. 57)

3  
4 **Imported Agricultural Products:**

5 Imported agricultural products should not be allowed to enter the United States unless such  
6 products have been proven to comply with all regulatory production, sanitation, and pollution  
7 standards and agricultural chemical restrictions and tolerance levels established for U.S.  
8 producers. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 57)

9  
10 **WEED, INSECT, AND DISEASE CONTROL**

11  
12 **Phytosanitary Inspections:**

13 We support maintaining the cooperative agreement between the Arizona Department of  
14 Agriculture and the USDA to provide phytosanitary inspections and certification.

15  
16 The Arizona Department of Agriculture needs adequate staff, provided through General Fund  
17 budgets, to perform inspections in a timely manner for Arizona grown products to be transported  
18 out of state or exported. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 59)

19  
20 **Agricultural Pests:**

21 We support research and other activities to help control any agricultural pest that causes  
22 economic harm. (Amended 2019) (P. 59)

23  
24 **Bees in Agriculture:**

25 Bees are essential to production agriculture. Domestic, feral, and native bees provide an  
26 important pollination service to farmers and ranchers. Bees are an essential agricultural tool and  
27 any restrictions on the use of bees would be a violation of the nuisance protection afforded  
28 farmers and ranchers under the state right to farm law. We oppose any efforts to hold farmers  
29 and ranchers liable for bees foraging or harboring on their property. Bees are also important to  
30 the urban dwellers that enjoy growing plants and vegetables, which require pollination.

31  
32 Education on colony collapse should not automatically blame pesticide use. It should include the  
33 stressors for bees including the varroa mite and other pests and parasites, disease, loss of forage  
34 diversity, bee nutrition, adverse weather conditions, and reduced genetic pool. (Amended 2019)  
35 (P. 61)

36  
37 **LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL CARE**

38  
39 **Feed Additives and Hormones:**

40 The proper use of feed additives and growth hormones is beneficial to efficient, economic  
41 production of abundant, reasonably priced, high quality animal products. Usage of such  
42 supplements employs substantial safeguards by producers to eliminate potential harmful  
43 residues. Based on the benefits to both consumers and producers, such usage should be continued  
44 in livestock and poultry production unless it is found by scientific research and data to be  
45 detrimental to public health. (Adopted 2019) (P. 65)  
46 *(Recommend reaffirm by Livestock Committee)*

1 **Controlled Substances for Veterinary Use:**

2 Farm Bureau supports allowing licensed veterinarians to carry with them, in their vehicles, such  
3 controlled substances that are legally registered to their premises. (Amended 2019) (P. 65)  
4 (*Recommend reaffirm by Livestock Committee*)  
5  
6  
7

8 **TAXES AND SPENDING**  
9

10 **Tax Base Protection:**

11 Removal of valuable property from the tax rolls by governmental acquisition reduces total  
12 assessed valuation on the tax rolls, thereby increasing the tax rates on other property. Legislation  
13 should be enacted, requiring the governmental entity or Native American tribe acquiring  
14 property outside its jurisdiction to pay an equal amount in lieu of taxes annually. (Reaffirmed  
15 2019) (P. 78)  
16

17 **Tax Credit Classification:**

18 We support the recognition of an agricultural business owned by stockholders, partners or LLC  
19 as a commercial operation. As such, we believe that the business should be eligible for tax  
20 credits applicable to commercial operations, including credits for improvements placed on  
21 housing owned by the operation. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 80)  
22

23 **REGULATORY**  
24

25 **Ag Certainty:**

26 All regulations which impact agricultural operations should be clear, concise, reasonable,  
27 affordable, and implementable for the operation. Agricultural operations should be regulated on  
28 what they physically have in-place, not what could potentially be constructed in the future (such  
29 as regulating a lagoon as a digester because it could potentially be covered to capture gas).  
30 Regulations should be written in such a way that a layman can discern what is required. Air and  
31 water quality regulations should not contradict each other. Regulations which are not complete,  
32 under litigious proceedings which could affect the regulation's requirements, or have parts which  
33 have not been finalized, should not be put into effect. All regulatory development, policies, and  
34 interpretation should go through a transparent stakeholder process; internal regulatory agency  
35 memos and guidance documents are not acceptable ways to develop regulations, set regulatory  
36 policy, or determine how to interpret the regulations.  
37

38 Agricultural operations should be given emission reduction credits for the installation,  
39 implementation and use of emissions reduction technology; these types of credits should be  
40 extended to both air and water quality improvement technologies and practices.

41 We are strong believers of environmental protection and support the voluntary use of reasonable,  
42 implementable, and cost-effective control technologies. Where regulatory changes mandate  
43 specific types of control technologies be installed, a reasonable timeframe to implement and pay  
44 for the required new technologies should be provided. In addition, for those operations who have  
45 an existing control technology (voluntary or mandated), the timeframe should allow for the full



1 depreciation of the existing control technology prior to a new technology being mandated.  
2 (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 80)  
3

#### 4 **Support for the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management:**

5 Arizona Farm Bureau supports the continued autonomy of the Arizona Department of Forestry  
6 and Fire Management. (2019) [Pinal County] (P. 82)  
7

#### 8 **Proof of Citizenship:**

9 We believe requiring proof of citizenship by the director of the Department of Agriculture for  
10 renewal of licenses or permits is not dictated by law and should not be required by the  
11 department. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 83)  
12

#### 13 **Hay Standards:**

14 We support continuing the voluntary inspection and/or grading of hay sold in Arizona. Grading  
15 and analysis are currently available to anyone who desires this service through laboratories  
16 providing the information. Requiring new regulations on all hay sold would be an unnecessary  
17 and expensive tax on producers and buyers. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 84)  
18

#### 19 **Regulatory Compliance Inspections:**

20 Regulatory agencies using police authority to seize private property or the use of private property  
21 for the purpose of regulatory inspection is an unconstitutional police action against the citizens of  
22 the United States of America and Arizona.

23 We shall seek legislation which will bolster our constitutional freedoms and rights as citizens by  
24 specifically prohibiting these kinds of “policing actions” and:

- 25 1. Require federal, state and local regulatory agency inspectors or auditors to give advance  
26 notice of inspections or audits with details of the items to be inspected or audited;
- 27 2. All such inspections shall be conducted by inspectors or auditors in person. No satellite or  
28 aerial imaging shall be used for regulatory monitoring or enforcement unless governed by a  
29 federal consent decree.
- 30 3. No regulatory enforcement action should be taken against agricultural production or  
31 processing facilities based upon satellite or aerial imagery;
- 32 4. Require that regulatory agencies and inspectors or auditors shall follow due process when  
33 taking action against a citizen or business;
- 34 5. Require that a complete copy of any and all regulatory inspection or audit reports shall be  
35 promptly furnished without charge to the citizen or business inspected or audited; and
- 36 6. Require regulatory agency inspectors or auditors to apply regulations in an equitable and  
37 consistent manner. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 86)  
38

#### 39 **Arizona Corporation Commission:**

40 The Arizona Corporation Commission staff should include representation from the agricultural  
41 community. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 86)  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

1 **United States' Sovereignty:**

2 We do not recognize the United Nations as legal authority. We oppose giving up United States'  
3 Sovereignty to the United Nations on any cause including Agenda 21. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 87)

4  
5 **Mobile Communication:**

6 We oppose a ban on the use of mobile communication devices while driving. (Reaffirmed 2019)  
7 (P. 87)

8  
9 **Satellite and Aerial Images:**

10 We oppose the use of satellite or aerial imaging of agricultural land for the purposes of  
11 harassment, litigation of an agricultural operation or individual, or regulatory monitoring and  
12 enforcement, except for a federal consent decree. We oppose the use of aerial imaging as the sole  
13 source of natural resource information in land management policy decision making.  
14 (Amended 2019) (P. 87)

15  
16 **LAW AND ORDER**

17  
18 **Criminalization of Environmental Law:**

19 To obtain a criminal conviction under state or federal environmental law, an agency must prove  
20 beyond a reasonable doubt that a person knowingly and with specific intent violated the law.  
21 (2019) (P. 88)

22  
23 **ELECTIVE OFFICE AND REFERENDUMS**

24  
25 **Elections:**

26 In a political election, in which there are two or more candidates from one party vying for the  
27 same political office, and there is no other candidate running for the same political office from  
28 any other political party, or any legal write-in candidate, then the political race is subject to the  
29 general election where the race is decided by the community as a whole. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P.  
30 90)

31  
32 **Public Funding of Campaigns:**

33 We oppose the use of public funds to finance a candidate's campaign. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 90)

34  
35 **LABOR**

36  
37 **Cost Plus Contracting:**

38 We urge that "cost plus" contracting be prohibited for procurement contracts involving a  
39 government agency, political subdivision, or public service utility. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 91)

40  
41 **Right-to-Work:**

42 We will continue to insist on rigid enforcement of Arizona's Right-to-Work Law. (Reaffirmed  
43 2019) (P. 91)

1   **Employer Rights:**

2   The focus of employers is to employ people and not enforce immigration laws. We oppose the  
3   role of employers as immigration enforcers. (Amended 2019) (P. 93)  
4

5   **Union Elections:**

6   United States citizenship and state residency should be prerequisites for voting in union  
7   elections. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 95)  
8

9   **Public Employee Bargaining:**

10   We favor legislation prohibiting collective bargaining, strikes and work stoppages by public  
11   employees. Public employees who participate in work stoppages and strikes should be subject to  
12   loss of Civil Service Benefits and/or dismissal. No tax money shall be made available for  
13   strikers. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 95)  
14

15                                   **TRANSPORTATION**  
16

17   **Fencing Highways or Roadways:**

18   All existing and future state or county paved roads and highways running through grazing areas  
19   shall have a legal fence as defined by ARS 3-1426 constructed and maintained on both sides of  
20   these roads and highways by the legal entity having maintenance responsibility of these roads  
21   and highways. We support enforcement and penalties for vandalism of fencing on public  
22   highways and any public access roads. (Amended 2019) (P. 97)  
23

24   **Rail Lines Through Yuma County:**

25   Any freight coming from ports on the western coast of Baja California should use the most direct  
26   route in passing from Baja California into California to connect to Union Pacific's main  
27   east/west rail line.  
28

29   Agricultural areas in Yuma County are highly unsuitable for such a rail line due to food safety,  
30   air quality, and transportation issues. Such a rail line passing through established agricultural  
31   areas would also negatively affect existing farms, homes, and businesses, and would denigrate  
32   quality of life and property values in those areas. As such, Arizona Farm Bureau is adamantly  
33   opposed to any new rail lines crossing through or in close proximity to agricultural areas of  
34   Yuma County. Double tracking of the railway should not impact the Yuma Territorial Prison or  
35   other historical sites. (Amended 2019) (P. 97)  
36

37                                   **DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**  
38

39   **Farm/Ranch Truck License:**

40   We support legislation to establish a farm/ranch license truck rate, which would be based on  
41   assessed value rather than on weight for vehicles used in the production/marketing of foods,  
42   fibers, and ornamental plants. (2019) (P. 98)  
43  
44  
45  
46

1 **HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE**

2 **School Lunches:**

3 We support the use of balanced, nutritious, and affordable school lunches and support the  
4 utilization of Arizona agriculture products where available. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 101)

6  
7 **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

8  
9 **Tell Agriculture's Story:**

10 Arizona Farm Bureau will regularly build a strategy around public outreach and engagement to  
11 help the general public understand modern agriculture.

12 We shall partner with related organizations (including other agriculture and commodity-specific  
13 groups) and agencies to establish outreach programs and specific legislation in the best interest  
14 of Arizona agriculture. The public should be more thoroughly informed of agriculture's role in  
15 the economy and welfare of our community and nation. As a result, we support any form of  
16 agriculture, including agri-tourism and agribusiness, in Arizona that helps educate the public  
17 through on-site experiences about agriculture.

18 We support ongoing studies that adequately quantify agriculture's economic benefit to the state.  
19 And once such studies have completed data, a concerted and robust effort shall be made to  
20 inform the public through various channels of outreach including social media and any other  
21 form of public engagement.

22 Where appropriate, government relations and outreach will strategically align efforts, especially  
23 on behalf of "priority issues" established by farm bureau's delegate body. When a public issue  
24 surfaces that would be harmful to the agriculture industry's wellbeing, we will develop a  
25 multimedia outreach campaign to promote the activities and positions of the agriculture  
26 community. Such a campaign will be executed through the formation of a committee comprised  
27 of all agricultural commodity groups in order to obtain grants and other funding to educate and  
28 promote the agriculture community's position regarding the issue. (Amended 2019) (P. 103)

29  
30 **WITHIN FARM BUREAU**

31  
32 **Political Action Committee:**

33 We will continue the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation Political Action Committee. We support  
34 Farm Bureau promoting and meeting the criteria for a Super PAC. (Reaffirmed 2019) (P. 105)

**This page intentionally  
left blank.**

# **Issue Advisory Committee Reports**

## **2023**



**Arizona Farm Bureau  
Federation**

# State and Federal Lands

## Committee Report

### May 1, 2023

**Present:** Ben Menges (Chair), Ashley Menges, Benny Aja, Emmett Sturgill, Frank McNally, Dan Bell, Ross Rayner

**Staff:** Daniel Harris, Ana Kennedy Otto, Christy Davis, Erin Kuiper

**Not Present:** Whit Lann, Cole Newbold, Jack Mann

#### ***Issues surfaced for discussion at County Policy Development Meetings (in order of importance) and current policy:***

##### ***1. Third-Party Monitoring:***

There is a consensus among the committee members that third-party monitoring should be considered a top priority. The inclusion of unbiased external parties in monitoring efforts will enhance data quality and credibility. The committee acknowledges the need for reliable monitoring data to address lawsuits and challenges related to endangered species, such as the yellow-billed cuckoo and Sonoran chub.

**Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing current policy to determine if it needs to be strengthened.**

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Critical Habitat Designation (pg.26)

##### ***2. Solar and Wind Farms:***

The expansion of solar and wind farms emerged as a priority issue during the meeting. Concerns were raised about the encroachment of renewable energy projects on ranch lands, the potential impact on ranching operations, and the need for fair reimbursement to facilitate relocation. The committee suggests exploring options to mitigate the adverse effects of solar and wind farms on ranching and to ensure the equitable treatment of affected ranchers.

**Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing current policy to determine if it needs to be strengthened.**

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Energy Sources (pg.48)
- Solar Power Siting (pg.49)

##### ***3. Wild Horse and Burro Management:***

The negligent approach towards wild horse and burro management was identified as an urgent concern. The committee believes that when these animals cause damage, responsible parties should be mandated to take action or compensate affected individuals. Efforts to remove wild horses and burros, as well as addressing lawsuits related to these animals, should be prioritized to protect ranching interests.

**The committee recommends reviewing current policy to determine if it needs to be strengthened.**

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Feral Horses & Burros (pg.69)
- Removal of Feral Livestock (pg.69)

#### ***4. Vacant Allotments:***

The committee acknowledges the importance of addressing the issue of vacant allotments. The 84 vacant allotments present an opportunity to improve land management and resource utilization. Efforts should be made to facilitate the allocation of these allotments to responsible parties to ensure their productive and sustainable use.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends reviewing current policy to determine if it needs to be strengthened.

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Grazing Permits & Wildfires (pg.17)
- Grazing permits/Public Land Leases (pg. 18)

#### ***5. Carbon Sequestration:***

Given the limitations on cattle grazing due to climate change concerns, the committee recognizes the need for reliable carbon sequestration data. The committee suggests collaborating with experts, to gather robust data that demonstrates the positive contribution of ranching to carbon sequestration. This data can support arguments for continued and expanded grazing opportunities.

**Recommendation:** *The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.*

#### ***6. Corner Jumping Lawsuit in Wyoming:***

The ongoing corner jumping lawsuit in Wyoming requires attention from the committee. The potential impact on landowners with checkerboarded land and the implications for game and fish management were highlighted. The committee suggests monitoring the progress of the lawsuit and exploring avenues to protect landowner rights and prevent unauthorized access to private lands.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends reviewing current policy to determine if it needs to be strengthened.

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Legal Access (pg.22)

In addition to the identified priorities, the committee discussed several other important topics. These include the 30x30 initiative, the calculation of highest and best land use, solar farm microclimates, mineral rights, the Southwestern Willow flycatcher, and archeological clearance. While these issues were not identified as immediate priorities, they warrant ongoing attention and consideration.



# **Ag Labor**

## **Committee Report**

### **May 1, 2023**

**Present:** Richie Kennedy (Chair), Jordan John, Bill Kerr, John Boelts, Marcos Moore

**Staff:** Daniel Harris, Ana Kennedy Otto, Christy Davis, Julie Murphree, Elizabeth Rico

**Not Present:** Andy Smallhouse, Brooks Cameron, J.R. Howard, Tianna Parker

#### ***Issues surfaced for discussion at County Policy Development Meetings (in order of importance) and current policy:***

The meeting focused on labor issues in the agricultural sector, particularly concerning the H2A program, heat stress rules, and the OSHA Heat rule. Various concerns and perspectives were discussed, including the need for effective heat stress regulations in states like Arizona, the challenges posed by the H2A program's requirements, the detrimental impact of mandatory e-verify on Arizona, and the potential consequences of the OSHA Heat rule on agricultural workers. The meeting also emphasized the importance of seeking information from the California Farm Bureau regarding their experiences and policies related to the OSHA Heat rule.

#### ***Heat Stress Rules:***

The committee highlighted the implications for heat stress rules in Yuma, Arizona, where temperatures often remain above 80 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer.

The committee recognized the significance of addressing heat stress regulations to protect agricultural workers' well-being. Ana Otto shared information about the OSHA Heat rule, mentioning that OSHA plans to roll out a proposed rule in the coming months.

The committee recognized the importance of understanding the experiences of agricultural employers in California, who have dealt with similar heat rules

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing current policy to determine if it needs to be strengthened in this area.***

#### ***H2A Program:***

The committee mentioned the discrepancies in H2A labor numbers provided by AFBF, indicating that the figures were low for Arizona and high for California. The labor shortage and significant outsourcing costs were identified as major challenges due to the limited availability of local labor.

#### ***AZFB Relevant Policy:***

- *Worker Program (pg. 91)*
- *Labor Needs for AZ Agriculture (pg.92)*

***Recommendation: The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.***

#### ***Mandatory E-Verify:***

The committee expressed concerns about the detrimental effects of mandatory e-verify on agricultural operations in Arizona.

The burdensome nature of the program and its impact on farmers' ability to hire labor were highlighted.

#### ***AZFB Relevant Policy:***

- *Worker Program (pg. 91)*
- *Labor Needs for Arizona Agriculture (pg. 92)*

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing existing policies to determine if it is necessary to outline our position more explicitly on this issue.***

***Action Items:***

**Obtain Information from California Farm Bureau regarding the heat rule:**

The committee decided to reach out to the California Farm Bureau to gather their experiences and policies regarding the OSHA Heat rule.

This information will help in understanding the challenges faced by agricultural employers in California and potentially provide insights for addressing the rule in Arizona.

**Explore Positive Rule or Recommendation:**

The committee suggested considering alternative rules or recommendations to address heat stress concerns instead of solely opposing the recent heat rule.

The committee acknowledged the value of presenting constructive proposals to ensure the well-being of agricultural workers while maintaining a viable agricultural sector.

**Conclusion:**

The priority issues identified in this meeting include heat stress rules, challenges with the H2A program, the impact of mandatory e-verify, and the forthcoming OSHA Heat rule. The committee emphasized the need for effective heat stress regulations in Arizona, sought information from the California Farm Bureau regarding their experiences with the OSHA Heat rule, and considered proposing positive rules or recommendations to address the concerns. The committee will continue to address these priority issues to support the agricultural sector and safeguard the rights and well-being of agricultural workers.

# Equine

## Committee Report

### May 2, 2023

**Present:** Jean Anderson (Chair), Maryeileen Flanagan, Angie Newbold, Tiffany Willace, Chip Wilson, Tom Bartol

**Staff:** Daniel Harris, Ana Otto, Christy Davis, Julie Murphree

**Not Present:** Tad Dent, Adam Layton, Lori Haskin, Mike Conerly

#### ***Issues surfaced for discussion at County Policy Development Meetings (in order of importance) and current policy:***

##### ***1. Equine/Livestock Right of Way Public Education Campaign:***

It was discussed that there is a need to educate the public, particularly residents of subdivisions, about the right of way for livestock and equine animals. There have been instances where livestock riders have encountered misunderstandings and a lack of awareness from people in subdivisions. It was suggested to develop a policy supporting an education campaign to raise awareness about the right of way. The campaign could potentially be integrated into driver's education materials to ensure broader reach and understanding.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends reviewing current policy to determine if it needs to be strengthened.

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Fence-out Law: (pg. 20)
- Livestock Crossings (pg. 98)

##### ***2. Impact of Racetracks Being Sold to Out-of-State Owners:***

The sale of racetracks to out-of-state owners was identified as a concern. The committee acknowledged that such changes in ownership could have significant impacts on the racing environment in Arizona. It was emphasized that understanding and evaluating the potential consequences of these transactions is crucial to protect the racing industry within the state.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.

##### ***3. Protection of Livestock Events, Including Rodeos:***

The committee raised concerns about potential ramifications for livestock events, including rodeos, due to legislation passed in California aimed at eliminating rodeo-style events. It was recognized that similar restrictions in Arizona could have adverse effects on livestock-related industries and cultural practices. Protecting these events and ensuring their continuation within the state was identified as an important priority.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.

##### ***4. Opposition to Zoning Right-to-Use Changes Affecting Equine Properties:***

The issue of zoning right-to-use changes that could impact equine properties was discussed. The committee expressed the need to oppose any zoning changes that would negatively affect the ability to use land for equine purposes. The concern was raised that affordable housing developments might encroach upon agricultural lands, potentially displacing equine activities.

Preserving agricultural lands for equine use was deemed vital to the for-pleasure equine community.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing existing policies to determine if it is necessary to outline our position more explicitly on this issue.***

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Zoning use by right (pg.9)

***5. Expertise of Governor's Appointees:***

The Committee highlighted the issue of the Department of Racing's appointed officials lacking expertise in horse racing. The committee recognized the importance of having knowledgeable individuals overseeing and making decisions related to specific fields. It was suggested to establish a policy requiring that the Governor's appointees possess expertise in the area they would be responsible for, ensuring more informed decision-making.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.***

# **Water**

## **Committee Report**

### **May 2, 2023**

**Present:** Nich Kenny (Chair), Ross Rayner, Jim Boyle, David Sharp, Kirk Dunn, Stephen Miller, Bryan Hartman, Alan Seitz, Nathan Rovey, Michael Macauley, Shawn Wood, Wade Noble, James Andriano, Stefanie Smallhouse, Dan Thelander, David Brown, Brian Blanchard,  
**Staff:** Daniel Harris, Ana Otto, Joel Carr, Julie Murphree, Christy Davis  
**Not Present:** Art Allen, Gary Mortimer, Bob Flake, Clayton Overson, Justin Layton, Scott Alder

***Issues surfaced for discussion at County Policy Development Meetings (in order of importance) and current policy:***

#### ***1. Groundwater Management in relation to Over drafting issue with INA & AMA application Cochise County LGSA***

The issue of groundwater management and over-drafting in Cochise County LGSA has been identified as a pressing concern. The committee has discussed the failed efforts of the modern INA (Interstate Natural Gas Association) and AMA (Active Management Area) application in collaboration with ADWR (Arizona Department of Water Resources). The committee members agree that doing nothing is not an option. Various strategies, including the implementation of recharge wells and addressing water scarcity in historically underserved areas, have been proposed.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends a review of current policy and ensure it meets the needs of the counties.***

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Groundwater (pg. 33)
- Groundwater Management Areas (pg.34)

#### ***2. Exporting alfalfa, potential additional meetings to take place***

The committee has raised concerns regarding the exporting of alfalfa and its impact on water resources. Discussions have focused on the situation in the Walapi Basin and the potential consequences of exporting water-intensive crops like alfalfa. The committee members feel the need for further meetings to explore this issue in detail and assess its implications for the agricultural sector.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.***

#### ***3. Outside ownership of farmlands***

The issue of outside ownership of farmlands has been highlighted as a significant concern. The committee has expressed worries about foreign entities, such as Saudi Arabia, owning and farming lands in Arizona and potentially exporting the produce. The committee believes that finding a balance between protecting farmers and ranchers while addressing ownership concerns is crucial. The impact of such ownership on water resources and local communities needs to be carefully evaluated.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.***

***4. Natural Disaster Declaration in relation to BOR proposal***

The committee has discussed the need for a potential natural disaster declaration in response to the SEIS (Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement) proposal. Environmental restrictions have resulted in the loss of water capture, leading to increased reliance on the Colorado River. The committee members believe that a comprehensive evaluation of the SEIS proposal and its potential implications for water availability is essential to determine if a natural disaster declaration is warranted.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing existing policies to determine if it is necessary to outline our position more explicitly on this issue.***

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Natural Disasters (pg.88)

***5. Right of the river BOR proposal***

The committee has emphasized the importance of addressing the SEIS proposal's impact on the right of the river. The federal government's authority over the Colorado River and the misallocation of water rights have been brought into question. The committee members suggest further examination of this issue to ensure equitable water allocation and prevent future water scarcity crises.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.***

***6. Municipalities controlling water: Impact on limiting Ag***

Concerns have been raised regarding the impact of municipalities controlling water resources and the potential consequences for the agricultural sector. The committee members seek to understand the implications of limiting agricultural water allotments on food production and the subsequent effects on lower-income populations. A comprehensive analysis of the balance between municipal water needs and the sustainability of agricultural practices is necessary.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing existing policies to determine if it is necessary to outline our position more explicitly on this issue.***

# **Organic and Direct Marketing**

## **Committee Report**

### **May 3, 2023**

**Present:** Sharla Mortimer (Chair), Heather Lee, Mark Killian, Lori Sturgill, Joseph Dominguez  
**Staff:** Daniel Harris, Ana Kennedy Otto, Erin Kuiper, Julie Murphree, Elizabeth Rico, Christy Davis  
**Not Present:** Nathan Watkins, Emil Molin,

***Issues surfaced for discussion at County Policy Development Meetings (in order of importance) and current policy:***

**Recommendation:**

#### ***1. Direct Marketing Tax Benefits:***

The committee highlighted the importance of direct marketing for the agricultural sector, particularly in light of the food insecurity experienced during the pandemic. They expressed the need for state-level tax benefits to incentivize direct marketing to the public. This could reduce initial costs for necessary equipment such as refrigeration. The group agreed that exploring tax incentives for direct marketing should be a priority.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.***

#### ***2. Meat Processing Plant Bottleneck:***

The committee raised concerns regarding the recent closure of the University of Arizona (UA) meat processing facility and the continued need for supporting and increasing small processing capacity. Staff noted that the new Camp Verde processing plant is moving forward, but the process is slow. Staff also noted that the UA facility is not closed permanently, but instead closed temporarily for renovations.

**Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing the current policy to determine if it needs to be strengthened.**

AZFB Relevant Policies:

- Small Processing Capacity (P. 68)
- Funding of The University of Arizona Campus Agricultural Center and Food Product and Safety Laboratory (P. 69)

#### ***3. Lack of Direct Marketing Opportunities:***

The committee highlighted the challenge of limited direct marketing opportunities, particularly in rural areas. Due to their remote location, farmers have had to rely on self-promotion and word-of-mouth connections. Exploring cooperative marketing options, such as the potential coop in Heather's area, could help address this issue. The utilization of existing platforms like "Fill Your Plate" should be maximized.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends a review of the current policy and ensure it meets the needs of the counties.***

AZFB Relevant policy:

- Retail Agriculture (pg.57)

***4. Social Media Marketing Challenges:***

The committee expressed concerns about the effectiveness of Facebook marketing, noting that the reach of organic posts has significantly decreased unless a paid promotion is utilized. This limitation hampers farmers' ability to reach potential customers. Finding solutions to enhance social media outreach and improve algorithm updates should be a priority.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.***



# **Crops**

## **Committee Report**

### **May 3, 2023**

**Present:** John Hart (Chair), Kristen Nelson, Paco Ollerton, Myrle Marlatt, Sam Kelsall

**Staff:** Daniel Harris, Ana Otto, Elizabeth Rico, Julie Murphree, Joel Carr

**Not Present:** Jay Larson, Robert Lunt, Jason Rovey, Sam Daley, Stafford Smith, Dan Pacheco, Mike Norris, John Hume

***Issues surfaced for discussion at County Policy Development Meetings (in order of importance) and current policy:***

***Foreign Ownership of farm lands, the Saudi Farm:***

The committee discussed the issue of farming on Federal lands. The committee engaged in a discussion regarding the challenges and opportunities associated with this matter.

The committee highlighted the issue concerning the Saudi Alfalfa farm and its impact on crop production. They emphasized the importance of considering the commodity (water) rather than solely focusing on alfalfa.

They also raised the issue of the value of the rent and its potential inflation, affecting those who lease state lands. The committee acknowledged the impact of these actions on other lessees.

While some in the committee disagree with the Saudi Alfalfa farm's practices, it was mentioned that they have been engaging in similar activities for a considerable time. The committee expressed concerns about misrepresentation and the need for accurate information. Committee Recommends pursuing an education campaign on the Saudi Farming practices.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing existing policies to determine if it is necessary to outline our position more explicitly on this issue.***

AZFB Relevant policy:

- Property rights (pg.6)

***EPA Regulations and ESA:***

The committee brought attention to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) upcoming regulations and their alignment with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The impact on agriculture and the opportunity to share the industry's story was discussed. Committee Recommends continued efforts to reach the public about Agriculture.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing current policy to determine if it needs to be strengthened.***

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Regulatory Rules & enforcement (pg.50)

***Bee Policy Reaffirmation:***

As a priority recommendation, the committee suggested reaffirming the bees in agriculture policy.

# **Air and Water Quality**

## **Committee Report**

### **May 4, 2023**

**Present:** Jean Mcgrath, Rusty VanLeuven, Harold Maxwell, Marguerite Tan

**Staff:** Daniel Harris, Anna Otto, Julie Murphree

**Not Present:** Armand Lunt, Frank Garrett

***Issues surfaced for discussion at County Policy Development Meetings (in order of importance) and current policy:***

***PM10 Issue and Water Scarcity:***

The committee raised concerns about the PM10 issue, particularly the lack of water to control dust. they emphasized the potential consequences of cutting water to agriculture, which could lead to the transition of the moderate non-attainment area to a serious non-attainment area. This would significantly increase the dust in Yuma. The participants agreed that each county needs to assess the water situation and develop appropriate measures. The impact on the agricultural community must be taken into account, distinguishing between reasonable control measures and best control measures. The damages resulting from the loss of water should also be considered in any decision-making process.

AZFB Relevant Policies:

- Air Quality (pg. 45)

***Recommendation: Develop or amend policy to protect water and air quality.***

***Changes to NRCS Standards:***

The committee highlighted the negative impact of the new changes to the NRCS standards on production. Members of the committee expressed support for utilizing NRCS resources to address environmental challenges, emphasizing the importance of leveraging these programs to benefit the agricultural sector.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing current policy to determine if it needs to be strengthened.***

***Carbon Emissions and Sustainability:***

The committee emphasized the importance of addressing carbon emissions and suggested making carbon emissions and sustainability a focal point of the discussions. The participants acknowledged the need to consider mandatory carbon emission standards and explore programs related to carbon capture in soil.

AZFB Relevant Policies:

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions (pg. 50)
- Ag Certainty (pg. 800)

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing existing policies to determine if it is necessary to outline our position more explicitly on this issue.***

***Ozone Standards and Nitrogen Regulation:***

The Committee raised concerns about ozone standards, emphasizing the need to include transportation as a significant contributor to ozone pollution. Other members mentioned the

detrimental effects of nitrogen deposition, as seen in Colorado. The participants highlighted the importance of addressing nitrogen regulation to minimize its adverse impact on the environment.

AZFB Relevant Policies:

- Air Pollution Controls (pg.45)
- Air Quality (pg.46)

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing current policy to determine if it needs to be strengthened.***

***Tribal Water Quality:***

Members of the committee drew attention to the water quantity issue in tribal nations, highlighting the lack of potable water. The committee suggested the development of policies to ensure that water originating from Native lands benefits Farm Bureau members.

AZFB Relevant Policies:

- Water Quality (pg. 43)

***Recommendation: The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.***

***Off-Road and High-Quality Reclaimed Water:***

The committee mentioned the issue of off-roading contributing to dust pollution. The committee connected this concern to the conservation of high-quality reclaimed water, suggesting that policies should be in place to address this issue effectively.

AZFB Relevant Policies:

- Off-Highway Vehicles (pg.22)
- Particulate Air Pollution (pg. 46)

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing existing policies to determine if it is necessary to outline our position more explicitly on this issue.***

***Committee Recommends reaffirming the 5-year Air Quality policy***

# **Food Safety & Specialty Crop**

## **Joint Committee Meeting Report**

### **May 1, 2023**

**Present:** John Boelts (Chair), Brian Blake, Harold Payne, Teresa Lopez, Michael Pierce, Kay Hauser, Shanna Bowman, Kami Van Horn

**Staff:** Daniel Harris, Ana Otto, Erin Kuiper Elizabeth Rico, Joel Carr

**Not Present:** Bryce Carter, Kami Weddle, Mike Teeple, Jim Graham, Gary Mayfield, Charlie Montgomery

***Issues surfaced for discussion at County Policy Development Meetings (in order of importance) and current policy:***

**Recommendation:**

#### ***1. IR4 Program Funding:***

The committee emphasized the importance of paying attention to the IR4 program and its funding requirements. Members mentioned that the IR4 program is expected to receive increased funding of more than \$15 million when the farm bill is released. It is recommended that the AZFB supports and advocates for adequate funding for the IR4 program.

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Farm Bill (pg.103)

***Recommendation: The committee recommends a review of current policy and ensure it meets the needs of the counties.***

#### ***2. Food Safety Research:***

The members emphasized the importance of conducting research into food safety, specifically addressing concerns related to E. coli and Salmonella. They raised concerns about the increasing cost of insurance for crops that are normally consumed raw. The AZFB should promote research on food safety and explore options to mitigate insurance costs for raw crops.

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Food Safety (pg.56)
- Funding of The University of Arizona Campus Agricultural Center and the Food Product and Safety Laboratory (pg.69)

***Recommendation: The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.***

#### ***3. Quality of Reclaimed Water and Long-Term Effects on Wine Grapes:***

Committee Members drew attention to the declining quality of reclaimed water used for wine grape cultivation in Cochise County, particularly in the Wilcox region, where most wine grapes in Arizona are produced. The AZFB should initiate research and monitoring programs to assess the long-term effects of using reclaimed water on wine grape quality and productivity.

AZFB Relevant Policy:

- Reclaimed Water (pg.35)
- Water Quality (pg.43)

***Recommendation: The committee recommends a review of current policy and ensure it meets the needs of the counties.***

***4. Regulatory Investigations and Rapid Response Grants:***

The committee highlighted the need for regulatory investigations, particularly related to heavy metals in leafy greens. They also mentioned the importance of securing rapid response team grants for effective emergency management. The AZFB should advocate for increased resources and support for regulatory investigations and facilitate access to rapid response team grants.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.***

***5. Food Safety and Leafy Green Insurance:***

The members focused on food safety concerns in Yuma, particularly regarding leafy greens and the availability of insurance coverage for growers. The raised concerns revolved around the increasing cost of insurance for crops that are normally consumed raw.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.***

# **Farm Policy**

## **Committee Report**

### **May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Present:** Nancy Caywood, Clint Gladden, Joel John, Vickie Parks, Jim Parks, Dan Rodriguez

**Staff:** Daniel Harris, Ana Otto, Erin Kuiper, Elizabeth Rico, Joel Carr, Julie Murphree,

**Not Present:** David Collins, Raney Embree, Selwyn Justice, Jay Larson, Justin Layton, Gregory Marlatt, Brian McKeighen, Cecil Pratt, Shannon Schulz

***Issues surfaced for discussion at County Policy Development Meetings (in order of importance) and current policy:***

#### **Recommendation:**

##### Renewable Energy:

The committee members discussed the siting of renewable energy facilities. In addition to the solar farm project proposal and BLM variance lands, private landowners are also fielding calls from solar companies who want to lease private land for renewable energy installations. Concerns raised by the committee included what is the life expectancy of the equipment and infrastructure and what are the impacts on the land once it cannot be further used.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends discussing the siting of renewable energy siting and their long-term impact to agricultural lands***

##### AZFB Policies:

- Solar Power Siting (P. 49)
- Energy Sources (P. 48)

##### AFBF Policies:

- Electric Power Generation (3.12) (P. 147)
- Renewable Electricity (P. 149)
- Renewable Energy (P. 152)
- Solar Energy (P. 152)

##### Off-highway Vehicles:

The committee discussed the ongoing impact of OHVs on not only ranchers but farmland as well. One of the challenges facing farmers and ranchers is the response time for law enforcement to respond to OHV incidents or damage. It was noted that in Coconino County stakeholders have worked with the sheriff's office for the last 10 years and have their support in both responding and prosecuting OHV violations. The committee shared that there needs to be continued outreach and education to the public regarding this issue, as well as funding for additional law enforcement. Furthermore, they noted the need to account for how OHV fees are being used (i.e. How much, if any, is going to law enforcement, education, etc.?).

***Recommendation: The committee recommends a review of current policy and ensure it meets the needs of the counties.***

AZFB Relevant Policies:

- Off-Road Vehicles and Non-Motorized Trails (P. 22)

Elk Depredation:

The Committee discussed the large elk population that is leading to the destruction of fencing and stock water infrastructure. Ranchers understand that the issue is link to drought and the animals are seeking water. However, they believe there should be funding made available to repair these damages, as well as consideration of depredation hunts to manage the elk population during drought.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends a review of current policy and ensure it meets the needs of the counties.***

AZFB Relevant Policies:

- Wildlife Management (P. 26-27)
- Drought Management Depredation Hunts (P. 28)

NRCS Payment Delays:

The Committee discussed challenges that are arising as a result of delayed project payments by NRCS. In some cases, contractors are not willing to move forward on new projects (i.e. EQIP) as they await payment for previous projects.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends a review of current policy and ensure it meets the needs of the counties.***

AFBF Relevant Policies:

- Conservation and Environmental Program Implementation (4.5.8, 4.5.9. 4.5.31,) (P. 69-68)

Preventative Planting:

There was discussion on the fact that alfalfa is not an insurable crop and thus is not considered for prevented planting. There was discussion by the Committee that having alfalfa included as an insurable crop and eligible for prevented planting would be beneficial to growers.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends further discussion of this issue in counties where alfalfa is grown and whether policy is needed to address this issue.***



# **Livestock**

## **Committee Report**

### **May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Present:** Stephen Klump (Chair), Moriah White, Travis Johnson, Tim Petersen, Don Merrell, Cassie Lyman, Reed Flake, Joe King, Carmen Auza

**Staff:** Daniel Harris, Tatum Bingham, Julie Murphree, Ana Otto, Christy Davis, Erin Kuiper, Joel Carr, Phil Bashaw

**Guests:** Vickie Parks, Jim Parks

**Not Present:** Jim Goldman, Thomas Wilson, Matt Herrington, Shawn Wright, Richard Clark, Keith Hansen, Ashley Ellixson, Diane Spruit, Mike Gross, Catherine Mann, Brock Gill, Kelly Moss, Eva Morin, Kemp Morris, Gerald Flake

***Issues surfaced for discussion at County Policy Development Meetings (in order of importance) and current policy:***

**Recommendation:**

Access to Meat Processing:

The committee raised concerns regarding the recent closure of the University of Arizona (UA) meat processing facility and the continued need for supporting and increasing small processing capacity. Staff noted that the new Camp Verde processing plant is moving forward, but the process is slow. Staff also noted that the UA facility is not closed permanently, but instead closed temporarily for renovations.

Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing current policy to determine if it needs to be strengthened.

AZFB Relevant Policies:

- Small Processing Capacity (P. 68)
- Funding of The University of Arizona Campus Agricultural Center and Food Product and Safety Laboratory (P. 69)

mRNA Vaccines:

The Committee noted the increased interest by the public about the use of mRNA vaccines in livestock/farm animals. They noted there are lots of questions regarding this vaccine much of it stemming from COVID and the use of this type of vaccine in humans.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends county Farm Bureaus discuss if a policy is needed to address this issue.***

Xylazine:

Committee members noted the use of Xylazine, a sedative, used in livestock production for certain procedures such as cattle dehorning. There is current legislation in Congress to regulate

the drug as a controlled substance (Schedule III), because of its illicit use among people, and this could impact access to Xylazine by livestock producers.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing existing policies to determine if it is necessary to outline our position more explicitly on this issue.***

AZFB Relevant Policies:

- Controlled Substances for Veterinary Use (P. 65)

Feral Cattle:

The committee discussed the ongoing challenge of dealing with feral cattle. Although Farm Bureau has an existing policy, it should be reviewed and strengthened if necessary.

***Recommendation: The committee recommends reviewing existing policies to determine if it is necessary to outline our position more explicitly on this issue.***

AZFB Relevant Policies:

- Removal of Feral Livestock (P. 69)

Five Year Policies:

The Committee recommends the following regarding five-year policies that pertain to livestock.

Feed Additives and Hormones: Reaffirm

Controlled Substances: Reaffirm