

2025 POLICY RESOLUTIONS



DOMESTIC & TRADE POLICY

FARM POLICY

Support

- NSP supports a Farm Bill that provides an effective and sustainable safety-net, benefitting both producers and consumers
- NSP opposes any type of means testing to establish eligibility for, or restrict participation in, federal farm programs.
- NSP supports decoupled farm programs.
- NSP supports reference prices in farm policy.
- NSP supports the continuation of separate identity rights for spouses actively engaged in farming.
- NSP supports the adoption of uniform definitions across all USDA agencies.
- NSP supports enhanced support for beginning farmers and ranchers.

Oppose

- NSP opposes further payment limit reductions.
- NSP opposes a government-owned food security reserve or a farmer-owned reserve.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Support

- NSP supports fair and equitable implementation of new insurance
- NSP supports new 508h proposals for sorghum.
- NSP supports the current, affordable crop insurance programs and sustainable delivery systems
- NSP supports a unified network programming system such as a Comprehensive Information Management System (CIMS) or a single hardcopy paper filing system between the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) for crop acreage reporting. This would eliminate a double paper acreage filing system that results in errors so long as RMA, FSA and approved insurance providers all have access to the system that is currently in place.
- NSP supports the expansion of crop insurance programs, such as the inclusion of sorghum as a dual-purpose crop under annual forage, given the importance of grazing after harvest.
- NSP supports RMA maintaining zoning by state, county and practice for actuarial purposes.
- NSP supports personal T-yields.

Oppose

- NSP opposes linking conservation or carbon sequestration compliance to crop insurance program participation.

TAXES

Support

- NSP supports allowing producers to transfer monies received from the sale of agricultural land or assets to tax deferred retirement accounts.
- NSP supports the use of, and encourages the IRS to allow, IRA and other producer retirement account investment in farmer-owned, value-added cooperatives.
- NSP supports provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act respecting agriculture and supports amendments to Section 199A that maintains a deduction for farmers without regard to where they sell their crop.
- NSP supports expanding provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act estate tax exemption, which is set to expire after the end of 2025.

- NSP supports allowing a full deduction from self-employment tax calculations for health insurance premiums paid for self-employed individuals and their families.
- NSP supports the current “cash basis” accounting policy for agricultural producers.
- NSP supports stepped-up basis for inherited property

Oppose

- NSP opposes federal taxes on agricultural inputs.
- NSP opposes imposing self-employment taxes on land or machinery rent.
- NSP opposes the creation of a federal value added tax.
- NSP opposes any increase in capital gains tax rates.
- NSP opposes any taxes on unrealized capital gains.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Support

- NSP recognizes the important role technology such as CRISPR can play in agriculture and sorghum’s competitiveness.
- NSP affirms gene editing and its treatment as an extension of conventional breeding when it is used to accomplish what could otherwise have been done through these unregulated practices, as it will be vital to our ability to produce more sustainably.

BIG DATA

Support

- NSP supports all data generated by farmers under the umbrella of “big data” is exclusively owned and controlled by the individual farmer. This data may be used to participate in sustainability programs for the benefit of the farmer. Any data that is aggregated and anonymized may be used by NSP for beneficial purposes.

IMMIGRATION

Support

- NSP supports a guest worker program that secures the borders of the United States and provides a legal, affordable and stable workforce for agriculture.
- NSP supports optimization of the H2A program for agricultural operations in the provision of temporary labor.
- NSP supports a streamlined pathway for permanent legal status for trustworthy guest workers seeking the provision.

TRANSPORTATION - WATER

Support

- NSP supports a long-term and attainable initiative to strengthen U.S. shipbuilding and maritime industries that does not disrupt current grain trading pathways and standards.

Oppose

- NSP opposes all cargo preference and Jones Act requirements governing shipment of bulk commodities.

TRANSPORTATION - RAIL

Support

- NSP supports requiring a 60-day notice of rail rate increases.
- NSP supports competitive access for all rail shippers.
- NSP supports giving adjacent landowners the right of first refusal to purchase abandoned rail beds at a fair market appraised value comparable to adjacent property.

- NSP supports maintenance and expansion of existing container and container-loading facilities and construction of new facilities for agricultural products.
- NSP encourages the STB to provide for the mediation and arbitration of service and rate disputes.
- NSP supports improved and increased access to railway export opportunities.

Oppose

- NSP opposes any further rail mergers in the United States unless the mergers are conditioned on the offering of open access to all captive rail shippers.

TRANSPORTATION - TRUCK

Support

- NSP supports giving each state the authority to regulate truck weights but urges standard weight limits and bridge formulas between states.
- NSP supports passage of federal legislation that moves the agricultural exemption for hours of service from rule to law.
- NSP affirms its support of traffic safety but recognizes issues of practicality regarding farm truck safety equipment. Therefore, NSP supports a production agriculture exemption to DOT regulations.
- NSP supports an increase in the mileage exemption for heavy highway vehicle use tax from the current maximum of 7,500 miles for agricultural vehicles.
- NSP supports exempting implements of husbandry and vehicles with farm tags from the definition of a commercial motor vehicle and from interstate commerce definitions.
- NSP urges Congress to ensure that in the implementation of the U.S. Patriot Act, producers and custom harvesters retain their 150 mile exemption from their base of operations.
- NSP encourages the use of CDL licenses. Also, NSP supports the exemption of CDL licenses and gallon limitation requirements for custom harvesters and farm suppliers transporting inputs to and from the farm.

FARM CREDIT

Support

- NSP supports financing programs for beginning farmers.
- NSP supports the FSA guaranteed loan program.
- NSP supports FSA reduced interest loan program.
- NSP supports the Farmer Mac secondary Market.
- NSP supports low interest programs for farmer owned cooperatives.
- NSP supports the mediation concept included in the Farm Credit Act of 1987.
- NSP supports federal banking regulations which account for the different needs of rural and urban banks.
- NSP supports a level playing field on which to secure short term liquidity and longer-term financing for producers.

Oppose

- NSP opposes any restructuring of the Farm Credit System that replaces elected farmer-members of system boards with commercial bankers or expands bank access to FCS funding.

COMMODITY FUTURES

Support

- NSP supports the appointment of an agricultural producer as a CFTC commissioner.
- NSP supports continued efforts to educate producers about futures, options and other pricing alternatives and market liquidity.

GENERAL DOMESTIC POLICY

Support

- NSP supports the continuation of USDA as a cabinet-level department and believes it should be the lead agency in all federal programs, policies or regulations affecting farmers.
- NSP believes that USDA should not include income from off-farm sources when reporting farm income.
- NSP supports greater empowerment of FSA and NRCS state and county committees to adapt national programs to local needs.
- NSP supports the present system of electing farmers to FSA county committees rather than appointed committees.
- NSP supports input from stakeholders (farmers, ranchers, county and state committee members) before changes are considered in the USDA FSA and NRCS systems to better manage services to farmers and ranchers.
- NSP supports adequate staffing of all USDA agency offices to meet the needs of producers
- NSP supports the timely appointment of all USDA committees.
- NSP supports the work of USDA Rural Development and/or other agencies to improve the quality of life and increase economic opportunity in rural America. NSP also encourages the long-term funding of the grant, loan and loan guarantee programs administered by USDA Rural Development and/or other agencies.

Oppose

- NSP opposes mandatory reporting of Scope 3 emissions as proposed by the SEC Climate Disclosure Rules as this would inundate agricultural operations with costly compliance requirements.

TRADE

Support

- NSP supports fair and open trade of sorghum throughout the world.
- NSP supports the advancement of comprehensive multilateral negotiations to expand trade in goods and services.
- NSP supports swift resolution of unfair trade practices that harm U.S. grain exports.
- NSP supports an objective, tangible monitoring system for sorghum odor.
- NSP urges international harmonization of scientific standards and trade rules.
- NSP supports legislation to normalize trade relations and travel with Cuba.
- NSP urges the U.S. Trade Representative and Foreign Ag Service to pursue aggressive enforcement of existing trade agreements.
- NSP supports eliminating barriers which restrict U.S. ag producers' access to worldwide crop inputs.
- NSP supports continued monitoring of foreign and domestic compliance with multilateral and bi-lateral trade agreements.

Oppose

- NSP opposes any attempt to reopen the Sanitary Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement and believes that the SPS and technical barriers to trade agreements are sufficient to address trade of biotech products.

TRADE PROMOTION

Support

- NSP supports increasing funding of MAP, FMD and fully utilizing GSM 102, export credit programs, tax credits and other promotion and marketing programs for sorghum.
- NSP supports continued legislative authorization of the cooperator program.

FOOD AID

Support

- NSP encourages prioritization of the use of U.S. products for all food assistance purchased by the U.S. government except in the case of an emergency to meet humanitarian needs.
- NSP supports funding P.L. 480 Title II food assistance programs at the full amount authorized by law.
- NSP supports the transition of P.L. 480 Title II food assistance programs from USAID to USDA
- NSP supports foreign food aid that promotes in-kind distribution of US grain to countries in need.
- NSP supports the inclusion of sorghum-based fortified products in food aid product information guides.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES POLICY

Crop Protection

Support

- NSP supports research and development of environmentally-sound crop protection products in accordance with the goals and purposes of the Food Quality Protection Act and calls upon all federal agencies to use sound science and transparent procedures in its implementation.
- NSP supports the continued and essential use of phosphide.
- NSP supports the continued classification of anhydrous ammonia as a compressed gas and the labeling thereof.
- NSP supports federal funding for chemical disposal programs.
- NSP opposes requiring pre-notification of crop protection product application.
- NSP supports federal preemption for the establishment of crop protection product use restrictions.
- NSP supports the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) process which promotes compliance of Codex tolerances for residues of crop protection products and testing and opposes the use of default assumptions and/or the cancellation of a registered product when there is not a readily available substitute.
- NSP supports continuation of the Section 18 process.
- NSP encourages EPA to use USMCA registration provisions to develop common labels and registrations for crop protection products.
- NSP affirms all pesticide decisions should be based on sound science and when practical utilize probabilistic assessments that rely on real-world data rather than assuming maximum use and rates according to product labels.
- NSP strongly supports continuing efforts to clarify that applications of crop protection products do not constitute point sources of pollution under the Clean Water Act when applied in accordance with legally registered EPA labels.
- NSP supports allowing existing conservation programs to meet EPA Endangered Species Act mitigation methods and supports establishing a registrant/USDA cost-share program that helps farmers retain access to pest management tools.

Oppose

- NSP opposes holding farmers liable when crop protection products are applied, stored, or disposed of in accordance with label instructions.
- NSP opposes designation of any agricultural crop production as a point source of pollution.

- NSP opposes legislation that requires pesticide application records to be made public.
- NSP opposes EPA requiring buffer zones for new or existing chemical registrations without first providing sound science to demonstrate the need for a buffer.
- NSP will work with coalition partners and EPA to ensure that crop protection risk assumptions and assessments reflect the most up-to-date agricultural practices.

CONSERVATION

Support

- NSP supports incentives to compensate farmers, including early adopters, for the public goods and services they are providing to broader society through the implementation of regionally sustainable practices that sequester carbon, reduce GHG emissions and contribute to healthier ecosystems.
- NSP supports sustainability policy flexibility based on the diverse needs of different regions.
- NSP supports strategic conservation tillage as a central tenet of sustainability policy.
- NSP supports using crop residue as cover and the regional flexibility to define the practice as a "cover cropping practice."
- NSP supports giving local conservation districts greater authority in shaping conservation programs to the needs of the local community.
- NSP supports the continuation of state and regional producer advisory committees to provide guidance to NRCS programs.
- NSP supports continued funding for conservation cost-share programs.
- NSP supports resolution of all conservation compliance appeals and the issuing of all "good faith" conservation variances by local county FSA committees.
- NSP supports that the funding of conservation programs must be separate and in addition to the funding of a commodity support program.
- NSP believes all conservation programs should be production-based and not land retirement-based.
- NSP believes that production agriculture should maintain a majority membership on state technical committees, advisory boards and working groups. We encourage all states to make this a priority.
- NSP supports payment eligibility requirements that are recognized by FSA also be accepted by NRCS for all NRCS programs.
- NSP encourages NRCS to follow the service mandate under which they were established to help producers voluntarily improve conservation on their private lands.
- NSP supports greater flexibility for state NRCS offices to define practices for their farmers' unique needs.

Oppose

- NSP opposes permanent conservation easements which retire productive agricultural land.

SPECIFIC CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Support

- NSP supports preserving and restoring original crop base acres previously enrolled in CRP at the conclusion of such contracts.
- NSP supports limiting CRP contract rentals to the average county rental rate.
- NSP supports landowner retention of cropland designation and property rights when the CRP contract expires.
- NSP supports laws and regulations that allow Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) funds to be used to implement conservation.

- NSP supports reducing the CRP acreage cap through market-based approaches such as rental rates and flexibility of use, allowing contracts to expire on schedule. Enrollment or re-enrollment of acres should be prioritized using the environmental benefit index, the highly erodible land designation, consideration of soil type indicators and competitive bidding for re-enrollment.
- NSP supports uniformity in CRP regulations across state and county borders.
- NSP supports giving NRCS (rather than the Army Corps of Engineers) primary jurisdiction over all government decisions impacting wetlands on private property.
- NSP supports designating sorghum as a conservation crop rotation at NRCS.

Oppose

- NSP opposes any future CRP sign-up requiring the forfeiture of water rights.
- NSP opposes the use of any CRP rent determination that encourages the enrollment of highly productive land over that of highly erodible, marginal or environmentally sensitive lands because of price.

WATER & AIR QUALITY

Support

- NSP supports water conservation and the tailoring of sustainability policy around this goal first and foremost.
- NSP supports the current PM 10 standards.
- NSP supports the existing ozone standards.
- NSP favors a reasonable threshold level for agricultural operations of farm fuel and oil-based product storage from any spill and containment regulation.

Oppose

- NSP opposes any requirement for water quality monitoring as a criterion for farm program eligibility.
- NSP opposes mandatory nutrient management.
- NSP opposes the use of any federally mandated total maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements.
- NSP opposes federal agencies interfering with the use of privately held water, to the extent of nonuse, by individuals including those holding an authorized water right.
- NSP opposes EPA classifying the application of fertilizers and pesticides as point sources for water quality.
- NSP opposes any effort to remove the term “navigable” from the definition of “navigable waters of the United States”.
- NSP opposes any effort to expand the scope and definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) by the EPA.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Oppose

- NSP opposes the listing of any species if the listing may have significant negative economic consequences for sorghum farmers, and looks to prevent such listing through engagement and collaboration with appropriate federal agencies and Congress.

BIOFUELS

Support

- NSP supports expanded use of the renewable portfolio standards.
- NSP supports the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and the development of year-round E-15.
- NSP supports allowing “smaller producer tax credits”.

- NSP supports federal funding for Flex Pumps.
- NSP supports the installation and use of blender pumps to allow consumers to use blends containing levels of ethanol ranging from E10 to E85 as they choose and as allowed by law.
- NSP supports the exploration of biobutanol as a new value-added transportation fuel product.
- NSP supports an Energy Title in the Farm Bill.
- NSP supports expeditious approval of a sweet sorghum pathway.
- NSP supports expeditious approval of biofuel producers petitioning EPA to use biomass sorghum.
- NSP supports continued discussions concerning science-based regional or national low carbon fuel standards.
- NSP supports the development of pathways for feedstocks to provide field-level crop data input, allowing for equitable participation in funded biofuel programs.
- NSP supports the inclusion of all biofuel feedstocks in annual updates of the GREET model for life-cycle analysis of GHG emissions.

RESEARCH

Support

- NSP supports federal funding of research to improve the profitability of sorghum production.
- NSP supports the federal funding of the Sorghum and Millet Innovation Lab (SMIL) at Kansas State.
- NSP supports the United Sorghum Checkoff Program and commends its board of directors for their work to improve sorghum